

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

October 2022

UAB - COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



UAB Department of World Languages and Literatures

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Conversation Tables

Chinese:

Location: virtual

Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 16

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

French:

Location: UH 3007

Oct 12, Oct 26, and Nov 9

Time: 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Japanese:

Location: UH 3007

Oct. 5, 5:00-5:45 pm

Nov. 1, 1:00-1:45 pm

Nov. 30, 5:00-5:45 pm

Spanish:

Location: UH 3007

Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Click below for more details!



Join Us for Coffee Fridays!

Beginning Friday, October 7, 2022, the Department of World Languages and Literatures (DWLL) will host a weekly coffee and cookie hour from 12:30pm to 1:30pm in UH 3105 as part of the Wellness Initiative at UAB. This is a great opportunity to meet other students in the department, chat with your professors, and meet some new faces!

Our 50th Anniversary Inaugural Event

Thank you for celebrating with us at the Inaugural event on September 9, 2022. It was a special evening honoring the achievements of the previous 50 years and acknowledging the dedication of the chairs of the department, faculty, and students.



Some of the highlights included a presentation of the Global Seal of Biliteracy Award by Executive Director Linda Egnatz (see image below). The Department of World Languages and Literatures received this award for being the first university in the state of Alabama to implement this nationally recognized accreditation to students. (cont. p. 2)



Our 50th Anniversary Inaugural Event cont.

Following, the very first Spanish major of the department from the class of 1974, Larry Bachus, shared his experience on how he has used Spanish throughout his career, first, as a bilingual radio broadcaster, and later as a mechanical engineer.

The Deputy General Consul of Japan, Mr. Mamoru Fukunaga, gave a warm greeting and presented on the ties Japan has with the state of Alabama and the significance of the relationship. A special moment of the night was the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Professors Dr. Takamiya and Dr. Hara and Japanese concentration student Kayla Jean Zech participated as former Japanese student Mr. Josh Haynes demonstrated the Tea Ceremony (see photo on right). Ms. Ritsuko Asano, an instructor from Chado Urasenke Tankokai Birmingham Association explained that the ceremony is often seen as a meditation to put the person in the present, here and now.

At the conclusion of the event, faculty, students, and guests enjoyed food from around the world as well as matcha tea made by the Chado Urasenke Tankokai Birmingham Association. As a token of the 50th celebration, department cookbooks and T-shirts are on sale for \$10 with recipes representing several cultures. Stop by the department in University Hall to purchase yours today!



WHAT IS THE GLOBAL SEAL OF BILITERACY?

The Global Seal of Biliteracy is an award that goes on the transcript or diploma upon graduation. For students to receive the Global Seal of Biliteracy, they take the STAMP assessment in their language of study at the end of their program. The results of the test places them as having functional or working proficiency. The Global Seal of Biliteracy has provided students with a certificate that articulates to employers their language skills, helping them to stand out on their resumes.



Scholarships

Yes, you can get rewarded for your hard work! For a full list of departmental scholarships click below! Applications are open October 1 through February 1. Apply through the UAB Bsmart website.



Become a minor or major!

The Department of World Languages and Literatures offers students many opportunities and tracks to fit their interests! Majors include French, Japanese, Spanish and Applied Professional Spanish. Minor concentrations include Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Spanish, and Spanish for Business. If you are looking to minor in a language, what are you waiting for? Minors in any language consist of 12 hours from 200-level or higher courses. Stand out among the rest and minor in a language today!

Find out more:



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Alumni Spotlight



DR. KIERSTIN KENNEDY

Class of 2003, Spanish Major

Chief Medical Officer for UAB Hospital

Choosing to major in Spanish was pivotal for my career in several ways: first, it taught me to trust my gut and to not be afraid to pursue my passions. Many people warned

me that I would never get into medical school if I changed my major to Spanish, but instead of listening to them I chose to listen to my gut. Not only did I get into medical school, I used the skills I gained from my Spanish degree to help my teams and better serve patients during my clinical rotations. Second, having the experience of learning another language as an adult taught me humility and I have greater compassion and respect for non-native English speaking patient as they bravely navigate our complex healthcare system.

"Many people warned me that I would never get into medical school if I changed my major to Spanish, but instead of listening to them I chose to listen to my gut. Not only did I get into medical school, I used the skills I gained from my Spanish degree to help my teams and better serve patients during my clinical rotations."

Alumni Spotlight



DEVIN THORNE

Class of 2013, China Studies Major, Chinese Language Minor
Senior Analyst at Recorded Future

My name is Devin Thorne. I'm a former Chinese language student and UAB alumnus. I currently work as a senior analyst for strategic geopolitics with a focus on China 中国地缘政治高级分析师 at the cybersecurity and open-source intelligence firm Recorded Future. Before this, I was a senior analyst for a think tank called the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS).

"Studying the language at UAB, including under Professor Ma Ling, made this career as an international relations analyst possible."

I use my Chinese language training every day to help public and private sector clients understand developments in China through primary sources and from China's perspective. Studying the language at UAB, including under Professor Ma Ling, made this career as an international relations analyst possible.

"It not only gave me foundational language skills, but also opened doors for me to earn a master's degree and work in China after graduation."

Alumni Spotlight

ZACH KOVAKAS

*Class of 2022, Japanese Minor
English Teacher in Japan*

Hello UAB Students! My name is Zach and I just graduated from UAB this April with a degree in marketing and a minor in Japanese. Right now, I live in a small town in rural Kagoshima, Japan teaching English through the Japan Exchange Teaching Program (JET).



When I am not teaching class, creating lessons, or grading papers, I often study Japanese during my downtime at work. I am studying to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) this December in order to boost my credentials to achieve my goal of working in the field of international marketing in Japan after completing my time here on the JET Program. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling and exploring all over Japan, discovering new restaurants, and going for long drives through the winding mountain roads of Japan. 日本語の学習者、頑張りましょう!

Open House



October 26, 2022
12:30 pm
to
2pm
University Hall
3105

Save the date! The Department of World Languages and Literatures will be hosting an open house for students on October 26, 2022, from 12:30pm to 2pm. It will be a great opportunity to explore future classes and meet professors in the department. We can't wait to see you! Don't forget to check out the DWLL TikTok page for faculty introduction videos!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

German Event

October 6, Brettspielabend – Board Game Night

French Events

October 6, 6pm, LUPIN Netflix Teleparty

October 12, 4 pm, Nathan Dize and Jeffrey Landon Allen (Translators, French)

October 18, 4 pm, Patrick Chamoiseau (Martinican writer)

October 20, 6pm, LUPIN Netflix Teleparty

November 1, 5:30pm, Jessica Oublié, join on Zoom

Japanese Events

October 27, 3:30–4:30pm, Japanese Kendo Fencing Event by Norio Yasui at UH2011

November 8, 3:45–4:45pm, Japanese Piano Event at Hulse Recital Hall

Palomitas Spanish Film Club

Hill Student Center – Alumni Theatre
6:30pm – 8:30pm

October 20, The Foam of Days

October 27, Clandestine Childhood

November 10, NN: Sin identidad

