

# DFLL NEWS

UAB | CAS | Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

## All The Details

For more detailed information, contact and more about the events, programs and items in the newsletter, please visit us online at: [www.uab.edu/cas/languages](http://www.uab.edu/cas/languages)

## The Spanish Club offers free Tutoring

The Spanish Club offers free tutoring for Spanish students on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:00pm by appointment. Contact President Elaina Skala at [elainask@uab.edu](mailto:elainask@uab.edu)

## Upcoming Events

### Expo for Undergrad Research

April 14 & 15 - HUC  
<http://www.uab.edu/undergraduateresearch/expo>

### Asian Cultures and Food Fest

April 1, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Zamora Shrine Temple 3521  
Ratliff Rd, Irondale, AL 3521  
Contact: [takamiya@uab.edu](mailto:takamiya@uab.edu)

### ¡Nuevolution! Latinos and the New South Exhibition

Birmingham Civil Rights Institute  
Jan 24-May 31, 2017  
Free entrance on Sundays.

## REVISED FLL MAJOR ROLLS OUT IN FALL 2017!

### 39 Credits

See details  
inside this  
issue



*As we approach the end of the Spring semester, I would like to congratulate our FLL majors, language minors and SSPC students who are graduating in April and August, wishing them well as they move forward in their lives. Regardless of where they choose to go next, the DFLL faculty and I wish our graduates to “dream big” and utilize the languages, the knowledge and the skills they’ve learned while at UAB to make the world and their careers a better and a happier place.*

*Happy Summer and Go Blazers!*

— Julián Arribas, Chair

## Language Clubs And Conversation Table News

### Palomitas Spanish Film Club

Grand Finale Presents

Selena

Mon, April 24 , HB 105

Info: [jtmaddox@uab.edu](mailto:jtmaddox@uab.edu)

### Chinese Conversation Table

Wednesdays 1:15-2:15 pm

Sterne Library

Dean's Conference Room

Info: [coltyma@uab.edu](mailto:coltyma@uab.edu)

### German Table

#### Stammtischtennis

Every other Friday, HB 424

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Info: [ehrinker@uab.edu](mailto:ehrinker@uab.edu)

### French Conversation Table

Mondays, 3pm to 4 pm

Starbucks, Sterne Library

Info: [mbond@uab.edu](mailto:mbond@uab.edu)

### Japanese Conversation Table

Frid, March 10, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

HB 424

Thurs, March 23, 11:00 - 12:00

pm HB 424

Info: [takamiya@uab.edu](mailto:takamiya@uab.edu)

### La Cena de la Tertulia

Frid, April 7, 6 pm

Restaurante Mi Pueblo

Info: [centeno@uan.edu](mailto:centeno@uan.edu)

\*\*\*\*\*

### DFLL T-shirt Design Winner

Congratulations to **Cristina Casas** (Spanish) who won the DFLL t-shirt contest design! Thank you to all the students who submitted wonderful and creative designs!

## REVISED FLL MAJOR - 39 CREDITS

### FLL MAJOR COMMON CORE - 9 CRS

#### \*Course Requirements - The following 9 credits:

FLL 120. Foreign Cultures

FLL 121 **OR** [a different lang] 101

FLL 485. Foreign Language Capstone Seminar

### CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS [FR OR SPA]- 30 CRS

#### \*The following course –3 credits

SPA/FR 201 Intermediate SPA/FR I

Students placed above 201 must take 202 or higher

#### \*Three courses at 200 level above 201 -9 credits

#### \*Three courses at 300 level –9 credits

Advanced Students may replace 200 with 300 level courses with departmental permission

#### \*Three courses ranged 401- 499 –9 credits

## The DFLL Congratulates the 2017 DFLL Outstanding Students

\*\*\*\*\*

FLL — *Susan Boyd*

Chinese — *Kristina Fong*

French — *Tessa Case*

German — *Kellie Benz*

Italian — *Mikensy Darby*

Japanese — *David J. Kovakas*

Spanish — *Nicole Lassiter*

SSPC — *Tina Etminan*

Most Spirited — *Charli Tyree*

## Student News

### Latino Literature Class Presents at University of Alabama Languages Conference

On 17 February, three students from Professor Maddox's US Latino Writers class participated at The University of Alabama Language Conference. Their panel focused on how to apply what they learned to the high school Spanish and English as a Second Language classroom. Kellie Kema gave theoretical arguments for using literature for language and culture. Lizzie Lanham argued that Latino literature can build empathy and tolerance. Dilka Biondo gave examples of authors that can be incorporated into Spanish classes. All shared ideas for activities. Dr. Maddox



shared his research on Afro-Latino writing. The group got to hear Dr. Rubén Gallo of Princeton present on Cuba. Our Blazers showed that language teaching is important at UAB!

### New Members Inducted to Sigma Delta Pi, Spanish Honorary Society, UAB Chapter



On March 27, twelve individuals were inducted into the Spanish Honorary Society Sigma Delta Pi. The ceremony was led by alumnae, Sigma Delta Pi president Candace Cooper and executive board member Charli Tyree. Congratulations to the inductees: R. Alex Bautista, María Christi, Nayivis Cunill, Eric Kim, Cayla Hamilton, Scarlett Alcántara, Morgan Parr, Elaina Skala, Michael Steinkampf, and Christiana Williams. Dr. Julián Arribas, DFLL chair and Yazmín Contreras from Adelante Alabama were also inducted as Honorary Members.

## ***Why Languages and Cultures Matter***

### **A Cultural Event Report by *Roman Bodart* (Prof. Rinker's Foreign Cultures class)**

On January 18, 2017, I attended "Joining the Global Workforce: Why Languages and Cultures Matter," a collaborative effort between UAB Career and Professional Development and the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The panel included professionals from local law enforcement, healthcare, a non-profit organization, and the military. These panelists were tasked with discussing how knowledge of foreign languages and cultures has aided them in their diversity of careers. Going in, I was expecting the panel to be more focused on language with the panelists discussing the different applications of foreign language to their workplaces. However, the focus was equally balanced between language *and* culture. Commander Comas, one of the military commanders, said that in the military, you interact with many different people from many different countries and intergovernmental organizations like the United Nations or NATO. He emphasized the need to understand local laws and customs when abroad and cautioned the panel attendees to be "politically correct" when dealing with members of different cultures, as one might accidentally offend them, leading to potential setbacks in a work setting. This remark reminded attendees not to give too much credence to generalizations, especially if they could offend someone. Another interesting point was made by Melanie McDonald, the panelist representing healthcare. Working for the UAB Department of Psychiatry booking patients, she said that it was important for her to view patients in a culturally relative manner due to the cultural variance in defining psychopathology and its symptoms; the example she provided was that while Americans view "visions" as hallucinations, some other cultures view them as very commonplace and thus not a sign of mental illness. This was an excellent reminder that we must be aware of the fact that we view other cultures from the perspective of our own, which could lead to biases that distort our perception of reality. One theme from the discussion that stood out most to me, however, was the idea that language leads us to even greater goals. The police officer on the panel remarked that language is "a gateway" to many important ideas. This implies that language is just one of many aspects of a culture; by learning the language of another country, we gain a richer understanding of that culture and its people that we could not gain otherwise. After attending this event, I can now appreciate better how learning one or multiple foreign languages is key to the concept of globalization and the melding of cultures and peoples.

### **Cool Class:**

### ***Spanish Culture through the Culinary Art***

### **by Prof. Centeno**

