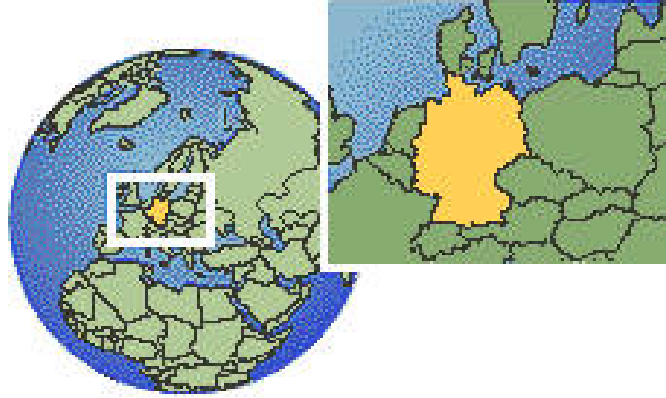




**CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
Fall 2002**

**CO-EDITORS:
Cherie Baggs
Marnie Ketcham**



LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Although news concerning German program statistics tends to be discouraging, the good news is that some of our members are actually very successful in increasing enrollments and creating attractive programs. On September 21 our chapter had a very productive workshop at Tufts University led by Max Ahtau from Wellesley Middle School. Participants from high schools and colleges had the opportunity to get many useful ideas from Max on how to get support for our students from parents and schools alike.

Outside of our chapter, some of our members presented at the 36th Annual MaFLA Conference, others will do that in Salt Lake City at the ACTFL Conference. In the spring, our chapter will again sponsor the High School / College Day at Tufts University, organized by Bernhard Martin. We will also sponsor, as always, the Awards Dinner for our best high school students, organized by Joan Murray who received the Massachusetts Outstanding German Educator Award at this year's MaFLA conference. And finally, a long anticipated workshop on TPRS with Rob Williams, a German teacher from Virginia, is already planned for September 2003 at Concord Academy.

We are also looking beyond our classrooms. Our chapter has given financial aid to this summer's flood victims in the Elbe region in Germany. In fact, the executive board voted to request \$5 more for our dues for 2002-03 in order to give more to these people who have lost so much.

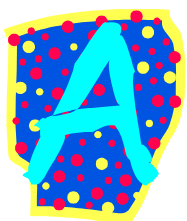
Looking back, I think many good things have been happening in our chapter, and I have certainly enjoyed the wonderful teamwork and motivation of all members of the board. I thank all of them for their hard work and support. As I said in the previous newsletter: we invite all of you, old and new teachers of all levels, to become more active in our chapter. Let us work against the odds and help make German an important part of all our schools and colleges!

I wish you all continued success during the school year.

Jutta Arend

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester

Looking back on 2002.... chapter activities



Awards Banquet

On May 9, 2002, the Massachusetts Chapter of the AATG celebrated its annual Awards Banquet. 182 people attended, among them 65 students representing 16 schools, parents and guests, 20 teachers, and special guests from the German Consulate, the Goethe Institut, and other German organizations in Massachusetts. This year's AATG/PAD trip nominees were Stephen Traverso of Phillips Academy, Kerry Sullivan of Boston Latin School and Heidi Hansberry of Wellesley High School, receiving the Senior Award. Unfortunately Massachusetts was not awarded a study trip this year, despite these 3 outstanding candidates.

There has been a significant increase in attendance at this annual event for the past few years and the growth in the number of German cultural and business organizations in Massachusetts, which are committed to supporting the banquet are clear indications that the Massachusetts Chapter has gained a great deal in terms of publicity and support.

Students and their teachers benefit from the AATG testing program and by being honored at the banquet. By honoring those students who have attained high scores on the National AATG Exam, we, the German community, demonstrate our support and encouragement to all German programs in the state. It is a way to motivate other students to follow the lead of these high performing students, and it also serves as an important means to underscore the importance of German in the high school curriculum. The banquet has also helped establish closer connections with the major German organizations in the area, which lend their support to the event.

The AATG thanks all those organizations and the individuals who support this annual event. In particular we are thankful to Joan Murray for organizing it and to the Boylston Schul Verein for hosting us so generously and for helping make this event such a success.

