French Conversation Group Leaders: Mathilda, Anne-Sophie, Hannah, & Dorothy

Mathilda Angoua

My name is Mathilda Angoua and I am a junior international student at VCU majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Biology and also on a pre-pharmacy track. I was born and raised in Ivory Coast a French-speaking West African country. I am both Ivorian and French and was raised with both cultures. I attended a French middle school and high school back in Ivory Coast. After my high school graduation, I studied abroad in Paris for a year after what I decided to come to school in the United States. Paris is a second home to me and I usually travel there at least once a year. Traveling is my passion and I love learning about other cultures as well as sharing mine.

Anne-Sophie Attoungbre

My name is Anne-Sophie Attoungbre. I am an international student at VCU, studying Biology with a minor in Chemistry and Psychology and a pre-med track. I am originally from Ivory Coast, a French-speaking country, so I’ve been speaking French my whole life. I attended a French High school and have been to France several times so I am pretty familiar with the French culture.

Hannah Foster

Bonjour! I’m Hannah Foster, and I am a co-leader for the French Conversation Groups. I’m a senior, and I have a double major in French and International Studies, with a minor in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. I’ve been studying French for about five years, and I studied abroad in France two years ago. Last semester, I worked as an intern on the French Film Festival, and I conducted research this summer on language acquisition and creating online learning modules for students with several professors in the French department.

Dorothy Yen

I've recently graduated with a degree in Foreign Language with a concentration in French. I've studied French for over 10 years and studied abroad in Nantes, France during the fall semester of my junior year. I was a student intern with the French Film Festival during Spring 2016 and worked with other French students as well as French delegates.

German Conversation Group Leaders: Lexus & Tessa

Lexus Longbrake

Hallo! My name is Lexus Longbrake, and I am a senior at VCU. I am majoring in Craft and Material Studies, and minoring in Sociology. I first started learning German when I was 6 years old and I went to a German Immersion school, where I spent half of every day in a German
speaking classroom. I continued studying German through high school, where I was part of the German club and German Honor Society.

**Tessa Solee**

Tag! I’m Tessa. I’m senior with a double major in lit/linguistics and German. I have been studying German for five years now and have been involved in German Clubs in high school and at VCU, as well as Oktoberfest celebrations and World Language Day festivals in the study of German. I’m very excited to be co-leading a conversation group this semester in a language I am so passionate about.

**Italian Conversation Group Leaders: Savannah & Maiya**

**Savannah Aigner**

Ciola (a mix of ciao and hola)! I’m Savannah Aigner, and I am a double major in Spanish and International Studies with a Concentration in Latin America with a double minor in Italian and Creative Writing. I consider myself to be a complete Spanish and Italian nerd. I have been studying Spanish since I was in 7th grade, so this is my 8th year studying Spanish, and I’ve been studying Italian for about 4 years. Romance languages are my passion, and I have both taught and tutored Spanish for various years. Last semester, I began tutoring Italian for the first time along with Spanish. I’ve also done a mentorship in legal and medical Spanish translating and interpreting with a VCU professor. My whole life is basically in Spanish, from the TV that I watch, to the music I listen to, and the literature I read. So if you ever want a recommendation for a good Telenovela (Spanish soap opera) I’m your girl! I hope to get my PhD in Spanish Literature one day and to publish my own Spanish poetry books.

**Maiya Pittman**

I am a senior studying Foreign Language with a concentration in Spanish. I have been studying Spanish for nine years and have had Native Speakers as conversation partners for two semesters. I have a minor in Italian Studies. I have studied Italian for three years. Over the summer, I traveled to Perugia, Italy to study at the Università per Starnieri for a month. Studying through immersion has improved my confidence with the language as well as my grammatical approach. I serve as the Vice President of Italian Friends at VCU to further my involvement with the Italian language. I am looking forward to leading groups for both languages.

**Spanish Conversation Group Leaders: Savannah, Anthony, India, & Maiya**

**Savannah Aigner**

Ciola (a mix of ciao and hola)! I’m Savannah Aigner, and I am a double major in Spanish and International Studies with a Concentration in Latin America with a double minor in Italian and Creative Writing. I consider myself to be a complete Spanish and Italian nerd. I have been
studying Spanish since I was in 7th grade, so this is my 8th year studying Spanish, and I’ve been studying Italian for about 4 years. Romance languages are my passion, and I have both taught and tutored Spanish for various years. Last semester, I began tutoring Italian for the first time along with Spanish. I’ve also done a mentorship in legal and medical Spanish translating and interpreting with a VCU professor. My whole life is basically in Spanish, from the TV that I watch, to the music I listen to, and the literature I read. So if you ever want a recommendation for a good *Telenovela* (Spanish soap opera) I’m your girl! I hope to get my PhD in Spanish Literature one day and to publish my own Spanish poetry books.

**Anthony Jones**

Hello hello! I'm Anthony. I'm a junior majoring in Sociology and International Studies with a concentration in Social Justice and minoring in Spanish. My dream is to work with children in developing nations (specifically in Latin America), creating a curriculum/program/strategy/something that can broaden these children's access to education and empower them to pursue more positive opportunities. Fortunately, I've had the opportunity to work in the communities of Honduras and Bolivia during my time at VCU, where I helped build a school alongside Honduran workers, taught English to classes of Bolivian children, and worked in the classroom of a Bolivian community center for children with learning disabilities. I love trying to make people's lives better and I really enjoy talking to people about what makes them happy, then helping them achieve that. I've been in the Spanish program at VCU for the past two years and have conversed with all levels of Spanish speakers while abroad, so I am very excited to be a co-leader of one of the Spanish conversation groups this year!

**India Pervall**

Hola! I’m India Pervall and I am a senior here at VCU! My love for the Spanish language and culture has led me to be a conversation group leader for the past 2 semesters. Although I am not a Spanish major, I have studied the language since the 6th grade and furthered my knowledge during my years in the Spanish Immersion program in high school. Beyond the language, I am fascinated with Latin dance and music. Among my favorites are flamenco, bachata, and salsa!

**Maiya Pittman**

I am a senior studying Foreign Language with a concentration in Spanish. I have been studying Spanish for nine years and have had Native Speakers as conversation partners for two semesters. I have a minor in Italian Studies. I have studied Italian for three years. Over the summer, I traveled to Perugia, Italy to study at the Università per Starnieri for a month. Studying through immersion has improved my confidence with the language as well as my grammatical approach. I serve as the Vice President of Italian Friends at VCU to further my involvement with the Italian language. I am looking forward to leading groups for both languages.