

55th Annual Award Ceremony

Of the German Language and School Society
55th Annual German Essay Contest
and the National AATG German Contest

Sunday, May 2, 2010, 3:00 PM
Marquette University High School Auditorium
3401 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI

www.dssvwi.org

The German Language and School Society

The German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc. (DSSV) was founded in Milwaukee on June 9, 1956. It was chartered as a non-political, non-religious, and non-profit educational organization under the laws of the state of Wisconsin.

The goals of the Society have been stated as “promoting and stimulating interest in and understanding the German language and culture” by means of an annual German Essay Contest.

This contest is open to students of all public and private high schools in the state of Wisconsin who are presently enrolled in a German Class. Study and vacation trips to Germany, scholarships and valuable book prizes are awarded to those who qualify in these contests. The German Language and School Society conducts its annual contest in conjunction with the comprehensive German language test sponsored by the AATG.

The German Language and School Society is proud of its record to have served the educational needs of our youth for half a century.

The Society has sponsored 55 annual German Essay Contests.

32,000	Students have participated in these contests
8,169	Awards were presented to the students for outstanding achievement in these contests.
82	Study and vacation trips to Germany have been awarded

Contributions from individuals and German-American Societies raised over \$250,000 to fund this program. The German Language and School Society does not receive any governmental monetary grants.

The German Language and School Society wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the students and teachers who participated, as well as to our members and the many organizations, here and in Germany, who contributed so much to the success of this highly idealistic program.

We Gratefully Acknowledge the Financial Support and Other Assistance Received from the Following Organizations:

Contributing Four-week Study Trips to Germany:

Pädagogischer Austauschdienst, Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Book Awards and Medals Furnished by:

AATG

Scholarship Contributions:

- German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc.
- Wilma Giese
- German Fest Milwaukee, Inc.
German Fest donates complimentary admission tickets to German Fest 2010 to all contest winners attending the Award Ceremony

Special Scholarships:

Over these past 55 years the German Language and School Society has had many friends, donors and volunteers. Other German-American organizations in the community have generously provided financial support. Numerous individuals have contributed funds for scholarships.

We continue to provide scholarships thanks to the support of three major contributors:

- A very generous bequest from the estate of Eleanor Arneson
- The Theodore and Anna Grollmann Fund
- The Rudolf and Helga Kaden Memorial Fund

Rudolf and Helga Kaden were long-time members of the DSSV who both passed away within a few months of each other in 2003. They were immigrants from Germany in the mid 1950's and met each other at the former Militzer's Bakery. The annual award ceremonies were held at Whitefish Bay High School for a number of years, where Rudi was the custodian. The Kadens assisted Fritz Keller for many years with the award presentations. They had no children and established a memorial fund with a substantial portion of their estate in order to "promote German language, culture and customs in the State of Wisconsin".

Eleanor Arneson and Theodore and Anna Grollman were also German immigrants who wanted to preserve their heritage. The DSSV sincerely thanks these generous donors.

German Language and School Society Wisconsin Inc.

DSSV EXECUTIVE BOARD

Attorney Heiner Giese.....President

Fritz Keller.....Vice President

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Contest Organization

German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc.

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Fritz Keller

Fred Keller

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Heiner Giese, German Language and School Society

Dorothy Smaglick, German Language and School Society

Fred Keller, German Language and School Society

Marge Draheim, German Language and School Society

Stephanie Draheim, German Language and School Society

German Language Contest Description and Awards

AATG Test and Awards

Each year, German students from Wisconsin high schools are eligible to participate in the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) sponsored comprehensive National German Language Test administered at high schools throughout Wisconsin by the German teachers at their schools. The Level 2 test is taken by students who have two years of high school German. The Level 3 test requires three years of study, and level 4 requires 4 or more years of study. The Wisconsin AATG sponsors cash awards and medals and also invites students achieving the highest scores to participate in a selection committee interview held in Wisconsin during March of each year. Based on students' test scores and interview results, the AATG will nominate one or two students for four week summer study trips to Germany. The national AATG office evaluates the nominations from each state and determines the final winners of the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst, (PAD - German Student Exchange Program) sponsored 4 week summer study trips to Germany. The number of study trips sponsored by PAD as well as the number of these trips allocated by the national AATG office to German students in Wisconsin may vary from year to year.

DSSV Essay Contest and Awards

The DSSV sponsors over one hundred cash and book awards annually for students with excellent performance on the AATG test. In addition, students taking the level 3 or level 4 AATG test are eligible to participate in the DSSV-sponsored German Essay contest. The essays written by these students are evaluated by a German Department faculty member from a Wisconsin university and students who have taken both the AATG test and have written a DSSV essay are eligible to compete for a separate DSSV-sponsored four week study trip to Germany as well as additional cash and book prizes. This trip is provided by PAD through its long-standing relationship with the DSSV.

