

A Message from the President's Keyboard

Dear Colleagues,

Another rewarding year as president of the Indiana Chapter of AATG is coming to a close for me as we look forward to the IFLTA conference in November. Participants in the January immersion "Multikulturelles Deutschland" were so impressed by Margaret Hampton's presentation that they convinced us to scrap our plans for IFLTA and persuade Margaret to offer us a three hour workshop on diversity in Germany and how it can relate to diversity in our classrooms. I personally learned a tremendous amount from Margaret last January and I am keenly looking forward to attending her workshop at IFLTA, as well as the other stimulating German sessions that are planned. We will also be fortunate to have Sabine Heklau from the Goethe Institut with us. She will be giving a session on the film, "Sonnenallee" and I'm sure she'll bring the latest news on events and opportunities available through the Goethe Institut, especially professional development opportunities.

It's not too late to register to attend ACTFL. It's always a wonderful conference for new ideas and networking. (<http://actfl.org>) Then, in January, we will have the opportunity to learn more about Germany in the EU at our January immersion. We are also fortunate to have the Central States Conference nearby in Chicago from March 17 – 22, 2009. What a wealth of opportunities!

Let me move on to a sobering topic. Just as Hank Schwab noted last year, when you end your term of office you think of all the work still to be done. As my term ends, I see the biggest job still to be done as fighting to save Indiana German programs, to keep them alive, to keep them healthy. We all know what wonderful German teachers we have here in Indiana and how hard everyone works. Yet, we are facing an ongoing battle and it seems we must do still more. Just a few weeks ago, we were informed of another German program being cut. I would ask all of you to go out of your way to stay in active contact with the other German teachers in your area. Know what's going on, so that when a program is threatened you can spring into action and support each other. If trouble is brewing, please contact chapter officers and other members of the Executive Committee. Our contact information is on our website: <http://www.bsue.edu/xtranet/IFLTA/german/index.html>. We will do all we can to assist you. Another great way to communicate with each other is through the InGerman listserv. If you want to join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/InGerman/>

If you read the article on the Taskforce for German in Indiana (page 2), you will see that a group is working on concrete projects and strategies to prevent programs from being cut. If you have any ideas you would like to contribute, please share them with us and do come to the panel presentation on the topic at IFLTA. Communication and cooperation are the keys. Only if we work together in a united effort can we keep German strong and healthy in Indiana.

Finally, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as president this year. In the coming year, I look forward to staying on the Executive Committee as Past President and focusing my energies on membership issues again.

Mit herzlichen Grüßen,
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IFLTA Conference November 6-8, 2008

Taskforce for German in Indiana

by Hannelore Weber

This summer, when Laura Kosanke King wrote to ask colleagues on the INGerman listserv for help, she struck a nerve. She had written to say that two junior high school German programs in the Wayne Township school system were in the process of being cut and that it was happening without input from the teachers; without an opportunity to present facts, data, or convincing arguments; without an opportunity to make a case for German. Laura's e-mail generated a response from a broad spectrum of German educators and supporters which prompted Claudia Grossmann to organize a meeting for the group on July 10, at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis. The purpose was to assess the situation for German in Indiana and to brainstorm and strategize on ways to support and save our German programs. At a second meeting, committees were formed to work on several of the proposed projects and events. The Taskforce invites everyone to come to the session, "Keeping German alive and strong in Indiana" at the IFLTA conference in early November. A panel of committee members will discuss the issues and proposed strategies, report on projects currently underway, and ask for suggestions and input from the audience. Anyone is certainly welcome to join the Taskforce group at any time. (Contact Hannelore Weber at: weber.15@nd.edu).

GERMAN TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2008

by Dine Möller-Sahling

Each year, the Indiana Chapter of the AATG recognizes outstanding teachers from the Elementary/Middle School level, as well as a Pre-Collegiate, and a Post-Secondary Teacher for their efforts in the classroom and in promoting the study of the German language and culture in Indiana.

High School Teacher of the Year

Martha Finneran, Pike High School

As one of her nominators states, "Mrs. Finneran teaches with passion and pride for students. As Department Chair and German Teacher, she is a role model for superior instruction." After receiving her B.A. in German and her M.S. in Education from Butler University she began teaching German in the Eastern Hancock School system in 1977. She pursued post-graduate work in German at Indiana University and Purdue University, at Calvin College and at the Miami University of Ohio. Since 1986, Martha Finneran has taught German at Pike High School and has been a Department Chair for many years.

