

EMPOWERING TRANSCULTURAL LEARNERS IN THE HEART OF DIXIE

# ALABAMA AATG

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6TH ANNUAL UNA GERMAN DAY

## DEUTSCH MACHT SPASS GRANT

URNS UNA INTO A HUB OF GERMAN CULTURE

In a recent celebration made possible by AATG's FL-A-CH Mini-Grant, the University of North Alabama (UNA) embraced the rich tapestry of German culture during the much-anticipated "German Day." The event, held outdoors, unfolded with grilled brats, traditional dirndl and lederhosen, and dancing, adding a touch of authenticity to the day's festivities.

Throughout UNA Memorial Amphitheatre, interactive cultural stations provided a hands-on exploration of German traditions, allowing participants to engage with the culture beyond the surface. This celebration not only filled the air with historic German traditions but also fostered a sense of community and shared experiences, making the "German Day" a memorable and enriching experience for all.



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## INSIGHTS FROM AUBURN AT JAMES CLEMENS

UNDERSTANDING A DUAL DEGREE IN ENGINEERING & GERMAN

In October, students at James Clemens seized a valuable opportunity in October to delve into Auburn University's dual degree program in German and Engineering. A representative from Auburn University shared insights, aiding students in charting potential paths of study, work, and travel. This informative session had a lasting impact on students as they considered their future educational and professional journeys.

## A DAY OF SWISS CHEESINESS

SPONSORED BY AATG'S FL-A-CH MINI-GRANT, RECEIVED & ORGANIZED BY STUDENT TED HERNDON

Cheese lovers across the UNA campus gathered on September 29, at the GUC Atrium for a tasteful excursion into Swiss flavors. Led by student Ted Herndon and hosted by the UNA German Club, this event featured a selection of exotic cheeses, including Swiss Fondue, Gruyere, and the iconic Emmentaler. Each cheese was presented with intriguing facts, adding an educational element to the gastronomic experience. Attendees not only savored the cheeses but also were educated on various fun Switzerland-focused facts as well as facts from other German-speaking countries. The blend of food and knowledge proved to be the perfect recipe for a truly memorable culinary event.



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STUDENT-DRIVEN CREATIVITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## GERMAN 202 SOARS ON THE AIRWAVES

In a testament to their ingenuity, fourth-semester German 202 students took the lead in creating a German language radio program that was broadcasted on WVUA 90.7, the campus radio station. This initiative not only demonstrated their language proficiency and innovative approach to communication but also featured a captivating blend of German pop hits from the past to the present.





## “RUMPELSTILZCHEN” UNRAVELED

SPINNING TALES AT JAMES CLEMENS WITH FIBER ARTIST MELISSA WELLS

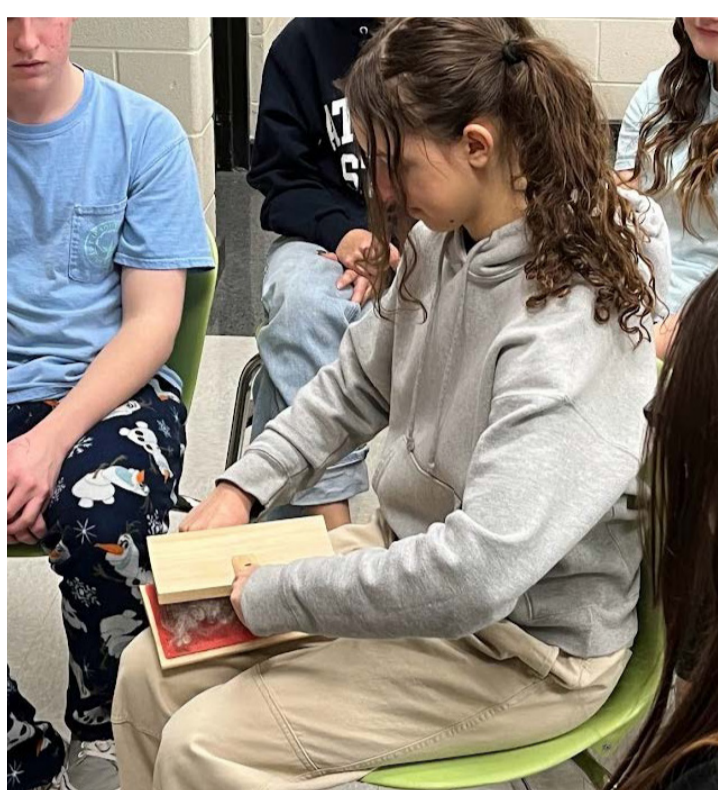
On December 7th, the German 3 class at James Clemens embarked on a fascinating journey into the “Märchenwelt” thanks to a special classroom visit from Melissa Wells, a talented fiber artist. Melissa not only enriched the class with a demo and presentation on the art of spinning and knitting but also shared her personal story of turning this timeless craft into a thriving business.

