JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Conversation Tables

Chinese:
Apr. 4, Apr 18
Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Location: University Hall 3007
Check the online dates here

French:
Location: UH 3007
Apr. 5
Time: 12:30 pm - 1:15 pm

Japanese:
Apr. 19
4:00 pm - 4:45 pm
University Hall 3007
Check the online dates here

Spanish:
Location: UH 3007
Apr. 14
Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Click below for more details!

Summer and Fall Registration are Open!

Register now for your Summer and Fall classes! Checkout the different programs the Department of World Languages and Literatures offers to see which one matches your career goals. From becoming a major to minoring or earning a certificate, there are several paths to choose from to meet your interests. To learn about the different programs, you can click the arrow to view the DWLL website.

LET'S GET SOCIAL

https://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/
The department hosted an Open House last week featuring microlessons in each language. Students learned new words in Chinese, French, German, Japanese and Spanish, while having the opportunity to ask more about the different programs the department offers. Take a look at some of the highlights!

**Chinese**

DWLL student, Yi Liu, taught Spanish students how to say hello and goodbye in Chinese.

**French**

Marty Hope Smith from the French program helped students learn new phrases in French while enjoying some pastries.

https://www.uab.edu/cas/languages/
**German**

DWLL student Marina Roddy shared with students how to introduce themselves in German.

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**Japanese**

Emily, Kanami, and Nathan represented the Japanese program and taught students how to say their name in Japanese.

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**Spanish**

At the Spanish table, Luke Bergren explained the different minors, major concentrations, and certificate options offered in the Spanish program.

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When I started my world languages capstone project with Dr. Maddox, I did not imagine that I would refine it & present at a national conference. My project turned out to be something I feel should reach a wider audience & be applied to the fight for transgender rights in the US. My presentation focuses on the resilience of the trans community in Brazil in the context of increasing violence and discrimination.

Dr. Maddox has been extremely helpful and encouraging throughout this whole process, and I am very grateful to have a supportive mentor on a research project of such great personal significance.

After high audience interest at the UAB Expo, Dr. Maddox encouraged me to extend the project. With support from the UAB Honors College, I will travel to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire in April to present my findings.

I am a semi-finalist for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Spain. If accepted, I would spend the next year teaching English in Spain and increasing my proficiency in Spanish through linguistic and cultural immersion. After completing this program, I hope to pursue an advanced degree in linguistics or translation and interpretation.
At the Southern Conference on Language Teaching (SCOLT), our very own Dr. Sánchez-López and Dr. Moore connected with many previous students from the Department of World Languages and Literatures.

Meet the Alumni

Noah Hoppe-McQueen is the current Chair of the Department of Languages at Randolph School in Huntsville where he teaches Spanish.

Christina Thurman is an English Learner Specialist at the Alabama State Department of Education. Brandon Cole teaches Spanish at Spain Park High School and is the Alabama Chapter President of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP).

UAB Alumna Cayla Baker teaches Spanish at Tallassee High School. At SCOLT, she won an award for Most Promising Language Educator. Former Chair of the Department of World Languages and Literatures at UAB, Sheri Spaine-Long, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from AWLA.
My college experience was deeply embedded in scientific reasoning and the understanding of the self from the more complex, molecular perspective. While I loved my major, I give credit to much of my undergraduate enjoyment, growth, and self-fulfillment to minoring in German.

I hope curricula like the German minor help more people realize the importance of learning a new language because it is more than memorizing words. This opportunity opens the doors to a new world of people, culture, and self-exploration which represents the most invaluable piece of education one could get from college.

It was my escape from the everyday science-heavy coursework. Through this minor, I was fortunate to learn about a culture different from mine, and this process has helped me understand the strength of appreciating people's experiences through cultural awareness - a pillar of becoming a great physician. I have realized that learning a new language ameliorates communication in one's own, and I have continued to enrich my communication with others by bridging a language barrier and expressing myself more intentionally and through the lens of German.
Alumni Spotlight

STEWART ABRAHART

Class of 2015, Mathematical Economics Major, Chinese Minor and Math Minor

In 2018, Stewart was able to travel to Hangzhou, China to research a potential investment opportunity. He spent two weeks in Hangzhou practicing his Chinese and doing due diligence on the business and had the opportunity to practice Mandarin in various business settings.

He also was lucky enough to travel to the Fosun Headquarters in Shanghai and meet with various business personnel at Fosun – a large corporation in China. He plans to revisit China in the near future. He hopes to get his Masters in Business Administration and plans to study abroad in China for at least a semester.

Stewart hopes in the future he can continue to bridge his knowledge of finance and Chinese – and spend more time in China.

He hasn’t been back to Birmingham Alabama for a few years but misses his mandarin community – and misses the Black Pearl dearly!
For the last two years, I have been fortunate to work for Birmingham’s Sister City, Hitachi. Although my current role is to teach English, my Japanese minor has been crucial in my daily life. Without a foundation in the Japanese language and culture, I would have missed out on numerous experiences and friendships. It has also been beneficial for building strong relationships with the teachers and students. I will be returning to Birmingham soon, but I know I won’t be able to stay away from Japan for long.

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Speaking Japanese is an integral part of my life. At work, I'm able to converse confidently with my co-workers as well as facilitate genuine conversation with my students. At home, I am able to connect with those around me and exchange stories in my community. Without the education I received at UAB, I would have missed out on the past five years of wonderful experiences in Japan.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Chinese Events
April 13, Auction Fundraiser in Gold Underground

German Events
April 6, 7pm–8:30pm, Board Game Night, UH 3105

Japanese Events
April 1, 10am–4pm – Cherry Blossom Festival, Birmingham Botanical Garden
April 3, 3:30–4:30pm – Jamison lecture featuring Dr. Yumi Matsumoto, Sterne Library 174

Spanish Events
April 5, 5:30–7:30pm – Palomitas Film Club, UH 2005

All Languages
April 14, 12:30–1:30pm – Last Coffee Friday in UH 3105

Don’t forget to check out the Conversation Tables for all languages! Click the arrow to view.

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