

GAC-F NEWS LETTER

SUMMER/FALL 2014

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK



In April the Board of Directors elected me, Jürgen Gentszke, as the new Chairman of the GAC-F. Sascha Keipert had to leave his post due to changes within his company. Additionally we established a new Executive-Team to handle daily business. Rudi Herbst was elected our new Vice Chairman and Dennis Wagner the new Treasurer of our organization. These changes were necessary to become more efficient and to also relief obligations from our main patrons.

These changes are showing first results: the GAC-F can already call 2014 a very successful year. Not only were we able to increase our membership base by 75%, we also were able to increase donations by over 35%.

For the remainder of the year and for 2015 it is our continued goal to support the Goethe Center here in Atlanta. Typically Goethe Centers were funded by the German government, but the support for Atlanta had been discontinued while other locations are still being funded. We feel it is our responsibility to continue supporting Goethe here in Atlanta. Miriam Bruns and the team that surrounds her is doing a fantastic job bringing German into the community. But the Foundation is doing a lot more: We continue to support other local organizations like the German School Atlanta in Marietta (see page 2 "Spotlight") and a German program designed by Kennesaw State University professor Sabine Smith. Sabine is introducing German programs at Atlanta Technical College and Moorehouse College. Already three students were awarded stipends for an exchange trip to Detmold, Germany. Upon their return they will become „Ambassadors for German“ in the Southeast. Details can be found in our article "German for South Atlanta".

There is a lot going on and the German American Cultural Foundation will continue its efforts to support educational and cultural programs here in the southeast.

Thank you all for your continuous support.

Sincerely
Jürgen Gentszke
Chairman

GERMAN FOR SOUTH ATLANTA

By Sabine Smith

The collaborative grant initiative "German for South Atlanta" successfully rounded out the inaugural year. The initiative promotes knowledge of German language and culture among learners of ethnic minorities. Funding supports college-level German courses and a dynamic outreach program at Atlanta Technical College (ATC), and Morehouse College (MC) in South Atlanta. In fiscal year 2014, the program attracted approx. 2,600 participants and funded over 130 events at ATC and MC.

Events range from interactive German classes to film and conversation nights. Programming includes guest lectures by German professionals, workshops on career prospects, and field trips to local German companies. Students rave about the program: "... a fantastic opportunity... I feel inspired... My favorite part of the day!"

At ATC, the grant initiative also sponsors German textbooks. Students can check out a book for free, and they return it at the end of the term. Says one student "College textbooks are so expensive, and sometimes that's what keeps me from taking a class. I don't have to worry now! Thank you!"

Grant coordinator Ms. Aleksandra Starcevic keeps track of books, events, and students. Teaching German is her passion, and students love her inclusive approach: "This class has given me a whole new perspective... an outstanding instructor.... So very generous and kind!" A graduate of Georgia State University with a Master's Degree in German Studies, Ms. Starcevic works in consultation with Dr. Sabine Smith of Kennesaw State University and the Metro German Group, a consortium of eleven German Studies programs in and around Atlanta.

The grant is a collaborative initiative co-sponsored by the German-American Cultural Foundation, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta Technical College and Morehouse College. It was awarded to the Metro German Group in 2013.



