



Newsletter: Dezember 2018

# German-American Day at McDaniel College a Rousing Success!



Winning T-Shirt Designs: front (above) by Emma Valseth Fosse, Mt. Hebron HS  
back (below) by Beatrice Slevin-Trigo, Gettysburg Area HS



On Tuesday, October 16, 2018, Dr. Mohammed Esa welcomed 850 German students and teachers from 21 schools across Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and the District of Columbia to McDaniel College for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual German-American Day (GAD). This year's theme was German-American Heritage. After greetings from Minister Holger Mahnicke, German Embassy, and Mr. Anton Smoot, President of the German Society of Maryland, the T-shirt contest winners were announced: Emma Valseth Fosse, (Mt Hebron HS) and Beatrice Slevin-Trigo (Gettysburg Area HS), first place and Nyah Dorsey (Long Reach HS) and Christine Wolf (C. Milton HS), second place. Participants then proceeded to the 15 workshops, 60 and 90 minutes in length, on a wide range of German and German-American topics from Holocaust survival, to cheese-making, German Rock, Pop and Hip-Hop music, genealogy, folk dancing, study abroad and multi-cultural Germany. After lunch at the College dining hall, students attended an information session on McDaniel College and its German program. Finally, the day ended with The Edelweiss Band performing German music and the Spotsylvania *Alpentänzer* performing German folk dances. In addition to the immersion in German culture, provided by a wide range of eyewitness accounts and workshops given by experts in their fields, GAD was an opportunity for both high school and community college students to learn the ropes of day-to-day life on a senior college campus.



Students enjoy the folk dancing workshop (photos by Dylan Slagle, *Carroll County Times*)

<https://www.carrollcountytimes.com/news/education/cc-german-american-day-2018-story.html>

- Marian Graham, chapter president

## German Society of Maryland's Annual Banquet

On Saturday evening, November 3, 2018, the German Society of Maryland (GSM) held its 235<sup>th</sup> annual banquet in the *Adlersaal* of Zion Church. This year GSM honored Tom Werner for his years of service to the German community. Dr. Mohamed Esa and 24 McDaniel students attended the banquet, with students Lyndsay Batson and Daniel Smith speaking eloquently in German and English at the event. All viewed a film on the honoree, Tom Werner, which Mohamed Esa made especially for the occasion.

The GSM is a major supporter of our chapter and issues an annual grant of \$5,000 to fund the cash prizes we award students performing at the 85th percentile and above on AATG's National German Exam. GSM's president attends the chapter's annual awards ceremony to congratulate the students and present the cash prizes. This year's Awards Ceremony will be held Sunday afternoon, May 5, 2018, in the *Adlersaal* of Zion Church. We look forward to seeing you and your students there – and at the 2019 GSM banquet!



Dr. Mohamed Esa flanked by two of his students, Daniel and Lyndsay, at the GSM Banquet (left); students with honoree Tom Werner (below)



- Marian Graham

## ***WIR GRATULIEREN ...***

**Katrina Griffin** on her appointment to the ACTFL Board of Directors, as announced at this year's ACTFL Conference. Congratulations, Katrina, 2017 ACTFL and AATG Teacher of the Year, on this well-deserved appointment.

### **Professional Development Workshop @ the Goethe-Institut Washington, DC**

On Sept. 22, I and approx. 15 educators from across the DMV participated in the Goethe-Institut's *free* professional development workshop "Building Written and Oral Proficiency," led by Laura Buder, a teacher at Vestavia Hills High School, Alabama.

In this day-long workshop, Laura shared many practical tips and resources for adapting instruction and assessment to promote student growth in oral and written proficiency. Participants also learned to rethink and re-design assessment and rubrics to be proficiency-based and implement standards-based grading to support student growth.

Two ideas I found useful for my classes were 1) having students keep personal "can-do" checklists throughout the semester to document their progress and, for writing assignments, 2) the simple feedback for drafts that tells students the quality of their writing assignment is either: "Not yet - Meeting - Exceeding" expectations. I implemented this suggestion on the next writing assignment; feedback from students has been positive.

This Goethe-Institut workshop was well-organized and I am glad I went as I returned with practical ideas as well as food for thought of how to improve teaching and learning in my classroom.

