



**American Association
of Teachers of German**

**2024
Awards
Presentation**

November 10, 2024

Featured Partner Organizations



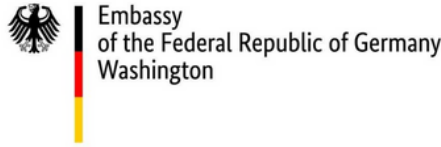
The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany, with over 150 locations worldwide. In the U.S., we support German teachers and students and facilitate German language courses for all levels.



Die Zentralstelle für das Auslandsschulwesen betreut mit knapp 100 Mitarbeitenden in Deutschland und mehr als 50 Fachberatungen für Deutsch als Fremdsprache sowie 15 Prozessbegleitungen für das Qualitätsmanagement an Standorten weltweit die deutsche schulische Arbeit im Ausland.

austrian cultural forum^{nyc}

Located in a critically acclaimed landmark building in the heart of Manhattan, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York is Austria's leading cultural representation in the United States. The ACFNY presents highlights of Austrian culture in the US by organizing exhibitions and events in the fields of visual art, music, film, theater and literature. We promote a vibrant exchange between Austrian and American artists and international audiences, including by networking with academic and art institutions throughout the United States.



Die Deutsche Botschaft Washington, die diplomatische Vertretung der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in den Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, beschäftigt sich mit allen Bereichen des bilateralen Verhältnisses, u.a. der Wissenschaftskooperation.



The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) scholarship is for motivated high school students who want to experience a culture and learn a language through a full immersion experience.



Klett World Languages

We are committed to building the future of World Languages by supporting educators and leading a transformative shift in language education throughout the United States. Our dedication drives us to provide the highest quality language materials in German, Spanish, French, and Italian, enabling educators to motivate and empower their students. Our content is specifically designed to foster authentic communicative competence and cultivate global citizens.

At Klett World Languages, our commitment lies in revolutionizing world language education in the United States, driven by our passion for educators and the positive transformation they bring. Together, let us build a future where language education thrives and opens doors to endless possibilities.



**KULTUSMINISTER
KONFERENZ**
*Pädagogischer
Austauschdienst*

The Pädagogischer Austauschdienst ("PAD") is the sole public organization in Germany working on behalf of the Federal States to promote international exchange and cooperation in the school sector. The PAD is a department of the Secretariat of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (Kultusministerkonferenz).

Cornelsen

Der Cornelsen Verlag ist einer der führenden Anbieter von Bildungsmedien im deutschsprachigen Raum. Mit hoher didaktischer Kompetenz entwickeln wir Produkte für den Unterricht und das persönliche Lernen – gedruckt, digital und crossmedial. Unser Unternehmen steht für Lernerfolg und anerkannt hohe Qualität – und das seit über 75 Jahren: Im Jahr 1946 hat Franz Cornelsen den Verlag gegründet, der seitdem die deutsche Bildungslandschaft maßgeblich prägt.



Our mission is to ensure that Americans have the opportunity to learn English and at least one other language.

We envision a world where the language enterprise facilitates the free movement of people, information, and ideas; builds mutual understanding and acceptance of cultural and linguistic diversity; and promotes the personal development of the individual.

American Association of Teachers of German Awards Presentation

Presented By: Angelika Becker, President



AATG-The German Quarterly Graduate Student Paper Award

Presenter: Hester Baer, Co-Editor, German Quarterly

Max Kade Prize for Best Article in *The German Quarterly*

Presenter: Hester Baer, Co-Editor, *The German Quarterly*

Best Forum Article in *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*

Presenter: Karin Baumgartner, Co-editor, *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*

Best Article in *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*

Presenter: Karin Baumgartner, Co-editor, *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*

Goethe-Institut/AATG Certificates of Merit

Presenter: Sebastian Vötter, Director of Language Programs North America at the Goethe-Institut

Goethe-Institut/AATG Outstanding GAPP Coordinator Award

Presenter: Ajkuna Hoppe, Executive Director of German American Partnership Program

