

2013 Fall Conference

Topic: German in STEM and Business

Environmental Issues: A German-American Comparison

Presenter: William Markham, UNCG

Samstag, den 28. September, 2013

All events take place in Greene Hall 154

8:45-9:15	Kaffeeklatsch; Begrüßung	Alyssa Howards, Beth Gulewich
9:15-10:15	Environmental Issues: a German/ American Comparison	William Markham, UNCG
10:15-10:45	Neither Dull nor Difficult: on Teaching Business German	Heiko Wiggers, WFU
10:45-11:15	Pause	
11:15-12:15	STEM Grant Report	Beth Gulewich (Broughton HS); Jo Garrison (Ligon M.S. / Martin M.S.); Marc Reibold (NC State)
12:15-13:15	Mittagessen	Sandwiches von Panera Bread Co.
13:15-13:45	Interdisciplinary Learning and STEM fields	Scott Denham (Davidson College)
13:45-14:15	DAAD and STEM grants	Scott Denham (Davidson College)
14:15-14:45	Kaffee und Kuchen	
14:45-15:45	Business Meeting: Vote on German Day Theme, FLANC, Awards Committee, German Immersion Weekend	
15:45	Abschied	

- Compared both countries' environmental problems
- Sociological differences
 - Geography
 - Discussions of Energy Independence (US possible, BRD not possible)
 - Population density differences & noise pollution concerns
 - Population Growth and environmental causes of growth & non-growth
 - Americans assume pop. growth is normal & good; Germans are less likely to attribute value to this notion
- Cultural differences
 - Frontier-ism
 - Sense of "individual responsibility"
 - US as reluctant "Welfare State"

- Less resistance to government regulation in Germany than in US
- History/Tradition
 - US Isolationism vs. German Internationalism
- Consumerism
 - Both consumer societies, but in US more pronounced (more material goods owned)
- Different definition of Nature
 - Americans tend to only see wilderness as “nature” and often regard German natural areas as “tree farms”
- Greater Fear of Nuclear Energy in Germany
 - Many in US oppose it, but many support it
 - Anti-nuclear sentiments have always been stronger in Germany
 - German Cold War experience as the “front line” built strong opposition
 - Chernobyl Disaster in 1986
 - Fukushima Disaster
- Economic Factors
 - Less tax revenue and smaller government in US
 - More more for govt.-financed environmental initiatives in Germany
- Political Factors
 - Germany: proportional representation
 - US: “First Past the Post” single-member, two party system
 - Multiparty system ensure broad debate in parliament in BRD
 - No meaningful Green Party in US; Influential Grünen in BRD
 - US: privately-funded campaigns; BRD: publicly-funded
 - Big business has much influence in US
 - US political spectrum shifted much farther to the right of BRD (and of Europe as a whole)
 - Strong, Organized, Right-funded anti-environmentalism movement in US
 - US government owns huge amounts of land; BRD owns very little
 - Most open land in BRD in the hands of private individuals - often descendants of old nobility
 - German EU membership constrains BRD environmental politics
 - Most German policies are strong, but relatively weak in protection of endangered species

Teaching Business German

Presenter: Heiko Wiggers, WFU

- Intro to Business German
 - An interest in the area is enough as pre-requisite
 - Most students are juniors and above
 - Why study?
 - Need for skills in other languages
 - Two different paths - Students want to learn a language but do not want to take the “literature route”
 - Skills learned at WFU Bus. Ger.
 - Résumé writing
 - Cover letter writing
 - Business letter writing
 - Presentation writing
 - Vocabulary building
 - *Wirtschaftstheorie*

