



# **CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

## **Fall 2003**

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**NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS:**

Marnie Ketcham

Cherie Baggs

## Message from the President:

It is unbelievable how fast this academic year is flying by. It was just four months ago, when I was preparing my *Schultüten* for the first day of class at Wellesley Middle School. I was fired up to teach my next batch of students the German language and culture. Well, that was four months ago and now it's December.

As the newly elected president of the Massachusetts chapter of the AATG, I'd like to tell you a little about myself and proposed goals for our chapter. I am originally from New Jersey and went to Rutgers College, where I majored in German and Environmental Science. After a short stint in the business world working for a German company in the US and in Germany, I realized that business was not for me and pursued a career in education. I went to graduate school at Tufts and began teaching German at Wellesley High School in 1999. Now, five years later, I am teaching German in Wellesley Middle School and I have never looked back to the business world.

Many of you have taught A LOT longer than I have, and I must admit, I had some hesitation when I was elected to become president. After all, I am still a "youngster" in the teaching field. One thing that has helped me these past five years is the AATG. This is why I accepted the position as president - to see if I could "give back a little..." to an organization that has assisted me. With the support of the AATG and the Goethe Institut, I have attended various summer seminars in Germany and in the US, was selected to be a member of the second TrainDaF class for the AATG (national) and have attended many seminars and workshops in Massachusetts, which have benefited both my students and me tremendously.

The goal of the AATG is to promote the German language and cultures in the USA. As teachers of German, we share these goals. As president, I am constantly thinking about this and how best to meet these goals within our chapter. Here are some steps that have been taken: Because too many German teachers / programs are isolated islands scattered throughout the state, my first goal is to bring colleagues together to talk. Communication is the key here. Our *Stammtisch* initiative, which has really taken off, is a prime example. Workshops, conferences, meetings, awards banquets and *Theaterfest* are other ways to bring us together. The executive board and I are trying to plan events and workshops that are practical and beneficial to our chapter. We seem to be succeeding, because I have met many colleagues at various events since September. With German programs declining, we have to work together, and the best way is through your professional organization right here in Massachusetts.

Many of you have wonderful ideas and do great things that you could share with the rest of us. I encourage you to volunteer and share your successes with the rest of the chapter so we all can benefit. Just send me an email or come to a meeting to share your opinions.

**Another important goal is to keep high school students motivated enough to continue their study of German at the college / university level. We have been successful at Wellesley High School with this initiative and the AATG spring workshop will focus on this topic (see my article in this newsletter).**

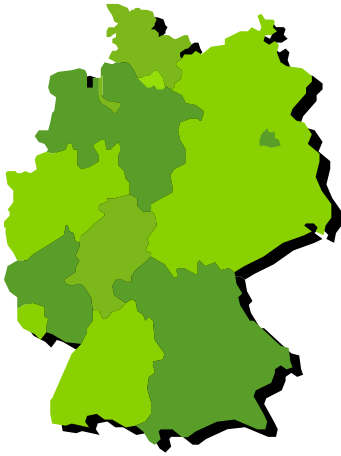
**I look forward to working with and meeting many of you in the near future.**  
**Macht's gut und bis demnächst!**

**Max Achtau**  
**Wellesley Middle School**

## **First Workshop of the School year.....**

### **More Students Learning More German with TPRS**

AATG Professional Consultant and German teacher Rob Williams from Fairfax, Virginia, gave an all-day workshop at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on September 20, 2003 for German teachers and TAs from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Rob shared theories, the seven steps of TPRS, methods for developing personalized mini-stories and assessment ideas. By afternoon, participants were writing their own personalized mini-stories and acting them out. Within days, many of the teachers had begun to use this method and plans are underway in the Massachusetts AATG Chapter to continue writing and sharing German TPRS materials.



### **12<sup>th</sup> Annual GAPP Seminar**

A full-day workshop on October 17, 2003, at the Goethe-Institut Boston brought together high school German teachers from around New England, who run exchange programs sponsored by the German American Partnership Program. Topics for discussion included preparation of both American and German groups, cooperation and communication between American and German partner teachers, and the organization and implementation of a four-week program. Small groups discussed and offered possible solutions to questions posed by participants in other groups.

GAPP's main source of funding is a grant from the German government with additional support from the U.S. State Department. There are 730 partnerships in 49 American states and all of the 16 German federal states. Since 1982 over 189,000 students from Germany and the United States have participated in the program.

Jörg Frey, language instructor at the Goethe-Institut, expressed his highest esteem for those teachers who give of their time and energy to make a GAPP program possible. Special recognition should go to Canton High School and teacher Elsa Nicolovius on the occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> GAPP anniversary.

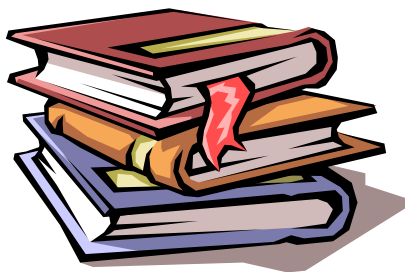
## Jugendliteratur Workshop for New England German Teachers

As part of her US tour, the prize-winning German author of books for young people, Karin Gündisch, spent October 2-8, 2003, in New England. A native of Romania, Gündisch was able to offer a unique perspective on issues of German identity and immigration. As an experienced teacher of German herself, Karin Gündisch shared her ideas on how to make German culture more accessible to learners of German on many levels.

After reading excerpts from her works *Im Land der Schokolade und Bananen* and *Das Paradies liegt in Amerika*, James Skofield of New Hampshire read from his translation of the latter work entitled *How I Became An American*.

Attendees received copies of both books before the workshop and were then able to work together to develop content questions and other activities as well as suggest interdisciplinary units for the classroom.

The full-day event was held in the library of Phillips Exeter Academy (NH) and organized by Northern New England AATG Chapter President and Lincoln-Sudbury High School German teacher, Joan Campbell.



## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual German Theater Festival and Competition

This year's *Theaterfest* was held on May 1, 2003, at Mount Holyoke College. Middle schools, high schools and colleges from the New England area presented 15-20 minute original skits or excerpts from German plays. A jury of eleven selected the winners.

In the middle school division the Meadowbrook Waldorf School, West Greenwich, RI (Instructor Anne Duda with Co-Director Heidi Atkins) received first prize for *Der Schweinehirt und die Prinzessin*. In second place was the Hartsbrook School, Hadley, MA (Instructor Karin Winter) with *Der Wolf und die sieben Geiseln (Fourth Graders)*, *Die Zauberflöte* (Eighth Graders), *Max und Moritz* (Fifth Graders) and *Die Weiber von Weinsberg* (Sixth Graders). In third place was the Ralph C. O'Maley Middle School, Gloucester, MA (Instructor Colleen Martin-Moceri) with *Die Schöne und das Biest*.

In the high school division the ConVal High School, Peterborough, NH (Instructor Alison Pantesco) received first prize for *Tanz der Vampire* (adaptation of Roman Polanski's film). The

group also performed at the annual AATG Massachusetts Chapter Awards Banquet on May 6. In second place was the Waldorf School of Garden City, Garden City, NY (Instructor Roland Rothenbucher) with *Der Besuch der alten Dame* and in third place was Boston Latin School, Boston, MA (Instructor Michelle Lepietre) with *The Matrix*.