Students with the top AATG test scores combined with the best DSSV essay performance will be invited to participate in selection committee interviews from which the DSSV grand prize winner and a runner-up will be determined. These interviews are held each year in conjunction with the selection committee interviews for the AATG trip(s) on the same date and at the same Wisconsin location. While all students participating in the AATG test are eligible for medals, books and cash awards, only students who have written a qualifying DSSV essay and taken the AATG test are eligible for the DSSV sponsored trip to Germany.

Finalists for the AATG and the DSSV trips to Germany will be invited to participate in personal interviews from which the winners are selected. These personal interviews are conducted every year in March by a panel of University of Wisconsin faculty members, AATG members, and representatives of the DSSV. **Students must register for and participate in a personal interview in order to be selected as a trip winner.**

AATG trips are awarded nationally to many students throughout the country and the number of trips available to Wisconsin students may vary from year to year. Only Wisconsin students have a unique opportunity to also participate in the DSSV Essay Contest and compete for the DSSV Award trip to Germany, cash scholarships and book awards.

German students throughout the state are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this unique opportunity to compete for the DSSV study trip to Germany. Wisconsin's high school German teachers are asked to encourage their students to participate in the DSSV Essay Contest. These teachers are also requested to facilitate their students' participation by disseminating contest information and administering the essay contest at their respective schools.

Facts and figures regarding the 55th Annual German Essay Contest 2009 - 2010 sponsored by the German Language and School Society, Wisconsin Inc.

- Students Participating: 825
- Schools Participating:
 - Taking AATG Test: 26
 - Writing Essays: 23
- Over 450 Essays were Submitted

The following awards are presented to qualifying students:

Two four-week study and vacation trips to Germany
- DSSV Trip Award
- AATG Trip Award
Cash scholarships totaling over \$6,500
Book awards and medals

We invite you to visit the DSSV's WEB SITE. This site provides DSSV contest information for Wisconsin German students, teachers and parents. It also provides information related to the study of German in Wisconsin High Schools.

www.dssvwi.org

PROGRAM

55th Annual DSSV German Essay Contest and the National AATG German Contest Award Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies.....Fred Keller

Presentations

Presentation by Last Year's AATG Trip Winner

Jeremiah Heron, Nicolet High School

Special Guest Speaker

Anita Russworm, Director of Business Improvement
Bucyrus Erie

Presentation of the Grand Prizes and Special Awards

Dr. John S. Pustejovsky, Marquette University
Professor of German
President, AATG Wisconsin Chapter
Wisconsin AATG Chapter Testing Chair

Presentation of the Wilma Giese Award

Wilma Giese, Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein

Presentation of Awards to the Winners in the DSSV German Essay Contest and the AATG National German Test

Presented by Marge Draheim and Lori Keller
Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein

A Reception will follow the Presentations

CONGRATULATIONS!

DSSV Major Award Winners

The winner of the 2010 German Language and School Society sponsored Grand Prize Study Trip to Germany, \$100 and a medal is:

Michael Pampuch, Mukwonago High School
Teacher: Mr. Jason Weber

Senior Trip Nominee and Recipient of the Wilma Giese Award - \$250

Mariah Sachs, Appleton North High School
Teacher: Mrs. Karen Pfefferle

Top Essay - Langenscheidt Award and Kaden Award - \$500

David Sater, Tremper High School
Teacher: Jamie Orth

Kaden Award - \$500

Alexa Grunwaldt, Milwaukee School of Languages
Teacher: Janelle Morgan

Wisconsin A.A.T.G. Awards

AATG Study Trip Winner - \$100 and a Medal

Sarah Grond, Brookfield Academy
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Richardson

Recipient of the Duden Award for the Outstanding Teacher - \$50

Ms. Sabine Beirold, Rufus King High School

Der Aufsatz (2010 Essay Topic)

This year's level 3 and 4 students were asked to write an essay in the German language on the theme "Wo ich gerne hinreisen möchte und warum", which translates into "Where I'd like to travel to and why".

Over 450 essays from 20 schools throughout the state were submitted. They were evaluated and graded by Professor Garry Davis of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. In addition to the Grand Prize winner, we would like to recognize the following students for writing the best essays and recognize their schools and German teachers.