FL-A-CH Award

Presenter: Lucia Huang, AATG Board of Directors

Friend of German Award

Presenter: Priscilla Layne, AATG Board of Directors

German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award

Presenter: Sylvia Petzarsky, Representative from Cultural Affairs Section at the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany

German Centers of Excellence

Presenter: Lucia Huang, AATG Board of Directors

Outstanding German Educator Award

Presenter Primary (K-8): Jeff Dyer, AATG Board of Directors

Presenter Secondary (9-12): Jeff Dyer, AATG Board of Directors

Presenter Post-Secondary: Bridget Levine-West, AATG Board of Directors

The German Quarterly Best Graduate Student Paper Award



“Child’s Play and Authoritarianism in T. W. Adorno’s Der Schatz des Indianer-Joe”

Benjamin Beese
Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

The German Quarterly’s 2024 award for the best paper written by a graduate student goes to **Benjamin Beese**, for his paper *“Child’s Play and Authoritarianism in T. W. Adorno’s Der Schatz des Indianer-Joe.”* Beese, currently a graduate student in German Studies at Cornell University, originally wrote the paper as an MA student in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University. In his essay, Beese examines a work by Adorno that most critics have been content to let languish in obscurity: Adorno’s singspiel adaptation of Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (written 1932-33).

By locating the singspiel both in the context of Adorno’s and Benjamin’s reflections on the culture of childhood and within the popular genre of the *Indianergeschichte*, Beese illuminates a complex critique of entertainment literature in the work that anticipates Adorno’s later critical theory. Adorno’s singspiel ultimately exposes the structure of authority embedded in childhood adventure fantasies, whose imagined inversions of power only seal the status quo. Deftly argued, lucidly written, full of insight and surprises, Beese’s paper is at once a meaningful contribution to the literature on both Adorno and German *Indianthusiasm* and a joy to read.



Max Kade Prize for Best Article in *The German Quarterly*

“Berlin Unter Grund: Vision beyond the Surface City”

Mikael Olsson Berggren, Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania

Mikael Olsson Berggren, Visiting Assistant Professor in German at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania receives the Max Kade Prize for the best article published in *The German Quarterly* in 2023 (issue no. 96.1). His article, *“Berlin Unter Grund: Vision beyond the Surface City,”* examines poetry and short prose depicting journeys on Berlin’s underground rail system in the early twentieth century. Through close readings that subtly engage the form and content of these works, Berggren shows that travel on the U-Bahn enabled a liminal experience of modern urban space that challenges and complicates typical characterizations of street-level life.



Thus, for example, Berggren focuses on images of verticality and depth (as opposed to traversing horizontal planes), the train car as a place of refuge and intimacy (as opposed to fear and alienation), and urban movement characterized by slowness and deliberation (as opposed to speed and mindlessness). Looking at a mode of transportation that allows the modern subject to traverse the metropolis in a dreamlike, introspective state, Berggren compellingly expands familiar readings of the sensory overload associated with life in the metropolis. Well-researched, rich in historical context, and theoretically engaging, Berggren’s analysis of the poetry of the underground probes an important and under-researched aspect of the sensory experience of modernity.

Best Article Award in *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*

“Contextualizing DEIA in the German Language Classroom: Terminology and History, DDGC and Recent Developments, Practices and Resources”



Magda Tarnawska Senel, University of California, Los Angeles, California

Magda Tarnawska Senel at the University of California, Los Angeles, receives the award for Best Article Award in *Die Unterrichtspraxis/ Teaching German*. This article offers a profound exploration of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in German Studies, specifically focusing on the US context. It traces the historical development of DEIA in higher education and highlights the role of the scholarly collective Diversity, Decolonization, & the German Curriculum (DDGC) in fostering activism and solidarity within the field.

Praised for its extensive research and well-organized presentation, the article provides educators with essential tools and resources to address social justice in the classroom. Reviewers commended its detailed historical context, the integration of DEIA practices such as positionality, antiracism, and social justice frameworks, and its emphasis on innovative pedagogical strategies. With its critical reflection on unconscious biases in teaching, the article underscores the importance of continuous self-awareness in education. This article makes a significant contribution to the evolving discourse in German Studies, providing valuable insights and resources for educators aiming to implement DEIA-driven practices in their classrooms. Its depth of research and critical reflection on inclusive teaching made it the clear winner of the Best Article Award.



