



57th Annual Award Ceremony

Of the German Language and School Society

57th Annual German Essay Contest
and the National AATG German Contest

Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 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 of 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 to have served the educational needs of our youth for over half a century.

The Society has sponsored 57 annual German Essay Contests.

33,585	Students have participated in these contests
8,381	Awards were presented to the students for outstanding achievement in these contests.
86	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 Ribbons Furnished by:

AATG

Cash Awards

Over these past 57 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 awards thanks to the support of these contributors:

- Estate of Eleanor Arneson
- Greater Milwaukee Foundation;
 - Theodore and Anna Grollmann Fund
 - The Rudolf and Helga Kaden Fund
- German Language and School Society
- Goethe House Wisconsin
 - Ted and Susan Wedemeyer Memorial
- Wilma Giese
- German Fest Milwaukee, Inc.
German Fest donates complimentary admission tickets to German Fest 2012 to all contest winners attending the Award Ceremony

The Goethe House Wisconsin's mission is to serve as a resource for information about the past and present culture of all German-speaking people. Through cultural and educational programs Goethe House seeks to provide people of all ages with a greater awareness of evolving Germanic societies and, in so doing, promote strong relations, friendship and understanding. They offer adult German language classes too! For additional information, please see their website: www.ghwisconsin.org

Judge Ted Wedemeyer and Susan Wedemeyer were longtime members of the Goethe House and supporters of the German community in Milwaukee. Ted served as Goethe House president and Susan served as treasurer. Judge Wedemeyer was an appellate court judge in the District I Court of Appeals from 1991 to 2008. He also served as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge and a Municipal Court judge.

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 German immigrants who wanted to preserve their heritage.

The DSSV sincerely thanks these generous donors.

The DSSV needs your tax exempt contributions to sustain this program!

It is through the generosity of our donors that we are able to fund scholarship awards year after year for these outstanding students of German.

We also encourage donors to consider **planning a gift to the DSSV through your estate.**

For information regarding tax exempt contributions or bequests, please see page 24 of this program or visit our website www.dssvwi.org. Inquiries can also be sent to: donors@dssvwi.org

German Language and School Society Wisconsin Inc.

DSSV EXECUTIVE BOARD

Attorney Heiner Giese.....President
Fritz Keller.....Vice President
Dorothy SmaglickTreasurer
Fred Keller.....Executive Secretary

Contest Organization

German Language and School Society, Wisconsin, Inc.

*Heiner Giese
Fritz Keller
Fred Keller
Dorothy Smaglick
Lori Keller
Marge Draheim
Katherine Urbanek*

AATG

National German Language Test Administration

Selection Committee

*Dr. Garry Davis, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
Dr. Michael Koch, Carroll College
Testing Committee Chairman
Wisconsin AATG Chapter
Dorothy Smaglick, German Language and School Society
Fred Keller, German Language and School Society
Marge Draheim, German Language and School Society
Ellen Boldt, University of Wisconsin - Whitewater*

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 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 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.**

These interviews are held 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 ribbons, 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.

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 57th Annual German Essay Contest 2011 - 2012 sponsored by the German Language and School Society, Wisconsin Inc.

- Students Participating: 735
- Schools Participating:
 - Taking AATG Test: 24
 - Writing Essays: 21
- Close to 400 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 \$8,000
- Book awards and medals

We invite you to visit the DSSV's website. 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



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

May 6, 2012

GREETINGS!

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee, I would like to extend my support for the Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein for promoting and stimulating interest in and understanding of the German language and culture. Please accept my best wishes and appreciation for your service on behalf of the City of Milwaukee.

I commend The Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein for sponsoring the annual essay contest for 57 years to students throughout the State of Wisconsin. The Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein tradition of honoring the academic accomplishments of students that are studying German is admirable. You are an asset to the City of Milwaukee and a fine example of an organization that is committed to preserving history and culture amongst our diverse community. Along with the rest of the City, I want to show my full support for the Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein as you continue to celebrate German language and further enrich the youth in our City.

Once again, congratulations to all participants of the Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein's Annual Essay Contest. Best wishes for continued success and a joyous event!