On the college level Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, received first prize for *Twist*. Second place went to the University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, for *Minna von Barnhelm* and in third place was Connecticut College, New London, CT, for *Das Badener Lehrstück*.

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual DEUTSCHES THEATERFEST (Thursday, April 29, 2004)**  
**Chapin Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA**

Information for *Theaterfest* participants, entry form and directions are available on the website:

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/theaterfest/>

or contact:

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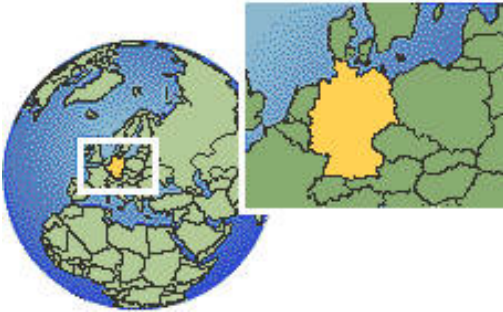
Fax: 413-538-2635

## Summer Seminars 2003...WUNDERBAR!!!

### **My wonderful stay in Goettingen**

This past summer, I benefited from the generosity of the Goethe Institut and the people of Germany. I participated in a two-week course at the Goethe Institut Goettingen designed for teachers of German. I lived, breathed, studied, ate and drank German. Not only did I learn an immense amount of grammar and vocabulary, but I also visited Weimar for the first time. This was my first trip to the former East Germany. The director of the Goethe Institut in Weimar gave our group a personal tour of the city. Our group consisted of German teachers from all over the world...the USA, Poland, Lithuania, and Ireland, even Turkmenistan. We soon discovered that even though our school systems and our cultures differ, teenagers are the same everywhere.

It is impossible to say what the best part of my stay in Goettingen was. Was it the high quality and personal attention of the teachers and staff of the Institut? Or was it the beautiful surroundings of the town? Perhaps it was the access to the Institut and all it has to offer or sharing with colleagues from around the world. Maybe it was the ice cream treats I had every afternoon with my colleagues or maybe I enjoyed the fact that we were so disciplined and comfortable with each other that, even when only English speakers were together, we always spoke German. My German language skills improved because of these two weeks. But I also gained a wealth of knowledge about the history, and culture of Germany. I have never enjoyed a two-week course more.



### Bar Harbor 2003

This past June I attended the *Deutsche Woche in Bar Harbor* for the first time. I returned home with a warm, fuzzy feeling and a rejuvenation that teachers get when they come together and successfully discuss classroom-specific ideas.

For this review, I thought I'd organize the week into two parts: *Sie* and *du*.

The *Sie* portion consisted of seminar-type sessions where 18 teachers from New England, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania learned about this year's theme, "*Das neue Berlin*." The *Leiter* Dr. Martin Seletzky provided us with lots of information about Berlin. This included a feature-length movie (*Die Sonnenallee*), a T.V. series for DaF classes that featured cartoon hosts, lots of travel material, great adult literature, a CD-Rom of *Berlinisches*, songs, and many worksheets on Berlin's history and culture (its dialect, development from a medieval outpost into a city, WWII, and Cold War).

My assessment of *Sie* is mixed. For those with some knowledge of Berlin, the historical instruction wasn't engaging. Second, while some of the material was interesting, I often found it not easily transferable to my high school classroom—many of the activities were too advanced. And, in pairs or small groups, we spent too much time actually completing the worksheets, which resulted in their content being emphasized to the detriment of method.

On the other hand, the literature excerpts and short stories we read [Tanja Duckers is one name I have available off the top of my head] were fantastic. It's nice to see "new" German being used to confront contemporary issues in Germany. Furthermore, group activities based upon these readings—we created our own endings, or dramatized the text—were wonderful and had the entire room laughing. These ideas can be adapted to the classroom.

The *du* portion of the week is what I had most looked forward to. I relished the chance to communicate in German (not just "*Wie kommst du zur Schule?*") and to talk to other *Fraus* and *Herrs* about their teaching. This built-in informal portion of the week, and the resulting exchange of ideas, will have me returning to the *Deutsche Woche* in the future.

From the first evening on I asked others about their classroom practices, ideas, and materials. (Just today I submitted an order to my head teacher for 8 titles I got from the week.) I found inspiring the willingness of all to share thoughts on books, assessment, activities, curriculum, and

even GAPP horror stories. (Last spring, two teachers had experienced separate nightmares caused by German train doors closing too quickly.)

Some participants brought material that they shared with the entire group: one teacher had just returned from Germany and brought with her the new film version of *Emil*; another had a recording of her students' prize-winning drama production, which was stunning. And, many brought material to share in an evening swap session.

In sum, great group dynamic and generous sharing made for fun and productive *du*.

And:

- The cafeteria food is good and the student workers there are pleasant. After our last meal, the students formed a row to say good-bye to the group. One guy took off his apron to reveal a t-shirt that said, "*Wo ich bin herrscht CHAOS, aber ich kann nicht überall sein.*"
- The week was well-run, so I must thank Peter Nutting for organizing the week and accomodating those (me) with special requests.
- Irmgard Hicks from Boston GIIN was also present and provided us with material, fun exercises, laughs, and good ideas. As far as I know, Irmgard will be retiring from GIIN this year. We'll miss her energy and creative ideas.

*-Submitted by Chris Muntiu, Salem High School*

## **Conference Reports from MaFLA and ACTFL**

### **German Sessions at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual MaFLA Fall Conference**

The annual MaFLA conference, which took place October 31-November 1, 2003, in Sturbridge, MA, featured several interesting and valuable workshops. On Friday morning, **Sela Nelson** (Haverhill High School) and **Sandra Rasmussen** (Westford Middle School) presented the first workshop entitled "**Making a Good Thing Better: A Theme Centered GAPP Exchange.**" During this session, Sandra and Sela showed how they prepared and carried out a project focused on German Architecture during their last GAPP Exchange. Their students selected this topic and it involved research on various architectural periods, continued with visitations of selected buildings, observations and photographing of specific examples of their architectural time period. After the students had visited their assigned areas, they put together all their findings and the entire project was burned onto a CD. Sandy and Sela showed the finished product and it was most impressive. Having the students work on this project during their stay in Germany gave them a better understanding of the architecture and sightseeing became much more meaningful. The entire stay in Germany was more of a learning experience than ever before.

The second workshop was entitled "**Building and Maintaining Enrollments in the German Classroom**" and was presented by **Max Achtau** (Wellesley Middle School) and **Elisabeth Tollman** (Masconomet High School). Both discussed in detail the various activities they have implemented to increase their enrollments and also discussed a general approach to encouraging students to sign up for German. At Wellesley, Max involves the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in such activities as making Gingerbread Houses and Octoberfest activities and he takes every opportunity to draw attention to his program to show the students that German is fun. After listening to his many ideas and seeing his enthusiasm, it is no wonder that his enrollment has more than trippled in just 3 years. At Masconomet the enrollment in sixth grade has doubled in just one year. Elisabeth discussed her visit to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to talk to students demonstrating that German is indeed an easy and fun language.

