



Mary El-Beheri has been a mighty force in Sprachfest, Texas State German Contest, the AATG and the German Texas Heritage Society. She taught at MacArthur HS for 37 years and the following is excerpts from the retirement letter she wrote in 2005:

"It has been great fun spending nearly half my lifetime at MacArthur High School. I was blessed with a situation which encouraged creativity and let me do the unusual. From this vantage point at Mac, the Sprachfest area contest (1976) and the State (1982) German Contest were founded, as well as the 1200 member German Texas Heritage Society now housed in Austin. In 1974, we won multiple awards for our contributions to the conservation of the German culture in San Antonio and we have done something in this behalf every year since then. Mac German students created the only website presently up on the internet about German San Antonio (2000). MacArthur High School is actually quite famous as a center for German in Texas. I am very proud of this fact..

My personal happiest moments came about during the 10 years we won First Place Sweepstakes at the Texas State German Contest! .. But when all is said and done, the most important thing is that Mac students are always welcome in any motel, restaurant or theme park because they are such nice young people. Now that is impressive. I have dragged Mac kids all over Texas and Germany and I have only good things to say about them. I always [told] them I would go anywhere with them."

In 2004, Frau El-Beheri received the prestigious Outstanding German Educator and Checkpoint Charlie Foundation Scholarship awards. Friends and former students joined her in Chicago to watch the ceremony. The following is a page from the Texas Foreign Language Association Newsletter, detailing some of her accomplishments.

Around our state, around our world



German

Mary Mathis El-Beheri Wins AATG Outstanding German Educator and Checkpoint Charlie Foundation Scholarship

The American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) will present its annual Outstanding German Educator and Checkpoint Charlie Foundation Scholarship to **Mary Mathis El-Beheri** of the Douglas Mac Arthur High School, North East Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas.

This prestigious award is given in recognition of personal innovation, talent, and leadership, which reflect uncommon excellence. The Outstanding German Educator Award, AATG's highest honor, has been presented annually since 1989. Recipients are nominated by their chapter presidents in recognition of: service to the language teaching profession; participation in professional organizations; contribution to German language education; and continued growth as a German educator.

Recipients receive a one-week Berlin seminar as well as roundtrip transportation sponsored by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation. The Berlin State House of Representatives started this foundation to support friendly German-American ties in the

future. It was named after that location that has had such an important place in the city's history. The Foundation supports projects including school teacher exchange and is non-partisan.

The presentation ceremony will take place on November 20, during the AATG's Annual Meeting in Chicago, and will be attended by approximately 500 AATG members.

Mary has been a member of TFLA since 1973. She has done many presentations at meetings and has served on several committees. She writes a column "Techie Tips" for the Texas Foreign Language Association Bulletin.

Mary is founding president of the German-Texan Heritage Society and served as Journal editor for 12 years. She is Founder and Director of the Texas State German Contest (1981-), Director of the Central Texas Sprachfest (1976-), Webmaster of the South Texas Chapter of the AATG website, and the webmaster for 10 German-related websites. Mary teaches German and Health Online. This fall she begins her forty-first year as an educator. She is the first Texan to receive this honor.



Mary El-Beheri (North East ISD)

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*To memorialize and remind everyone of all that she has done,
here is a collection of nostalgia from her picture collection:*

Born in North Little Rock, AR



*During WWII,
Patriotism and
puppies*



*Teaching at Mac in the 70's with Terry,
former student and still wonderful friend*



*With Consulate
General Rolf
Seligman in 1983*



*Head shots and Frau
in her classroom-
note all the trophies*



Emily and "Oma"



German Club meetings, 1999



*German Club meeting, 1999
paying homage to a water bottle?*



*Mac exchange students to
Greiz, Germany*

Texas State German Contests



*Contest Steering Committee meets in Frau's cottage
and frolics in the back yard*



A polka band at Contest



*While Frau holds court at the awards
assembly, the techies are in the score
room determining the winners*



Mary with bright red umbrella in front of statue of Bach in Leipzig



Mary and Annetta, her former teacher, in a cafe on a rainy day in Leipzig



Sabina puts makeup on Mary for a picture to use for the article about her awards in Chicago



Mary trying not to get her picture taken in Chicago before her award



Mary and her award in Chicago



Mary's Retirement party in 2005



If Mary didn't want her picture taken, she was not shy to let you know!



Mary clowning around with gardening gloves and hat at a party at the house



Mary saw a doctor who took digital pictures of magnified slides of her blood. Rhoda then borrowed and placed the images individually into different tonal areas of a photo of her.



a cartoon created before Mary's Deep Brain Stimulator surgery

Rhoda Auerbach
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Mary after her surgery with her hair starting to grow back



Mary's Thanksgiving 2011