



AATG

Maryland-DC Metro

Chapter Newsletter

Awards Issue

June 2019

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From the Editor's Desk

Happy End of Year – and Welcome Summer! Many events have taken place since our last issue, notably the MFLA at McDaniel College, during which the Goethe-Institut offered a workshop on differentiating instruction and McDaniel sponsored a reception for German teachers. It was great to see all of you there and learn about the GI's new “university” to support teaching and learning German. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Goethe-Institut for subsidizing MFLA registration fees to enable more teachers to attend. To top it all off, we ended the year with another successful awards ceremony.

The end of this year brings changes. Election results are in: Deborah McGee Mifflin (Johns Hopkins University) will take on the presidency with Annette Budzinski-Luftig (Towson University) serving as vice president/membership chair, Jody Christophe (McDonogh School) continuing as treasurer and Cerue Diggs (Laurel H.S.) signing on as secretary. We thank Susanne Sutton for her many years of service as secretary. While she has elected to step down as an officer, she has agreed to serve as Chapter Testing Chair next year. We thank Matthew Kelly (UMCP) who steps off the Board to relocate north and welcome Marilyn Murphy (DeMatha Catholic H.S.) aboard. After five years on the Board, I end my term as president and step off the Board, but only after the results of the referendum on our **chapter constitution changes** are in! Please be sure to vote if you have not done so. **Deadline is June 17.**

What can you look forward to next year? The Chapter will sponsor an immersion event for teachers, postponed from this year on account of a delay in funding, which has recently been approved. Details will be sent by email and posted on the website. In the meantime, here's to summer!

Sincerely,

Marian Graham, President

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

2019 Chapter Awards Ceremony



Dr. Mohamed Esa (McDaniel College), Chapter Testing Chair, opens the 2019 Awards Ceremony

This year over \$5,000 was awarded to Maryland high school students of German through the generosity of the German Society of Maryland (GSM). Since Maryland had 78 honorees this year, the Chapter covered the balance. Twelve silver honorees who scored in the 85-89th percentiles on the National German Exam received checks for \$50 and 66 gold honorees received checks for \$75. The German Society of Maryland again issued scholarships to four college students, all German majors at public universities in Maryland.

This year's ceremony was a departure from past ceremonies in two respects: first, teachers received certificates to recognize their outstanding contributions to the promotion of German language and heritage in the mid-Atlantic region and second, the entertainment was contemporary German music, courtesy of faculty from the German International School of Washington, with audience participation.

Speakers included James Schaub, President, the German Society of Maryland, Helmut Kehlenbeck, German Language Advisor USA Northeast, Central Agency for Schools Abroad; Birgit Alberg, Cultural Section, German Embassy and Allison Paul, Language Program Officer, Goethe-Institut. All speakers addressed the importance of language learning in the age of

globalization and the special place of German in the global job market. On another note, Mohamed Esa, Chapter Testing Chair, addressed the shrinking and shuttering of German programs—many locally—at both the secondary and college levels. The American Goethe Society’s Awards Ceremony for its Goethe Prize echoed both themes. See page seven for related coverage. Be sure to view this issue’s Photo Gallery for some memorable moments from the Awards Ceremony.

2019 Service Award

This year Dr. Amanda Sheffer (the Catholic University of America), past chapter president, received the Chapter Service Award for her exceptional service to the chapter. As a member, Board member and later president, Amanda quickly distinguished herself as a hard worker willing to take any measures needed to support the chapter, its teachers and students, and promote German in the mid-Atlantic region. Her contributions ranged from grant writing, to single-handedly planning and conducting student immersion days. She established social media accounts for the chapter, sending out messages (tweets and other) to alert all to German events. Are your students as enamored of social media as ours??? If so, the Chapter needs someone to take over and manage the accounts. Please contact us if you are interested—or have students willing to take the ball and run with it.



