GC French Club hosts International Coffee Hour
By Sarah Pennix

Georgia College & State University's French Club hosted its March International Coffee Hour, an event designed to bring students together over French culture, language and cuisine, on March 25 in Beeson Hall.

Held in a lively and welcoming atmosphere, the event featured an assortment of French pastries, coffee and lemonade, along with a Kahoot trivia game highlighting fun facts about French-speaking countries. With about 15 attendees, the event served as both a social gathering and an educational opportunity.

Sydney Sehweinfurth, a GC junior majoring in French and political science and the vice president of the French Club, played a key role in organizing the event. She planned the date, created the Kahoot game and designed the promotional flyers. For Sehweinfurth, the best part of the event was the opportunity to meet new people and see the community of French learners connect.

"I love the community that the French Club builds. It helps French majors and minors come together and makes learning the language more enjoyable," she said.

For many attendees, the event was a fun way to engage with the language outside of the classroom.

Freshmen Katherine Mikell and Wandi Hadebe, both GC students currently enrolled in a French class, said the Kahoot game was the highlight of their experience.

"Our favorite part was the Kahoot," Mikell said. "It was fun seeing everyone excited to participate and learn."

The game also provided them, they said, with interesting takeaways — one of the most surprising being the existence of an animal sanctuary in Chad, a French-speaking African country.

Beyond the activities, the event was a space where students could freely interact and share their enthusiasm for the language.

"We loved how everyone was mingling and happy to be here," Hadebe said.

As part of its liberal arts mission, GC emphasizes the value of foreign language study. Ginna Tower, a French lecturer and language resource coordinator for the Department of World Languages and Culture, said language learning is invaluable in a globalized world.

"The aspect of a foreign language is what employers want — people who are open and able, and have intercultural competence," Tower said. "It puts you in the perspective of immigrants

coming to a new country and learning a new language. It's humbling and challenging, but it's eye-opening to see what the world is really like."

Towner said an average of 680 GCs are enrolled in a foreign language every semester. The International Coffee Hour event serves as an important reminder of the benefits of linguistic and cultural immersion.

French Club leaders said following the event they plan to offer more opportunities in the future for students to engage with the language in meaningful ways.

"It's about making learning fun and accessible," Sehweinfurth said.

For those interested in participating in future events, the French Club welcomes all students eager to explore the richness of French culture. To learn more about foreign languages and the French Club, visit https://www.gcsu.edu.