Top 30 Essays of 55th Annual DSSV German Essay Contest

Essay Rank	Student	School & City	Teacher
1	David Sater	Tremper HS	Ms. Jammie Orth
2	Dana Stevens	Nicolet HS	Mr. Mark Wagner
3	Amy Vida	Slinger HS	Ms. Erika Guth-Degner
4	Laura Gildenstern	Tremper HS	Ms. Jammie Orth
5	Katherine Simpson	Nicolet HS	Mr. Mark Wagner
6	Alexa Grunwaldt	Milwaukee School of Languages	Ms. Janelle Morgan
7	Jacob Snell	Tremper HS	Ms. Jammie Orth
8	Andrew Hinkens	Brookfield Academy	Mr. Andrew Richardson
9	Jordin Schnell	Wauwatosa West HS	Mrs. Karin Awve
10	Brianna Stultz-Kozik	Muskego HS	Mrs. Joan Blaha
11	Michael Kress	Homestead HS	Ms. Linda Havas
12	Erika Mackay	Muskego HS	Mrs. Joan Blaha
13	Dylan Braun	Muskego HS	Mrs. Joan Blaha
14	John Davis	Brookfield Academy	Mr. Andrew Richardson
15	Rebecca Berry	Brookfield Central HS	Ms. Elke Sommers-Johnson
16	Austin Kautzer	Wauwatosa West HS	Mrs. Karin Awve
17	Andrea Bretl	Wauwatosa West HS	Mrs. Karin Awve
18	Max Lukas Brugger	Milwaukee School of Languages	Ms. Janelle Morgan
19	Steven Walsh	Appleton North HS	Mrs. Karen Pfefferle
20	Christopher Huhta	Milwaukee School of Languages	Ms. Janelle Morgan
21	Mariah Sachs	Appleton North HS	Mrs. Karen Pfefferle
22	Kendall Edwards	Milwaukee School of Languages	Ms. Janelle Morgan
23	Jesse Dorin	Appleton North HS	Mrs. Karen Pfefferle
24	Jennifer Fehrmann	Wauwatosa West HS	Mrs. Karin Awve
25	Ryan Anderson	Appleton East HS	Byron Despres-Berry
26	Sara Benning	Brookfield Central HS	Ms. Elke Sommers-Johnson
27	Casey Horn	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra
28	Cassandra Osinski	Wauwatosa East HS	Mrs. Eva Tuinstra
29	Anna Drescher	Brookfield Central HS	Ms. Elke Sommers-Johnson
30	Christopher Pykett	Nicolet HS	Mr. Mark Wagner

Topic of the 55th German Essay Contest:
“Wo ich gerne hinreisen möchte und warum”
“Where I’d like to travel to and why”

Excerpts from some of the top essays:

- Ich möchte nach Deutschland reisen . . . Deutsch ist in mein Blut, und ich bin stolz auf der Geschichte meiner Familie. *David Sater, Tremper HS*
- Während der Zeit, dass ich in Deutschland were, kann ich alles über multikulti Deutschland lernen. Und mein Deutschlehrer nach, ist es sehr wichtig um anderen Kulturen zu lernen. *Dana Stevens, Nicolet HS*
- Mein Orchester hat das Lied ‘In München steht ein Hofbräuhaus’ gespielt. Es war so fröhlich und brüderlich und seitdem will ich München besuchen. *Laura Gildenstern, Tremper HS*
- Ich möchte italienische Kultur lieben und atmen. *John Davis, Brookfield Academy*
- Japanische Kultur interessiert mich auch. Ich mag die Idee, dass die Vergangenheit und die Präsens zusammen leben können. *Erika Mackay, Muskego HS*
- Ich habe die Alpen nur in Fotos gesehen! Ich glaube, dass sie schön sind, aber ich will sie selbst erfahren. *Andrew Hinkens, Brookfield Academy*
- Mann muss reich sein, um nach Dubai gehen zu können. Das ist für einen guten Grund: nämlich fast alles kostet viel. Doch warum? Weil alles wunderschön ist und luxuriös. *Max Brugger, Milwaukee School of Languages*
- Ich würde in China eine Kultur, die anders als meins ist, sehen. *Steven Walsch, Appleton North HS*
- Ich liebe Italienischen Essen und . . . es macht mich hungrig nur über es zu sprechen. *Chris Huhta, Milwaukee School of Languages*
- Ich denke es eine Abenteuer wird, die Leute zu verstehen. *Mariah Sachs, Appleton North HS*
- Für mich, sagt Kunst viel über eine Kultur. Ich möchte gern den Kunst an der Berliner Mauer sehen. *Ryan Anderson, Appleton East HS*