**Andrea Hansmeier**, Visiting Professor at Mount Holyoke College gave a session entitled “**Handlungsorientiertes Lernen im Deutschunterricht.**” She showed us several activities, which could be implemented with little or no preparation and which would be great fun for our students. We also worked on activities relating to the poster “Lebendigkeit und Witz und Vielfalt” with Andrea giving us different ideas on how to use this interesting poster in the classroom

**Jörg Frey** of the Goethe Institut gave us all a little more insight into “**Die Neue Deutsche Rechtschreibung.**” This informative session brought better understanding of the new rules and regulations.

Friday ended with a session called “**Literatur im Unterricht**”, in which **Donna Van Handle** (Mount Holyoke College), **Susan Adams** (Concord Academy) and **Inge Buerger** (Pentucket Regional High School) presented their approaches to teaching “Der Besuch der alten Dame” by Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Although the target audiences in each case are quite different, ranging from college students in the third semester of German, to AP students and to fourth year German students, some aspects of planning and presentation are the same. Each teacher had handouts detailing their strategies so that participants can try some of all of the ideas presented.

On Saturday morning one of the first sessions of the day, “**Practical and Fun Activities to Energize your Classroom!**” was presented by **Max Achtau** and his colleague **Sharon Grele**, both of Wellesley Middle School. Examples of activities were given in French, Spanish and German and all ideas presented could be applied to any foreign language classroom. The handouts given were also very practical and could be used immediately without much preparation. All of the activities were tried and true exercises, which the students enjoy participating in while at the same time using the target language thus enhancing their learning of the language.

**Donna Van Handle** presented the second Saturday morning German session, entitled “**Using Film Versions of Literary Works to Enhance German Instruction**”. Using “Pünktchen und Anton” Donna showed how she teaches both the novel and the film in her advanced German classes. She also introduced a book now available at the AATG Materials Center called “Film im Unterricht” which was created by teachers who participated in the immersion weekend at Brattleboro in 2001. In addition, Donna gave handouts and tips on how to obtain materials and film, which are not readily available commercially.

**Ulrike Brisson** and her teaching assistant **Rachael Salyer** presented the last German session, entitled **Teaching Cultural Differences in “Deutsch im Alltag**”, a new text, which is currently being tested at the University of Massachusetts. Ulrike first talked about the background and philosophy of this new text and then Rachael involved everyone in various activities, which are used with this book.

As always, the MaFLA conference was stimulating and energizing. The sessions provided many new ideas and it was particularly nice to talk and meet with German teachers from all different parts of Massachusetts. AATG hopes that more German teachers from all levels will attend and participate in this very worthwhile conference, not only because they would benefit personally but also because it is important that German has a presence at the conference and within the MaFLA organization. *-Adapted from the MaFLA Newsletter, November/December 2003.*

## **Massachusetts well-represented at ACTFL**

German teachers from across the nation were among the more than 4500 foreign language educators who attended the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in November. The theme of this year's conference was "Building Our Strength Through Languages: A National Priority." ACTFL has officially designated 2005 as "The Year of Languages in the United States" modeling the year's events after the European Union's Year of Languages a decade ago.

There were 450 sessions for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Russian and Spanish instructors. Sixty sessions were specifically for German teachers. Our Massachusetts colleagues presented at the following sessions: *Breaking Boundaries: Taking the Next Steps Toward Articulation* (Max Achtau and Bernhard Martin); *Karin Gündisch: A 'Real Live' Author in the German Classroom* and *GOLDEN* (Joan Campbell); *Active Learning of Culture: Multimedia and Collaboration* (Ellen Crocker); *Teaching Austrian Studies in Today's German Classroom* (Jay Rosellini); *The New GROW Database* (Donna Van Handle).

Outgoing national AATG President Donna Van Handle was honored and thanked at both the AATG Business Meeting and the Luncheon for her hard work and contributions as President-Elect / President these past four years. Cherie Baggs, who represented MaFLA at the ACTFL Delegate Assembly, also served on the AATG Program Team, which selected the sixty German sessions.

The Opening General Session featured Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, as Speaker, Nane Annan, wife of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, as Guest Speaker and Andrew Cuomo, Former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, as Keynote Speaker.

For further information about the conference and other ACTFL initiatives and activities, contact [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org). If you have never been to the ACTFL Annual Meeting, mark your calendars for November 19-21, 2004, in Chicago!

**KUDOS!**



## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts German Award To Michael Joyce**

On Saturday, November 1, 2003, at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual MaFLA Fall Conference Michael Joyce of Westford was honored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) and the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association (MaFLA) as the recipient of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts German Educator of the Year Award. This award is presented each year in recognition of service to the profession.

Michael has led the German program at Westford Academy for over twenty years. German is offered in grades 6-12 in Westford, largely due to his inspired teaching, positive leadership and vision. A graduate of Drake University in Iowa, Michael spent his junior year in Vienna, Austria. During the course of his teaching career, he has received two Fulbright Scholarships, one to Untergriesbach, Germany, in 1982-83, and one to Walsrode, Germany, in 1995-96. He also received a Rockefeller Fellowship in 1989 for Master's study in Klagenfurt, Germany. Two DAAD Fellowships enabled him to participate in seminars at Mount Holyoke College and Smith College.

In 1981 and then again in 1983, Michael established a link between two partner schools in Germany for his students in Westford. Since then, he has organized home-stay / study exchanges for nearly 500 students from Westford Academy and from two German *Gymnasien*. Students from Germany visit the Academy for three-week periods each and Academy students travel to Germany and visit both schools and communities for a total of six weeks.

Michael is German Club Advisor and coaches his students who present plays at the annual German Drama Festival *Deutsches Theaterfest* at Mount Holyoke College each spring. He is the International Student Coordinator at Westford Academy in charge of all exchange students who come to the school each year. As International Club Advisor he oversees short-term exchanges and an international weekend.

Professionally, Michael has presented at the annual GAPP seminars at the Goethe Institut Boston as well as at MaFLA, MassCUE and Westford Academy in-service workshops.

In particular, Michael was recognized for his tireless efforts to enhance his teaching and increase his students' learning. His German colleagues offer congratulations for all he has done for his students, his community and the profession here in Massachusetts. ***Wir gratulieren!***

## **AATG National German Exam Results and 2003 Winners**

27 Massachusetts schools with 780 students participated in the AATG testing program this year. This number made the Massachusetts Chapter eligible to recommend two students for the Study Trip Grant and one student for the Senior Award. There were 172 students from 23 schools who achieved a score above 85%. In all, there were almost 200 students, their teachers and guests who attended the Annual Awards Banquet on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Boylston Schul-Verein in Walpole. Prizes were awarded to all students who attended. In addition, Samuel Zegas from Winchester High School and Eileen Manning from Phillips Academy were officially recognized as the recipients of all-expense paid Study Trips to Nürnberg, Germany, this summer. They are among the 39 students of German from across the USA chosen for this prestigious award.

