

My Personal Passion

What?

One thing I am passionate about is learning new languages. I took four years of Spanish in high school and one semester of French, and I loved them both. It doesn't really matter which language it is, I want to learn it. The ones I want to learn the most are Greek and Italian, because my family is from Greece and Italian is pretty close to Spanish, so I already have a strong foundation in it. Languages come fairly naturally to me. I am not a linguistic prodigy or anything, but I learn them quickly and easily and I enjoy doing it. Sign language is also something I am interested in learning, probably because it is so different from any other language. My goal is to become fluent in at least three languages by the time I am 30, because according to a study I read, being fluent in three languages greatly improves memory and other cognitive processes. I think that is an attainable goal, and I hope to use the resources available here at UC to help me achieve it.

So What?

Learning new languages is significant because it connects you with other groups of people and other cultures. Just by learning one new language, you open yourself up to getting to know millions more people. Not only that, but you open yourself up to a whole lot more literature and other media. Basically you double the amount of things you can experience. It is also a sought-after skill in the job market because it means you can communicate with buyers and sellers overseas. I don't remember exactly how my fascination with languages started, but ever since I was little, I have wanted to be able to be multilingual. I didn't have the opportunity to take a foreign language class until freshman year of high school, and even then my only option was Spanish. I took full advantage of this opportunity though, and I enjoyed all of my four years of that class immensely. During my senior year, language classes were made available online through a virtual high school, so I took a semester of French. Although it is much harder than Spanish, I still enjoyed it and would like to learn more. I think I find language so fascinating because I enjoy learning about other cultures, and language is a big part of that.

Now What?

I would like to become fluent in Spanish by taking additional courses here at UC and by traveling abroad to a Spanish speaking country. Next semester I am taking the honors seminar Contemporary Paris, which includes a study abroad portion in France. The course itself only introduces basic French, but I plan to utilize the travel portion to learn and practice more French. There are also numerous ways to get involved in language studies on campus. There are clubs for many different languages and also a lot of

language courses. In addition to Spanish, I would like to take a Greek language course. I plan to do international coop at some point, and I know for that I will have to take an intensive language course. I am looking forward to that almost as much as the coop itself. Most international coops are either done in Germany or Japan, and between the two I think I would pick Germany. German seems like a fun language to learn, though a bit challenging (but probably less so than Japanese). Even if I am not able to fit a language course into my schedule, there are always options like Rosetta Stone and other online language classes.