Best Forum Article for *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*

“Teaching German from a decolonial perspective: Critical dystopia as critique of race, gender, and class in *Unternehmer*”

Priscilla Layne, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Priscilla Layne at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, receives the award for Best Forum Article Award in *Die Unterrichtspraxis/ Teaching German*. Forum articles are short contributions to a special topic featured in *Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German*, usually invited via a call of papers. Layne’s article presents a compelling and innovative approach to decolonizing German Studies pedagogy through the teaching of the novel *Der Unternehmer*.



Written from an intersectional perspective, the article challenges conventional approaches by engaging with issues of race, gender, and class through White-authored texts. It underscores the importance of addressing racial discourse within diverse classroom contexts, emphasizing that decolonization is not limited to BIPOC authors or educators. The reviewers praised this article for its clear, practical examples of how to integrate complex theoretical ideas into classroom practice, offering a replicable model for other educators. The discussion of White Savior Syndrome and its impact on White faculty adds a particularly nuanced dimension to the ongoing dialogue about diversity in education. Well-written and highly relevant, this piece makes a significant contribution to DEI-focused pedagogy.



Goethe-Institut / AATG Certificate of Merit

Erika Cantin, Terre Haute North Vigo High School, Terre Haute, Indiana

Erika Cantin's tireless dedication to her students and the German language has made her an indispensable figure at Terre Haute North Vigo High School in Terre Haute, Indiana. Since starting a GAPP exchange program in 2009 between Terre Haute and Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany, Erika has created lifelong relationships that transcend borders, enriching the lives of her students and their German counterparts. Her classroom is a hub of creativity and collaboration, where students are transformed into passionate global citizens. From leading cultural events like the community Oktoberfest and Sankt Martinszug to organizing the Staatskongress competition's cultural workshops, Erika provides her students with immersive and engaging opportunities. She also mentors fellow German teachers in her area, sharing her expertise at state conferences and immersion workshops. Erika's tireless commitment extends beyond the classroom, as she maintains strong connections with exchange students and their host families, ensuring they feel supported throughout their experiences. Her remarkable leadership and nurturing approach have made her a beloved figure in both the local and international German-speaking communities.



Goethe-Institut / AATG Certificate of Merit

Jeff Packer, Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah

With over 15 years of dedicated service, **Jeff Packer** (Ph.D. in German Studies, University of Cincinnati) has become a pivotal figure in promoting German language learning at Utah Valley University and throughout the state of Utah. As the sole German professor at UVU, he has tirelessly organized language and culture events that unite German learners across all levels, creating the largest gathering of German students in Utah's history. These events, held in the fall of 2021, not only fostered community but also reignited interest in continuing German studies among students unsure of their path. In his role as president of the Utah chapter of the AATG, Jeff has revitalized collaboration among teachers. His recent retreat at Capitol Reef National Park brought together educators to strengthen their connections, share ideas, and build community, culminating in the successful language and culture event that showcased the excitement of German learning across the state. Additionally, Jeff has pioneered the Utah Bridge program for Dual Language Immersion students, facilitating their transition to college-level German studies. Jeff consistently receives high praise from students and peers alike, showcasing a commitment to innovative curriculum design and impactful study abroad programs. Through his efforts, Jeff has not only enhanced the German learning experience but has also inspired the next generation of German educators in Utah.



Goethe-Institut / AATG Certificate of Merit

Cornelius Partsch, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

Since having joined the German Program at Western Washington University in 2003, **Cornelius Partsch** (Ph.D. German Studies, Brown University) has made significant contributions to the promotion of German language and culture throughout his tenure. His innovative work in language pedagogy is exemplified by his co-authorship of the German textbook *Treffpunkt Deutsch*, now in its seventh edition. This widely acclaimed resource adopts a student-centered, task-based approach that aligns with modern language learning standards. In addition to his contributions to teaching, Cornelius is recognized for his research in fields such as jazz and film studies, spy fiction, and Holocaust education. His publications, including *Schräge Töne: Jazz und Unterhaltungsmusik in der Kultur der Weimarer Republik*, have garnered significant scholarly attention, further solidifying his standing in the academic community. According to one of his students, "due to his wide choice of materials and overall dedication to the topic, every class was engaging, and he truly fostered a much deeper understanding on such a complex topic." Cornelius's dedication to advancing German studies extends beyond the classroom. He played a pivotal role in his department's designation as an American Association of Teachers of German Center of Excellence. His active involvement in organizing German cultural events and fostering connections with German organizations underscores his passion for promoting the German language and culture.