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Mayor

PROGRAM

57th Annual DSSV German Essay Contest and the National AATG German Contest Award Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies Fred Keller

Presentations

Presentations by Last Year's DSSV and AATG Trip Winners

Gina Richter, Wauwatosa West High School
Alexander Feuling, Muskego High School

Special Guest Speaker

Dr. Sy Kreilein, German Teacher at Marquette High School

Recipient of 2011
Distinguished Language Educator Award from the
WI Assoc. of Foreign Language Teachers (WAFLT)

Presentation of the DSSV Grand Prize – Study Trip Award

Heiner Giese, President
Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein

Presentation of the Grand Prizes and Special Awards

Mark Wagner, German Teacher at Nicolet High School
President, AATG Wisconsin Chapter

Dr. Michael Koch, Lecturer at Carroll College
Wisconsin AATG Chapter Testing Chair

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

Presented by Katie Urbanek and Lori Keller
Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein

***A Reception will follow the Presentations
CONGRATULATIONS!***

2012 Major Award Winners

The winner of the 2012 German Language and School Society sponsored Grand Prize Study Trip to Germany and a \$200 Award is:

Michael Sportiello, Brookfield Academy
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Richardson

AATG Study Trip Winner and a \$200 Award

Laurel Tieman, Mukwonago High School
Teacher: Ms. Stephanie Krenz

Senior Trip Nominee - \$200 Ted & Susan Wedemeyer Memorial Award (provided by the Goethe House of Wisconsin)

Sam Raimann, Homestead High School
Teacher: Mr. Eric Schultz

Top Essay – Gerhard Rohr Memorial Award - \$250

Carolyn Neff, Brookfield Academy
Teacher: Mr. Andrew Richardson

Second Place Essay – \$125

Catherine Nettlesheim, Brookfield Academy
Teachers: Mr. Andrew Richardson

Third Place Essay - \$125

Melissa Kelly, Arrowhead High School
Teacher: Ms. Elizabeth Schueth

Maria Keller Memorial Award - \$250

Mackenzie Griffin, Rufus King High School
Teacher: Ms. Sabine Beiroid

Wilma Giese Award - \$250

Madeline Griffith, Rufus King High School
Teacher: Ms. Sabine Beiroid

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

Mr. Sigurd Piwek
Milwaukee German Immersion School

Der Aufsatz (2012 Essay Topic)

This year's Level 3 and 4 students were asked to write an essay in the German language on the theme "Ein Held in meinem Leben." Students described "A Hero in My Life" in detail.

Close to 400 essays from 21 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 57th Annual DSSV German Essay Contest

Essay Rank	Name	School	Teacher
1	Carolyn Neff	Brookfield Academy	Mr. Andrew Richardson
2	Catherine Nettesheim	Brookfield Academy	Mr. Andrew Richardson
3	Melissa Kelley	Arrowhead Union HS	Ms. Elizabeth Schueth
4	Alexys Zipter	Nicolet HS	Mr. Mark Wagner
5	Emily Boak	Tremper HS	Ms. Jammie Orth
6	Mackenzie Griffin	Rufus King HS	Ms. Sabine Beirold
7	Madeline Griffith	Rufus King HS	Ms. Sabine Beirold
8	Frank Gorichanaz	Mukwonago HS	Mr. Jasonn Weber
9	Fiona Beamish-Crouthamel	Rufus King HS	Ms. Sabine Beirold
10	Hayley Konitzer	Tremper HS	Ms. Jammie Orth
11	Zarah Ford	Wauwatosa West HS	Ms. Karin Awe
12	Dana Kautzer	Wauwatosa West HS	Ms. Karin Awe
13	Sara Spry	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra
14	Laurel Tieman	Mukwonago HS	Mr. Jasonn Weber
15	Karl Koesser	Tremper HS	Ms. Jammie Orth
16	Sabrina Black	Wauwatosa West HS	Ms. Karin Awe
17	Carly Floyd	Milwaukee School of Languages	Mr. Richard Wiegand
18	Gina Richter	Wauwatosa West HS	Ms. Karin Awe
19	Alana Skellet	Milwaukee School of Languages	Mr. Richard Wiegand
20	Ernst Amhold	Marquette University HS	Dr. Sy Kreilein
21	Jack Boatman	Brookfield Academy	Mr. Andrew Richardson
22	Kersten Adams	Greenfield HS	Ms. Carley Goodkind
23	Nathan Krzynski	Marquette University HS	Dr. Sy Kreilein
24	Hannah Dion-Kirschner	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra
25	Katie Cullen	Rufus King HS	Ms. Sabine Beirold
26	Mathias Rekowski	Marquette University HS	Dr. Sy Kreilein
27	Rose Spice-Kopischke	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra
28	Alison Walter	Brookfield East HS	Ms. Liz Marsack
29	Mayaserena Her	Milwaukee School of Languages	Mr. Richard Wiegand
30	Annika Madler	Wauwatosa East HS	Ms. Eva Tuinstra