AATG Mass Chapter Holds Its First Workshop of the School Year "Building and Maintaining Enrollments"

On Saturday, September 21, a group of about 25 German teachers met at Tufts University to participate in a workshop addressing the question of enrollments in German programs. Max Achtau, who teaches German at Wellesley Middle and High School shared a variety of activities and ideas, which have proven successful in building a strong German program at Wellesley. Among his ideas and activities were *Schultüten* for sixth and seventh graders, a weeklong celebration of *Oktoberfest*, making *Lebkuchenhäuser* with his students and participating in the *Theaterfest* at Mt. Holyoke. In addition to this, Max also has a very active and involved German Club, which engages in many cultural activities and fundraising to sponsor these activities plus Wellesley's very successful GAPP program. This year, nineteen students will participate in the school's GAPP exchange to Munich, Germany.

In his endeavor to build support for his German program, Max addresses not only students but also involves parents, administrators and colleagues and through this he has managed to increase his enrollments and build a strong base of support for the German program. Throughout

the workshop it was apparent that Max is a highly energetic person with tremendous enthusiasm for his work.

As always, one of the best by products of participating in workshops with teachers from different parts of the state is the exchange of ideas and mutual support from colleagues. Although Max Achtau was the presenter and he did an outstanding job of presenting his ideas, the forum was an open discussion and everyone felt free to jump in and ask questions or bring their own ideas and suggestions. Everyone left this workshop with new ideas and many with renewed enthusiasm for their job.

After the workshop, the AATG held their Executive Board meeting, in which programs for the rest of this year and next were discussed. Among the upcoming programs are the College/High School German Day, which will be held again at Tufts on April 4, 2003 and the AATG Awards Banquet for students scoring in the 90th percentile on the AATG test, which will be held May 6, 2003.

The AATG Massachusetts Chapter encourages German teachers to become more involved in planning and presenting programs. Check out the chapter's web page www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/aatg for more information and announcements of upcoming events.

11th Annual GAPP-Seminar



New England high school teachers of German with exchange programs sponsored by the German American Partnership Program met on Friday, October 11, 2002, for a full-day workshop at the Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Boston. Dr. Sabina Margalit, GAPP Executive Director, GAPP Inc., New York was in attendance. In her introductory remarks, she noted that the very successful non-profit organization, founded in 1972 in Massachusetts, has been dedicated to creating unique exchange opportunities between young Germans and Americans. To date there are over 700 partnerships linking 48 American states with schools in all 16 German federal states. There are currently 23 such partnerships in Massachusetts, 5 in Connecticut, 9 in Maine, 7 in Vermont and 6 in New Hampshire. The program is funded by the Foreign Ministry of Germany, the U.S. State Department, GAPP, Inc. and its donors.

A number of Massachusetts German teachers attended the seminar. Among those presenting were Max Achtau, AATG Massachusetts Chapter President-Elect, whose GAPP exchange students from Munich, Germany, were due to arrive within the week. Sandra Rasmussen, Westford Public Schools, explained the GAPP-CD-Rom project on German architecture, which Haverhill students had completed last summer before and during their stay in Germany. Spencer Wolf and Jennifer Sheehan told of Newburyport's first spring and summer exchange with their partner school in Waldkirch, Germany. Several teachers in attendance plan to start such exchanges or have taken over from former colleagues. They were able to have their questions answered by others as the day allowed ample time for networking.

Jörg Frey of the Language Department, GIIN Boston, organized this annual event. For further information regarding the German American Partnership Program, contact him at jfrey@giboston.org

AATG Discusses Issues of the Profession at the MaFLA Annual Conference 2002

At its Annual Business Meeting at the MaFLA Conference, German teachers met with Chapter President Jutta Arend to discuss issues of concern to the teaching of German in Massachusetts and in the USA. In attendance was Keith Cothrun, German Teacher in Las Cruces, NM, and member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Keith stressed the need to increase the number of candidates nationwide seeking national German certification to 100 and he applauded the recently reinstated funding for the certification process here in Massachusetts.

Jutta Arend mentioned that local chapter dues were raised this fall to \$15.00 in order to contribute to the AATG German Flood Relief Fund to aid the victims in the towns and states in Germany affected by severe summer flooding. Wellesley Middle School and Beverly High School German students recently sponsored fundraisers to support the flood relief effort. Jörg Frey provided up-to-date information on GIIN sponsored programs and resources for German teachers. Susan Adams, who participated in a Goethe Institut Seminar in Köln last summer, urged German teachers to take advantage of these professional development opportunities.

