

# Wunderbar! Teacher honored

## ■ Rehn continues to enlighten teens' views of modern Germany.

By ANNE CRON  
Source Staff Writer

Henry Rehn has taken a lesson or two from his past and, according to the Goethe-Institut Atlanta, it's been to the benefit of his students.

As a history teacher at Eisenhower High School, Rehn has spent 16 years teaching students. While he has taught some typical social studies and government lessons, Rehn has also spent hours teaching students of the changes and progress made in modern Germany, hoping to dispel some negative views of the country.

"I came from a German household," Rehn said. "As a gift to me, my parents sent me to Germany in 1978 so that I could visit with relatives and learn about my roots."

Rehn has since visited the country several more times, each time finding the country in a better state.

"When I first went, we took a trip to Berlin South and spent days in West Berlin going through old Communist borders," Rehn said. "It was interesting. I remembered feeling threatened but not sure what I was being threatened by. It was a weird aura that you don't feel today when you visit."

Rehn has done his best to describe the changes to his

students and had held workshops inviting fellow educators to attend.

The workshops were put on in 2004 in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut and Rehn interested 100 educators from around the county to attend. He provided maps and lessons, and received enough enthusiasm to continue doing the workshops.

"The institute was looking for volunteers to help and it was something I was interested in," Rehn said. "It was something I greatly enjoyed."

Officials with the Goethe-Institut were impressed by the work Rehn spent on his workshops and suggested he apply for an all-expenses-paid trip to Germany.

"There was one catch, though," he said. "I had to write a lesson plan."

While Rehn had a slight advantage - the lesson plan was based off of graduate work he had done on post-World War II women - he did his best to provide a helpful lesson plan to the institute.

Impressed, the institute posted the plan on its Web site - [www.goethe.de/en/index.htm](http://www.goethe.de/en/index.htm) - and in 2004, Rehn once again visited Germany.

Rehn continued his working relationship with the institute, which strives to "promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange." The institute also "fosters knowledge about Germany by providing information on its culture, society and politics."

His dedication was rewarded this year, as the Goethe-Institut

named Rehn the 2006 Transatlantic Outreach Program Fellow of the Year.

"This award signifies his outstanding contributions to the teaching of modern Germany and is our way of thanking him for all his hard work," said Kelsey Smith, assistant coordinator for the Goethe-Institut Atlanta Transatlantic Outreach Program, in a letter released in April. "He has been a perfect example of someone who strives to enhance the quality of classroom teaching about Germany and we hope that this award reflects that."

As part of the honor, Rehn will once again be invited to spend two weeks in Germany, this time in a capacity to help run the trip. Rehn was also invited to Washington, D.C., where he was honored for his achievement with a dinner Dec. 1.

"I'm grateful," he said. "I'm just really excited about doing this and going on the trip. I love being able to incorporate teaching about modern Germany in my classes and look forward to continuing to do this."

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