Listed are the students and teachers who were recognized at the *Festessen*.



**AATG/PAD Trip Winner:** Samuel Zegas  
Winchester HS (Alexandra Bennett, Joan Campbell)

**AATG/PAD Trip Winner:** Eileen Manning  
Phillips Academy (Sabine Koopman)

**AATG/Senior Trip Nominee:** Katherine Anderson  
Waldorf School (Kelly Polychroniou)

**GERMAN CONSULATE AWARD:** Susan Francis  
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional HS (Karin Flynn)

**GERMAN CONSULATE AWARD:** Stephanie Dignan  
Pentucket Regional HS (Inge Buerger, Norm Phenix)

**GOETHE INSTITUT INTERNATIONES AWARD:** Caitlin Tyler  
Concord Academy (Susan Adams)

**BOYLSTON SCHUL-VEREIN AWARD:** Paul Morris  
Westford Academy (Michael Joyce)

**ASSOCIATED GERMAN SOCIETIES OF NEW ENGLAND AWARD:**  
Arndt Lutjens, Belmont High School (Rebecca El-Gamel)

**AUSTRO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON AWARD:**  
Vladimir Botchkarev  
Deutsche Sonnabendschule Boston (Claudia Bonmassar, Sylvia James, Kurt Mueller, Manuella Wagner, Annemarie Weicker)

**LANGENSCHIEDT AWARD:** Julie Radziewicz  
St. Marks School (Lee Wells)

**SCHOENHOF'S FOREIGN BOOKS AWARD:** Sommer Engels  
Wellesley High School (Max Achtau)

**GERMAN AMERICAN LADIES SOCIETY AWARD:** Christopher Sacca  
Arlington High School (Janet O'Riordan)

**SAENGERCHOR BOSTON AWARD:** Elizabeth Timmerman  
Boston Latin School (Michele Lepietre)

**GERMAN AID SOCIETY OF BOSTON AWARD:** Melissa Devane  
Natick High School (Alese Ruggaber)

**AATG AWARD:** Nathaniel Stevens  
North Andover High School (Artha Gerland, Ryan McCann)

**AATG AWARD:** Faith Davis  
St. Marks School (Lee Wells)

**AATG AWARD:** Walter Burwell  
Groton School (Monika Whipple)

In addition, this year's DUDEN certificate for outstanding contributions to the teaching of German and service in the chapter was presented to **Max Achtau** of Wellesley Middle and High School.

The officers and the Executive Board of the chapter would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Joan Murray and Marlies Stueart** for their years of service as Testing Chairs and as organizers of the annual Awards Banquet / *Festessen*. Joan, as a long time testing chairperson, has been invited to attend a seminar in Germany in January of 2004 by the PAD. The 2003 banquet had a record number of students, parents and German teachers in attendance. *Vielen herzlichen Dank und alles Gute!*

### **One Prize Winner Reports about his 4 Weeks in Germany**

Letzten Sommer wurde mir eine der besten Erfahrungen meines Lebens von AATG und der deutschen Regierung verliehen. Ich konnte es kaum glauben, wenn sie mich letztes Frühjahr benachrichtigt, dass ich eine kostenlose Reise nach Deutschland gewann, und so gut wie es damals schien, ich konnte mich gar nicht vorstellen, wie ausgezeichnet es eigentlich würde.

Anfang Juli begann den einmonatigen Aufenthalt in Nürnberg. Ich war ein bisschen nervös, gerade vor ich in den Flughafen in Newark trat, aber nach fünf Minuten mit den anderen zwölf Schüler wusste ich, dass es eine tolle Gruppe war. Wir fühlten uns miteinander sofort zurecht, und so war es die ganze Zeit, die wir zusammen waren. Die Gruppe machte das Erlebnis humorvoll und aufregend wichtig war meine Gastfamilie, die Familie Beck, die mich im kurzen Monat einen echten Familienanhöriger machte. Die Beck Familie empfing mich mit offenen Armen, und machte das ganze Erlebnis in Deutschland interessant, erfreulich und gemütlich. Sie zeigten mir eine lustvolle und spassige Seite deutsches Lebens. Im Rückblick denke ich, dass diese zwei Sachen die besten Teile des Aufenthalts waren. Die Freunde, die ich gewann, und die Beck Familie, die immer so lieb war, sind das wichtigste Teil der guten Erinnerungen der Reise, die ich immer mit mir haben werde.

In Nürnberg, wo wir während des Monats wohnten, machten und sahen wir ganz viel. Unsre Schule, Melanchton Gymnasium, wurde in 1526 gegründet, und ist das älteste Gymnasium Deutschlands. Da hatten wir jeden Tag Unterricht mit Herrn Reindl, der Kursleiter des Programms. Wir wurden auch von mehreren anderen Lehrer unterrichtet (Latein, Altgriechisch, Mathe, Geschichte, Ethik...), damit wir einen echten Schultag in Deutschland erlebten. Aus der

Schule machten wir Rundgängen um Nürnberg, immer mit der fantastischen Führung des Herrn Reindls. Denn die Reise wurde von der Regierung fundiert, hatten wir die Chance, den Bürgermeister Nürnbergs zu besuchen. Zwei andere Schüler und ich machten kurzen Reden vor ihm, schüttelten ihm die Hand, und waren am Wochenende in der Abendzeitung Nürnbergs. Wir waren alle sehr begeistert, als wir die Zeitungen am Samstag lasen und uns drin sahen. Auch in Nürnberg hatten wir Freizeit, in der wir oft zusammen in die Stadt ging, und die Kultur und Geschichte kennenlernten.

Die Erlebnisse waren aber nicht nur in Nürnberg. Wir waren auch sechs Tage in Berlin, wo wir Debatten im Reichstag hörten, viel über die Geschichte Berlins lernten, oft ins Theater gingen, und fantastische Türkische Speise assen. In Berlin war es mir besonders interessant, über den Mauerfall zu lernen, und das Jüdische Museum zu besichtigen. Am Ende der sechs Tage wollten wir da länger bleiben. Es war wirklich nicht genug Zeit, so einen grossen weltoffenen Kulturzentrum kennenzuernen, aber wir freuten uns, dass wir eben ein Bisschen davon sehen konnten. An der andere Seite des kulturellen Spektrums besuchten wir traditionellere Orte, einschliessend Würzburg, Rothenberg, Bamberg, und das ländliche Teil von Oberpfalz. Ich war einmal mit der Beck Familie in Tchechien, und die Gruppe machte einen Tagesausflug nach München. Ich meine, wir bekamen vielen mannigfaltigen Blicke auf die deutsche Kultur, Nation, und den deutschen Lebensart.

Als der Aufenthalt zu Ende war, war ich sprachlos. Es war mir unglaublich, dass es alle in einem einzigen Monat passierte, und das Monat ging so schnell vorbei. Ich hatte so viel gemacht und gesehen und erlebt, ich hatte vielen neuen Freunde und eine zweite Familie, und mein Kopf war voller Erinnerungen von Deutschland, die zu den besten Erinnerungen meines Lebens gehören. Ich werde es nie vergessen, was ich in Deutschland lernte. Vielleicht kommt es albern vor, wenn ich sage, dass der Aufenthalt mein Leben geändert hat. Aber ich denke, mein Leben nach dem Aufenthalt ist ja anders. Mein Weltanschau, meine Perspektive auf Kultur und Beziehungen, und meine Vorstellung von Deutschland alle entwickelten und erweiterten sich. Ich bin dankbar, dass ich so eine Chance hatte.