Goethe-Institut / AATG Certificate of Merit

Randall Studt, West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School, West Lafayette, Indiana



Randall Studt has spent over 30 years shaping German education at West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School, where his innovative teaching methods and dedication to his students have earned him widespread recognition. Named Indiana's Teacher of the Year in 2020, Randall has become a mentor to fellow educators and a key figure in promoting German language and culture. Whether through his interpersonal journals, the "One Country Many Cultures" event he co-founded, or the biennial exchange program with Bad Camberg, Germany, which has fostered lifelong international friendships, his classroom is a vibrant space where students engage deeply with both language and culture. Randall's students consistently excel, earning top scores on AP exams and in national language competitions. Outside the classroom, he is a passionate supporter of his students at sporting events, concerts, and other activities. His leadership extends far beyond school, with involvement in local politics, the Lafayette Human Relations Commission, and advocacy for public education. A frequent presenter at national conferences, Randall's commitment to promoting German and supporting his students has made him a beloved figure in his community and a leader in language education.



Goethe-Institut / AATG Certificate of Merit

Meagan Tripp, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Meagan Tripp (Ph.D. in Germanic Studies, University of Minnesota) has transformed the German program at Franklin & Marshall College, creating an engaging and supportive environment that fosters both language proficiency and personal connections. Her commitment to inclusivity shines through in her role on the AATG National German Exam Test Writing Committee, where she ensures diverse German voices are represented. Students consistently praise her for the warmth and openness of her classrooms, saying that "class discussions reached above and beyond simply analyzing texts, extending further into conversations about students' personal experiences, views, or even senses of humor. Getting to think outside of the box and to share my thoughts so openly without fear of judgment ... was a true delight." Through innovative course design, including offerings like "Scientific Discourses in German Literature and Culture," Meagan integrates authentic materials that resonate with students, from novels to films. Her emphasis on group discussions and collaborative activities allows students to explore their personal experiences, fostering a rich, interactive learning atmosphere. Beyond her teaching, Meagan invests in her students' futures by mentoring aspiring educators through the precepting program. Her dedication to student success, accessibility, and social justice makes Meagan Tripp an inspiring educator and a vital leader in the field of German language education.



Goethe-Institut/AATG Outstanding GAPP Coordinator Award

Jason Herrman, Horizon High School, Thornton, Colorado

With six GAPP exchanges under his belt and his seventh upcoming, Jason Herrman has built a legacy for German at Horizon High School. Having taught German for 15 years, he began his school's exchange in his first year and has taught every level of German. Jason's dedication and enthusiasm for the exchange has brought him and his students to schools in both Ebern and Mühldorf, Germany. Starting with only five, but now including approximately 175 students who have taken part in the exchange so far, Jason is credited by students and peers for making German a part of the culture at Horizon HS.

Praised by his principal for the "incredible job" Jason does "coordinating these interactions with the school district and our community," Jason's passion for GAPP extends beyond the boundaries of his classroom. Jason is well-known among other GAPP leaders as knowledgeable, creative, and driven as he shares his ideas with others at multiple workshops and conferences. This drive and never-ending energy is noted by his students, one of whom says that "there has never been a moment when he has ceased to put his all into teaching German language and conveying German culture," and that Jason "equally embodies" this care in his work for GAPP.

Jason's tireless efforts on behalf of his GAPP program has made waves in both the USA and Germany, including multiple news articles highlighting the life-changing experiences for the German and American students in his program. For "making the exchange a highlight in the life of every student who partakes in it," the committee enthusiastically presents this award to Jason Herrman.