Other German sessions at the conference included *Connecting Jugendliteratur and Student Standards: Creating a Community of Readers* given by Keith Cothrun. Keith shared student projects related to the following readers used in his third and fourth year German classes at Las Cruces High School: *Rennschwein Rudi Rüssel*; *Die Ilse ist weg*; *Die Sache mit Christoph*; *Yildiz heißt Stern*; *Damals war es Friedrich*; *Drei Männer im Schnee*; *aber Steine reden nicht*; *Im Vorhof der Hölle*. Donna Van Handle shared results of videoconferences between her college German classes and schools in Germany during her session entitled *Videoconferencing: An Innovative Way to Energize an Advanced German Class*. Jutta Arend, Cherie Baggs, Inge Buerger and Joan Murray shared samples from the work done in groups at a recent Total Immersion Weekend for German teachers related to film topics on *Widerstand (Die Weiße Rose and Die Rote Kapelle)*, *Filme ohne Worte* and *Pünktchen und Anton* in their session entitled *Using Film in the German Classroom*. Completed projects will be submitted to the AATG Materials Center for publication.

Author of *Deutsche Spielfilme der neunziger Jahre* at Tufts University

Germana D'Alessio gave a six-hour workshop on using recent feature films from Germany in the German classroom at Tufts University on November 16. More than 30 high school teachers, TAs and college professors from every state in New England were in attendance. The presenter was born in Germany, makes her home in Italy while working in Switzerland at the University of Lugano and the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland. Throughout her career, Germana D'Alessio has been associated with the Goethe Institut /Inter Naciones as a teacher, teacher-trainer, and author of a number of publications on German film.

Ms. D'Alessio was on her way to the ACTFL Conference in Salt Lake City and teachers in the New England area were fortunate to have this opportunity to benefit from her experience and expertise. She made a very strong case for using film in the German language classroom, reminding her audience that young people spend approximately 25 minutes each day using textbooks but at least 4 ½ hours learning visually.

She began with the *Trivialfilm* *Griseldis*, then showed *An der Elbe* from the Wim Wenders film *Im Laufe der Zeit*. Always with the goal of increasing speaking competence, Ms. D'Alessio shared techniques to attain this goal. Participants left with long lists of German films made from

the 70s to the present, sample handouts for use with films and a detailed bibliography. In addition, each participant received a copy of her book ***Deutsche Spielfilme der neunziger Jahre: Arbeitsheft für den Unterricht***. Following the afternoon coffee break, excerpts from current German cinema were shown – ***Heaven*** (Tom Tykwer), ***23*** (Hans Christian Schmid), and ***Erleuchtung garantiert*** (Doris Dörrie).

Haverhill HS German teacher Sela Nelson wrote after the workshop: “I enjoyed the workshop. In terms of what would be immediately useful for my classes, I especially appreciated the morning session on using film clips to initiate speaking and writing as authentic reactions to the films. Her techniques were excellent and I look forward to using them myself...the afternoon session was an enticing look into some of the new films.”



KUDOS to Chapter members....

Cherie Baggs Wins 2002 AATG Friend of German Award

The American Association of Teachers of German presented its annual Friend of German Award to Cherie Baggs of Oxford, Massachusetts. This prestigious award is given in recognition of exemplary leadership in the advocacy of German language education and for outstanding support and promotion of German and the study of German at the local, regional or national level. Cherie has worked with the Massachusetts Chapter of AATG since the 1980's. Donna Van Handle tells how Cherie single-handedly secured a Horace Mann Grant to put together a handbook for teachers interested in starting GAPP exchange programs. Planning chapter meetings, immersion weekends, chaperoning students trips, bringing visibility to German language teaching in MaFLA, serving on the National AATG Executive Council, lobbying state legislators to advocate for German, serving as a professional development consultant to other AATG chapters - these are some of the many things which make Cherie a deserving recipient of this award.

The Awards Luncheon was held on November 22, during the AATG's Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, and attended by approximately 400 AATG members.

Note from Editor Marnie Ketcham:

Cherie Baggs is a tireless and constant member of the Massachusetts Chapter Executive Board. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude are an inspiration to all of us who have worked closely with her. Though she is no longer teaching, she is a role model for younger teachers and an encourager to those who have been in the professions for a longer time. We are proud to be her colleagues and congratulate her for receiving this award.

**Joan Murray receives
the 8th Annual Massachusetts German Educator of the Year Award**

On Saturday, October 26, 2002, during the Luncheon at the 36th Annual MaFLA Fall Conference in Springfield, Joan Murray, German Professor at Regis College, was honored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German and the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association as the recipient of the 8th *Annual Massachusetts German Educator of the Year Award*.