The class had the unique opportunity to delve into the practical aspects of spinning, a crucial element in many famous fairy tales. As the students engaged hands-on with the art of turning raw materials into yarn, they not only unraveled the mysteries of “Rumpelstilzchen” but also gained valuable insights into the cultural significance of traditional crafts.

Melissa’s presentation seamlessly wove together the narrative of “Rumpelstilzchen” with the artistry of spinning, creating a dynamic learning experience that went beyond the confines of a textbook. Students witnessed firsthand the transformation of fiber into thread, mirroring the magical transformations depicted in the fairy tale.

Incorporating elements from classic German fairy tales, Melissa’s visit added depth and context to the literary exploration in the classroom. The synergy between storytelling and hands-on experience allowed the students to connect with the narratives on a profound level, making language and culture come alive in a memorable way.

Included are a couple of photos capturing the enthusiasm and engagement of the students during Melissa Wells’ demonstration. These images serve as a testament to the power of experiential learning in bringing the pages of “Rumpelstilzchen”, “Frau Holle”, and “Dornröschen” to life in the German 3 classroom at James Clemens High School.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ARTIST >](#)



# GERMANY ON CAMPUS



UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

## A RECAP OF THE GERMANY ON CAMPUS EVENT

On October 17th, the University of North Alabama welcomed students from across North Alabama to their “Germany on Campus” initiative sponsored by the German Embassy. This event offered a triad of opportunities, connecting students directly with work, study, and research possibilities in Germany. From an interactive browse fair facilitating direct student-business interactions to a compelling panel discussion featuring industry experts, including representatives from Mercedes-Benz and Rodl & Partner, the day unfolded as a gateway to diverse opportunities. Culminating in a screening of “Sophie Scholl,” the event aimed to bridge borders and inspire global perspectives. UNA remains committed to fostering a rich tapestry of experiences for its community.

Peggy Boynton, who took 45 James Clemens German students, shared her enthusiasm:

*“Our students had a great time learning about study abroad programs, career possibilities with German companies in Alabama, language courses at UNA, and much more.”*

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## 2023 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AT UA

### Masters of Arts in German

Six students graduated with Master of Arts degrees in German, including Nicholas Hayes, Rhodes Scholar and Fulbright awardee.

### Delta Phi Alpha Honor Society Induction

Dr. Charles Brown organized the induction of students into Delta Phi Alpha, the national German honor society

### Outstanding Teaching Award

Graduate student Tobias Ludwig received the award for Outstanding Teaching at the MA level in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics

### Faculty Recognition

Dr. Matthew Feminella achieved tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of German, marking a significant milestone in his academic career.

### Outstanding Academic Organization

The German Club at UA received the Outstanding Academic Organization Award from the Division of Student Life

### Research and Publications

Dr. Renata Fuchs presented a paper and published an article in Die Unterrichtspraxis/Teaching German, contributing valuable insights to the academic discourse.

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