GERMAN SCHOOL ATLANTA



SPOTLIGHT: GERMAN SCHOOL OF ATLANTA

By Gaby Beyer

The German School of Atlanta (www.germanschoolatlanta.com) celebrated its 30th anniversary last fall. Since 1983, the GSA has been dedicated to the student's appreciation and awareness of German culture and language learning. The German School is an accredited Saturday morning school offering a unique educational experience in a genuine German environment. Classes are kept small and the majority of the teachers are native speakers. German instruction is offered for native speakers as well as foreign language learners from pre-kindergarten through adult level. The school is unique in offering foreign language instructions to younger children. At the secondary school level, GSA complements German language programs of Atlanta area schools. The main campus is in Marietta and a small satellite campus is open in Peachtree City. "At the GSA, students from pre-school age through young adults have the opportunity to develop their German language skills and cultural understanding in a friendly, enjoyable atmosphere", says Gaby Beyer, president of the school. GSA strives to have just the right class for every student in terms of competence level, language environment and age. In addition, GSA offers AP preparation, AATG German National Exam tests and is certified to test "Sprachdiplom Erste und Zweite Stufe". The school offers support in obtaining Carnegie points for High School credit. Many students have successfully graduated with the "Sprachdiplom" and are now studying in Germany. Just as often GSA graduates easily find employment opportunities with German companies in the US. The GSA is a cornerstone of the German community and enjoys strong support from individuals, institutions, companies, and governments both locally and in Germany. The German American Cultural Foundation has been a key supporter of the school and continues to be one. With the funds the school has received from the GAC-F, GSA was able to implement a German Accelerated Reader program called "Antolin". Every year, the school is able to purchase books from Germany especially for this program. Students are playfully encouraged to read more and see immediate results when they take the test online. Reading is very important and Antolin has an immediate impact on the results of the exams. Furthermore, the school was able to buy a new web-based library software. This software will be implemented in September of this year and will enhance the process of checking out and returning books and DVDs. "The German School of Atlanta is grateful to the GAC-F for their generous support and their ongoing commitment.", says Gaby Beyer.



TWO SCHOOLS ADD GERMAN

By Rudi Herbst

With the support of the GAC-F two additional schools in the greater Atlanta area are implementing German language programs into their curriculum. At White Oak Elementary School, in Sugar Hills, Georgia, children from age 6 to 11 now have the possibility to learn German at a public school in an after school program. The Atlanta Goethe Center will support this program to enable all students to earn a German language degree according to the Goethe program rules. The Principal of White Oak Elementary School, Ms. Jean Loethen- Payne, as well as the parents are excited to see their children learning a second language.



Lanier Middle School, a Gwinnett County Public School, is the second school supported by GAC-F adding German. It's principal Mr. Todd Hamilton is grateful to the GAC-F who has helped him to offer this additional language programs at his school. "Without the help of the GAC-F it would be very, very difficult to offer such kind of additional education. And I believe this program will have a tremendous effect to our entire school community", says Todd Hamilton. Here as well this project will be supported with the Atlanta Goethe Center.

„WE“ ARE WELTMEISTER

For the final at the World Cup in Brasil the GAC-F members organized various viewing events across Atlanta. Altogether over a thousand fans enjoyed the German national team's victory over Argentina at "Der Biergarten", the "Goethe Center", the "Atlanta International Soccer Fest" and many others.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

The GAC-F welcomes new members in 2014:

Gas South (Kevin Greiner)
Hall Booth Smith P.C. (Carsten Alting)
Hera Lighting, L.P. (Christian Bollrath)
INP (Andreas Dröge)
Legacy Restaurant Partners
Der Biergarten, Stats and Max's
(Brian Bullock and Wolfgang Hartert)
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management (Robert Runkle)
Rödl Langford de Kock (S.A. de Kock)

We already appreciate the commitment of the following companies for 2015:

Grenzebach Corporation (Stefan Grenzebach)
McCart Group (Sören Schmidt)

To all of you, thank you all for your support!

PC DONATION TO GOETHE

During the Goethe Center's board meeting GAC-F was able to donate three new Dell laptops to Miriam Bruns, Director of the Goethe Center.



Rudi Herbst (left), Miriam Bruns, Barry Spurlock and Eike Jordan

OUR MISSION

The German American Cultural Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving German language and culture in the South-Eastern United States and to support institutions with a similar goal.

The Foundation strives to strengthen the transatlantic relationship by advancing intercultural awareness and know-how between German speaking Countries and the United States through the support of educational activities, community events and the arts.



As one of the first new Gold Patrons in 2014, S.A. de Kock (center), Managing Partner of Rödl Langford de Kock in Atlanta presents a check for \$5,000 to Peter Halpaus (left) and Rudi Herbst (right) of the GAC-F.

IMPORTANT DATES

Don't miss the following events hosted by GAC-F or its affiliates and partners:

September 5th

12th Charity Golf Tournament
(8:00 am Bear's Best Golf Course, Suwanee)

October 13th

Annual General Membership Meeting
(Capital City Country Club, Atlanta/Brookhaven)

Meeting of the Board of Directors
(Capital City Club, Atlanta)

October 26th

2nd Lederhosen Run
(15:00 am at Piedmont Park)

November 1st

19th Annual Gala of the GACC South
(InterContinental, Buckhead)

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2014

PLATINUM PATRONS



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