



FL Newsletter

Did You Know....?

Here are a few interesting facts about languages:

- 1) To date, there are 2,700 different languages in existence.
- 2) The most widely spoken languages are Chinese, Spanish, English, and Hindi, in that order.
- 3) In the United States, over 300 different languages are spoken but English is the only official language. South Africa holds the record for the country with the most official languages with 11 official languages.
- 4) Learning a second language can make you smarter.
- 5) The Cambodian language Khmer is 74 characters long which makes it the largest alphabet in the world.
- 6) Over 200 artificial languages have been invented for books, television, and movies, including 13 distinct languages in the Tolkien universe.
- 7) Language was developed as a way to strengthen the social ties among our ancestors.
- 8) French is spoken on 5 continents.

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Alumni Corner

I began my undergraduate career at the University of Montevallo in 2009, but as an 18 year-old I had no idea what I truly planned to do with my life. Over the next two years I changed my major MANY times, entirely unsure of my future. But, by the end of my sophomore year I finally settled down with a double major in Psychology and Spanish. At that time, I planned on becoming a counselor for children and while I loved my Spanish classes, I didn't know how this language would play into my future plans.

About a month before I was to graduate from UM, having already accepted a Master's degree program in counseling, I decided this was not the path for me and I declined the acceptance. After one VERY long night of soul searching, I realized how much I had truly enjoyed my language classes, and how, though difficult at

times, I loved the challenge and the constant desire to improve my ability to communicate with others. Early the next morning I stumbled upon a brand new Master's program in Spanish Education at Samford University and I was at the university applying the very next day.

My Montevallo classes prepared me for the graduate level work I completed at Samford, at times in classes with Ph.D level students. After only 16 months I completed my Master's in Education in Spanish and was finally ready to begin my career as a teacher.

Today, I have come full circle, and I am back where I began, teaching in the very same classroom where I took my first Spanish class! I am currently a second-year teacher at Spain Park High School and teach both Spanish 1 and 2 with 9th-12th graders. Not only have I had the opportunity to attend professional development workshops, I have been accepted to present at conferences around the South including across the state of Alabama and in Florida where I have presented on the use of BreakoutEDU in

the classroom which brings the excitement of escape rooms into the classroom and requires students to work together in the target language to solve puzzles in order to "escape" a scenario. One of my digital BreakoutEDU lessons was selected as an award winning lesson by the University of Alabama's Teaching in the Disciplines: World Language Award.

Additionally, I have created lessons with a basis in STEM education and was recently selected as the Hoover City Schools representative to attend Space Camp for Educators which is a week-long experience for teachers to learn about incorporating science, technology, engineering, and math into lessons across all disciplines.

As a new teacher, I have been acknowledged by the Southern Conference of Language Teaching (SCOLT) with the Herman F. Bostick Founder's Award recognizing a teacher that demonstrates a long-term commitment to teaching as well as commitment to the conference and professional development.

It is truly amazing for me to look back on my time at Montevallo and realize that when I started I never planned to study Spanish or prepared myself to become a teacher, but Montevallo and my professors were preparing me for my future, even one I did not see for myself. I am proud of where I come from and of all the opportunities I have had after leaving Montevallo.

Written by: Hannah Rae Joseph, Spain Park High School



From Germany to Montevallo: Meet Lena Freisenhausen



It is my pleasure to welcome Lena Freisenhausen from Dortmund University (Germany) to the University of Montevallo and to my Introductory Spanish course! ¡Bienvenida, Lena!

Lena is spending the Fall 2017 at the University of Montevallo as part of the student exchange between the University of Montevallo and the University of Dortmund, Germany. Lena is from Witten, a small city of about 100,000 people and she attends the University of Dortmund (approx. 35,000 students), where she is studying to become an elementary school teacher.

Lena explains that in Germany, a career in education normally includes a five-year program and a master's degree. She mentions that planning for a college degree in Germany is very different than in the United States, in the sense that here in the United States, an advisor normally prescribes the courses that a student must take every semester.

Lena approached the International Programs Department at the University of Dortmund to explore the possibility of study abroad in the United States, through the ISEP Program, which is sponsored by both universities. The process consisted of an application, an essay, and an interview. She was matched with the University of Montevallo because of the strong education program at our institution.

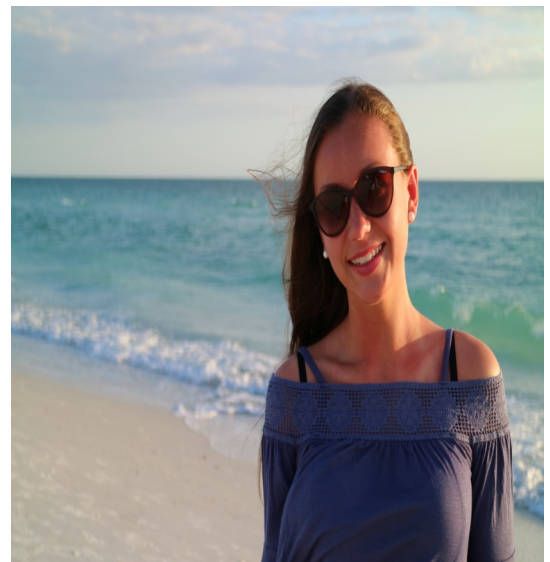
Talking about her experience at UM, Lena comments that her everyday life in the United States is very different than school life in Germany, where she lives with her parents and normally commutes to the University of Dortmund for a 20 minute drive. Living with parents during college years is normal in Germany. The school year is also very different in Germany, since the fall semester runs from the middle of October until February, March is a vacation period, and the spring/summer semester runs from March to August.