Joan has given many years of service to the promotion of the study of the German language. In the past, she has served as the Director of the Deutsche Sonnabendsschule, a private German Saturday School. This K-12 program gives children in the greater Boston area an opportunity to study the German language if it is not offered in their school system.

Joan has also been actively involved in the ***Kinder Lernen Deutsch*** summer program at Regis College. This program provides an excellent professional development opportunity for German teachers in New England in early German language acquisition. In recent years, Joan has served as the Testing Chair for the Massachusetts AATG chapter. She coordinates the interviews for candidates above the 90th percentile who are eligible for an all expense paid 4-week Study Trip to Germany. She also organizes a wonderful Awards Banquet for all students who score above the 90th percentile. The banquet gives parents, students and teachers an opportunity to celebrate their successes in the study of German and all students receive prizes and recognition.

In 1995, Joan Murray was awarded the *Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Cross of the Order of Merit) from the German government in recognition of her service to German. Receiving the honor of *Massachusetts German Educator of the Year Award* from her peers is most fitting. Congratulations to Joan on this well deserved honor.

Stipend recipients 2002 report on summer seminars...

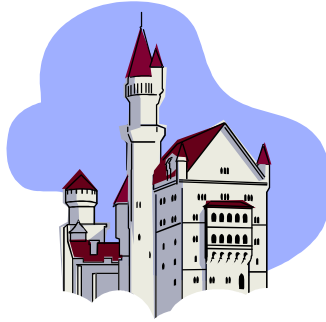
Lehrerfortbildungskurs in Köln

Two weeks with most expenses paid in Cologne with twenty-five fascinating persons who share your interests. Can you think of anything better? That was my experience this pastsummer after I received a scholarship to attend a Lehrerfortbildungskurs sponsored by the Goethe Institut/Inter Nationes. Our group consisted of twenty-five German teachers from 12 different countries. In our own countries we work with students of virtually every age and at every level. That alone made the entire course worthwhile because German was so clearly our common language and because we shared experiences-- tips, successes, and failures. Just the conversation at mealtimes was worth the price of admission. The course itself was the perfect mix of work, play, and free time to explore Cologne. On one day, named "Mitmachttag" by our two leaders, each course participant was matched up with a Cologne citizen who had volunteered to share his/her day and life with a foreign German teacher. Other highlights of the course were interviews with representatives of cultural institutions in Cologne, a performance of a one-act play by Stefan Zweig, a night at the movies to see "Bella Martha" and workshops by master teachers. We were housed in simple single and double rooms in a Catholic conference center on the south side of Cologne. Meals were excellent. The passes we received allowed us to ride the wonderful public transportation system of Cologne and pocket money from the course made up for occasional meals not served in the center. My only expense was my airplane ticket, and my school helped me with that cost. The connections I made and the experiences I had gave me new ideas and current cultural information for my classes.

Similar courses, one, two and three weeks in length, are offered at various venues all over Germany. Application forms can be downloaded from the Goethe Institut website or received by mail from the Goethe Institut. The Goethe Institut/Inter Nationes offers generous scholarships. I urge all German teachers to take advantage of these programs and would be happy to talk further with anyone wants to hear more about my experience.

Submitted by *Susan Adams*

In München



East meets West and the Arab World too!

Just as the country of Germany is becoming more multicultural, so is its third largest city, Munich. This was the site of a two weeklong “Erlebte Landeskunde” seminar, to which I received a fellowship this past August/September from the Goethe Institut/Inter Nationes.

German teachers came together from Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Belarus, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, France, Portugal, Sweden, Greece, the US (just me) and Morocco and Iran. All were there to brush up their knowledge of the German language and Landeskunde (one of those difficult words to translate: getting to know the region). It was an interesting mix of disparate cultures, which were all joined together by the desire to experience Munich as a center of technology and innovation contrasted with its deep sense of tradition.

I found the timing to be especially interesting. The seminar took place just prior to the national elections, which meant that Gerhard Schroeder spent part of one afternoon in Munich campaigning in front of the neo-gothic city hall. Instead of viewing the Glockenspiel 16,000 people flocked to see and hear the SPD show and Mr. Schroeder. And they were not disappointed; they cheered heartily when he said that Germany would not support a US attack on Iraq. Wedged into the crowd, I could not help but feel rather uncomfortable and was glad I did not stand out as an “Ami”. Everywhere I came into conversation with people they asked me if Americans were really behind President Bush.

The planned part of the program included a visit to the Siemens Mobile Phone Division, Microsoft of Germany, a Bio-bauernhof near the Ammersee plus the traditional tourist attractions such as the baroque churches, the Paulaner Brewery, Schloss Linderhof and the Olympic Park. We were delighted with the excellent guided tours of the Alte Pinakothek art museum and the Lenbachhaus of expressionist art.

