

OFLA Annual Report
Deborah Page, American Association of Teachers of German
2012-2013

AATG National German Exam for High School Students Award Winner

The Ohio chapter test director, Darlene Lyons, has reported that Mariya Krutkova, a senior at Walnut Hills High School has won the 2012 trip abroad award from AATG. Her teacher is Carol VanAbbema. Mariya was chosen by the National AATG Office to receive round-trip air transportation to Germany for a two-week school and homestay program. The program includes the opportunity to attend special international seminars in other locations for an additional two weeks.

The downturn in the economy and the many program cuts has had an obvious effect on the AATG National German Exam and on the travel awards. Ohio had 22 schools participate in the National German Exam this year, with 659 students taking the test. This year there were 39 non-senior trips awarded and 6 senior trips awarded across the nation, and not every chapter was able to receive an award. The Ohio chapter was very fortunate in that one of our students was a recipient. Students who scored in the 90th percentile will receive a ribbon and a small present from either the German Embassy, the Austrian Culture Forum, Langenscheidt Publishers, the AATG national organization, or the Ohio Chapter of the AATG.

2012 Spring Meeting Held

The spring meeting of the Ohio chapter was held Friday, March 30, 2012 during the Ohio Foreign Language Association spring conference. The meeting was well attended, with both familiar and new faces in attendance. The main item of business was the review and amendment of the chapter's constitution and bylaws. Possible themes for the fall conference were discussed, as well as strategies to bring in new teachers.

2012 Ohio AATG Fall Conference

The annual conference was held November 2-3, 2012 at the Hyatt Hotel in Worthington, Ohio. The conference began on Friday with a Meet and Greet. The first workshop was presented by

Dr. Elfe Dona (Wright State University) and Kristina Wassmann (Centerville HS), titled “Bringing the Euro Crisis into the Classroom: A Simulation of Economic Proportions.” The workshop was lively and informative, with plenty of classroom-based activities for the participants. Following the workshop, everyone enjoyed a screening of *Erbsen auf halb sechs* (Peas at Five Thirty), a film about a man’s struggle with his sudden blindness and the woman who helps him not only come to terms with that, but also improve his life. Dinner at a local restaurant completed the day.

Saturday began with a workshop given by Dr. Adi King (Ohio University), titled “Exploring Germany with Four of Our Five Senses: Teaching Diversity through Disability.” Tied to the film screened the previous evening, participants learned the basics of German Sign Language and explored Braille with suggestions on how to incorporate lessons into their classrooms. Following lunch, the final workshop was “Zero to 300, or How to Articulate the German Classroom from Middle School to Lead Students to Success at the AP Level,” given by Linda Zins-Adams (Highland Heights HS, KY). Stressing backward design, where teachers have the goal clearly in mind while designing activities at progressively higher levels, participants came away with many classroom ideas for beginning, intermediate and more advanced classrooms to lead to the level of proficiency needed to do well on the AP exam.

The final item on Saturday was a business meeting, where Kristina Wassmann was introduced as she began her two-year term as chapter president. The chapter membership discussed future directions for activities. Dr. Elfe Dona (Wright State University) was elected Second Vice President, beginning the 6-year commitment to the chapter. Chapter finances were presented, and votes taken to pay the obligations.

2013 Spring Meeting at Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

During the March Central States Conference in Columbus, the Ohio chapter will be hosting a Meet and Greet for all German instructors from the Central States region, which serves the 17 states of: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin! The Goethe Institut of Chicago and the Ohio Chapter of the AATG are co-hosting a social event

on Friday, March 15, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The event will be a slam poetry performance by Josefine Berkholz.

2012 Ohio AATG Officers

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President/Newsletter editor	Kristina Wassmann	frauwassmann@gmail.com	2012-2014
Vice President	Debbie Page	deborah.page@uc.edu	2012-2014
Second Vice President	Elfe Dona	elfe.dona@wright.edu	2012-2014
Treasurer	Dennis Boyd	dboyd1@me.com	2011 –
Testing Chairperson	Darlene Lyon	fraulyon@yahoo.com	2011 -
Webmaster and Listserv moderator	Mark Himmelein	himmelm@mountunion.edu	ongoing
Membership chair	Stephanie Libbon	slibbon@kent.edu	ongoing
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Respectfully submitted,
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