- Susanne Sutton, board secretary, UMBC

### **MFLA @ Anne Arundel Community College**

The 2018 MFLA Fall Conference, "Building Your Core: Maximizing Language Learning," was held Oct 19-20, at Anne Arundel Community College. Of interest to German educators was the Friday immersion workshop, "*PASCH: Deutsch lernen mit digitalen Medien*," conducted by Dr. Stefanie Hafner (GI Washington). Dr. Hafner introduced GI's *Schulen: Partner der Zukunft* (PASCH) and its pasch-net initiative, with its assortment of multimedia tasks/assignments, games and an online student newspaper, among other materials to delight our students! Dr. Hafner also modeled using the materials. Give it a try, if you have not already! Like everything the Goethe-Institut does for us, it's great and will help you increase your enrollment.

On Saturday, German was well represented with our own Dr. Mohamed Esa, McDaniel College, presenting on teaching German poetry and incorporating multicultural Germany into your curriculum; Katrina Griffin giving a tips session for new WL teachers; Rick Jones explaining culture capsules and Amanda Sheffer incorporating STEM into the classroom. I ate lunch with new teachers, all very impressed by the extent of their take-aways from Katrina's session. I found Mohamed's and Rick's sessions both stimulating and informative.

To end my day, I attended "Today's Issues, Tomorrow's Leaders: Social Justice in the WL Classroom" by Anna Burkett and Heather Sherrow (Howard County). These two Spanish teachers shared sample worksheets and activities from their curriculum and asked us all to reflect on how we could introduce social justice into our classrooms. Of use to us all is the free .pdf on the topic on the ACTFL website. Also check out the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) website for more information on integrating this topic into a variety of classrooms at the K-12 level.

- Marian Graham

## Member Spotlight: Brittany Logana in Heidelberg

*Brittany Logana answered our call for “Summer Happenings” with great enthusiasm. Here is her report.*

The opportunity to study at Heidelberg University this summer was amazing! I participated in a variety of courses including German media, syntax, German-English translation and even a class on fairy tales. The program helped me by allowing me to use my German and communicate with others about these advanced topics and so much more. I met participants from a wide variety of countries and I enjoyed learning about the different cultures as well as their language learning experiences. The program also provided us with opportunities to experience the wonderful and magical city of Heidelberg and all it has to offer including a boat ride on the Neckar river, movie nights and even karaoke! Thanks to the *Internationaler Ferienkurs* I was able to partake in multiple excursions and experience Germany even further, all while applying my German skills in real life scenarios and making lifelong connections I will not soon forget.



Brittany Logana, clearly enjoying her stay



Mary Joan, Susan and Brittany outside the *Institut für DaF*

- Brittany Logana, Aberdeen H.S.

## German Thriving at The Catholic University of America (CUA)!

The CUA's German program took part in the German Embassy's campaign "Making Choices" with a special focus on our campus on migration and Germany. We held three events: first, we took a trip to the German-American Heritage Museum to explore German migration to the U.S. and celebrated national German week as part of the AATG's campaign. Next, we had a documentary film screening on "When Paul Came Over the Sea" with the filmmaker, Jakob Preuss, and the Head of Political Affairs at the German Embassy, Helga Barth. Most recently we held a panel discussion on business on the link between the German economy and migration with Kristian Orsini from the EU delegation, and Christoph Schemionek from the Representative of German Industry and Trade and the head of the CUA economics department, Martha Cruz-Zungia, and specialist in international finance, Maria Sophia Aguirre. We are now looking forward to celebrating the 200-year anniversary of the first performance of the hymn "Stille Nacht" in early December, supported by the AATG's *Deutsch macht Spaß* program.

- Amanda Sheffer, The CUA



CUA students at the German-American Heritage Museum



Panel Discussion on German Business



Screening of "When Paul Came Over the Sea"

## Recommendations and Reflections Corner

Holidays are a time to revisit fond memories of successful summers and happy memories of German culture. In this issue, two board members give us some food for thought.