We were housed with various "Vermieter" in proximity to the new headquarters of the Goethe Institut/Inter Naciones. As usual, transportation passes afforded us all easy access to all points of the city and most of our meals were also provided for.

Since the introduction of the Euro, many things have become more expensive in Germany, but the program in Munich nonetheless offered me a rich experience, which I would heartily recommend to others. Apply now for next summer!

Submitted by Marnie Ketcham

Other AATG seminars...

"We learned so much...I want to go back next year" Massachusetts Teachers Share Experiences From Bar Harbor Week 2002

Starting class with a song—and occasionally with a song and a dance—is just one of the things I've been doing regularly since the Bar Harbor workshop last July. As a teacher I have always had the good intention of warm-up activities, but I've never actually stuck to anything quite like I have, starting class with the many wonderful songs we learned this past summer.

"Medien im Deutschunterricht: Mit Musik geht alles besser". Stimmt doch. This was the title of the 2002 Deutsche Woche in Bar Harbor. Apparently the Deutsche Woche has been a great success over the years—next year will mark the program's 20th anniversary—but this was the first one I attended. I loved it and plan to return as often as possible.

Jheel Jonen-Dittmar was our fearless leader, the most dynamic teacher I've ever had. It was simply amazing to have a teacher who for a whole week shared ideas and philosophies, which are pertinent and immediately applicable to my teaching. For instance she stressed the concepts of Multiple Intelligences, learning through the senses, TPR, and rhythm. We then applied this knowledge to lessons we created. And of course she also had us singing and dancing at the start of our sessions.

Mohamed Esa was our second teacher, also enthusiastic and super helpful. He shared his materials and techniques for developing lesson plans using popular German music—from Bettina Wegner to the Wise Guys—in the classroom. With Mohamed's guidance, we spent the better part of one day creating lesson plans for great songs, which I'm sure all of the participants have been using in their classes.

My colleagues back home have been impressed with just how much this workshop has influenced my teaching, from reexamining and rewriting curriculum, which I did this summer, to my continued talking about it now, and the persistent fond memories.

Alex Bennett, Winchester High School

Michele Lepietre, German teacher at Boston Latin School, also found the week incredible. She said in a recent telephone interview that she could not adequately convey her enthusiasm for that week and had never had such a delightful time with teachers before. Everyone in the group of more than 20 was dedicated not only to the subject but also to learning together. Many tears were shed when the participants departed for home. She said she has been using everything she learned and wants to go back next year. Michele added that Peter Nutting was a "great leader". *Bar Harbor Woche 2003* is scheduled for June 29-July 5. A special celebration is being planned for the 20th anniversary and new as well as former participants are most welcome.

Kinder Lernen Deutsch 2002 at Regis College

Although the participant number was smaller this past summer than in previous years, the level of enthusiasm and effort put forth by the group exceeded all possible expectations.

There was a wonderful mix of backgrounds and teaching experiences among the group members and this helped to enhance the kind of sharing that is essential to the success of the *Kinder Lernen Deutsch* Program. There were many late nights and some early morning preparations but there was also time for enjoying one another's company, particularly at meals and at the "hands on" culture sessions conducted by Irmgard Hicks. Who could forget being part of the medieval *Burg* or reenacting the *Ritter* scenes? It was all part of the fun of learning and gaining new ideas to bring back to the classrooms from New Hampshire to California and all places from which the participants hailed. Even the parents who attended the colorful festival held on the last afternoon of classes enjoyed being included in the songs and games and many commented enthusiastically about what the week had meant for their children. All expressed the wish to be part of *Kinder Lernen Deutsch* again. For the participants the *Festessen* on Friday evening was a delightful culmination to a week of challenging and intensive work, cooperative learning and being together with colleagues who share the same desire to excel in communicating to young people the joy of learning German.

Kelly Polychroniou, German teacher at the Waldorf High School, Lexington, MA, wrote that "the KLD workshop was a very challenging and valuable professional experience based on a rich, intense and inspirational program. I was impressed by the great team of instructors who presented new methods and approaches to teaching. An active participation and a strong team spirit dominated the entire workshop. I recently had the opportunity to apply the knowledge I gained from that workshop in my classes. I feel I have enhanced my teaching abilities and my students have become more interested and motivated. The lessons have become more fun. The KLD program needs our fullest support."