Und natürlich, (dies ist für meine Deutschlehrerinnen, Frau Bennett und Frau Campbell), ich mochte es gern, mein Deutsch während des Sommers so viel zu trainieren!

*Sam Zegas, 11th Grader, Winchester High School*

## **Teacher training opportunities and PDPs—Wir lernen auch!**

### **Trainernetzwerk Seminar, TAT - Teachers Assisting Teachers**

This fall from September 11-13, the Goethe Institut in Boston organized a Trainernetzwerk Seminar for teachers and instructors of German. Participants came from Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Michael K. Legutke, Professor for Applied Linguistics and EFL and President of DGFF (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fremdsprachenforschung) at the University of Giessen, introduced the participants to the ins and outs of organizing a workshop with the

objective of creating a Trainernetzwerk for New England. According to the mission statement of Teachers Assisting Teachers (TAT), the organization's goals are to:

- create local communities of German educators.
- build upon and strengthen existing networks.
- facilitate dissemination of quality teaching material.
- foster successful professional practices.

Members of TAT will work in small groups, network with other groups, and present at local and regional conferences. The TAT model will be one of regional get-togethers at which teachers will share and present materials in their areas of expertise. For example, a group might meet on the North Shore to discuss *Jugendliteratur* while another might meet in the Pioneer Valley to discuss teaching multi-level German classes. Members of TAT will also utilize opportunities to present on these topics at local, regional and national conferences. The Goethe Institute, University of Conn, UMass Amherst and the AATG will all be certifying institutions for CEUs or PDPs as well. TAT is looking for more members from throughout New England. If you would like to find out more about TAT or are interested in participating, please contact Jörg Frey at the Goethe Institut – Boston.

## **MAFLA presents SATURDAY SEMINARS**

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR GERMAN TEACHERS**

JANUARY 31, 2004 (Snow Date: (February 7, 2004)  
MARCH 6, 2004 (Snow Date: 13, 2004)  
MAY 1, 2004

FORESTDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL, MALDEN. MA

#### **JANUARY SESSION**

Suzanne Even – Worcester Polytechnic Institute

#### ***Dramatische Grammatik – dramapädagogischer Sprachunterricht***

Dieser Workshop richtet sich an Deutschlehrende, die ihr Methodenrepertoire um einen ganzheitlichen Lehr- und Lernansatz erweitern möchten.

Mit Methoden und Techniken aus den dramatischen Kunstformen wird die Fremdsprache und ihre Grammatik in konkreten Handlungsbezügen innerhalb fiktiver Kontexte inszeniert. Gleichzeitig wird das Verständnis grammatischer Regeln durch die praktische Anwendung in unterschiedlichen Sprachhandlungssituationen gezielt gefördert.

Der dramapädagogische Lernprozess spricht nicht nur kognitive Lernpotentiale an, sondern umfasst ebenso kinästhetische, soziale, emotionale und empathische Lernmomente. Dies beinhaltet eine inhaltsbezogen-fertigkeitsorientierte Auseinandersetzung mit Grammatik, gleichzeitig aber auch eine persönliche und damit persönlichkeitsfördernde Herangehensweise an die fremde Sprache.

### MARCH SESSION

Maria Stehle & Hiltrud Schulz – UMASS / Amherst

#### **Kurze Animationsfilme im Sprachunterricht**

Der Workshop soll den Teilnehmern Anregungen und Ideen geben, wie man kurze Trickfilme (1-5 Minuten) im Sprachunterricht einsetzen kann. Die vorgestellten Filme können für unterschiedliche Lernniveaus und sowohl für die Vermittlung von Wortschatz als auch Grammatik benutzt werden. Die Filme erzählen Geschichten aus dem Alltag, beschreiben menschliche Verhaltensweisen oder beschäftigen sich mit Umweltproblematiken. Um den Teilnehmern zu zeigen, welchen Spass es machen kann, diese Filme im Unterricht zu benutzen, werden wir auch eine "Teststunde" durchführen.

Die Filme sind auf Video (16 Filme, NTSC) über die DEFA Film Library erhältlich. Es gibt ebenfalls das Arbeitsmaterial "Filme im Unterricht", welches von AATG Mitgliedern erarbeitet worden ist und über AATG angeboten wird.

### MAY SESSION

Dagmar Jaeger – Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#### **Junge Autoren: Literaturszene Berlin**

In diesem Workshop werden wir Literatur von zeitgenössischen Autoren besprechen sowie Themen der gegenwärtigen deutschen Literaturszene behandeln, wie zum Beispiel Gedächtnis und Raum/Raumerfahrung. Im Mittelpunkt stehen didaktische Fragen der Aufarbeitung und Anwendung dieser Texte im deutschen Sprachunterricht für Fortgeschrittene, die linguistische und literarische Fähigkeiten sowie ein kulturelles Bewußtsein fördern. Texte u.a. von: Durs Grünbein und Ulrike Draesner (Lyrik); Julia Frank und Zafer Senocak (Kurzgeschichten).

**Further information is available on the MaFLA and AATG Chapter websites**

[www.mafla.org](http://www.mafla.org)    [www.aatg.org](http://www.aatg.org)  
[www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/aatg/](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/aatg/)

Participants will receive 10 PDPs
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**MaFLA SATURDAY SEMINARS 2004**  
**Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

LANGUAGE STRAND YOU WILL ATTEND: (circle one)

FRENCH      **GERMAN**      ITALIAN      LATIN      SPANISH

I WILL ATTEND ALL 3 SESSIONS:    \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No

If NO: List dates you will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

SITE LOCATION YOU WILL ATTEND: Forestdale Middle School, Malden, MA

Directions to the site will be sent by return mail along with your receipt and confirmation.

**Return this form to JOYCE BECKWITH**  
159 MAIN STREET #37A  
STONEHAM, MA 02180

TEL (H): 781-438-6829  
TEL (W): 978-694-6060 X 332  
FAX: 978-694-6074  
EMAIL: [MmeJoyB@aol.com](mailto:MmeJoyB@aol.com)

**Make checks payable to MaFLA, NO PURCHASE ORDERS ACCEPTED**

Price for MaFLA Members:	\$100 (includes materials / coffee)
Non-Members:	\$150 (includes one year MaFLA membership)
One Session Only – Members:	\$40    Two Sessions – Members    \$80
Non-Members	\$50    Two Sessions – Non-Members    \$100

**Certificates of 10 PDP's granted for participation in all 3 sessions\_**  
Deadline for Registration--JANUARY 15, 2004

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Celebration of National German Week

Alison Pantesco, teacher at Conval High School, Peterborough, New Hampshire, shared the results of “a very successful German American Week” at her high school in October 2003.