### Goethe-Institut Film Seminar

If you are considering a Goethe Institute seminar in the future, I recommend the Berlin film seminar with Martin Lechner called *Filmstadt Berlin*. The seminar is one week long and introduces seminar participants to both brand new movies as well as older movies, all with Berlin as the *Schauplatz* for the film. Martin conducts the seminar primarily as a place where participants – an international group of German teachers – try out pedagogical approaches to a selection of film clips, stage film scenes on location in various venues within Berlin, and most rewardingly screen newly released films followed by in-depth discussion with the director. When I participated, we discussed the film 'Victoria' with Sebastian Schipper and 'Wir sind jung, wir sind stark' with Burhan Qurbani. The seminar had an impact on my own practice right away and I am so grateful to have received the support of the Goethe-Institut to attend this worthwhile seminar! Here is the link to more information: <https://www.goethe.de/de/spr/unt/for/kur/lan/fsb.html>

- Deborah McGee Mifflin, board member, JHU

### Mein erster Nikolaustag im Studentenwohnheim

Spending my first Christmas-time in Germany was a magical time made all the more memorable by discovering the wonderfully fun tradition of *Nikolaustag*. Not living with a family, but rather in a *Studentenwohnheim* in Hamburg with a mix of German natives and students from around the world could have been a less than ideal situation to learn about how German families celebrate the tradition of *Nikolaustag* – when children place their shoes or boots by the door in the hopes of St. Nikolaus filling them with chocolates, nuts and other goodies - if it hadn't been for my German girlfriend, Rosi, who was very committed to taking this American girl under her wing. Upon waking on December 6, my boot was filled with pretty greens, chocolates, nuts and a special gift – *ein Frauenkalender in lila*, of course! Since my university days in Hamburg 'til now, I've never missed celebrating *Nikolaustag*, first with American roommates, then my husband, my kids and now my own students.

- Deborah McGee Mifflin, JHU

### Holiday Reflections!

- *What is your favorite Christmas recipe?*

Every Christmas I enjoy making my own marzipan. It's much cheaper and tastes better. I learned it at McDaniel's German-American Day many years ago.

- *What is your favorite memory of a December holiday spent in GACH? Why?*

Going to a *Weihnachtsmarkt* in my hometown of Lüneburg with my husband and children. They loved the atmosphere and the food. I still have the *Glühwein* mug.

- *What is your go-to lesson plan for the holidays?*

In December we have a *Weihnachtsfest* for all students of German, with *Würstchen*, *Kartoffelsalat* and any German holiday goodies that local stores have to offer. It's always a hit.

- Susanne Sutton, UMBC

## Marzipan Recipe (from GAD)

Making marzipan is easier than you think, and it is certainly cheaper than buying it! You will need a food processor to grind the almonds and blend all ingredients together. You can find rosewater in supermarkets with a Middle Eastern/Mediterranean section. A bottle can last for years without going bad.

### Basic Marzipan Recipe

<b>2 cups</b>	<b>raw peeled almonds</b>
<b>1 ¾ cups</b>	<b>powdered sugar (or up to 2 cups, to taste)</b>
<b>1 teaspoon</b>	<b>rosewater</b>
<b>1 teaspoon</b>	<b>almond extract</b>
<b>water</b>	<b>by the teaspoon, to desired texture</b>

Put almonds in a food processor and grind to a fine powder. This will take a minute or two. Slowly add powdered sugar and process until very fine. Add rose water and almond extract and continue processing, scraping down sides as necessary. Use teaspoons of water to achieve desired consistency. Form into a ball and wrap marzipan in cling wrap to prevent it from drying out. Do not double the recipe. If you do not process almonds long enough, marzipan will be grainy. However, do not over process either as dough will get oily. Experience will tell you. Even if your first marzipan is grainy or oily it will still taste good!

Eat marzipan as is, roll into balls and then roll in cocoa; dip in chocolate; use food coloring and make marzipan fruit or flowers to decorate cakes. Children can sculpt with marzipan and then enjoy their edible play dough. Possibilities are endless!

- Susanne Sutton



### Important Dates:

- 2/7 – 2/9/2019: NECTFL (NYC), “Authentic Language Authentic Learning”
- 3/30/2019: MFLA Spring Conference at McDaniel College (Westminster),  
“March on with Proficiency”
- 5/5/2019: AATG Maryland-DC Metro Chapter Awards Ceremony (Baltimore)

***We look forward to seeing you there!!!***