TRaiN DaF Experience

Last year I applied and was accepted into the "TraiN DaF" program. TraiN DaF is a program sponsored by the German government and AATG. The purpose of the program is to bring younger teachers from all over the US together, to think about the future of German in America. With a number of German programs shrinking or being cut nation-wide, this program is trying to recruit educators for the future, teachers who will work to keep German programs strong and running.

The first phase of the program took place in Washington, DC, last spring. All of the members accepted to the program attended a four-day workshop at the Goethe Institut in Washington. The main focus of the workshop was "leadership" in the profession and how we could become "future leaders" in the German profession. I met many colleagues from all over the US and it is great to know that teaching German in New England is not any different than teaching in California, Alaska and Tennessee. We all have the same concerns and challenges in the profession – from students, administrators and parents. Over the four days we developed a strategy on what we all can do to help "our cause" and I left Washington with some new friends.

The second phase of the TRaiNDaF program took me to Göttingen this past summer. I attended a Goethe Institut seminar focusing on elementary and middle school students. I spent 2 weeks in Göttingen and loved it. I learned a ton of new strategies and methods for teaching younger German students - not to mention that "die Stadt" was pretty cool too.

The final phase of this program took me to the ACTFL Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, where

I presented to advocate for next year's class (new recruits). The program is funded for 3 years and next year will be the last.

I have grown quite a bit from this experience and look forward to applying any knowledge I have gained to help us in our cause in Massachusetts. I hope to see you all soon.

Submitted by Max Achtau

News from a college campus...Tufts University Immersion Weekends

Are you interested in immersing yourself in a foreign language and culture but don't want to cross the Atlantic? There are actually ways to do so for far less than the price of crossing the big pond.

One example of such an opportunity is the German Department's German Immersion Weekend in Ossipee, NH. The retreat, which is held at the Sentinel Retreat, a rustic Baptist summer camp rented by the department, takes place every semester. Professor Bernhard Martin started the twice-yearly event in 1997, using funding from Tufts' Spirit Coalition, the German Department, and former Provost Sol Gittleman's office.

The main goal of the weekend is to allow students to speak German outside of the classroom. "It's a different experience speaking German when you're preparing food or hiking or playing soccer, instead of, say, talking about grammar or texts," Martin said. "Less structure often makes speaking the language more enjoyable."

The last German Immersion Weekend took place the first weekend of October this semester and was attended by 37 students and faculty members. The retreat was an opportunity to build bonds between students, faculty, and staff.

"I liked the mix of students and faculty and meeting people who are interested in German," German exchange student Vlore Kryeziu said. "Also, as a German teaching assistant, it was nice to spend time with some of my students informally, outside of the classroom."

The weekend began with some games and activities to break the ice between students. Other events included games, sports, and hiking. "The Schnitzeljagd (scavenger hunt) was great, one of my favorite parts of the weekend," graduate student Jennifer Fox said. "I liked hiking around the area, taking in some of the scenery and terrific views, answering the questions and trying the 'physical challenges' at the different stations."

The Immersion Weekends include several outdoor activities. This fall, students took a short hike in the Mt. Washington Valley. The spring semester German Immersion Weekend, which usually takes place in February or early March, offers a popular skiing and tubing excursion.

Another aspect of the weekend that the participants enjoyed is the authentic German food, which the students and faculty prepared together. "I loved the food, particularly the *spätzle*," Kryeziu said.

The Immersion Weekend also gives students who are interested in the Tufts-in-Tübingen study abroad program the chance to interact with students who are exchange students from Tübingen or who have already studied there.

"I strongly recommend the weekend, even if you are a first year student," Senior Karen Mootrey said. "I was amazed with how much German I understood and how relaxed the atmosphere was. It made it really easy to practice what I did know, and everyone helped me out with what I didn't. I will definitely go again."

Adapted from **The Tufts Daily**, November 15, 20

CELEBRATIONS OF NATIONAL GERMAN WEEK

At Masconomet Regional High School

After much anticipation by Mrs. Elisabeth Tollman and the Masconomet German students, National German Week arrived the week of September 30 to October 4. The German students, their fellow students and the teaching body rediscovered the presence of German influence, history and inventions throughout all their studies and many aspects of their daily lives. Several events took place.

The Library had two expositions. One focused on German culture and geography with photos and books available. The other focused on German technology...primarily on the auto industry. Beautiful posters and books caught the students' interest, especially one with the VW Beetle.