- Das komische Ding in Madegascar ist das da nur gesundes Essen gibt. Hamburgers und pomme frites werden nirgendwo gefunden. *Anna Drescher, Brookfield Central HS*
- Ich denke, ich konnte von solche eine Reise sehr viel lernen, über mich und über die Welt. Man kann lernen wie sie in die Welt passen und auch wie sie können unabhängig sein. *Casey Horn, Wauwatosa East HS*
- Ich bin verrückt auf Deutschland und Europa und will der Ausland gerne besuchen – hoffentlich Deutschland! *Amy Vida, Slinger HS*
- Ich möchte alle beobachten; ich könnte so viel lernen. *Sara Benning, Brookfield Central HS*
- Man kann an einem Tag eine Großstadt wie Berlin besuchen, oder eine kleinere Stadt wie Wolfenbüttel. Gleichgültig wo man geht, kann man immer etwas schönes sehen, etwas neues lernen, und auch eine neue Kultur genießen. *Jacob Snell, Tremper HS*
- Die Schnee auf dem Bergen ist sehr hell und es glintz im Schnee. Ich weiß nicht warum, aber wenn ich an es denke, gibt es mir ein warmes Gefühl. *Brianna Stultz-Kozik, Muskego HS*
- Ich liebe wie die Leute in England, Englisch sprechen und es wurde sehr Spaß sein, sie anzuhören. *Alexa Grunwaldt, Milwaukee School of Languages*
- Die Eis in Deutschland ist am besten in ganzen Welt. *Jesse Dorin, Appleton North HS*
- Ich habe meine Familie nie gesehen! Ich kenne Sie gar nicht! Ich wurde sehr glücklich sein, ob ich kann sie einmal besuchen, wann ich nach Deutschland gehen. *Jordin Schnell, Wauwatosa West HS*
- Ich will sehen wie es ist, wenn du bezahlen musst um die Toilette zum benutzen. *Kendall Edwards, Milwaukee School of Languages*
- Seit ich in der siebte Klasse war, habe ich mich für Japan interessiert. Das Anfang war, als ich beginner, Japanische Comics zu lesen. *Katherine Simpson, Nicolet HS*

2010 DSSV Award Winners by High School

Appleton East **Mr. Byron Despres-Berry**

Ryan Anderson

Appleton North **Ms. Karen Pfefferle**

Mariah Sachs
Steven Walsh
Wayne Scheu
Hannah Phillips
Abigail Zabronsky
Whitney Shapiro
Jesse Dorin

Brookfield Academy **Mr. Andrew Richardson**

Andrew Hinkens
John Davis
Kevin Sawall
Jack Boatman
Sarah Grond
Sondra Wozniak
John Gardner
James Mueller
Meghan Bielinski
Richard Kustner

Brookfield Central High School **Ms. Elke Sommers-Johnson** **Ms. Dana Davis**

Rebecca Berry
Anna Drescher
Ryan Jehly
Taija Robinson
Sara Benning

Brookfield East High School **Mrs. Liz Marsack**

Connor Schulz

Greenfield **Ms. Carley Goodkind** **Ms. Tami Hetzel**

Erika Hetzel
Jessica Dietzler
Derek Buyan

Homestead **Ms. Linda Havas**

Michael Kress
Danielle Ross
Mitchell Gieske

Lakeside Lutheran **Mr. Gerald Walta**

Benjamin Moench
Jacob Brockmann
Daniel Schallert

Marquette University High **Dr. Sy Kreilein**

Samuel Norton
William Pierson
Erich Mosley
Samuel Scheurell
Max Schaeffer

Milwaukee School of Languages
Ms. Janelle Morgan

Alexa Grunwaldt
Max Lukas Brugger
Kendall Edwards
Christopher Huhta
Ernst Arnhold
Christopher Schweizer
Annie Beamish-Crouthamel
Emily Mace
Alana Skellett
Emily Moore
Mayaserena Her
Cassandra Berres
Hayley Griffin
Darby Jones
Robert Woodhouse
Calvin Mattheis

Mukwonago
Mr. Jason Weber

Michael Pampuch

Muskego
Ms. Joan Blaha

Brianna Stultz-Kozik
Dylan Braun
Erika Mackay

Nicolet
Mr. Mark Wagner

Katherine Simpson
Dana Stevens
Christopher Pykett

Racine Case
Mr. Gregory Smith

Lucas McCann
Hannah Wilbershide

Rufus King
Ms. Sabine Beiroid

Jacob Fullmer
Caroline Froh
Eric Anderson
Nathaniel Sharping
Kaitlin Cullen
Mackenzie Griffin
Peter Wohlgemuth

