

## A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues!

I imagine this finds many of you in the midst of preparing for your next class, your next conference, or your next project. “The work of a language teacher is often isolated work... and it can leave us wishing for collegial interaction and support” an ACTFL president once wrote (*The Language Educator*, 11/2008). It is precisely the interaction with all of you, whether it is face to face during immersion weekends, at IFLTA and ACTFL conferences, or online through our InGerman or the AATG Listserv that gets me through any such isolated moment. There is so much to be learned from each other, least of all knowing what others are doing to keep German alive and thriving, and most of all: Collegial interaction and support strengthens our own position and confronts any feelings of isolation. This wonderful group has put me in contact with some of the finest educators I have ever met.

I challenge you to be more active than ever in the Indiana AATG chapter this year, especially in light of all the positive momentum recently generated. The month of January saw the inauguration of a new president who stresses the employment advantages of speaking more than one language and suggests that we begin foreign language study at an early age (July 11, 2008). February was designated *Discover Languages Month* by the ACTFL Board of Directors, and so many of you organized events and activities around this theme. Hundreds of students in Indiana have already participated in the 2009 National German Exam, and recently took part in the *Staatskongress* under the theme of „Musik – die internationale Sprache gestern und heute” during the last weekend of February. Many thanks go to all the terrific people at Ball State and elsewhere who make this event possible! It is an event we can all be proud of and one that helps greatly to promote German in Indiana schools.

If you did not have a chance to attend the IFLTA conference last November, I hope you can make plans to attend and participate in the conference this year, November 5-7, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza in Indianapolis. Last year, with the theme of “World Languages: Connect to the Future” there were sessions ranging from a panel discussion by the Indiana task force German on “Keeping German Alive and Strong in Indiana”, sessions on Geography, on Games, medieval German manuscripts and the “Totentanz,” and many more. Sabine Heklau from the Goethe Institut Chicago presented a double session on using the film “Sonnenallee” in the classroom. Together with Katja Fullard, the newly appointed director of the Goethe Institute Chicago, Sabine also handed out loads of wonderful Goethe Institute material to all attendants of the AATG Business meeting. Robin Geisinger received the Duden Award and the Teacher of the Year Award went to Martha Finneran (High School) and John Sundquist (post-secondary) respectively. Herzlichen Glückwunsch! Our annual three-hour AATG workshop at IFLTA on “Multikulturelles Deutschland” with Margaret Hampton from Earlham College was a rousing success. We are very fortunate to have Jörg Waltje the technology expert with us for our next AATG workshop at IFLTA 2009. I am keenly looking forward to his presentation on “Podcasting in the Classroom”... *Continued on page 6*

## Meet Your Executive Committee

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## IASG:

If your students didn't attend the *2009 Staatskongress* held at Ball State University on Saturday, February 28, watch the webpage for pictures and results to be posted! Plan to attend next year.

[www.iasGerman.org](http://www.iasGerman.org)

Questions? Contact JJ Steed at Brownsburg High School: [JSteed@brownsburg.k12.in.us](mailto:JSteed@brownsburg.k12.in.us)

# Indiana University Honors Program

Does this description fit any of your students?

Are you a motivated and dedicated sophomore or junior student of German in the state of Indiana? Do you have the desire to challenge yourself in a total immersion environment in order to gain proficiency in German and a greater sense of self? Are you ready for the experience of a lifetime?

If you have answered 'yes' to the above questions, the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages invites you to apply to our six and a half week immersion program in Krefeld, Germany this summer!

More information about the IUHPFL in Krefeld, including program dates, costs, and objectives, can be found at our website at [www.iuhonorsprogram.org](http://www.iuhonorsprogram.org). The program offers not only four classes a day, but excursions to regional attractions and the opportunity to live with a German host family. *Good news: we are able to offer some financial aid to offset the costs of the program!*

If you are interested in applying to the program, please contact us immediately so that we can know to expect your application. Information on how to apply can be found at our website's application page: <http://www.indiana.edu/~iuhpfl/applications.htm>.

NOTE: You do not have to have taken the German language test to apply for the program in Krefeld.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 855-5241 or [cksims@indiana.edu](mailto:cksims@indiana.edu).