Journalism students put together a video clip shown during homeroom period announcing the arrival of German Week, and the German students had two school-wide prize-winning German trivia questions. #1) Which German-speaking country produces Toblerone chocolate? And #2) What German word is said after a sneeze, and what does it literally mean in English?

Students and teachers were encouraged to find ways in which Germans contributed to their individual fields of study. In math and science classes, students discovered how Gaus, Moebius, Leibniz, Einstein and others contributed to the math and science fun that they have today. The Spanish classes discovered "Colonia Tovar" in Venezuela, which still has a German-speaking immigrant population in the heart of South America. The French, Italian and Russian classes looked anew at their bicultural regions and histories in common between France, Italy, Russia and Germany. English students were delighted to find a previously unknown proficiency in German because of the large number of similar or identical words the two languages share due to their common linguistic ancestry. And of course the music department had abundant choices of great composers and musicians (Mozart, Bach, Beethoven...). Photography, the Arts, Physical Education, Social Studies, and the remaining subjects embraced the opportunity to draw parallels and evaluate the visible signs of German ancestry that one fourth of all Americans share.

The German students themselves looked closely at the history of German-speaking immigrants and the presence of Germans today. Influence in everyday life is seen in the vibrant German-American business community, in German goods, traditions such as fairy tales and Christmas trees and in popular culture, particularly Hollywood.

National German Week culminated in an "in-school" field trip. Four guest presenters spoke about the importance and benefits of being immersed in other cultures and being able to communicate in a foreign language. Of course, all this took place after homemade German-style baked goods were enjoyed by all.

And in Natick....

75+ Years Celebrating New England's Close Ties with Germany

An eight-panel exhibit featuring German-Americans in New England and commemorating the presence of the German Consulate in Boston since 1927 was on view at the Morse Institute Library in Natick, MA. from September 3-October 31. On Thursday, October 10, a reception was held in the Morse Institute's Meeting Hall. Opening remarks were made by Rolf Schnelle, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition to residents from local communities, a

number of families from Natick High School's former GAPP Exchange Program were in attendance.

Did you know...

More than half a million of the people of Massachusetts and a quarter of all Americans claim German ancestry. In October 1926, Germany established a Consulate General in Boston, staffed with professional Foreign Service officers. The "Spirit of Freedom", a vintage aircraft that took part in the Berlin Air Lift in 1948-49, can be viewed at Westover Air Force Base, Chicopee, MA. The Boylston *Schulverein* was founded in 1874. The first Jew elected to the US Congress in Massachusetts was Leopold Morse, born in Bavaria in 1831. According to records from Old Sturbridge Village, linens, toys, woodworkers' tools, silverware, licorice, thermometers, woolen fabrics and ice skates were among the imports from Germany in 1830.

BOLSTER FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

***NEW VISIONS/NEW REALITIES:
Real World Language Learning
In the 21st Century***

**Foreign Language Education Video and Advocacy Kit
The Massachusetts Foreign Language Association (MaFLA)**

Did you know. . .

If Massachusetts were an independent nation, it would rank as the 30th largest economy in the world. If New England were a separate nation, it would possess the 17th largest economy on the planet, right ahead of Australia and behind Thailand. The *New Visions/New Realities* video uses such insights to educate viewers about the profoundly global nature of our state and region. Many of our citizens already feel a critical need to speak at least one foreign language and to understand other cultures in order to succeed in the 21st century. This video confirms their sense of urgency through interviews with key government leaders, business people, and citizens in our region who have already seen their workplaces and their lives profoundly changed by global realities. The video is accompanied by a Foreign Language Advocacy Kit that gives parents, teachers, school administrators, community leaders, and others the tools they need to push for better foreign language programs in all of our schools and communities.

Video Copies & Advocacy Kits (\$30 per set)

Postage & Handling: \$5.00 for one set; \$7.50 for two sets; \$10.00 for three or more.

Order Form available on the web site: www.mafla.org

German programs featured in the video are those at Lexington Public Schools, Mount Holyoke College, Wellesley Middle School, Westford Academy. Special thanks to AATG members Max Achtau, Renate Schulz, Elizabeth Webb and Helene Zimmer-Lowe for their contributions to the advocacy kit.