- Negotiating
- Trade fairs
- Consecutive Interpreting (Dolmetschen) - memory of what is said is difficult
- Writing a business plan
- Internships offered through Cultural Vistas (NYC) and at Old Salem (translating old documents)
 - Cultural Vistas:
 - Internships are usually paid in BRD but students must pay for airfare and accommodations - they usually don't quite break even but they will not "lose their shirt" as with for-profit organizations
 - Language required and students are tested and phone interviewed
 - ZDfB (Goethe Institut language certificate) - opportunity ended, replaced by BULATS online assessment system
- Many internships available to high school graduates, however, due to changing visa requirements, students must be enrolled in a university course (college course pre-registration may be enough to escape the regulation)

STEM Grant Report

Presenters: Beth Gulewich, Jo Garrison, Marc Reibold

- Example lesson plans from 3 video sources
 - *Sendung mit der Maus*
 - *Wissen vor acht*
 - *Wissen macht Ah!*
- Quick activities or an entire unit can be planned for most German students
- College art, math or music majors could *present* these lesson plans as an assignment
- The link to all STEM activities presented is: <https://www.dropbox.com/l/zb9G4V1LJILB6GNkXa7fWd>
Access to an online workspace, whereby instructors can contribute or modify STEM activities, will be provided.

Brochure Update: "Why NC Needs German"

Presenter: Scott Windham - swindham@elon.edu

- Nearing completion with plenty of funds available
- Will be distributed by mail with a file available for advocates to re-copy as needed

PKAL FIDL Overview

Presenter: Scott Denham

- Facilitating InterDisciplinary Learning
- What works:
 - Leadership - must facilitate interdisciplinary (ID) change
 - Learning - must have clear goals on outcomes for in ID program
 - Get results via 5 strategies
 - articulate common definitions
 - assess progress
 - build a critical mass of leaders & colleagues (buy-in)
 - incorporate ID program needs into broader school plans
 - align ID learning with mission & goals
- How to implement:

- communicate about STEM as interdisciplinary - no functional STEM education w/o skills gained from humanities & FLLC studies such as German
- Demonstrate ID successes involving German (brochure, etc.)
- Allies:
 - ACG: American Council on Germany (Charlotte has a Warburg Chapter)
 - German-American Chamber of Commerce (more concern for what practically happens regarding German in NC schools than ACG)
 - Consul General ATL Christoph Sander
 - DAAD and RISE (Research Internships in Science & Engineering): Elizabeth Schreiber-Byers
 - Undergrad scholarship
 - RISE
 - Congress-Bundestag
 - Full Scholarship available for graduating seniors as well
 - German language skills not required prior to program
- **Conclusion:** German is the prime non-English STEM language; "If you are engaged in STEM studies, you would be a fool not to learn German"

Business Meeting

Presenter: Beth Gulewich, Broughton High School, Raleigh

- Please renew/join AATG - Our chapter receives funds based upon AATG memberships
 - AATG National Exam will again be offered to level 2-4 students and is now available for registration
 - Three awards of study trips given each year - NC has an extra award owing to the quality of our applicants
 - Deadline for registration is late October
- FLANC: Oct. 11-12, 2013 in Winston-Salem - An increased German presence is needed at FLANC
 - Motion to pay for presenters out of NC-AATG funds for accommodation (up to \$100) and registration (up to \$105) if their home district/school will not pay (motion *passed*)
- Deutsches Wochenende - Friday November 8 and Saturday November 9, 2013 at Camp Calloway near Asheboro
- ACTFL: Orlando, November 22-24
- German Day: Wake Forest University - March 5
 - Theme: Deutsch macht Ah! (STEM/MINT)
 - Possible future location(s):
 - Elon?
 - UNCC?
 - UNCCH?

Point People

- **Brochure:** "Why NC Needs German", audience is administrators, parents, students, legislators, everyone!: Scott Windham - swindham@elon.edu
- **Awards Committee:** Stacy Feldstein stacy.feldstein@cms.k12.nc.us , Susanne Rinner s_rinner@uncg.edu
- **Nominating Committee:** Joachim Koerner joachimkoerner@gmail.com, Alyssa Howards howardal@wfu.edu