Slinger
Ms. Erika Guth-Degner

Amy Vida

Superior
Ms. Sheryl Chambers

Jenny Ostrowski

Tremper High School
Ms. Jamie Orth

David Sater
Laura Gildenstern
Jacob Snell

Wauwatosa East
Ms. Eva Tuinstra

Cassandra Osinski
Julia Beilke
Casey Horn
Rose Spice
Kopischke
Evan Howard
Christian Siebert

Wauwatosa West
Ms. Karen Awve

Jordin Schnell
Andrea Bretl
Austin Kautzer
Jennifer Fehrmann
Samantha McNaughton
Gina Richter
Vanessa Winfrey
Stephen Trojan

Wayland Academy
Mr. James Borrud

Theodore Shank
Michelle Krueger
Alexander Bruderer
Edgar Garcia
Julian Sherman
David Rosas

Wilmot Union
Ms. Denise Bauer

Julia Bogucki

**Deutsche Schule der
Kulturvereinigung**
Frau Helena Gyarmaty
Frau Cornelia Ille
Frau Karen Rinaldi

Martina Osterman
Connor Schulz
Larissa Stenglein
Gabrielle Osterman
Molly Hetzel
Kierstin Flessert
Erich Osterman
Daniel Fuellengraben
John Fuellengraben
Will Eder
Alison Schutz
Alex Ille-Hoekstra

Is the Study of German Still Relevant in Today's American Culture and Society?

In this age of globalization, the study of a foreign language is more important for our students than ever. With cost constrained education budgets, many school districts are unfortunately cutting their foreign language programs. One question sometimes posed is whether the study of German is still relevant in Wisconsin in 2009.

Many Wisconsin high schools have excellent German programs, outstanding teachers and strong enrollments that deserve to be continued. Yet, even some of the schools from which today's prize winners come are considering reductions in their German programs.

If we want to see the study of the German language continue in Wisconsin, it will take a concerted effort on the part of students, parents, teachers and organizations such as the DSSV and the AATG. We all need to do our part to successfully retain the German programs in our schools. What can we as individuals do? Stay informed as to the programs your school is planning to retain and which are being considered for reduction. Don't wait until after a decision is announced. Talk to your students' German teacher. Get involved and make your voice heard with your school principals and school boards.

The DSSV is committed to furthering the study of German in Wisconsin, as it has been since 1954. But it will require local action from concerned students, prospective German students, parents, teachers, and community members. This has made the difference in numerous communities and schools throughout the state.

Please watch the DSSV's website www.dssvwi.org for more information on this topic. Parents and teachers, please keep the DSSV apprised of what's happening at your schools by emailing us through the web site. We will share information, access to resources, and success stories related to keeping the study of German alive in Wisconsin.

The following article entitled "Why Should I Learn German" is from a foreign language study web site www.vistawide.com called **VistaWide World Languages and Cultures**. We thought we should share it with you here as just one of many fine examples as to why the German language is still so very interesting, fun and advantageous to those who can speak it.

Why Learn German?

12 great reasons why you should start learning German today

So you already have some perfectly good reasons for learning German ... Maybe you want to be able to communicate with relatives, or to travel to Germany during your summer break, or prepare yourself for study in a German-speaking country. Maybe a German exchange student sparked your interest, or you have a friend who recommended it, or you just like the way the language sounds. Just in case you need some reassurance in your decision or the final push toward taking the plunge, here are 12 more solid reasons why learning German may be a good choice for you.

1. German is the most widely spoken language in Europe.

More people speak German as their native language than any other language in Europe. It's no wonder, since Germany's 83 million inhabitants make it the most populous European nation. But not only the residents of Germany speak German. It is also an official language of Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Liechtenstein. And it is the native language of a significant portion of the population in northern Italy, eastern Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, eastern France, parts of Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia, and Romania, as well as in other parts of Europe.

While learning German can connect you to 120 million native speakers around the globe, remember that many people also learn German as a second language. It is the 3rd most popular foreign language taught worldwide and the second most popular in Europe and Japan, after English.

2. Germany has the 3rd strongest economy and is the #1 export nation in the world.

Germany has the third largest economy in the world and is the economic powerhouse of the European Union. In 2007 -- for the 5th year in a row and despite the strength of the Euro currency -- the Germans were world champions in exports. The country exported 940 billion US dollars worth of goods, just ahead of the US exports. From cars to machinery and industrial equipment, from pharmaceuticals to household goods, German businesses earn 1 in 3 euros through export, and 1 in 4 jobs depends on exports. The competitiveness and desirability of German products on the market are indicated by the country's substantial trade surplus, which reached 162 billion euros (209 billion dollars) in 2006 and continues to grow every year.