Martha Finneran works directly with middle school teachers and principals in the Metropolitan School District of Pike Township. She serves as the chair of the District Curriculum Advisory Team K-12, as the chair of the World Language Textbook Adoption Program, and as co-chair of the PHS Recognition Committee. According to one source Pike High School would not be able to offer six languages nor would any one of the three middle schools in the district be able offer dual languages without Martha Finneran's dedication and hard work. Martha Finneran has hired and mentored outstanding teachers in her department and extends herself to other German teachers in the area.

Each year for the past sixteen years, Pike High School's top 25 students select Mrs. Finneran as the teacher who has made the greatest impact on their lives. Congratulations to Martha Finneran, High School Teacher of the Year!

Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year

John Sundquist, Purdue University

John Sundquist is an Associate Professor of German at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. After studying abroad in Reutlingen, Germany as an undergraduate, he completed his BA in German and English at Valparaiso University and then went on to study in Cologne, Germany for several years. While in Germany, he taught English at a private school and attended courses at the university in Germanistik. He completed his Ph.D. at Indiana University, Bloomington in 2002, focusing his studies and his dissertation on Germanic linguistics and the history of the Germanic languages. While completing his graduate work at IU, Dr. Sundquist received a Fulbright scholarship for research in Norway.

Although he is originally from Michigan, he has spent over half of his life in Indiana now, as he completes his seventh year at Purdue. In addition to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on German linguistics and applied linguistics, Dr. Sundquist is also the director of language instruction in German at Purdue and is responsible for the lower-level language program at Purdue.

Among his accomplishments, he has received a number of awards for his teaching, including the Outstanding Teaching award for faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in 2007 as well as grants for research and teaching enhancement. He recently received a large grant from the university to develop a Virtual Online German Environment to develop online content to supplement the materials in the first year of language instruction at Purdue. He has been a member of AATG for nine years and enjoys attending IFLTA and ACTFL each year. He is actively involved as the Testing Chair of the Indiana Chapter of AATG and is also a member of the German College Board Advanced Placement committee for curriculum assessment. He is a certified tester for the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Program and a Goethe Institut tester for the *Zertifikat Deutsch für den Beruf* at Purdue. Congratulations to John Sundquist, Post-Secondary Teacher of the Year!

Nominate a colleague or friend for the 2009 award! Nominations accepted for elementary/middle school, pre-collegiate, and post-secondary.

The nomination form is found on the IFLTA webpage: www.iflta.org Under "Resources and Opportunities," click on "Teacher of the Year"

Nominations are due late March, but it is never too *early* to start thinking about a worthy candidate.

2008 National AATG Testing Program for High School Students

by John Sundquist

In the year 2008, Indiana German students were very successful once again in the AATG testing program. We had a great group of students participate this year, and so many of them did extremely well. We selected **Rachel Crawford** this year to be **Indiana's nominee** for the Study Award Trip. She is a student of **Robin Geisinger** at Fishers High School. The Selection Committee chose Rachel from a group of very talented and accomplished applicants during a round of interviews in West Lafayette. Rachel was selected as an alternate by the national AATG selection committee but was not selected as a finalist this year. Our chapter also rewarded her with the Langenscheidt Award for her exceptional performance on this year's test. Gratuliere, Rachel!

We also nominated a Senior Study Award winner, **Jalisa Mitchell** from **Gislind Pentecost's** Indiana Academy program. Unfortunately, Jalisa was not selected as a finalist for the highly competitive Senior Award (5 total given in the US), however, our chapter awarded her with the Goethe Institut Award for her outstanding performance among seniors. Way to go, Jalisa!

The chapter also presented a number of special awards to the following students: the German Embassy Award goes to **Meghan Reidy** of Carmel High School, student of **Genene Halvorsen**; the Austrian Embassy Award goes to **Ryne Kempin**, student of **Angelika Becker**, from West Lafayette High School. All students who placed at or above the 70th percentile were recognized by the AATG nationals for their accomplishments. Students placing above the 90th percentile received medals and those above the 95th percentile also received prizes from our chapter.

21 Indiana schools with a total of **876 students** participated in the year 2008 National Examination. Nationally, **26,117** students participated. Our chapter had the distinction of being among those with the highest number of students scoring **at or above the 90th percentile**. 59 attained such impressive scores.

Congratulations to all the students who participated and to their teachers. We want to give a warm welcome to those teachers whose students are participating for the first time and give a special thanks to all the teachers who "go the extra mile" and work so tirelessly with their students. We are grateful also to the German Embassy, the Austrian Institute, the Goethe Institut, Purdue University, and the AATG for their support and generous contributions of prizes.