Amanda Sheffer (*left*) and Marian Graham display Amanda’s Service Award at the Heidelberg Pastry Shoppe

Photo Gallery: Chapter Awards Ceremony



NGE Awardees posing for proud family and friends displaying their medals



Audience in rapt attention, with new board member Marilyn Murphy. DeMatha Catholic H.S, first of three standing at window on the left. Yes, it was a standing-room-only event!



Theodore Gifford (Howard H.S.), winner of a AATG-PAD Study Trip, with his teacher Amy Rill and Mohamed Esa (left to right)



Teachers display their certificates with Mohamed Esa, Chapter Testing Chair, and Marian Graham, Chapter President (left to right)



Dignitaries Helmut Kehlenbeck, James Schaub (GSM President) and Gerhard Meinzer (GSM) (left to right) Amanda Sheffer (past chapter president) sits in the second row (in maroon) behind Helmut



Rainer Tack and Gerhard Graml, German International School of Washington, DC, entertain guests

The German Society of Maryland's Merit Awards for College Students

This year, the German Society of Maryland (GSM) awarded scholarships to German majors Alexander Berardo, Ryan O'Connor and Ryan Sutton, all students at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and Naseem Ahmade, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). All are pictured here with Dr. Maureen Helinski, GSM Education Committee, and Dr. Mohamed Esa (McDaniel College), Chapter Testing Chair.



The American Goethe Society's Awards Ceremony



For 13 years now, the American Goethe Society (AGS) has sponsored the Goethe Prize essay contest to honor outstanding advanced high school students of German in the NCR. The 2019 topic was *Why does learning German remain important in our English-dominated world? Why this topic?* As Claudia Winkler, Acting President, put it, "Given the current reality facing language programs and departments across the country of dwindling numbers and reduced funding, and the sense that English is all one needs to know to succeed in our globalized world, we wanted students to consider why we should value language education, specifically German." A timely topic, addressed by all speakers at the Chapter awards ceremony as well! Student essays encompassed learning German language, literature, society and culture.

Alec Kolodziejczyk, Aberdeen H.S. (Brittany Logana, German teacher), was awarded \$250 for first prize. Alice Wanner, Robinson Secondary School (Carolyn Ostermann-Healy, German teacher), won second prize and Taylor Noyes, Westminster H.S. (Claudia Konkus, German Teacher), won third prize. Saxon Brown, Fallston H.S. (Richard Jones, German teacher), achieved honorable mention. All eligible competitors received a Goethe Prize Achievement Award at this year's awards ceremony on Saturday, May 25, 2019, at Georgetown University's Berkley Center.



Taylor Noyes, Alice Wanner and Alec Kolodziejczyk (left to right) display their certificates with Claudia Winkler, Acting President



The ceremony included a light luncheon and cake

High school teachers of German with students at level 3 or above: mark your calendars for next year's competition. The topic will be announced in mid-winter with submissions due in April and an awards ceremony to follow ... at which a good time is had by all!

Photo Credits: all NGE Awards Ceremony photos by Kerstin Hopkins, German International School of Washington; AGS photos by Meghan O'Dea, past president, American Goethe Society; Service Award photo anonymous

Looking Ahead

- 07/10/19: ACTFL Early Bird Registration ends*
- 07/13-14/19 Maryland German Festival, Timonium Fair Grounds
- 10/3-5/19: FLAVA* Conference "Let Languages Unlock Your World!" (Williamsburg, VA)
visit <http://flavaweb.com>
- 10/06/19 German-American Friendship Garden Event (Washington, DC)
- 10/15/19: German-American Day, McDaniel College (Westminster, MD)
- 10/30/19: ACTFL Advance Registration Ends*
- 11/08/19: GWATFL* Mini-Workshops
- 11/21/19: ACTFL Pre-Convention Workshops
- 11/22-24/19: ACTFL Conference, Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Washington, DC)*

* FLAVA, GWATFL and MFLA partner with ACTFL; members of these organizations are entitled to member registration rates for the ACTFL conference; neither GWATFL nor MFLA will hold separate conferences this fall – look for spring events. GWATFL will hold a mini-workshop day in lieu of a fall conference.