And don't forget that Switzerland, another German-speaking country, has one of the highest standards of living in the world.

3. Knowing German creates business opportunities.

Germany's economic strength equals business opportunities. Multinational business opportunities exist throughout the European Union and in the Eastern European countries, where German is the second most spoken language after Russian. Companies like BMW, Daimler, Siemens, Lufthansa, SAP, Bosch, Infineon, BASF, and many others need international partners. The Japanese, who have the 2nd most powerful economy in the world, understand the business advantages that a knowledge of German will bring them: 68% of Japanese students study German.

If you're looking for employment in the United States, knowing German can give you great advantages. German companies account for 700,000 jobs in the United States, and US companies have created approximately the same number of jobs in Germany. All other things being equal, the job candidate with German skills will trump the one without such skills every time. Most surveyed companies in the United States would choose someone with German literacy over an equally qualified candidate.

4. Germans are innovators.

From Gutenberg's printing press to Hertz' discovery of electromagnetic waves, from Ehrlich's development of chemotherapy to Einstein's theory of relativity, to Brandenburg's creation of the MP3 digital music format, throughout history Germans have proven themselves time and again to be great innovators. That trend continues today. 4 of the world's 10 most innovative companies are located in Germany and at 12.7% of the world's patent applications, the country ranks 3rd in the world. Consequently, 200,000 businesses introduce new products on the market each year.

As a nation committed to research and development, Germans are on the frontline of new technologies.



The German Daniel Fahrenheit developed the mercury thermometer in 1714.

Germany exports more high-tech products than any other country except the U.S. and more than 600 firms are active in the cutting-edge field of biotechnology. 115 of these are located in Munich alone. The east German city of Dresden has become Europe's microchip center with its more than 765 semiconductor firms.

Given the Germans' commitment to innovation, it is perhaps not surprising that two-thirds of the world's leading international trade fairs take place in Germany. These include CeBIT, the world's largest trade fair for information and communications technology, and the IFA consumer electronics trade fair.

5. Germans are the biggest spenders of tourist dollars in the world.

While German workers are highly productive, it is clear that they know how to play just as hard as they work. With ample disposable income and an average of 6 weeks of vacation a year, Germans have the time and the means to travel, ... and they do! If you are a world traveler, you are certain to encounter Germans wherever you go since nearly 3 out of every 4 vacations by Germans are spent in other countries. In 2007, they spent a record 91 billion euros on international travel. Year after year, the residents of Germany spend more on foreign travel than those of any other nation. Germans especially favor travel to warm Mediterranean climates, such as can be found in Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Greece, and travel to Eastern European countries is increasing in popularity. Germans also readily travel to Africa, the Far East, and the Americas. 1.2 million German tourists visited the U.S. in 2003, making Germans the third largest nationality of tourists to the United States (after the British and Japanese). The most popular U.S. destinations are California, Florida, and New York. Travel agencies, tour companies, hotels, airlines, and car rental agencies that can communicate with Germans in their own language will win their business. Floridians know this: In that state there are at least two travel magazines published in German: *Florida Journal* and *Florida Sun Magazin*.

6. The German presence on the Internet supersedes most others.

Considering what great innovators the Germans are, it's not at all surprising that they maintain a dominant Internet presence. With 8 million Internet domains, Germany's top-level country domain .de is second only to the extension .com. That makes German domain names even more popular than those with .net, .org, .info, and .biz extensions. Even the second-place country extension .uk trails far behind at 3.7 million domain names.

7. Germans form the largest single heritage group in the U.S.

If you're American or are interested in American culture, learning German can expand your appreciation and knowledge of U.S. history and culture. In the year 2000 census, 42.8 million or 15.2% of Americans reported having German ancestry, making German Americans the largest single heritage group in the U.S. In waves of immigration that span nearly 4 centuries, Germans brought with them many customs and traditions that have become so ingrained in American ways that their origin is often forgotten. Family names and names of thousands of towns and cities indicate the German heritage of their ancestors or founders.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

German ancestry in the United States



The light blue areas on the map represent the states in which German ancestry ranks ahead of all other ethnic groups.

See the [county-by-county breakdown](#) for a more accurate distribution

Such cultural mainstays as kindergarten, the Christmas tree, and hot dogs and hamburgers were introduced by German immigrants to America. They founded multiple breweries, created Levi's jeans, invented ketchup, and created Hershey's chocolate. Germans had such a fundamental presence at the time of the founding of the United States that a German language version of the Declaration of Independence was printed only a few days after it was adopted.