FL-A-CH Award

Alla Schwartz, Monroe High School, Monroe, Wisconsin

Alla Schwartz has been a German instructor for Monroe High School in Monroe, WI since 2015. She also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Frau Schwartz is a tireless advocate for professional development, having participated in numerous workshops and conferences through the Goethe-Institut and AATG. In addition, she has also actively promoted FL-A-CH topics at different world language conferences around Wisconsin.

Taking advantage of her region's strong Swiss heritage, Frau Schwartz's curriculum takes interactive and communicative approaches that allow her students to connect with Swiss culture. Her students made Fondue, a traditional Swiss specialty, in the classroom, took field trips to sample authentic Swiss food, and participated in the "New Year's Cheese Drop" in Monroe, WI. As the sole German teacher in her district, she successfully organized the GAPP exchange program and led her students on a trip to the Weihnachtsmarkt in Chicago. Frau Schwartz recognizes the breadth of the German language in Europe by incorporating countries, such as Luxembourg, Austria, and Lichtenstein, into her teaching. In the words of one of her recommenders, "Alla can connect and bring many cultures under one umbrella to teach students to become global citizens."





Friend of German Award

Marcia Gascho, Indiana German Heritage Society



Marcia Gascho is a dedicated member of the German community in Indiana. As a member of the Indiana German Heritage Society, Marcia goes above and beyond to support German locally in Indianapolis as well as throughout the state of Indiana. Whether Marcia is giving a walking tour to educate visitors about German landmarks or serving as a cultural docent for the local Christkindlmarkt, her dedication to celebrating German heritage shines through. Marcia is a respected volunteer by her peers, dedicating over 100 hours to refining her tours through research, and has provided tours to 14 schools across Indiana, often partially or fully in German. It is no wonder she is booked year after year by German teachers in Indiana! Marcia's commitment to advocating for German in her community makes her a true Friend of German and the award committee commends her for the energy she invests in making interacting with German heritage, history, and language accessible to learners of all ages.



German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award

Charles Bublitz, Central High School, St. Paul, Minnesota

Charles Bublitz is a dedicated German language teacher at Central High School in St. Paul, known for his innovative and engaging teaching methods. Over the years, he has created an immersive classroom environment that not only helps students learn the language but also fosters an appreciation for German culture. Charles finds exciting ways to immerse his students, such as organizing field trips to see German films and sharing traditional German food.

Parents of former students speak highly of Charles, praising his ability to connect with students of all backgrounds. They note his strong support for accommodating individual learning styles and helping students make personal connections between the German language, its history, and culture.

In addition to his classroom work, Charles actively contributes to the school community by organizing international experiences for his students. With many years of experience leading student groups abroad, he recently revitalized the GAPP exchange program at Central High School, taking students to the Alexander von Humboldt Gymnasium in Neuss, Germany, for the first time since 2018.

Charles is committed to making German language and culture accessible and enjoyable for all his students. His passion and dedication inspire a new generation of learners, equipping them with the skills and experiences needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.



German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award

Melinda Zelif, Alonso High School, Tampa Florida

Melinda Zelif has been a dedicated German teacher at Alonso High School in Tampa since 2015. Her nomination materials emphasize the welcoming atmosphere she fosters in her classroom and her innovative teaching methods. Students particularly enjoy her creative projects, board games, and themed activities like "March Madness," in which they get to interact with German pop music. xchange program to allow students to experience Germany firsthand.

Melinda's commitment to intercultural connections is evident in her pen-pal program, which helps students build relationships with peers in Germany. She also sponsors Alonso's German Club and organizes cultural events such as Karnival and Oktoberfest, creating opportunities for students to engage with German culture outside the classroom.

Her student-centered approach is reflected in her students' success on the National German Exam, where 31 of them received medals for outstanding performance in 2024. Furthermore, her student enrollment has more than tripled over the past three years, showcasing the strength of the program she leads.

Through her engaging teaching style and dedication to cultural exchange, Melinda has enhanced the learning experience for her students and built a vibrant community at Alonso High School. Her enthusiasm and commitment continue to inspire and empower her students, equipping them with the skills and cultural understanding needed for success in a globalized world.