Friday: After school and before German-American Week the German Club put up about 30 factoids mounted on colorful black, red and yellow construction paper all over school. One student made a BEAUTIFUL “Welcome to German-American Week” poster that couldn't be missed at the school entrance.

Monday: Announcement over the PA system introducing the school to German-American Week. Included were some tidbits about German-Americans and the fact that prizes could be won with some activities throughout the week. The kids read excerpts from President's Bush's 2002 declaration about German-American Day. German music was piped over the PA as students left at the end of the day. It was a lot of fun!

Tuesday: German-American tidbits on the PA in the morning and music after school. Then came "German Afternoon." After school, each German Club member had invited one non-German partner from the school (student, teacher or administrator). Everyone was taught one simple German song and dance. Food was prepared by the students and enjoyed by all. We packed 40+ people in for this!

Wednesday: We announced that tiny laminated German flags were taped around school. Anyone who found one could claim one piece of free pizza after school. German music was piped over the PA at the end of the day.

Thursday: Announcement of teacher/staff winners who had the closest German connections. This was a GREAT success!!!! The five faculty winners each received a German-English phrase book for their next trip to Germany. Surveys had been sent out the Friday before, asking faculty and staff to answer 3 questions. First, have you ever studied German and why? Second, do you have any German ancestors? Anyone we might recognize?! Lastly, have you ever traveled to Germany? What are your favorite memories? This was a wonderful way to end the week. There were amazing connections and an announcement was made at the beginning of the day with specifics about teachers and staff, before announcing winners. A lot of students and teachers mentioned how surprised they were by all the German-American connections!

Friday: *Filmfreitag*. Kids read the pledge of allegiance in German over the PA and a thank-you to everyone for all their support during the week. After school, (Yes, students really did show up!) we showed *Schneewitchen und die sieben Zwerge*, with popcorn, of course. On Friday afternoon, a student who had come to our Partner Day on Tuesday said she was signing up for German next year.

## North Andover High School has Large and Growing German Program

North Andover has 276 students enrolled in German this year. The number has doubled in 7 years! In this time of declining German enrollments it's worth examining why North Andover has experienced such healthy growth.

Our former colleague, Parry Graham, began the boom. He taught a very active and interesting program full of hands-on activities and increased his teaching responsibilities from part time to 7 sections in only about 3 years.

Another former colleague, Sandra Rasmussen, began a highly successful exchange relationship with a Gymnasium in Bonn. This ongoing program enriches the entire school and adds interest for German.

We have made German accessible to students of all levels and abilities. We even encourage special education students to take our courses. When possible, we use alternative assessments. Classes are student-centered with activities that demand involvement from the students. Our primary goal is cultural appreciation and use of the target language in real situations. Although we certainly teach all the grammar, the picky things come later in their study. At first we just want them to love the language and want to improve.

Every year our German III classes present a play for the 8th grade right before course selection week. To encourage more students to sign up, we often bring mini-lessons into elementary classrooms.

In November our German IV students will join the Senior Art Studio class on a November 20th field trip to Wellesley College. We will be exploring 20<sup>th</sup> century German art from a variety of perspectives. The film "Degenerate Art: The fate of the Avant Garde in Nazi Germany" will be shown and discussed. Students will then have the opportunity to attend a Wellesley History 226 lecture entitled, "the First World War and the making of modern Europe; the politics of art and memory after 1945." This will be followed by a visit to the Davis Museum and Cultural Center to view the exhibit, "Two and One: Printmaking in Germany 1945-1990." This promises to be a day full of interdisciplinary approaches to the topic of 20<sup>th</sup> century German art. Frau Gerland and Mrs. Zander are co-sponsoring the trip.

Success fosters success. Having 3 German colleagues all working together is very helpful.

*Artha Gerland*

### **from Concord Academy**

After a successful GAPP exchange to Ahrensburg in June, Concord Academy welcomed six German students and their teacher on September 18. The students went to classes at Concord Academy and visited historic sites in Concord and Boston. They also traveled to New York City and met a Concord Academy graduate who now studies at Columbia University. A Chinese and German speaker, he took the GAPP group to Chinatown.

In addition to the exchange, German Club activities thus far this year include viewing the film "Nirgendwo in Afrika," participating in the Bertelsmann/ Goethe Institut BEATZ contest, and making buttons with slogans in German.

*-Susan Adams*

## from Central Tree Middle School, Wachusett Regional School District

### 8th Grade "Map of Rutland" Project Just Completed

Students must include 10 points of interest. *Bank, Museum, Schule, Vergnügungspark, Kasino, Rathaus, Jugendzentrum usw.* Since they always complain how boring their town is, I tell them to jazz it up and include some of the aforementioned attractions. Upon completion of the map, they are expected to tell me how to get from point A to Point B entirely auf Deutsch using directions *nach rechts, nach links, geradeaus, usw.* Das heisst **real world skills!**

### Currently Working On Their Traumhaus

Students develop a floor plan of their dream house and present this to the class entirely auf Deutsch. They then field such questions as: *Was ist dein Lieblingszimmer? Was kostet das Traumhaus? Wieviele Zimmer hat dein Haus? usw.*

### 2 highlights From Spring:

\*Students developed a newscast entirely auf Deutsch

\*Students „spent“ 3 Tage in München, stayed in a German hotel and "visited" various *Sehenswürdigkeiten mit der U-Bahn, Bus, oder zu Fuss.*

They really enjoyed both of these projects!

-Matt Ruppert

## **Melrose High School - 29 Years of GAPP!**

October 2003 brought another successful GAPP exchange to Melrose. The long established partnership between Melrose High School and Gymnasium Oberalster in Hamburg is quickly approaching its 30th year of continued friendship and cultural exchange. 17 students from Hamburg's Gymnasium Oberalster accompanied by their teacher, Herr Anil Advani, spent a memorable four weeks with partners and families in Melrose. During the month they attended classes with their partners at Melrose High and made many new friends. In addition to the standard classes with their partners, the Hamburger attended special classes in an institute tailored for them in classes such as U.S. government, American history, the American school systems, music, media, as well as German-American culture and relations. Students were able to participate in all the after school sports with many of them being instantly adopted by their new teammates. The visit was highlighted by several field trips throughout New England including Historical Newport, Salem, Gloucester and the North Shore, a walking tour of Boston, which culminated in an inside guided tour of Boston City Hall and a rare visit to the Boston City Council Chambers. The month was topped off by a wonderful day long trip to New York City which most of the students will not soon forget. Many tears were shed by Germans and Americans alike at the fantastic *Abschiedsabend* given by the visiting students, and when the time came to say *Auf Wiedersehen* at Logan Airport.

German teachers Sean Miner and Lynda Isaacs can now turn their focus to preparing their students for the eagerly awaited second half of the exchange to Hamburg in April 2004.