Excerpts from top essays submitted for the 57th Annual German Essay Contest:

“Ein Held in meinem Leben” - “A Hero in My Life”

Es gibt viele Leute, die ich kenne, die Helden in meinem Leben sind.

Mein Held ist natürlich mein Vater. Die Dinge die ich über mein Vater am besten finde ist dass er so intelligent ist! Er liebt über Geschichte und Kunst. Wenn ich etwas wissen will, kann ich ihm fragen, und sicherlich kann er mir helfen.

Es ist nicht die Abwesenheit von Angst, die Mut definiert, sondern die Fähigkeit sich zu zwingen zu handeln trotz der Angst. Beethoven hat viele Mut.

Ich weiß, dass ich sehr glücklich bin weil meine Omi auch meine beste Freundin ist.

Meinen Onkel, hatte mir gezeigt was eine echte Familie ist. Er hatte mir in meinen schlimmsten Tagen geholfen.

Aber Carl sah etwas in mir die ich nicht in mich selbst sah. Er sah das ich arbeiten würde um besser zu bekommen.

Ein Held in meinem Leben ist immer meine Mamma. Sie ist zu mir eine Lehrerin, Ärztin, Heldin und eine Freunde.

Jeder kennt die Superhelden wie Supermann, Spiderman order Batman, jedoch hat jeder für sich einen eigenen Helden im echten Leben. Mein Held ist mein älterer Bruder.

Meine Kunst und Musik Lehrer und Lehrerinnen sind die Helden in meinem Leben.

„Einstein“ ist international gleichbedeutend. Einstein ist mein Held.

Es gibt natürlich viele Helden in meinem Leben, aber nur ein ist am wichtigsten für mich. Sie heißt Joan of Arc.

.... er is mein kleiner Bruder. Erstens ist Johnny mein Held weil er sehr stark ist. Er ist stark ich denke, denn er lebt ohne sprechen; er hat Autism.

Meine Mutter hat mir gezeigt das jeder, auch in den kleinsten Wege, ihr Leben für das Bessere verändern kann.

Wir sind zusammen aufgewachsen, haben auf dem Spielplatz gespielt, haben Filme zusammen angeschaut, un, wie alle Geschwister, haben wir en und die andere wahnsinnig gemacht! Na ja, mein Held ist mein Bruder.

Für mich, ein Held ist eine nette, glückliche Person, die ein gutes Vorbild ist. In meinem Leben habe ich das perfekte Beispiel: meine Mutter. Sie ist fleißig, nett, und interessant.

Aus den Milliarden von Menschen die jetzt leben und die ? gelebt haben gibt es viele Helde. Manche sind Feuerwehrmänner, Soldaten oder Polizisten. Noch Anderen können vielleicht Wissenschaftler, Astronaute, order Doktoren sein. Einige sind sehr berühmt und erkannt, aber viele sind fast unerkannt. Mein persönlichen Held is der berühmte Wissenschaftler Carl Sagen.

Manchmal schimpft sie aber ich weiss das dass ist am besten für mich und es wurde mir helfen.

Mein Vater had die Krankheit M.S. (multiple sclerosis) und muss in ein Krankenhaus bleiben. Darum muss meine Mutti zu Hause alles tun...

Musik ist mein Leben, so es macht sinn, dass meine Heldin ein Musikerin ist.

Der beste Held in meinem Leben ist mein Vater. Er ist immer da für mich und meine Familie.

In meinem Leben habe ich viele Helden. Alle sind cool und haben mir sehr viel geholfen.

Für mich ist Familie sehr wichtig. Meine Familie ist was hilft mir jeden Tag um weiter zu gehen und ich weiß nicht was ich wurde ohne sie tun. Wir sind Ausländer und wir wurden nicht in Amerika seine ohne die hilfe von General Van Pao.