## IUPUI Max Kade German-American Graduate Fellowship

Max Kade Graduate Fellowships are available through the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Research and Resource Center for the Academic Year 2009-10. Graduate students admitted to or applying for admission to an IUPUI graduate program as described below are invited to apply. Stipulations are:

- Knowledge of German at an advanced level as evidenced by course work or equivalent.
- Admission to a graduate program in the School of Liberal Arts, e.g., Public History, History, Philanthropy. Admission to other schools where a focus on the Humanities and Social Sciences is possible will be considered, e.g., School of Library and Information Science, School of Education.
- Demonstrated academic interest in the field of German and/or German-American Studies as indicated by course work and/or thesis work completed.
- Graduate thesis in an area of German or German-American Studies in an appropriate field, e.g., History.

Required Course: V605 Topics in Germanic Studies: The German Heritage of America

The Max Kade Graduate Scholarship is for a maximum of \$10,000. It may not be used for tuition or for student insurance.

Applications may be obtained from:

IUPUI Max Kade German-American Research and Resource Center  
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis  
425 University Blvd. (CA 501D)  
Indianapolis, IN 46202 USA  
[mkgac@iupui.edu](mailto:mkgac@iupui.edu)

Deadline March 30

Or by contacting:  
Dr. Claudia Grossmann  
Acting Director, IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center  
(317) 274-3943  
[cgrossma@iupui.edu](mailto:cgrossma@iupui.edu)

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**Nicht vergessen:  
Teacher of the Year 2009**

**Deadline for Nominations: March 21, 2009**

Don't forget to nominate your colleague in German or in another world language for the 2009 Teacher of the Year Award. Nominations are due soon! Each year, the Indiana Chapter of the AATG recognizes one outstanding teacher in each of three categories: 1) Elementary/Middle School level, 2) Pre-Collegiate, and 3) Post-Secondary Teacher. This honor goes to a teacher who makes special contributions to the lives of his/her students, and who shows commitment to the profession on various levels and in many ways.

The respective award winners are eligible for the Indiana "World Language Teachers of the Year" selected by IFLTA annually. The procedures for selection and the nomination forms are available for download on the new IFLTA website:

<http://www.iflta.org/teacheroftheyear>

Nominations should be sent before March 21 to <<Dine Möller-Sahling, moeller@usi.edu>>

Other contact information is on page two of this issue of the *Mitteilungen*.

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Mark your calendars.....

**Workshop for Social Studies and German Language Educators  
"Lessons from Germany: Past and Present"**

October 3, 2009  
9 am. – 4 p.m.

**Description:**

This all-day workshop will take place at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis on Saturday, October 3, 2009, coinciding with German Unity Day. Teams of Social Studies and German Language educators are invited to discuss the history of German immigrants in the United States as told through the "Germans in America" TV series, as well as examine contemporary German issues 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The workshop is sponsored by the Goethe-Institute's Transatlantic Outreach Program, DANK (German American National Congress), and the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. Complimentary teaching materials, breakfast, and lunch will be offered to attendees free of charge. Stipends may also be available.

Contact: Claudia Grossmann, German Program Director and Acting Director, IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center, (317) 274-3943, [cgrossma@iupui.edu](mailto:cgrossma@iupui.edu).

**Have you visited our Indiana AATG webpage recently?**

A new feature to help keep German education strong in Indiana is the "Jobs Teaching German" link. There are currently three postings for German teaching jobs in Indiana. Check out the link and the other great happenings in our chapter at:

[www.bsu.edu/xtranet/IFLTA/german/index.html](http://www.bsu.edu/xtranet/IFLTA/german/index.html)

IUPUI Department of World Languages and Cultures  
GERMAN PROGRAM

SUMMER I – 2009

GER G490/V605: Das Deutsche Kolloquium  
„Introduction to German Dialects”