- Sean Miner and Lynda Isaac

## **Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School**

Seventh and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Mr. Miner's German classes have a lot to write about, literally. Starting in January 2003, Gymnasium Vorsfelde bei Wolfsburg and Melrose Middle School created an e-mail exchange for the sole purpose of making German and English classes a bit more tangible as well as fun. Students soon began to discover they have a lot more in common than they thought. Many of the students began writing daily while both schools learned about the busy lives of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from the two countries. 25 pupils from Sean Miner's and Frau Anika Wiesnewski's classes were assigned to find out as much about each other as they could. Sean Miner's students learned new vocabulary while making new friends via e-mail. Upon close of school in June, the e-mail exchange became even more interesting as Gymnasium Vorsfelde received a special guest in their English classes. Sean Miner was delighted to accept an invitation to the Gymnasium Vorsfelde while in the Wolfsburg area on his vacation. The students in Vorsfelde had created brilliant posters of their e-partners in Melrose with all the information learned via e-mail. As the guest speaker in 7<sup>th</sup> grade English classes all the morning, Mr. Miner explained the differences between German and American schools and answered many questions about his students, his school, and life in the U.S.A! Upon departing Gymnasium Vorsfelde one thing was clear, the e-mail exchange as well as goodwill will continue on.

- Sean Miners

## **from Newburyport**

\*\*\*Newburyport is continuing its exchange with Waldkirch and is very excited about the upcoming exchange. The Germans will arrive in Newburyport at the end of March 2004 and our students will be traveling to Waldkirch at the end of June. We hope to continue this program for many years to come! Both high school German teachers and the middle school German teacher plan to collaborate on planning the trip.

\*\*\*Jen Sheehan and Spencer H. Wolf went to Rob Williams' TPRS workshop in September. The Newburyport School District is dedicated to TPRS and Susan Gross will be coming to speak to World Language teachers in November.

\*\*\**Theaterfest* has been built into the Advanced German curriculum. Second semester is devoted to *Theaterfest*. The first half of the year explores German history and culture through film.

-Spencer Wolf

## **From Pentucket –International Day at Tufts University**

For several years the Department of German, Russian and Asian Languages at Tufts University has hosted an International High School / College Day. This year the event took place on Friday, April 4. Pentucket students of German have always taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity for the students and this year 30 students attended.

Starting with a German class where the students were shown excerpts from the film *Lola rennt* they were supposed to come up with different endings to the movie. Then there was a Hebrew class where they learned a little bit of Hebrew and enjoyed being able to greet each other and ask each other's name in Hebrew. The next class was a computer class, in which the students had the opportunity to explore interesting German sites on the internet and also found out that they

already knew a little Swahili. The last class was with a professor of Chinese and again the students gained some cultural insights through her presentation.

After the classes, the students tried out the university cafeteria, where they were impressed with the variety of choices and the quality of the food. The day ended with the awarding of prizes. The students had been given a quiz at the beginning of the day, which they were to complete it throughout the day. One Pentucket student received the top prize, being the only one who had answered every single question correctly.

Special thanks to Bernhard Martin and his colleagues at Tufts University who once again planned an enjoyable and informative day for high school foreign language students. Planning and hosting this type of an event is a lot of work and it is certainly appreciated by all of the high school foreign language teachers who are given the opportunity to bring their students to an International High School / College Day. – *Adapted from the MaFLA Newsletter, May/June 2003.*

### **From Walpole**

On November 19, my German class will open “der Betrunkene Krebs” (a German “restaurant”) in our school. Students will be the hosts, wait staff and cooks for this restaurant to which the faculty and staff of the school are invited. The menu for the day includes: quark with rye bread, Semmelknoedl mit Champignons, Sauerbraten mit Spaetzle, and Rote Gruetze for dessert. The students will transform a dull classroom into a German beer garden for the event. We are looking forward to this event, which the teachers enjoy every year.

*Liz McCulloch*

### **from Wellesley High School**

- \* Power Point presentations on German, Austrian and Swiss cities
- \* Concert at the high school by the Big Band Jazz Group from Neustadt-an-der- Weinstrasse together with our Jazz Band
- \* Planning annual German/Latin Floor Hockey Tournament
- \* Looking forward to building *Lebkuchenhäuser* in December

*- Sonja Aschmann*

### **from Westford Academy**

Deutsch V an der Westford Academy beschäftigt sich mit der moralischen Zwickmuehle in Duerrenmatts *Der Besuch der alten Dame*. Jeden Tag entdecken wir neue Diskussionsthemen mit Hilfe dieses Meisterwerks.

Im dritten und vierten Jahr haben wir gerade Videoszenen mit unseren niedersaechsischen GAPP Partnern aus Northeim aufgefuehrt.

Im zweiten Jahr machen wir mit TPRS Storytelling ganz gute Erfahrungen inspiriert durch die Tagung mit Rob Williams am WPI.

*-Michael Joyce*

### **from Winchester High School**

\* TPRS ist wirklich toll. Ich habe es nie vorher gebraucht, obwohl es mich immer interessiert hat, und ich bin einfach hineingesprungen. Es läuft bestens, und meine Deutsch 1 Gruppe ist die größte seit 10 Jahren: 21 Schüler! Ich bin sehr optimistisch.

\* Die GAPPER aus München waren in Oktober bei uns, und haben in kurzer Zeit eine Menge über Baseball gelernt. Es war super, wie fast immer, und meine Schüler freuen sich auf den zweiten Teil, die Reise nach München mit einem kurzen Aufenthalt in Wien.

*-Alex Bennett*

### **from Masconomet**

Die Deutschschüler der Mittelschule und des High Schools von Masconomet feierten die Deutsche Woche und den deutschen Einheitstag mit einem 3 stündigen ‚in-school fieldtrip‘. Unser Programm begann mit Gesang und einem zweiten ‚Frühstück‘, was die Schüler selbst auf ‚deutsche Art‘ hin vorbereitet hatten. Nach dem Frühstück hatten die Schüler die Gelegenheit, drei Gastsprechern zuzuhören: Mr. Greulich besprach die enge historische Beziehung der deutschen und amerikanischen Kultur und Geschichte und brachte Beispiele aus seinem eigenen Leben. Frau Arcisz, eine ehemalige Schülerin von Masco, erzählte, wie ihr Deutsch heute (vier Jahre nach dem Abitur) zu einer interessanten Arbeit verhalf, und wie sie Arbeit, Reisen, und Deutsch in ihrem Berufsleben verbindet. Herr Imhoff, der Vater einer Schülerin, hielt den Studenten die unbedingte Notwendigkeit der Fremdsprachenkenntnisse vor Augen und überzeugte mit Beispielen aus seinem Berufsleben, das eng mit Deutschland verwachsen ist.

Was steht an:

- zum Nikolaustag werden die Highschooler eine Bescherung für die Mittelschulschüler planen, dazu gehören Lieder, Verkleidung, Tradition, und (selbst gemachte) Süßigkeiten natürlich..

- Im Frühjahr steht unser Schüleraustausch mit Trier an.

*-Elisabeth Tollman*

## **And now from the colleges too!**

### **From Worcester Polytechnic Institute**

About 50 students began learning German at WPI this year. We hope to take about 12-15 of these first-year students to Darmstadt for a term (7 weeks) next fall.

Susanne Even, my new colleague (Ph.D., University College, Cork, Ireland), is injecting lots of enthusiasm and new ideas into our language program. Susan Even will be presenting at one of the MaFLA sponsored Saturday Seminars on January 31, 2004, at Forestdale Middle School, Malden, MA. Her topic is: *Dramatische Grammatik – dramapädagogischer Sprachunterricht*.