2012 DSSV Award Winners and their Teachers by School

Arrowhead HS, Hartland **Elizabeth Schueth**

Melissa Kelly
Christina Sorenson
Jakob Sulzer

Brookfield Academy **Andrew Richardson**

Jack Boatman
Maximilian Drescher
Emily Esser
Peter Gardner
Mary Griffin
Sarah Grond
Arek Kashian
Abby Marino
Samuel Meier
Carolyn Neff
Robert Neff
Catherine Nettesheim
Michael Sportiello

Brookfield East HS **Liz Marsack**

Hayley Griffin
Melinda Szabo
Alison Walter

Eau Claire Memorial HS **Kerri Patton**

Zachary Scherrer

Homestead HS **Eric Schultz**

Sam Raimann

Greenfield HS **Carley Goodkind**

Kersten Adams
Molly Hetzel
Kristin McCloskey
Amanda Miller

Lakeside Lutheran HS **Gerald Walta**

Troy Moench
Sarah Peters
Adam Riedel
Jason Were

Madison West HS

Wendy Weber

Evan Kohl

Marquette University HS

Dr. Sy Kreilein

Ernst Arnhold
Robert Bretl
Paul Gray
Nathan Krzynski
Mathias Rekowski
Paul Rekowski

Milw. School of Languages

Janelle Morgan

Elizabeth Anderson
Bradley Brinkman
Stormi Buczak
Katharina Carvan
Alondra Delgado
Carly Floyd
Sophie Gottfried
Mayaserena Her
Gabrielle Osterman
Aurora Ross
Alana Skellet
Emily Trific
Amelia Zietlow

Mukwonago HS

Stephanie Krenz

Frank Gorichanaz
Laurel Tieman

Nicolet HS

Mark Wagner

Natalie Muenster
Alexys Zipter

Rufus King HS

Sabine Beirold

Madeleine Carroll
Annie Beamish Crouthamel
Fiona Beamish Crouthamel
Kaitlin Cullen
Mackenzie Griffin
Madeline Griffith
Alexandra Hauke
Darlene Johns
Aubrey Krzynski
Chelsea Mattheis
Kyle Piwek
Nicholas Scharping
Pauline Scharping
Paige Taft

Tremper HS, Kenosha

Jammie Orth

Emily Boak
Courtney Green
Hayley Konitzer
Karl Koesser
Jared Nelson

Wauwatosa East HS

Eva Tuinstra

Megan Armstrong
Hannah Dion-Kirschner
Tristan Land
Annika Madler
Molly Nellen
Rose Spice-Kopischke
Sara Spry

Wauwatosa West HS

Karin Awve

Andrew Awve
Sabrina Black
Jackson Ford
Zarah Ford
Samuel Frederick
Dana Kautzer
Olivia Knutson
Henry Morgan
Gina Richter
Melanie Smith

**Wayland Academy,
Beaver Dam**

Gerald Walta

John Bouw
Samuel Coley
Edgar Garcia
Michelle Krueger
Samantha Madrid
Kremena Mestanova
Marilyn Perkins
Julian Sherman
Olivia Tambling
Riane Wilkie

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 2012.

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 is an article entitled "Ten reasons to Learn German from Goethe Institute web site www.goethe.de

We are sharing 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.



Ten Reasons to Learn German

10 great reasons why you should start learning German today

Whatever plans you may have for the future, knowledge of German will increase your options. When you learn German you acquire a range of skills which can improve the quality of both your work and private life:



Business: Knowing the language of your German business partners improves your relations and therefore your chances for effective communication and success.



The global career: Knowledge of German increases your job opportunities with German and foreign companies in your own country and abroad. Proficiency in German helps you to function productively for an employer with global business connections.



Tourism and hospitality industry: Tourists from German-speaking countries travel wide and far, and are the world's biggest spenders when on holiday. They appreciate to be looked after by German-speaking staff and tour guides.



Science and Research: German is the second most commonly used scientific language. Germany is the third largest contributor to research and development and offers research fellowships to scientists from abroad.



Communication: Developments in media, information and communication technology require multilingual communicators. A wide range of important websites are in German and worldwide, Germany is ranked number 5 in terms of annual publication of new books. Knowledge of German therefore offers you extended access to information. [[Wikipedia](#), 2010]



Cultural understanding: Learning German provides you with an insight into the way of life, and the hopes and dreams of people in German speaking countries, broadening your horizon.



