



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

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## Congratulation to our Graduates!

Congratulations to our graduates this year!

Best wishes as you continue your education, start jobs or internships, or go on other adventures!

Spanish minor Jazmine Campbell has exciting news! She let us know that she will be attending The University of Antigua School of Medicine. She was also accepted into The American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine.

Jazmine participated in XULA in Costa Rica (a study abroad program focused on learning medical Spanish) in Summer 2019.

Note: if you're a languages major or minor and have news that you'd like to share in a future newsletter, please message Giti Farudi, Head of the Languages Department, at [gfarudi@xula.edu](mailto:gfarudi@xula.edu).

## PSI Induction Ceremony

Seven students were inducted into Phi Sigma Iota, the highest academic honor in the field of foreign languages. The following students were inducted: Ayodele Theard-Lewis, Taylor Torrence, Jasmine Malone, Jazmine Campbell, Peyton Goings, Milana Thompson, and Ariana Smith.

Briya Kirksey, the President of the Foreign Language Club and Lambda Beta Chapter of Phi Sigma Iota International Foreign Language Honor Society presided over the induction ceremony that was held April 22nd on Zoom.

Special guests included Dr. Susan Spillman, a recently retired XULA French professor, and Dr. Christopher Lemelle, MD, MBA, a XULA alumnus and anesthesiology specialist.

## Student Spotlight

**Name:** Ayodele Theard-Lewis

**Minor:** French

Congratulations to French minor, Ayodele Theard-Lewis!

Ayodele Theard-Lewis has been selected as a 2021 Frederick Douglass Global Fellow, an honor awarding her a full scholarship to represent Xavier University of Louisiana in a summer study abroad program focused on leadership, intercultural communication, and social justice.

Ayodele shares how learning a second language has helped her achieve her goals:



Learning any foreign language is always a great way to diversify your capabilities and expand your perspective on the world around you. Knowing how to speak French was definitely one of my greatest assets when it came to applying for all kinds of programs and scholarships. I can even attribute my current position as an intern for a board member at Lycée Français de la Nouvelle Orléans to my French language skills. Not only is it an essential tool for my success as a student, French is also a great mechanism for relationship building in general.

Studying French at Xavier is a very unique and valuable experience. I have had the pleasure of taking French courses from three different professors' in the department and it is clear that they have created a tight-knit community determined to ensure their students' success. I don't think I have been in any non-introductory class with more than seven students in it. As a result, each classroom culture is really authentic, and we are able to engage in the information on a more personal and profound level. French at Xavier, c'est magnifique!

## Campus Events

American Sign Language Professor, Ms. Denise Crochet, and the Alpha Delta Chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma held a seminar for pharmacy students. The workshop provided students with beginner level signs such as the alphabet, name, and some medical terms that they can use while at clinic or retail rotations, as well as educating them on some misconceptions about the language.

ALPHA DELTA CHAPTER OF PHI LAMBDA SIGMA PRESENTS

# American Sign Language

*Seminar*


FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Facilitated By: Ms. Denise Crochet  
Adjunct Instructor of American Sign Language,  
Xavier University of LA

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF LEARNING.

ZOOM | MARCH 30, 2021 | 6PM

RSVP TODAY!



## Virtual Culture / Language Buddies Program

### Taking applications for Fall 2021

The Xavier University of Louisiana Department of Languages, Global Gateways, and ITESO University (Guadalajara, Mexico) are offering a FREE semester long virtual cultural and language exchange program. *Cultural Buddies* is designed for college students who are seeking to learn more about a different culture and improve their Spanish or English.

#### Qualifications:

Potential *Cultural Buddies* must:

- Have at least a 2.7 GPA
- Be in good standing with their university (they can not be on academic or disciplinary probation)

After successfully completing the program, *XULA Cultural Buddies* will earn a Certificate of Cultural Competency from ITESO University.

**Application Deadline: TBD**

**Apply now!!!**

Questions? Contact Giti Farudi [gfarudi@xula.edu](mailto:gfarudi@xula.edu)

Interested in applying?

Send the following info to Giti Farudi ([gfarudi@xula.edu](mailto:gfarudi@xula.edu)) no later than **Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020!**

- Name
- Student ID (900 number)
- Email address
- Phone number
- A short statement (a paragraph or two) on why you would like to apply for the virtual cultural exchange program)



## Faculty News – Welcome to Our Newest Faculty

### Dr. Hicham Mazouz

**Birthday:** August 16th

**Where are you from?**

Algeria, in North Africa. I was born in Algiers.

**What is your ethnicity?**

North African of mixed Berber origins

**Where did you grow up?** Algeria and France

**What languages can you speak?**

French, Arabic, Berber, English, local Algerian dialect called "Darija", and Haitian Creole.