*-David Dollenmayer*

## from Mount Holyoke College

Mount Holyoke College welcomed two new visiting faculty members to its German Studies Department this fall: Sandra Alfers, who previously taught at Dartmouth College, and Andrea Hansmeier, who has been stationed in Kiev and in Dresden at the Goethe Institute. We continue to see an upswing in enrollment in our German classes and a renewed interest in study abroad! We continue to host the DEUTSCHES THEATERFEST every spring and are happy to announce that we had our program approved by the state of Massachusetts so that we are now able to offer teacher licensure to future teachers of German (grades 5-12). Check out our website to see what we're up to! <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/germ/>

*-Donna Van Handle*

## Encouraging news for the Goethe Institut, Boston

### Kurzmeldungen aus dem Goethe-Institut Boston

**Die Zahl der Kursteilnehmer am Goethe-Institut Boston** hat in 2003 um 60% zugenommen. Allein im Herbstsemester gab es über 180 Einschreibungen. Gründe dafür sind u.a. die Einrichtung von Samstagsklassen sowie auch eine intensivere Werbung für die Sprachkurse.

**Das Oktoberfest, Samstag, 20. September, 2003** im Institut war mit 250 Besuchern ein voller Erfolg. Das Bier vom Fass löschte die durstigen Kehlen an diesem heißen Tag, und für die Hungrigen gab es nach bayrischer Sitte Würstl und Bretzn. Außer zünftiger Oktoberfestmusik wurden auch Filme von **Karl Valentin** gezeigt.

Vom **11.-13. September** fand im Institut ein Seminar zur Gründung eines Trainernetzwerks in Neuengland statt, an dem insgesamt 9 Deutschlehrende aus 3 Neuengland-Staaten teilnahmen. (Siehe auch den ausführlichen Bericht von Ulrike Brisson und Joan Campbell in diesem Newsletter!) Unter der vorzüglichen Leitung von Michael Legutke, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen erzielte das Seminar handfeste Ergebnisse: Für das neue Trainernetzwerk in Neuengland wurde der aussagekräftige Namen TAT („Teachers Assisting Teachers“) gewählt und es wurde auch schon ein entsprechendes „Mission Statement“ formuliert. Ein TAT-Seminar für 2004 ist bereits im Planungsstadium. Es ist zu hoffen, dass noch mehr Deutschlehrende sich dieser Organisation anschließen werden.

## Upcoming AATG Programs

### Maintaining the Momentum in Massachusetts, First Step in a New Initiative for Maximizing Articulation between High Schools and Colleges

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the AATG Massachusetts Chapter will be having a one-day workshop titled “Maintaining the Momentum in Massachusetts”. The workshop will run from 9am – 3pm and will be held at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester. Breakfast and lunch will be included and this workshop is at NO COST to the participants. We have received a

grant from AATG and the Goethe Institut is also supporting this initiative.

The purpose of this workshop is to bring high school teachers and college faculty together to discuss and implement ways to get high school seniors to continue their study of German at the collegiate level. Nationally, there is a tremendous decline in the number of students continuing their study of German at the university level.

Lynne Tatlock, Professor of German at Washington University in St. Louis, will be our guest speaker and facilitator for the workshop. She has been involved nationally with the national “Maintaining the Momentum Movement” and will fly in to talk to us about the national results and successes with this program.

Our goal is to form partnerships between various high schools and universities (like a GAPP Partnerschaft) so that the high school students can visit their partner university once a year. During this visit, high school juniors and seniors will observe a college German class, talk to other college students about studying German in college, and talk to professors and faculty about the opportunities and benefits of studying German after high school.

The colleges can also benefit greatly, by allowing seniors or graduate students interested in teaching to observe a teacher in their local high school. The high schools can also serve as placements for student teachers and can assist in a mentoring program.

Tufts University and Wellesley High School have piloted this program for two years and the results have been quite remarkable. Both the parents and administration have expressed their support and appreciation for the relationship with Tufts University. It really makes the German program appealing to students and parents. Also, the number of students going on to study German from Wellesley High School is quite high. The students themselves have said that their visit to Tufts made a large impact on them.

This workshop will be well structured, practical and there will be a follow up meeting a year later to discuss progress made and how the visits went. All participants will be expected to stay for the entire workshop and to agree to attend the follow-up workshop a year later. The following universities and colleges have already confirmed their participation: UMASS Amherst, Mount Holyoke College, Gordon College, Tufts University, Suffolk University, and WPI.

If your college or high school is interested in participating please contact AATG President, [maxachtau@yahoo.com](mailto:maxachtau@yahoo.com) . Attendance will be on a first come first served basis.

Commitment to the effort is the only way this initiative will work. By working together, high school teachers and college faculty will make a difference. More details will follow shortly.

### **Stammtisch for German Teachers**

AATG Massachusetts Chapter President, Max Achtau initiated the idea of *Stammtisch* over the past year to promote collegiality and communication among German teachers in Massachusetts. The word *Stammtisch* is difficult to translate but in Germany, particularly in small towns, the local pub or restaurant always has a table reserved for regulars and this table is marked with a sign “*Stammtisch*.” This is the table where friends meet on a regular basis to eat, drink, play

cards and discuss just about anything ranging from local politics to international events and everything else that happens to come up.

At one such gathering in North Andover at “The Loft” restaurant thirteen teachers from seven different school systems attended. Another time the group met at the Wirtshaus in Methuen. Ten teachers from different schools attended and enjoyed a great German dinner at the family style German restaurant. A festive Christmas gathering has been planned for early December. Dates and locations are posted on the Massachusetts Chapter website. It has proven to be a great way to get to know colleagues from around the state as well as network and get to know what schools have what kinds of German programs. – *Adapted from the MaFLA Newsletter, March/April 2*

**SAVE THESE DATES**

**Saturday Seminars for German Teachers – Forestdale Middle School, Malden  
January 31 / March 6 / May 1, 2004**

***Maintaining the Momentum* Workshop – Worcester Polytechnic Institute – March 6, 2004**

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Theaterfest – Mount Holyoke College – April 29, 2004**

**Bar Harbor Woche – Bar Harbor, Maine – July 4-10, 2004  
Märchen und Sagen im Deutschunterricht**

**MaFLA Fall Conference – Sturbridge – October 28-30, 2004**

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**AATG MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER BALLOT**

**Slate of Officers as Nominated for 2004/2005**

**President:** **Max Achtau**  
Wellesley Middle School

**President Elect:** **Ulrike Brisson**  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

**Secretary:** **Jennifer Sheehan**  
Newburyport High School

**Treasurer:** **Kristin Gillett**  
Rupert A. Nock Middle School (Newburyport)

**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, 2004* to:  
**Wellesley Middle School c/o Max Achtau**  
**50 Kingsbury Street**  
**Wellesley, MA 02481**

**2003/2004 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 2003-2004, so that we may continue to fund these activities and the national AATG Endowed Scholarship Fund for Study Abroad.

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 \_\_\_\_\_