Travel: Make the most of your travels not only in German-speaking countries, but in many other European countries where German is widely spoken, especially in Eastern Europe.



Enjoyment of literature, music, art and philosophy: German is the language of Goethe, Kafka, Mozart, Bach and Beethoven. Indulge in reading and/or listening to their works in their original language.



Opportunities to study/work in Germany: Germany awards a generous number of scholarships and other support to study in Germany. Working holiday visas are available for young foreigners from a range of countries, and special visas are offered to skilled workers and professionals.



Opportunities for exchange: A wide range of exchange programs exists for both school and university students between Germany and many countries in the world.

Informative links regarding the study of German:

www.goethe.de/lrn/prj/zqd/en867247.htm

Goethe Institute - Ten Reasons to Learn German

www.bu.edu/mlcl/home/why-study-german

Boston University - 15 reasons for learning German

www.fill.vt.edu/German/whygerman.html

University of Virginia - Top Reasons to Study /German

www.vistawide.com/german/why_german.htm

Vistawide - 12 great reasons why you should start learning German today

Google “why study German” and you’ll find many additional resources.

Why Learn German?

In this Period of Tight Education Budgets Some School Districts are 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

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, Kronos, 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.

Dr. Herman Viets, President of the Milwaukee School of Engineering was the keynote speaker at the DSSV's 2011 Award Ceremony. The DSSV has received many favorable comments regarding Dr. Viets' address and we appreciate his contribution to making our 2011 award ceremony a success. His insights are extremely relevant for students, parents and teachers.

And, at this time when some Wisconsin schools are considering cutting foreign language programs due to budget constraints, we believe that the principals and administrators at these schools will appreciate the compelling case that Dr. Viets makes for foreign language study in preparation for successful engineering and business careers in today's highly competitive global marketplace.

Address to the Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein Award Ceremony, May 1, 2011

Hermann Viets, Ph.D.
President, Milwaukee School of Engineering

Congratulations – winners and participants! You really are all winners. Why? Because you are taking the international view, the big view. This is surely the path less travelled, simply because it is more difficult.

I am happy to see that, in addition to the Deutscher Sprach-und Schulverein, Goethe house is also involved in this program. Jan Berger and Goethe House are located on our campus and we are happy to have them there.

You have worked through basic studies to the point where you now enjoy some of the extraordinary benefits of your German language activities. They will give you much satisfaction throughout your lives. I now challenge you to integrate your language skills into your careers. Find a way to include your language ability in whatever else you do. Such opportunities exist and if you look for them, they will certainly contribute to your success. I would like to talk with you about college studies, overseas experience, my personal experience and finally my children's experience.

So, you have done very well in high school German and I suppose in your high school studies in general; now what? I would expect that many of you are interested in somehow combining your German interests with your college program. There are many possibilities. I will mention only two because I have been and am still involved with both of them and thus know them well.

A long time before you were born, a good friend of mine and I started a program at the University of Rhode Island. He was an outstanding German professor, Dr. John Grandin, and I arrived as Dean of Engineering. The thrust of our program was a five year curriculum that results in a degree in engineering, another degree in German and a six month internship in Germany. The program was very successful and has, under Dr. Grandin's guidance, expanded into several other languages.

When I arrived at MSOE, I wanted to create a program with the same flavor. Our result is a four year program combining Engineering or Business with a full academic year in Germany. Our students spend their junior year in Luebeck, Germany continuing the study of their major, along with an immersion in the German culture. Thus in four years, our students earn both the MSOE BS degree and the German Diplom. We will send about thirty students to Luebeck, Germany in September.

Our MSOE students study in Luebeck with their German counterparts. The following year, the German students come to the U.S. along with our American students. Then both groups study at MSOE during that final undergraduate year. Both of these interdisciplinary programs are award-winners and are available to you after you finish high school.

My own children's experience with German has been very productive. Two of my children, a boy and a girl, studied German at Shorewood High School and each of them participated twice in a German language exchange with Salzburg, Austria and enjoyed that experience immensely.

Both of my sons studied at MSOE and participated in the German Exchange Program with Luebeck. One of them has now worked in Germany for over ten years for the General Electric Company, has married a Polish woman he met through GE and together they have a young son. My son speaks German fluently and is well underway to fluency in Polish. His career options have greatly expanded. This is the difference a foreign language can make in your careers. My own experience is, of course, different. My first language was German. I was born in Germany in the midst of WWII, came to the U.S. as a child and learned my first English. I have tried to maintain my German and it has been a great advantage for me. As one example, I was heavily involved in a Data Exchange Agreement between the German and American governments for the better part of a decade. We had annual meetings alternately in Germany and the US.