Dr. Daniel Nuetzel, Hoyt-Reichmann Chair for German-American Studies

An American studying in Germany once told a colleague, “I can understand the people in Hamburg really well, but I have no idea what the people in Munich are saying.” Likewise, a German from Duisburg recently said, “Ich fahre nicht nach Bayern. Es ist zwar schön, aber ich verstehe die Sprache nicht.” Indeed, nearly any speaker of Standard German, whether native or non-native, is conscious of the vast regional linguistic variation in the German-speaking world. This regional grammatical and phonetic diversity will be the topic of **G 490, *Das Deutsche Kolloquium: Introduction to German Dialects***. The course will provide a broad overview of the main dialectal borders within the German-speaking countries before we turn our attention to a more detailed analysis of certain dialects of particular interest to the instructor (primarily Upper German [i.e., Southern German] and Silesian varieties) and the participants (students are encouraged to inform the instructor by late March of any specific interests). German dialects spoken in the US will also be a focus of class discussion.

In order to provide some background necessary for the study of dialectology, the course will briefly address some issues in both historical and sociolinguistics. These issues will help us answer questions such as:

- .. What is Standard German and how did it come into being?
- .. Why does the word for *pot* (Standard German *Topf*) end in a *-p* in many Middle German dialects (e.g., *Toop*), while all southern German (including Austrian and Swiss) dialect speakers say *Topf* (vowel length and quality may vary)?
- .. Why do speakers of Low German (or English, for that matter) say *Water* for ‘water’, whereas Upper German dialect speakers say *Wasser* (vowel length and quality may vary)?
- .. Are dialects threatened by extinction in the age of radio, television, and the internet?

Our sources will be native dialect speakers as well as oral and written material from the *Sprachatlas von Nordostbayern*, *Sprachatlas von Oberbayern*, and the *Atlas der deutschen Mundarten in Tschechien*. We will also have access to recordings of speakers of German-American varieties. The course will meet twice in April; thereafter, students will work independently on readings and on a seminar paper to be turned in at the end of the term.

**Please note:** This course will be offered in a special format. The course will meet in **CA 224** for an intensive weekend seminar on **Friday, April 24 (4.30 – 7.00 p.m.)** and **Saturday, April 25 (9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.)**. The remainder of the course will be taught via *Oncourse*.

For planning purposes, please register as early as possible, but no later than **April 10**. For more information please contact: Dr. Claudia Grossmann, German Program Director, (317) 274-3943, [cgrossma@iupui.edu](mailto:cgrossma@iupui.edu)

**About the instructor:**

Dr. Daniel Nützel will be the Hoyt-Reichmann Scholar of German-American Studies at IUPUI as of August 2009. He currently teaches at the *Lehrstuhl für Deutsche Sprachwissenschaft* at the *Universität Regensburg* and is a fieldworker for the *Atlas der deutschen Mundarten in Tschechien*. He has been a Research Fellow for the *Sprachatlas von Nordostbayern* and *Sprachatlas von Oberbayern* at the universities of Bayreuth and Passau.

**Plan to attend the 2009 IFLTA Conference at Crowne Plaza**

(Holiday Inn Select at the Indianapolis Airport)

November 5 - 7, 2009

**Coming soon to <<[www.iflta.org](http://www.iflta.org)>>**

Session forms    Conference information    Conference registration    Hotel registration

Do you have a colleague who has never attended? Have you never attended?

IFLTA offers a grant to pay expenses to attend this conference!

Details available at [www.iflta.org](http://www.iflta.org)

**Information Meeting on Congress-Bundestag Exchange Program**

A group of members of the German Parliament (Deutscher Bundestag; *Mssrs. Bartholomäus Kalb (CDU/CSU), Dr. Maria Flachsbarth (CDU/CSU), Dagmar Freitag (SPD) und Volker Schneider (Die Linke)*) will be visiting Indianapolis on March 30 to promote the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program. This program, established in 1983, allows highly motivated high school students to spend a year in Germany. Students attend a local high school and live with a carefully selected host family.

An informational meeting will be held on Monday, March 30, 4.30 - 6.00 p.m., on the IUPUI campus with members of the delegation and former participants in the exchange program. High school German teachers and/or social studies teachers are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information and to RSVP please contact: Dr. Claudia Grossmann, German Program Director, IUPUI, (317) 274-3943, [cgrossma@iupui.edu](mailto:cgrossma@iupui.edu).