Participating Schools in 2008

Andrean High School (Merrillville)	Harrison High School (Evansville)
Brownsburg High School (Brownsburg)	Heritage Christian School (Indianapolis)
Carmel High School (Carmel)	Indiana Academy for Science and Math (Muncie)
Cathedral High School (Indianapolis)	Jefferson High School (Lafayette)
Crown Point High School (Crown Point)	Lakeland High School (La Grange)
Fairfield Jr/Sr. High School (Goshen)	Lawrence Central High School (Indianapolis)
Fishers High School (Fishers)	Munster High School (Munster)
Floyd Central High School (Floyd Knobs)	Rochester Community High School (Rochester)
Goshen High School (Goshen)	Terre Haute South High School (Terre Haute)
Hamilton Southeastern High School (Fishers)	West Lafayette High School (West Lafayette)
Zionsville Community High School (Zionsville)	

For information about the AATG National German Exam, please go to <http://www.aatg.org>.

IFLTA Conference 2008: World Languages Connect to the Future Indianapolis, Indiana

According to Silvana Falconi of IFLTA, there are nearly 17 sessions with handouts in German at IFLTA this year! Our three-hour workshop on Friday will be **Deutschland: Eine bunte Republik** by Margaret Hampton from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Here is a preview from Margaret:

This workshop addresses ways of identifying, accessing, and incorporating texts and materials that reflect the ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of the German-speaking world into the German classroom. Participants will have the opportunity to examine texts by and about people of African descent, many of whom have been in Germany for generations. They also will examine texts that belong to what is now known as “literature of settlement, i.e. works by authors who have settled in Germany since the mid 20th century.

The workshop will consist of four parts. First, an historical overview will serve to highlight the relationships Germany has had with other parts of the world and with other peoples and cultures. This overview also will focus on the experiences of individuals and groups who are now a part of Germany’s “multicultural” population. Second, the workshop facilitator will share a model for a course on multiculturalism in Germany with suggestions for texts and for ways of organizing the course. Third, with the help of excerpts from documentaries, interviews, films, and videos, participants will have the opportunity to see and hear Germans of Color and Germans of Settlement speak of their experiences in their own words. Fourth, participants will work with exercises based on texts by Germans of Color and Germans of Settlement. They also will discuss and develop strategies for making these texts more accessible to their students.

All participants will receive or have access to many of the materials used in the workshop.

Indiana AATG Spring Immersion 2009

by Dine Möller-Sahling

“Deutschland in Europa: Teaching German, Teaching Europe” January 20th-21st, 2009 in Bloomington, IN

Save the Date!

The Indiana AATG Spring Immersion 2009 will take place on January 20th-21st, 2009 in Bloomington, Indiana and is entitled “Deutschland in Europa: Teaching German, Teaching Europe”. This immersion is designed to further participants’ understanding of the impact of the Europeanization process in Central Europe by providing current information on cultural, economic, political, social, and academic developments in Germany through a presentation on day 1 (Friday evening) and a workshop on day 2 (Saturday morning).

The presentation on Friday evening will give an overview of Germany’s current role in the European Union. As on past immersion weekends, we expect “ein geselliges Zusammensein” following the presentation on Friday.

On day 2 (Saturday morning) teachers will participate in a variety of sample lessons and will learn a number of strategies for introducing a European perspective into teaching. An AATG consultant who has developed an interactive session that will guide teachers in developing solid teaching units based on a film, will lead the Saturday morning workshop. Participants will be provided with resources and classroom-ready teaching materials.

Please join us in January, be immersed in German, and learn more about Germany’s role in the new Europe! New teachers are encouraged to attend! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dine Möller-Sahling at moeller@usi.edu.

(More details to come at IFLTA and soon to be posted on the Indiana AATG website, <http://www.bsu.edu/xtranet/IFLTA/german/index.html>)

Sommergelegenheiten

Have you ever wondered about the summer opportunities advertised in the AATG newsletters? Two of our members wrote about their summer experiences.

„Man lernt nie aus!“

by Fran Reigle

Wer nicht nur Deutsch lernen möchte, sondern auch eine lebendige Erfahrung sammeln will, könnte das beim InterDaF am Herder Institut der Universität Leipzig verwirklichen. Der vierwöchige Fortbildungskurs, „Mündliche Kompetenz im Unterricht amerikanischer High-Schools: Theorie, Praxis, Evaluierung und Didaktik (MUTPED)“, wurde in Leipzig vom 28. Juni bis 26. Juli mit Unterstützung des Transatlantik Programms der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (European Recovery Program) und des Bundesministeriums für Wirtschaft und Technologie im Zusammenhang mit AATG zum ersten Mal angeboten. Es wurde für zwanzig amerikanische Lehrer/Innen und Student/Innen aus verschiedenen Staaten und mit unterschiedlichen Sprachkenntnissen und Lehrerfahrungen (alle Anfänger) vorgesehen, und zwar waren wir eine eklektische Gruppe. Ausgezeichnete Führung von Frau Dr. Annette Kuhn, professionelle Betreuung der Lehrkräfte des Herder Instituts, angenehme Unterkunft bei Leipziger Einwohnern, sogar wichtige Vorträge von Prof. Bärenfänger, Prof. Tschirner, und von Doktorand Albrecht Klemm waren die Bildungsinhalte dieses Kurses. Bemerkenswert waren auch:

- Stadterkundung und Gruppen/ Projektarbeit machen
- theoretischen Hintergrund und praktische Tipps zum Spracherwerb lernen
- Didaktisierung vom Lehrmaterial bearbeiten
- Schwerpunkte der Grammatik und Phonetik üben
- im Unterricht der Lehrkräfte des Herder Instituts hospitieren
- kulturelle Angebote, wie z.B., Motetten in der Thomaskirche (herrlich!) genießen
- Exkursionen nach Dresden und in den Harz machen
- Geschichte der ehemaligen DDR Zeit erfahren (Stasi Museum, Zeitgeschichtliches Forum, aus erster Hand von Leipzigern, usw.)
- am Sprachaustausch mit einem/einer Tandem Partner/In teilnehmen können
- das deutsche Alltagsleben kennenlernen und erfahren

Trotz eines sehr vollen Ablaufplans gab es auch Zeit für Entspannung – beim Einkaufen, Stadtbummeln, Wandern, Joggen, Tanzen, Karaoke Singen, Filme ansehen, Essen und Trinken, und auch ein bisschen Zeit mit den Vermietern oder mit den Kollegen zu verbringen. Die Stadt Leipzig – das von Goethe sogenannte „kleine Paris“ - hat doch viel anzubieten.

Lathrop Johnson was also in Leipzig. His story is on page 7.



Im vergangenen Sommer nahm ich am Fortbildungskurs "Die Entwicklung von interkultureller Kompetenz" (EIKK) teil. Das zweiwöchige Seminar fand an dem Herder-Institut der Universität Leipzig statt und wurde von der AATG mit Unterstützung des Bundesministeriums für Wirtschaft und Arbeit organisiert. Wir waren 16 Highschool- und Collegelehrer von überall in den USA, von New York nach Washington, obwohl die meisten vom Mittelwesten kamen. Ich kannte schon zwei Teilnehmer durch Veranstaltungen der Indiana AATG. Die Gruppe besaß ausgezeichnete Deutschkenntnisse, hatte gute Ideen und war besonders gesprächsfreudig.

Ich wohnte bei einem Ehepaar im Süden der Stadt und fuhr mit der Straßenbahn zum Herder-Institut. Michael und Hannelore waren äußerst nett. Sie luden mich immer zu den Fernsehsendungen der Europameisterschaft ein, gaben mir Zugang zum Internet auf ihrem Computer, fuhren mich an einem Tag zwei Stunden nach Süden in das Erzgebirge, und beantworteten immer geduldig und ausführlich meine wiederholten Fragen zu Themen der (Inter)kultur. Hannelores Frühstückskunst setzte mich jeden Morgen in gute Laune.

Hintergrund

Die AATG bemüht sich in den letzten Jahren durch ihren "Task Force on Cultural Knowledge and Understanding" um neue Ansätze in der Kulturdidaktik (siehe Artikel in der Unterrichtspraxis 2006, Band 38.2, S. 172 - 181). Weder die alten Vorstellungen von "Landeskunde" noch die "four F's (i.e. food, festivals, folklore and facts)" genügen: "The profession needs to identify some concise, foundational, and, of course, realistic objectives as well as principled approaches for the teaching of cultural competence." Im Sommer 2007 gab es in Leipzig ein "Expertenseminar," wo internationale DaF-Lehrer vor allem aus Deutschland und den USA sich mit diesen Fragen beschäftigten (<http://www.uni-leipzig.de/master-daf/expertenseminar/start.html>). Während viele Ergebnisse von diesem Seminar demnächst in einem Band (von Renate Schulz herausgegeben?) erscheinen, hat die AATG den konkreten Vorschlag angenommen, in den Jahren 2008 und 2009 Fortbildungskurse für weitere Lehrer zu veranstalten, damit die Ideen multiplikatorisch weiter verbreitet werden.