German Embassy Teacher of Excellence Award

Anya Zaderej, Burnt Hills Ballston Lake CSD, Ballston Lake, New York

Anya Zaderej is a highly respected German teacher at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake CSD, where she has been since 2009. Known for her innovative teaching methods and strong dedication, Anya inspires her students to engage deeply with the German language and culture through transformative experiences.

She actively encourages student participation in programs like CBYX and Study Bridge, which enhance their understanding of both the language and culture. Anya's commitment to innovation is evident in her use of cutting-edge tools, such as virtual reality, in her German Club, creating a dynamic learning environment.

Anya's collaborative spirit is reflected in her work with the Goethe-Institut NY and the SPARK and GAPP networks. She leads a year-round program where high school students teach introductory German to elementary students, fostering cross-cultural connections and building confidence in language learning. She has also revitalized GAPP exchanges, providing valuable cross-cultural experiences for her students.

Anya's passion for teaching the German language extends beyond the classroom, creating a positive impact throughout the school community. Without a doubt, Anya's extensive knowledge and passion for teaching German is leaving quite a mark on her students.



AATG Center of Excellence



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL AT THE KATHERINE JOHNSON CAMPUS

**Benjamin Franklin High School,
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Located in New Orleans, Louisiana, **Benjamin Franklin High School (BFHS)** has a well-established program with steady student growth. Its Curriculum is designed to promote deep understanding and proficiency in the German language and follows the European Framework, allowing students to articulate their proficiency at A1, A2, or B1 levels. Led by dedicated educators like **Frau Rachel Becker** and **Dr. Irene Ziegler**, the program's teaching strategies emphasize and integrate the four language skills. The program's success is evident in the numerous awards and recognitions received by students, including accolades from the AATG National German Exam and the Louisiana State Literary Rally.

It is commendable that the faculty at BFHS are highly qualified and dedicated to foster excellence. Both faculty members are committed to continuous professional development, attending conferences and workshops to enhance their expertise. The program benefits from their vast experience and innovative teaching methods.

Beyond the classroom, the German program at BFHS offers a wide range of extracurricular activities that enrich the student experience. The program is renowned for its participation in the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), cultural showcases, field trips, and German club. These activities provide students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of German culture and foster a strong sense of community.



AATG Center of Excellence



Strath Haven Middle and High School in Wallingford, Pennsylvania

The German curriculum at **Strath Haven Middle and High Schools** located in Wallingford, Pennsylvania is exemplary, characterized by its comprehensive and immersive approach to language learning. Using a proficiency-based framework, its curriculum equips students with both linguistic skills and instills a deep appreciation for German culture. The impact of this program is evident in the increased enrollment and sustained interest in German studies. In addition, many students from the program have excelled in the AATG National Exam and have pursued further studies in German at various higher education institutions.

The faculty at Strath Haven, **Herr Alex Paul** and **Frau Samantha Shipeck**, bring a wealth of experience and a passion for German language education. Their commitment to professional development and their roles as leaders in educational initiatives, such as the AATG and cultural proficiency programs, underscore their qualifications and impact. Their collaboration in curriculum design and cross-curricular projects provides a holistic and enriching educational experience for their students.

Strath Haven's German program also offers a wealth of extracurricular activities that enhance the learning experience for their students. German club events and exchange programs foster a vibrant community where students can practice their language skills in real-world contexts. This German program fosters academic achievement and cultural understanding that will continue to thrive and inspire future generations of students.

AATG Outstanding German Educator Award - Primary



Kristin Gillett, Blanchard Middle School, Westford, Massachusetts

Kristin Gillett has taught German to students at all levels from 6th Grade Exploratory to AP. After 13 years at the middle level, budget cuts forced her to look for another position, with an appointment at a high school. Much to her colleagues' surprise, after all she had a successful program with Honors, AP, an exchange program, and ten years in the position, she went back to the middle level. In her words, "there is a special kind of magic when you are a student's first exposure to a new language." And now "25+ years into my career, I love coming to work."