It was a wonderful experience and certainly helped my career. With those meetings, I learned the answer to the challenge often thrown at language study: Why do I need to study German when everyone of consequence in Germany speaks English? I learned the answer is very simple. When a discussion or negotiation gets to a sticking point, the participants revert to their own language to straighten out the problem. It is a huge advantage to be able to participate in that discussion.

In addition, your relationship with others during a negotiation is vastly improved if you speak their language.

Another of the advantages is personal. For example, in my work with Dr. Grandin, we spent the first two weeks of June each summer in Germany, just as the white asparagus matured. If you love German food, this is heaven.

Lastly, I want to say a few words about our own international year. My wife, Pam, and I spent a year in Belgium following the completion of my Ph.D. Pam taught third graders at an international school in Waterloo, Belgium and I did post-doctoral work at the von Karman Institute, a NATO facility. We experienced the normal reaction to a time abroad. We spoke no French but learned enough to function well in Brussels. We did a lot of travelling, particularly in Germany, where my German was very useful, particularly since we wanted to get off the well-travelled roads. It was a marvelous experience and changed our lives.

An interesting thing about a foreign experience is our judgment of time. The first month included so many new experiences that, looking back after that time, it appeared we had been in Belgium for six months instead of only one. My wife kept a diary; we integrated well and were extremely busy and happy. After six months we were so comfortable that could function without stress. For that reason, I believe any period overseas is a good idea but to get the most out of it, the length should be, if possible, a year.

Now just a few words about our Grohmann Museum, established by Dr. Eckhart Grohmann, a German immigrant. The collection consists of over 900 paintings and bronzes, the oldest from 1580. We probably have 50 paintings from the 1600s. Almost all of these artworks are European and most of them are German. We have an imposing home for the collection at the corner of Broadway and State Street downtown with a roof garden and statues nine feet tall on the edge of the roof. Come and see it. You will certainly enjoy it.

Lastly, I'd like to say a word about Faust. I suppose many of you have read Goethe's Faust, perhaps even in German. If so, you are familiar with his bargain with the Mephistopheles. This was of particular interest to me because my family lived in the German town of Thale, which is the setting for one of the most famous scenes in Faust, Walpurgisnacht. This is the night the when the women in the town become witches and not necessarily ugly ones. One of the local attractions is the Hexentanzplatz, where the witches dance.

What you may not know about Faust is that Goethe wrote a second part, finished just before his death. In this part, Faust is redeemed and saved. How was that? He was saved by good deeds, specifically building dykes and reclaiming land from the sea at the northern coast and in the Netherlands. So what is the message? Engineering saved Faust and it can save you too!

Again, my congratulations to all of you.

Hermann Viets, President
Milwaukee School of Engineering

Milwaukee School of Engineering · 1025 N. Broadway · Milwaukee, WI 53202-3109 · viets@msoe.edu · www.msoe.edu

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 Individual \$15, Family \$25, Students and Seniors \$10
- Other Contribution \$ _____ .

The DSSV welcomes your tax exempt donations or please consider planning a contribution to the DSSV through your estate. For information about tax exempt contributions or sponsorships, please email: donors@dssvwi.org

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

Contact the DSSV:
Email: dsmaglick@aol.com
Tel: (262) 797-7982

Mailing Address:
DSSV c/o Dorothy Smaglick
15205 Fieldstone Drive
Brookfield, WI 53005



German Fest[®]

July 26-27-28-29, 2012

**Maier Festival Park
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

- Continuous Entertainment
- Large Cultural Display
- Bands from Germany
- Reduced Senior Admission
- Colorful Parade on Saturday
- Supervised Children's Area
- Delicious German Food
- Fireworks
- 78 Acres of Beautiful Paved Festival Grounds
- Children's Fairy Tale Parade
- Trachtenschau

For information contact:

**German Fest Milwaukee, Inc.
8229 W. Capitol Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222-1921**

(414) 464-9444

Fax # (414) 464-3164

Web: www.germanfest.com

e-mail: info@germanfest.com