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Our chapter was also well-represented at the ACTFL conference in Orlando, Florida last November. Remember, it's not too early to start making plans for the next ACTFL convention this fall in sunny San Diego, "Speaking Up for Languages...The Power of Many Voices."

Now on to some events to look out for in our state: Please look for your application material in your inbox and for download on our website regarding our Indiana **AATG Immersion for German Teachers**. Due to scheduling conflicts and in the hopes of nicer weather, the immersion was moved to the spring. It will now be held on April 25 - 26, 2009 in Bloomington, Indiana. The topic is "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. You will return to the classroom on Monday with resources and classroom-ready materials!

Our next Indiana AATG Mentoring for the Future Workshop will be held in August 2009. At this workshop, new and "newish" German teachers will explore what it means to be a professional educator in German. The workshop will include information on a wide variety of resources and opportunities available to German teachers in this state.

And if you ever the need to be re-energized and feel connected in-between meetings and emails from colleagues, take a look at our website <http://www.bsu.edu/xtranet/IFLTA/german/index.html> (regularly updated by Ron Warner), at the AATG or the ACTFL website, or the website of the nearby Goethe Institut Chicago. I am always amazed by the wealth of information available to us at our fingertips. For example, since it is not only "20 Jahre nach dem Mauerfall" but also a Schiller-Jahr, take a look at the Schiller-Rap website at the Goethe Insitut: <http://www.goethe.de/ins/pl/lp/prj/rap/deindex.htm>. Also, the wonderful videos of the 2009 Podcast winners on the ACTFL website will make you smile!

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At this time, we are soliciting nominations for the German “Teacher of the Year” on three levels, and I urge you to nominate a colleague whom you particularly value! We have outstanding teachers in the state of Indiana! The nomination forms are all on the IFLTA website, March 21 is the deadline. *Auf geht's!* And while you are at it, please go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/InGerman> and join the InGerman listerv. It's a wonderful way to communicate with other teachers in the state, and I would ask all of you to stay in active contact. As Hannelore Weber has urged you in the fall newsletter already, we need to know what is going on, so that when a program is threatened we can spring into action and support each other *before* it is too late. Please contact chapter officers and other members of the Executive Committee if you hear of trouble brewing; our contact information is on our website. We will do everything we can to assist you! The members of the “Taskforce for German in Indiana” who presented some preliminary findings at the last IFLTA conference are working on concrete strategies to prevent programs from being cut.

Since last fall's election, we have one new member on the Executive Council, Fran Reigle, as the new Northern Representative. Beth Moller-Tank is our new Vice-President, and Elma Chapman is our new Secretary. Meanwhile, I have been trying to fill Hannelore Weber's gigantic shoes, an impossible and daunting task. Thankfully, she continues to serve as Past President and Membership Chair and so much more. She cares so passionately about the organization and each German teacher in the state and tirelessly works to promote German every day. I feel fortunate to know her, to have seen her in action, and to be able to draw on her expertise and wisdom! And thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve such an exceptionally talented and hard-working group of teachers.

I would like to close with a modification of an activity we were given at the Chapter President's meeting in Orlando. Through this activity, we were reminded that even though we are already doing so much, we can always do a little bit more. Take a moment to answer these questions:

- Do you subscribe to the national AATG listserv?
- Do you subscribe to the InGerman listserv?
- Have you actively used either listserv for teaching ideas, contacts, etc.?
- Have you attended a chapter meeting within the past year?
- Have you presented at IFLTA?
- Have you attended an immersion weekend recently?
- Have your students won testing awards?
- Have you ever consulted *Die Unterrichtspraxis*?
- Have you been involved in a student or a faculty exchange program?
- Have you attended the AATG workshop at IFLTA?
- Have you brought a student with you to a conference (Central States, IFLTA etc.)?

Was your answer “Yes” to many of these questions? We are all working hard on building our program, on developing creative ideas for the classroom, and on servicing our region. But without sacrificing too much time, we can easily accomplish one or two more things to help German thrive on the local and on the national level.

Thank you ever so much for all you do to promote German in the state of Indiana. You are an amazing group of teachers! Please don't ever hesitate to send me any and all of your suggestions or requests you might have for our organization. We are here to serve you! I wish you all a very rewarding and successful rest of your spring semester.

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