Kristin firmly believes that all students can learn a language. Her positive approach and good rapport with her students, as witnessed by her Spanish colleague Stephanie, allows her to give them the "support and encouragement they need to succeed." A gifted educator, "she creates activities that take into account her students' interests and personalities and allows them to be active and creative learners."

Ms. Gillett is a tireless advocate for the teaching of world languages, especially German. Her efforts have effected change in her state language organization. Her "poignant questions" caused the board to think about their membership as a whole and to reflect on some of their practices to be more inclusive of less commonly taught languages.

Ms. Gillett has served as President and Treasurer of the Massachusetts Chapter of AATG and on the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association Board of Directors. She has received awards for teaching excellence, most notably the 2017 MAFLA Language Teacher of the Year and the 2011 AATG Massachusetts Teacher of the Year.

AATG Outstanding German Educator Award - Secondary

Carlos Li-Burse The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology, Lawrenceville, Georgia,



In his relatively short time as a Georgia public school teacher, **Herr Burse** has demonstrated a high degree of excellence in the teaching of German as well as his professional growth and contributions to our organization and profession. "His exceptional proficiency in his teaching pedagogy, phenomenal leadership amongst his colleagues in the World Language field, and his faithful dedication to fostering a meaningful learning environment for his students in every level of German" as observed by his teaching colleague, truly set him apart.

A common theme from his supporters was his attention to providing an inclusive classroom. From his department chair, "He fosters an inclusive and supportive classroom environment where every student feels seen, valued, and inspired. By building strong student rapport, Herr Burse creates a space conducive to intellectual growth and nurtures a passion for lifelong learning."

Carlos provides various experiences and opportunities for students to showcase their proficiency and to celebrate Germanic culture. From participation in the National German Exam, Goethe-Institut's Step Into German competitions, and German poetry competitions to class debates, watercolor recreations of German art, and yoga sessions, he not only engages his students in the curriculum in unique ways, but also fosters positive relationships with and among students. As his student, Shoab, mentions, "Herr Burse makes every day a new and refreshing experience in class."

Herr Burse's work as a teaching assistant has been recognized by the Fulbright Program and the University of Georgia. His German program at The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology has received local recognition 8 times by the Gwinnett County Schools and national recognition by AATG including as a German Center of Excellence. He was most recently named the 2022 Teacher of the Year in his community.

Carlos is engaged professionally serving on AATG's Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and as Georgia's Chapter Vice-president.

AATG Outstanding German Educator Award - Post-Secondary

Jeanne Schueller, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin



The AATG Outstanding German Educator Award is presented in recognition of excellence in teaching and outstanding contributions to the German teaching profession. An Outstanding German Educator has demonstrated excellence in German education, had an impact in local, state, or national arenas, and shown continued growth as a German educator.

The AATG is honored to present **Jeanne Schueller** with the AATG Outstanding German Educator Award, Postsecondary.

Jeanne Schueller holds a Ph.D. in German with a focus on applied linguistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she serves as Director of the German Language Program and Director of Undergraduate Studies for German. Over her 25-year career, Jeanne has distinguished herself as a leading teacher-scholar whose work has profoundly shaped German education locally and whose contributions have a sustained impact to educators nationally and beyond.

As an expert in second-language pedagogy, Jeanne authored two influential textbooks, *Cinema for German Conversation* (2009) and *Cineplex: Intermediate German Language and Culture Through Film* (2014). These works helped integrate genre-based instructional strategies into lower-level language curricula. *Cineplex* is particularly noted for presenting “engaging historical, political, and cultural themes in the context of critically acclaimed German films,” while maintaining a student-centered, communicative approach. A colleague highlights Jeanne’s commitment to fostering intellectual inquiry through student-centered teaching as the core tenet of her praxis, citing her recent graduate course on “Social Justice in the L2 Classroom” as a key extension of her scholarship, which focuses on gender equity in language learning and best practices in language program direction.