The MaFLA video committee would very much like to hear how you and your foreign language department / school district use the video to promote foreign languages. Contact MaFLA Video Committee Chair Cherie Baggs with your comments and suggestions (cbaggs@aol.com) or 62 Church Street, Oxford, MA 01540

**AATG MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
BALLOT**

Slate of Officers as Nominated for 2003/2005

President: Max Ahtau
Wellesley Middle and High School

President Elect: Ulrike Brisson
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Secretary: Virginia Powell
Wachusett Regional High School

Treasurer: Monika Whipple
Groton School

I vote for the slate as nominated (please circle one) YES NO

Write-in candidates: _____

Your name (optional): _____

Please return this ballot by February 1, 2003 to:
Jutta Arend
Campus P.O. Box 90A, College of the Holy Cross
One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395

FROM A SCHOOL IN GERMANY, LOOKING FOR A HIGH SCHOOL WILLING TO EXCHANGE

I teach English and German at the Taunusschule in Bad Camberg, Germany (near Frankfurt) and was hoping to establish contact with an American high school with a German program interested in starting an exchange program. Could you or your organization pass on my interest to any high school that may be looking for a contact?

Pat Schrader

schraderix@t-online.de
patschrader@gmx.de

Flood Relief Donations –Massachusetts Schools do their Part

Prompted by inquiries from the AATG membership, Mark Himmelein, Presiding Officer, Chapter Presidents Assembly, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the AATG, initiated a flood relief fund to aid the victims of last summer’s severe flooding in Germany. As a result, all donations from individual AATG chapters were gathered and forwarded to the Germany Embassy, Washington, DC, for allocation to charities assisting flood victims.

The response from the Massachusetts Chapter was genuine and immediate. In addition, local German school programs also did their part. Max Achtau’s Wellesley Middle School students held a fundraiser to raise money for the flood victims and have forwarded \$60.00 to our chapter. “I am proud of my kids and their hard work,” said Max. Doug Guy’s Beverly High School German Honors 3 group put together a bake sale that raised \$159.00. After a discussion, they decided to donate the money to the Red Cross, specifying the money should be used for flood relief work in Germany and the Czech Republic. “I was actually quite touched by their reaction and real willingness to do something positive to help,” said Doug.

Your contribution – as part of this year’s Massachusetts Chapter local dues – will help to support this unique, but very appropriate AATG initiative.

2002/2003 MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER DUES

The Massachusetts Chapter seeks your continued support of its many programs through a dues contribution. The chapter offers regional activities, professional development workshops, the AATG testing program, the awards banquet and this newsletter for your benefit. The cost of these events is only partially paid for by your national membership dues. Therefore we ask that you contribute \$10.00 to the Massachusetts Chapter for 2002-2003, so that we may continue to fund these activities and the national AATG Endowed Scholarship Fund for Study Abroad. This year we are also requesting a \$5 contribution to the AATG Flood Relief Fund. This extra \$5 is a one-time donation for this special cause.

Send your check payable to **AATG – Massachusetts Chapter** to: Monika Whipple, Treasurer, 96 S. Harbor Road, Townsend, MA 01469

Name _____ E-mail _____

School/College _____ Position _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Along with your check, feel free to express any professional interests or concerns you think should be addressed by the Massachusetts Chapter.

SAVE THESE DATES

Annual Meeting and Executive Board Meeting, March 22, 2003 - Concord Academy

High School/College German Day- Tufts University – April 4, 2003

26th Annual *Theaterfest* - Mount Holyoke College – May 1, 2003

AATG Awards Banquet – Boylston Schul-Verein – May 6, 2003

Bar Harbor Woche – Bar Harbor, Maine – June 29-July 5, 2003

AATG MA Chapter-sponsored TPRS Workshop with Rob Williams
September 20, 2003

MaFLA Fall Conference – Sturbridge – October 30-November 1, 2003

Special Note: All members of the Massachusetts Chapter are invited to the annual meeting and Executive Board meeting on March 22, 2003. We need and want your input as to how we can offer programs, which will help support you and your students.

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FUTURE NEWSLETTERS-important notice to readers!!!

The chapter newsletter will come out in hard copy only once a year. The executive board, after a great deal of discussion, has decided to email important chapter news with updates of activities, and professional development opportunities in Massachusetts and the region.

If you are not already registered on our email address list (see the chapter homepage) then please send your email address to Cherie Baggs: cabaggs@aol.com. Let her know if you would like to receive the E-Newsletters in the future instead of a hard copy. If you only wish to receive the hard copy of the newsletter, let Cherie know this as well.

Cherie Baggs, 62 Church Street, Oxford, MA 01540

VISIT THE AATG WEBPAGE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON CHAPTER
EVENTS.

www.aatg.org

From there you can connect to the local Massachusetts site under "local chapters".

Or you can go directly to www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/aatg/

Cherie Baggs
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