8. One in 10 books in the world is published in German

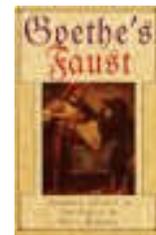


Customers browsing in a German bookstore. 80,000+ new titles appear in German each year.

German is not only a language of the past. As prolific researchers and scholars, German speakers produce nearly 80,000 new book titles each year. The only language markets that produce more books annually are the Chinese and English publishing industries. In number of books published, Munich is second in the world only to New York. Since only a small percentage of German books are translated into other languages (for instance, approximately 10% into Korean and Chinese, just over 5% into English), only a knowledge of German will give you access to a vast majority of these titles.

9. German-speaking countries have a rich cultural heritage.

Apart from their many contributions to American culture, the German speakers have a rich cultural heritage in their own right. Germany is often referred to as the land of "Dichter und Denker" -- of poets and thinkers. And rightly so, because German contributions to the arts and human thought have been nothing short of profound. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Thomas Mann, Franz Kafka, and Hermann Hesse are just a few authors whose names and works are well-known internationally. 10 Nobel prizes for literature have been awarded to German, Austrian, and Swiss German authors.



Goethe's *Faust* is one of the world's great literary masterpieces.

The world of classical music is inseparable from the names of Mozart, Bach, Beethoven, Strauss, and Wagner to name only a few renowned German-speaking composers.

Vienna remains an international center of music today. From the magnificent architecture of medieval buildings to the avant garde Bauhaus movement, from Dürer's woodcuts to the expressionist masterpieces of Nolde, Kirchner, and Kokoschka, Germans have made substantial contributions to world art and architecture.

Philosophy and the sciences would also be unthinkable without the contributions of German speakers. The philosophies of Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and numerous others have had lasting influences on modern society. The psychologists Freud and Jung forever changed the way we think about human behavior. Scientists from the three major German-speaking countries have won dozens of Nobel prizes in physics, chemistry, and medicine.

Knowing German allows you to access the works of these people in their original language and to fully understand the culture whence they derived. Anyone interested in these fields automatically expands her knowledge and skill by knowing German.

10. German is not as hard as you think.

If English is your native language, or if you already know English, then you already have an advantage when it comes to learning German. Because modern German and modern English both evolved from the common ancestor language Germanic, the two languages share many similarities in both vocabulary and grammar. If you understand any of this ...

Meine Schwester hat braunes Haar. Sie ist intelligent. Sie studiert Medizin in Berlin. Sie kann gut singen.

... then you already know some German!

In addition, German is spelled phonetically. Once you learn the system of sounds, it is easy to predict how the spoken word is written and how the written word is pronounced.

11. German is required or recommended by many undergraduate and graduate programs.

German speakers' strong contributions in such a broad array of fields makes the language an important asset in many disciplines. At the University of California, for instance, more majors recommend a knowledge of German as an important supplement than any other language (German: 56 majors, French: 43 majors, Spanish: 21 majors, Japanese: 7 majors). These majors include a wide range of subjects -- from biology, physics, and chemistry to linguistics, religious studies, and art history.

Considering the importance of the German language in the fields of publishing and research, it's not surprising that many graduate schools want their graduates to have at least a reading knowledge of German. Knowing German gives graduates access to important research published in German books and professional journals.

12. Germany financially sponsors over 60,000 international exchanges each year.

While promoting innovation and supporting research within Germany, the Germans also recognize that international cooperation and experience is essential to its continued success as a world leader. In the year 2001 alone, the German Academic Exchange Service supported 67,000 scholars, scientists, educators, and students in periods of international research and study. 43% of these were foreigners who were awarded financial assistance to participate in an exchange in Germany. In addition, like German students, foreign students directly enrolled in German universities pay no tuition fees. You can find a list of some of their aid programs at our [pages on grants and scholarships](#) for study abroad.

In this Period of Tight Education Budgets Some School Districts are Considering Reducing their Foreign Language Programs

There are many compelling reasons to retain German study at the middle school and high school level in our Wisconsin schools.

German Language Usage and Study

1. The EU Language with the largest number of native speakers is German.
2. 18% of the world's books are published in German.
3. German is the second-most commonly used scientific language.
4. As of 2006, German remained the third most taught language at U.S. colleges and universities, with a 3.5% increase between 2002 and 2006.
5. UW Madison's German department was established in 1890 and is one of the oldest, largest, and most highly ranked in the U.S. Chancellor Dr. Biddy Martin is an alumna of the UW German Department.
6. MSOE has a very successful study abroad program in Luebeck, Germany.