Kursaktivitäten

Unter der Leitung von Carmen Schier und Ines Laue haben wir uns einerseits mit der Problematik der Interkulturellität befasst und zweitens Aspekte der Kultur erlebt und didaktisiert. Es gab viele ausgezeichnete Artikel zu lesen und offene Diskussionen darüber. Dazu hat Prof. Claus Altmayer die Wichtigkeit der Deutungsmuster vorgeführt, und Prof. Olaf Bärenfänger hat bedeutungsvolle Ansätze zur Bewertung der interkulturellen Kompetenz mit uns durchgearbeitet. Wir haben in Gruppen die Erkundung von Leipziger Stadtvierteln gemacht, wo wir Fotos von besonderen Gebäuden und Denkmälern bekamen, die wir dann zu Fuß und durch Gespräche mit Passanten und Bewohnern identifizieren mussten. Am Ende der zwei Wochen haben wir in weiteren Gruppen eine didaktische Einführung in vier besondere Themen zusammengestellt und vorgeführt: Medien, die Wende in Leipzig, Migranten und soziale Unterschiede. Dafür haben wir zwei sehr aufschlussreiche Interviews mit Fachexperten gehabt; für uns im Thema "Medien" waren es ein Herausgeber der Leipziger Volkszeitung und ein Onlinejournalist, der auch Publizistik unterrichtet.

Dazu genossen wir am ersten Tag ein Festessen in dem historischen Auerbachs Keller (Wildschwein mit Rotkohl) und anschließend einen Stadtrundgang durch die Innenstadt und eine Straßenbahnrundfahrt durch alle Viertel der Stadt. Wir besuchten gemeinsam ein Theaterstück und ein Konzert im Gewandhaus. An anderen Abenden gab es mehrere Vorschläge zu Filmen, Vorträgen und anderen (inter)kulturellen Veranstaltungen, so wie auch Bummeln durch die Kneipenmeile. Dazu gab es Gelegenheit, besondere Museen und Ausstellungen zu besichtigen. Am letzten Abend feierten wir den Abschied mit einem Grillbuffet in der berühmten Gosenschenke. Am Samstag in der Mitte der zwei Wochen fuhren wir alle nach Weimar, wo wir am Morgen einen Stadtrundgang machten und das Goethehaus besuchten. Der Nachmittag stand uns frei (Goethes Gartenhaus, Fürstengruft, Bauhaus, Schloss, Anna-Amalia-Bibliothek, Schillerhaus usw.).

Fazit

Wer sich für das Thema Kultur im Unterricht interessiert, sollte sich unbedingt für das nächste (und letzte?) Seminar im Sommer 2009 bewerben. Die meisten Kosten werden vom Programm gedeckt, und die AATG gibt auch einen Zuschuss für die Reisekosten. Man kann auch vorher und/oder nachher weitere touristische oder wissenschaftliche Aktivitäten unternehmen. Wer Mitglied von IFLTA ist, sollte unbedingt auch das Strasheim-Stipendium für Auslandsprojekte beantragen.

Viele Fragen über interkulturelle Kompetenz bleiben noch und müssen individuell aber auch gemeinsam gelöst werden. Wie findet man ein Gleichgewicht im Unterricht zwischen Kultur und Sprache? Wie viel Landeskunde müssen die Schüler beherrschen, bevor sie interkulturelle Kompetenz erreichen? Bärenfänger hat eine Definition von (inter)kultureller Kompetenz so vorgeschlagen: "ein Ensemble von Wissen, Fertigkeiten und Einstellungen, die eine Person zur erfolgreichen und situationsangemessenen Kommunikation mit Angehörigen anderer Kulturen befähigt." Ist das ein mögliches Ziel in den ersten Unterrichtsstufen? Wie können wir unseren Unterricht gestalten, so dass die Schüler in den neuen globalen Verhältnissen bessere Weltbürger werden? Ich begrüße Fragen und Kommentare an:

ljohnson@bsu.edu

Indiana Association of Students of German.

The 2009 *Staatskongress* will be held at Ball State University. As always, there will be lots of activities for students: workshops, competitions, and games.

Watch for a postcard in the mail sometime this fall with details.

Check out the webpage for updates and look for pictures and results from the 2008 *Staatskongress* at
www.iasgerman.org

Swap Shop

Bring duplicates of new/gently used classroom materials to the Saturday business meeting at the IFLTA Conference. We'll have a swap shop after the meeting.

Webpage swap!

Send your favorite teacher resource page/webpage/youtube site with a small description to Kim Warner (kwarner@tcsc.k12.in.us). We will print a "bests" list in the March edition of the *Mitteilungen*.

IFLTA registration materials, hotel information, and conference information are available online at
www.iflta.org/conference Pre-registration deadline is October 11, 2008.