**What inspired you to become a professor?**

Teaching is a skill that you learn of course, but it is also a natural profile. Something one acquires through one's personality. My discovery of African-American Literature, and the great professors and mentors who understood my background and culture: Dr. Sika Elaine Dagbovie-Mullins, and later on Professor David Ikard, made me want to become a professor.

**Why a teacher for languages?**

French language and culture are very rich and complex. I strongly believe that those who have the chance to learn French and don't, are missing a great opportunity to see the world globally, and through its different aspects. This is what I try to show my students the moment they walk into my FREN 1010.

**What made you choose Xavier for your workplace?**

- Because Xavier is a historically Black school that matches my personal background, as well as my teaching and research skills in Francophone, African & African-American Diaspora Studies
- It is a duty to give back to the Black community who helped me become who I am today.
- Diversity of our students at Xavier. We have great students who are eager to learn more.

**What are your hobbies besides teaching?**

Traveling, track and field, just sitting in a coffee shop and/or over a simple lunch with friends for hours to talk about everything and anything in the middle of day. Difficult to do this here. That is not a component of American culture.

**What is your favorite food?**

My North African Couscous, also called Bassi in some parts of "West Africa."

**What is a fun fact about you?**

I have been told that I was a great story teller. There is a story, and there the way you tell the story. I was born in Algiers, the capital of Algeria. Studied in Orléans, a medieval city just South of Paris, France in the Loire valley. Then I moved to New Orleans. I keep telling people in NOLA that I am Algerian who studied in Orléans. Did you know that people of Algiers in New Orleans are called Algerians? :)



## Faculty News – Welcome to Our Newest Faculty

### Dr. Didem Alkan



**Birthday:** March 26

**Where are you from?** Turkey

**What is your ethnicity?** Turkish

**Where did you grow up?** Turkey

**What languages can you speak?**

Turkish, English, French, Greek, Spanish, Italian

**What inspired you to become a professor?**

I always loved sharing my knowledge with others. Being a professor was the best way for me to perform this in my everyday life!

**Why a teacher for languages?**

As a polyglot, I love being in contact with other languages in my everyday life. For me, speaking a language is living in its culture—and I like serving as the medium of the French and Francophone cultures.

**What made you choose Xavier for your workplace?**

The fact that Xavier is located in New Orleans was fascinating for me since living here would allow me to discover the French influence in United States. In terms of institution, Xavier's particular emphasis on diversity and equity was very appealing to me since, as a professor, my aim is to see and demonstrate the ways in which diversity broadens our perspectives. As an international scholar, I feel home at Xavier!

**What are your hobbies besides teaching?**

I like reading, running, and cooking.

**What is your favorite food?** Quesadilla!

**What is a fun fact about you?**

I am grumpy when I am hungry! :)

## Social Media Manager



**XAVIER**  
UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

# Department of Languages Social Media Manager

## Fall 2021

Xavier University Department of Languages is seeking a Social Media Manager for the Spring 2021 semester.

This is an unpaid position, but an excellent opportunity to get experience in social media management and enhance your CV.

Qualifications - a potential Social Media Manager must:

- Have at least a 2.7 GPA
- Have interest in the Department of Languages
- Proficiency with social media platforms

Deadline to apply: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

To apply, send a letter of interest and a CV to Dr. Didem Alkan [dalkanoi@xula.edu](mailto:dalkanoi@xula.edu)

Include "Social Media Manager" in the subject.



Questions? Please contact Dr. Didem Alkan ([dalkanoi@xula.edu](mailto:dalkanoi@xula.edu))  
or Giti Farudi ([gfarudi@xula.edu](mailto:gfarudi@xula.edu))

# Future Health Professionals

Are you looking for a program to boost your professional credentials?  
Do you want to learn to better communicate with Spanish-speaking patients?

## Spanish for Health Professionals Certificate Program

This is a 16-credit hour certificate with an optional clinical practicum and summer study in Costa Rica. Online language assessment or completion of Spanish 1020 is required to begin certificate program.

*Required: 9 credit hours + 1 hour Capstone*

Spanish 1090 – Conversation & Culture (3)

Spanish 2051 – Spanish for Medical Personnel (3)

Spanish 2052 – Intermediate Spanish for Medical  
Personnel (3)

Spanish 4998 – Capstone (1)

*Electives: 6 credit hours*

Choose from Grammar, Conversation, Special Topic  
or Independent Studies

*Optional:*

4-week International Practicum in Costa Rica (6)

**Financial  
Aid is  
available!**

**Apply now!**

For more information, please contact: Giti Farudi [gfarudi@xula.edu](mailto:gfarudi@xula.edu) (504) 520-5118  
or the Center for Continuing Studies & Distance Education [ccsde@xula.edu](mailto:ccsde@xula.edu) (504) 520-7669