German – U.S. Business Relationships/Jobs (see handouts)

1. Germany is our 5th largest trading partner, and the largest in the EU.
2. Every state exports to Germany
3. Germany is the largest supplier of U.S. imports from the EU (> \$97 billion in 2008).
4. German investment exceeds \$210 billion in the U.S.
5. As of 2006, German companies employed 664,000 U.S. workers, including 240,000 manufacturing workers.
6. German was named Europe's most favorable manufacturing location for the foreseeable future by the firm of Healy and Bake, and in a recent issue of Newsweek, listed as the second most powerful country in the world after the U.S., based on many criteria, esp. economic.
7. As of 2007, German-owned affiliates accounted for 11,000 jobs in Wisconsin.
8. \$661 million of Wisconsin exports were sent to Germany, including nearly \$400 million in machinery and computers and electronic products.
9. German companies and U.S. companies with German connections include Aldi, Trader Joe's, Huf, Siemens, Harley Davidson, Wacker, Krones, Robert Baird, and numerous printing equipment companies.

German Ancestry in US, Wisconsin and Waukesha

1. German is the largest ancestry in the U.S. at 15.2%
2. Wisconsin is 35%.
3. Waukesha is 39%.
4. Milwaukee's history is that it was referred to as the German Athens.

In 2006, the Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein Celebrated 50 Years of Service to Wisconsin

Founded in Milwaukee on June 9th, 1956, by German-Americans Werner Behrend, Bernhard Hoffman, Fritz Keller and Gerard Rohr., with the assistance of other dedicated individuals, DSSV has long promoted interest in and an understanding of German society and culture through German language education.

The Hon. Henry W. Maier, late Mayor of Milwaukee, stated in a commendation to the DSSV on the occasion of its 20th anniversary: "So much of a Nation's heritage is embodied in the language and customs of the countries of origin of its peoples that there is no way in which we can separate one from the other. To the degree that we neglect this important part of our culture, so much do we detract from the beauty of our way of life. We are the poorer for every effort we make to erase traces of our rich ancestral origins."

This spirit of improving American life by maintaining the rich heritage of German culture guided the DSSV from its first days. Unlike a social or fraternal ethnic organization, the DSSV focused its attention on the irrevocable link between language and culture. Recognizing the moribund state of German language education in America following the difficult decades of the 20's, 30's, and 40's, the DSSV committed itself from its inception to cultivate the teaching of the German language in all public and private high school in the state of Wisconsin. As stated by our late President Gerhard Rohr, as Americans of German descent we believe that our efforts not only benefit our youth and the community but are also a contribution to the greater task of rebuilding and maintaining a better understanding between the nations."

Without the hard work and dedication of DSSV leaders like Gerhard Rohr, co-founder and chairman from 1956 to 1992, the DSSV would not have enjoyed the opportunity to compliment the education of Wisconsin Students for the past half century. The merits of DSSV's annual event are best described by students who experience it. Reflecting on their time in Germany, one grand prize winner explained, "From all angles it was the best month of my young life. Not only did I learn a great deal about the German people and the country they inhabit, but also I learned a lot about myself and the *American* people." Another grand prize winner noted, "It is gratifying to see the Society's realization of this event as not only a mechanism of providing worthwhile incentive in the study of German, but also as a stimulator of revived cultural interest between the two countries and people of the world in general." The rewards of this annual contest are made possible only through the continued support from several German -American organizations and many generous philanthropists. Membership in the DSSV is open to anyone 18 years of age or older who is interested in the objectives of the organization.

Help Us Promote the Study of German in Wisconsin!

The German language and School Society (Deutscher Sprach und Schulverein) is looking for people interested in promoting Study of the German Language in Wisconsin. Are you interested in helping in the planning, organization and administration of the annual contest and award ceremony? Not only teachers are needed. Your particular skill or talent is welcome and needed. You don't need to be a German expert to help!

Please let us know where you would like to help:

- Communications and Publicity
- Fund Raising or Award Sponsorship
- Coordination and Distribution of Awards
- Award Ceremony

Other Special Interests _____

I am unable to help, but I would like to lend my financial support. (My Check Is Enclosed). Our scholarships and awards are funded totally by memberships, donations and bequests. **We encourage families of award winners to join and support our organization so that we may continue our work for other students.**

- Annual Membership \$10.00
- Other Contribution \$ _____ .

Please provide the following information so that we may contact you:

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____

Email Address _____

Thank You,

The DSSV Board of Directors

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