

# German Day at St. Francis Xavier University emphasizes business connections, opportunities

by John Gillis

For the second time in four years now, St. F.X. University held a German Day event Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. The first German Day was held in November of 2004. "At that time we emphasized the German language and cultural aspects. This time we thought we'd emphasize the business connections and opportunities for the community and the German language students. We have many people of German origins coming to the province to start businesses, to make investments and come here to live," said organizer and St. F.X. German program coordinator Marlis Lade.

The motto for this year's event was "English is a Must, German is a Plus," and throughout the event German language students at St. F.X. had the opportunity to both speak about the benefits of learning the German language and studying its culture, as well as experience presentations from a number of invited guests.

Special guests, speakers and presenters included: Dr. Réjeanne LeBlanc, chair of the Modern Languages Department at St. F.X. University; Dr. Sean Riley, president of St. F.X. University; Marlis Lade, German professor and Modern Languages Department coordinator; Anja Mengewein from the German General Consulate in Montreal; Spaska Siderova from the Goethe Institut; Anthony Chapman, German honorary consul, Halifax; Suzanne Rix, immigration lawyer with Cox & Palmer, Halifax; Steve Smith, CEO, Central Supplies, Antigonish; Julie Marchand, Royal Bank of Canada, Port Hawkesbury; Patrick Lamey, lawyer with Evans, MacIsaac, & Mac-

Millan, Port Hawkesbury; and the St. F.X. German language students.

"I'm pleased to see so many German language students in attendance, and I'd like to thank the Modern Language Department for this wonderful opportunity to engage the wider community in participating and experiencing the German community in Nova Scotia," said St. F.X. University president Dr. Sean Riley.

Anja Mengewein from the German General Consulate in Montreal gave an informative presentation regarding academic study and research opportunities in Germany. The German General Consulate website, available in three languages, is an excellent resource in this regard: [www.montreal.diplo.de](http://www.montreal.diplo.de).

Spaska Siderova from the Goethe Institut in Montreal gave an overview of this incredible German cultural institution. Promoting the German language and culture worldwide, the Goethe has 128 institutes in 79 countries, 16 of which are in Germany. With its head offices in Munich, it employs more than 3,000 people worldwide. Siderova reminded the students that the Goethe in Montreal could welcome them with a program of their choosing if they decided to visit the city.

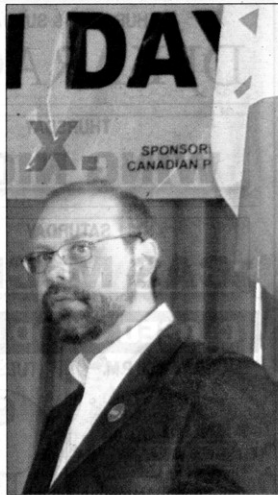
The audience also had the opportunity to enjoy the classical singing of Andreas Hirt, and during a break in the presentations, students and guests had the chance to mingle and enjoy refreshments, snacks, wine and cheese while perusing a selection of materials displaying opportunities for work and study in Germany and a German travel photo exhibition.

Professor Lade thanked every-

one involved, especially her students. "You are compassionate, enthusiastic, hard-working, fun and an inspiration to all. That's why I love working with you, and I know that these events could not happen without you," she said.

German Day was co-organized by Rolf Bouman and corporate sponsor Canadian Pioneer Estates Ltd. The success of Friday's event has organizers and sponsors considering the possibility of making German Day an annual event on the St. F.X. campus.

For information on the German program or the modern languages program at St. F.X. contact the program coordinator, Marlis Lade, at (902) 867-5172 or email: [mlade@stfx.ca](mailto:mlade@stfx.ca).



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