

This summer, Alexis Xu spent three and a half weeks as a participant of the AATG/PAD Study Trip to Nürnberg or Kulmbach in Germany. Living with a host family in Nürnberg for a little more than one week, in a hotel in the capital city of Berlin, and then returning to Nürnberg for another week, she had the opportunity to experience these German cities up-close and firsthand, shopping in small groups or individually in the *Altstadt* in Nürnberg, navigating public transportation, visiting historic sites such as the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, and exploring countless museums and awe-inspiring churches. While in Nürnberg, which is located in the southern state of *Bayern* (Bavaria), she attended Melanchthon Gymnasium, sitting in on her host sister's classes, a few of which were Economics, Mathematics, and Ancient Greek. There were also classes just for the exchange group covering topics such as German history, religion, Latin, Ancient Greek, and modern Berlin, all of which were taught by teachers working at Melanchthon. One of the most memorable experiences was visiting the school's library, one of the oldest in Germany, and being allowed to touch and pick up impressive books that were easily five hundred years old.

Throughout this program, the group also traveled by trains and buses to Munich, Frankfurt on the Oder River, Potsdam, and Bamberg to visit places such as the *Marienplatz* and the *Glockenspiel*, *Europauniversität Viadrina* (Viadrina European University), *Schloss Sanssouci* (Sanssouci Castle), and the quaint streets and buildings of beautiful Bamberg. Through such experiences, group members developed friendships among each other and their host siblings, as well as other German students.

This exchange program was administered by AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) and PAD, the *Pädagogischer Austauschdienst* (Pedagogical Exchange Service). The all-expense-paid trip was generously funded by the Federal Republic of Germany. Alexis was selected based on her high score on the National German Exam and performance during an interview conducted in German. She completed AP German V with Frau Dawn Grois last year.