Jeanne is consistently praised by her students for creating a welcoming and inclusive learning environment. One student remarked on Jeanne’s “knack for knowing when we need help and when further explanation is necessary,” adding that her courses are “thoughtfully designed to be inclusive, meaningful, and relevant to all students, with a strong focus on student learning.” Graduate students also commend Jeanne for the deep impact she has had on their approach to language education, from material selection to student engagement. One recommender shared, “During my graduate studies, working closely with Jeanne became one of my most formative experiences. Her passion for teaching and thoughtful guidance inspired me to design engaging and challenging assignments. Her carefully crafted syllabi and instructional materials continue to serve as a model and inspiration for my own work.”

Beyond teaching innovative and well-designed courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, Jeanne supervises first- and second-year teaching assistants at UW, serves on Masters and PhD defense committees, and has also been the sole organizer of UW’s German Day since 2014 (an event noted by colleagues as crucial for supporting German instruction at the secondary level across the state).

Jeanne’s leadership is equally commendable. She served as president of the Wisconsin Chapter during the challenging COVID pandemic and is currently the German Section Convener for the American Association of University Supervisors, Coordinators, and Language Program Directors. Her expertise is highly sought after, which is reflected both in her work as referee for several leading professional journals and her numerous presentations given at national and international conferences.

In all areas recognized by this award, Jeanne has enriched the field of German education, fostering excellence in teaching and in supporting the growth of future educators. In recognition of her outstanding achievements, leadership, and contributions to the field, the AATG proudly presents Jeanne Schueller with the AATG Outstanding German Educator Award.



Additional Awards for German Educators



IFLTA William Hatfield Distinguished Lifetime World Language Career Award



Angelika Becker, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana

Angelika Becker, teacher at Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana, is recognized as one of the recipients of the 2024 IFLTA William Hatfield Distinguished Lifetime World Language Career Award. This award is intended to recognize an IFLTA member that has made contributions to the profession at national, regional, state, district level and has shared their expertise in world languages with Indiana teachers in numerous conferences, workshops, webinars, panels, etc. The Awards Committee highlighted Angelika's service as IFLTA Past President, AATG leader, and her dedication as a German educator. *Congratulations, Angelika!*

NFMLTA/MLJ Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in World Language Education

James M Stratton, Penn State University, State College, Pennsylvania

James Stratton, Assistant Professor of German and Linguistics at Penn State received the NFMLTA/MLJ Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in World Language Education for the article: ***"Implicit and explicit instruction in the second language classroom: A study of learner preferences in higher education."*** This article is the recipient of the prestigious NFMLTA/MLJ Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in World Language Education. This award is granted to the author(s) of an outstanding contribution to research in world or second language education, with criteria focused on the quality of research and its potential impact on language teaching and learning. Stratton's article was selected for his careful investigation of learner preferences in the context of implicit and explicit instruction, specifically in L2 German instruction for L1 English speakers. The research highlights the importance of explicit instruction in improving language acquisition, a key finding with direct implications for classroom practice. With its rigorous methodology and relevant contributions to the field, Stratton's work aligns perfectly with the award's goals, making it highly valuable to the journal and the broader language education profession. The ACTFL reviewers expressed the highest praise for Stratton's work. *Congratulations, James!*



NFMLTA/MLJ Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in World Language Education

Theresa Schenker & Lieselotte Sippel, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Theresa Schenker and **Liselotte Sippel** of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, received the NFMLTA/MLJ Paul Pimsleur Award for Research in World Language Education Honorable Mention award for their article: ***"Effects of extended exposure to video in the language classroom on listening proficiency."*** The article addresses the development of listening comprehension skills in world language learners, using a German web-based telenovela for targeted practice. The study shows that learners in the experimental group significantly improved their listening skills, demonstrating the effectiveness of incorporating multimedia resources into language instruction. Reviewers praised the article for bringing attention to a neglected area of language instruction. The authors offered concrete examples and actionable insights, making it easy for educators to replicate the methods. The study's clear structure, sound motivations, and acknowledgment of its limitations make it a valuable contribution to the field. This article is a valuable resource that can inspire further research and meaningful discussion in language education. *Congratulations, Theresa and Lieselotte!*



Theresa Schenker



Liselotte Sippel





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