At the University of Montevallo Lena takes four courses: Childhood Development, Exceptional Learning, English Literature of the Romantic Period, and Introductory Spanish. She loves her classes, especially her Spanish class, which is a subject that has always interested her, but was just recently introduced at the University of Dortmund, so she was excited that as part of the exchange she could take a Spanish course. Lena also speaks French and mentions that English instruction starts early in the German school system.

Lena enjoys living in the dorm, eating at the cafeteria on campus, and getting to know people and places in Alabama and the South of the United States. She invites students from the University of Montevallo to take advantage of the exchange program between the universities and come spend one semester at the University of Dortmund.

UM students interested in studying abroad have different options to fulfill this project. The first is participating in the faculty led programs to France, Spain, Guatemala, and Peru, offered by the Department of English and Foreign Languages, the exchange agreement with the University of Dortmund or traveling independently with institutions affiliated with our university.

Written by: Dr. Rosa Marie Stoops



Study Abroad Experience: Pau, France

"Hello, my name is Jane Murphy! I am a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, but I have had the pleasure of taking several upper-level French courses at the University of Montevallo through the BACHE program. UM has an amazing French program! As a recipient of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, it is one of my responsibilities to share my experience and promote studying abroad to other university students.



This summer I had the incredible opportunity to study abroad for 2 months in Pau, France. I flew into Paris on May 24th and spent a few days there by myself before flying to Pau for my program. It was very overwhelming to travel alone at first, especially while trying to communicate in another language, but soon it became easier to speak.

Pau is a beautiful city near the Basque Country and the border with Spain. It is a very agricultural region, I could see miles of farmland as my plane was landing. At the airport I made friends with some other students in my program and we shared a taxicab to our residence hall. Upon entering my studio-style dorm room, I realized that it was very hot and there was no air-conditioning or even a fan! So becoming acclimated to the warmer temperatures was a major part of culture shock for me.

The campus was absolutely beautiful, almost every building had fresh flowerbeds in front of them and shady trees. I loved walking from the residence hall to the classroom each day. The University of Pau has a program for international students learning French so I got to meet students from Spain, Colombia, South Korea, Iraq and Russia while in class. Since French was our only common language, it was great immersion experience and I know that my conversational skills have definitely improved.

The study abroad program, USAC, also provided cultural excursions throughout the week and also on the weekends! We took a tour of the local Chateau where King Henri IV

was born, visited le Musée des Beaux Arts de Pau, and went white-water rafting! One of my favorite things to do after class was to grab an ice cream cone from the world-famous Gior-gio's. (Continued on the next page)



Study Abroad Experience: Pau, France (cont.)

The first weekend we took a trip to the Basque Coast to the city of Biarritz to see the Atlantic Ocean and experience some authentic Basque cuisine. Two weeks later we travelled to the city of Gavarnie to hike in the Pyrénées Mountains, it felt like I was living in a fairytale. Walking through the forest and then arriving at a massive waterfall was absolutely breathtaking.

Making lifelong friends, immersing myself in the French language, and traveling through some of the most beautiful parts of Europe were experiences that are difficult to sum up in words! Please feel free to contact me with any questions about studying abroad or the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program at jcm2017@uab.edu."

Written by: Jane Murphy



FL News and Events

-The Foreign Language film series El México de Luis Buñuel / Luis Buñuel's Mexico was featured this semester. The four films shown included English subtitles and were shown in Comer Auditorium throughout the semester and were open to the UM community as well as townspeople."

-Are you a lover of languages? Interested in meeting other language enthusiasts? If so, meet us for Lunch in the Cafeteria on Friday, November 17, 2017 at 12 p.m.

-On Thursday, November 16, 2017 the FL department will sponsor a group of high school students on campus and explore the benefits of learning a foreign language.

-Be sure to check out our Facebook page for additional events and updates!

Around Comer Hall

Jensen Awards 2017

The Jensen Award is given to honor a foreign language student who demonstrates exceptional skill in conversing in a second language taught in FL. Competition is open to students who are enrolled in foreign language courses at the 300 level or above, and are not native or near-native speakers of that language.



Spanish Jensen Award participants with Professor Rosa Stoops.



Winner of the Spanish Jensen Award, Lindsey Dukeminier, with Chance Majewski, runner up.



Winner of the French Jensen Award, Alice Copeland, in action.

Around Comer Hall (cont.)



Happy Halloween from Dr. Vazquez and Mrs. Penny Allen!



Thanks, Dr. Rafael Hernandez for visiting us and discussing the future of Cuba.



Thanks, Dr. Pap Ndiaye for joining us at UM to discuss race matters in France.



Congratulations, Dr. Vazquez on becoming an American citizen.

FL Faculty

-Stacey Ayotte
Ph.D. Michigan State University
French Interdisciplinary Studies, Second
Language Acquisition

-Rosa Maria Stoops
Ph.D. University of Alabama
French/Spanish Language and Literature

-Sierra R. Turner
Ph.D. University of Alabama
Social and Cultural Foundations in Educa-
tion, Latin American Culture and Civiliza-
tion

-Eric Vaccarella
Ph.D. Texas Tech University
Colonial/Latin American Studies

-Leonor Vazquez-Gonzalez
Ph.D. Texas Tech University
Linguistics, Cultural Survival, Latin Ameri-
can Indigenous Literature

WE WANT YOU!

-It's still not too late to declare a major or minor in French or Spanish!

-Also, be sure to come by Comer Hall 101 to find out how to declare a
minor in Latin American Studies or in Foreign Languages.

-For more information, contact us:

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GIVE

BY GIVING A GIFT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO YOU ARE SUPPORTING THE
MISSION OF OUR STUDENTS TO CONNECT WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE
AND CULTURES AROUND THE GLOBE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
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