

# LE PETIT JOURNAL FRANÇAIS : FRENCH AT ISU

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## Voici notre comité exécutif du Pi Delta Phi

Pictured left to right:

Tiffani Kawa: Présidente, Senior

Alison Skelton: Recrutement, Senior

Colette Reckamp: Relations Publiques, Sophomore

Shannon Beaune-Lala: Vice Présidente, Junior

Matthew English: Relations Publiques, Sophomore

Hannah Brown: Secrétaire, Sophomore

Faculty Advisors:

Dr. Laura Edwards and Dr. Sandra Keller



This newsletter was written by members of the exec board and edited and published by our President, Tiffani Kawa.

## Interested in Francophone Club?

Come to convo hours  
and any of our events  
and you will become  
a member!

Follow us on Insta @  
isupideltaphi and join  
via Redbird Life!



## Interested in adding a French and Francophone Studies major or minor?

[Read about it  
here and/or  
contact Dr. Laura  
Edwards](#)



# Les cours de français

## FRE 213 – Hannah Brown, Secrétaire

Written Communication in French, taught by Dr. Ponnou-Delaffon, helps students develop their composition skills. Formal and informal writing are practiced across a variety of genres, including *un journal intime* (a personal journal), *une lettre formelle* (a formal letter), *un compte-rendu de film* (a film review) and *une dissertation* (a thesis-driven argumentative essay). Prewriting and revision are also practiced. Additionally, students watch four contemporary classic films, enabling them to engage with important social, political and ecological topics. This course is an excellent opportunity to refine one's written skills in French!



## FRE 285 - Tiffani Kawa, Présidente

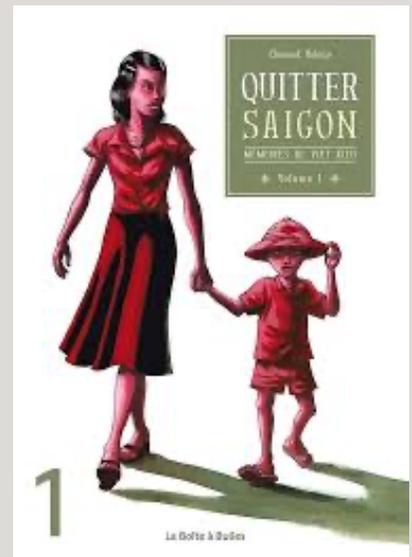
Foodways of France and the Francophone World, taught by Dr. Ponnou-Delaffon, investigates food's importance in French and Francophone cultures, from everyday eating to *haute gastronomie*, to food's connection to what it means to be human. We explored eating habits, culinary practices, and customs across time and regions; food as a social expression of identity, belonging, and communication; food's presence in literature, art, and cinema; and food politics, including environmentalism, insecurity, and social justice. *Bon appétit !*



## FRE 325 - Alison Skelton, Recrutement

Selected Topics In Francophone Literature & Culture, taught by Dr. Howell, focused on colonization and post-colonization in the Francophone world through the lens of comic books and certain films. Throughout the semester, we have explored three primary regions: *l'Afrique francophone* (Francophone Africa), *l'Indochine française* (French Indochina - now Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia), and *l'Algérie française* (French Algeria). With the aid of comic books and cinema, the realities of colonial and postcolonial societies have been put into light, along with the various cultural, social, and political contexts that influenced those realities.

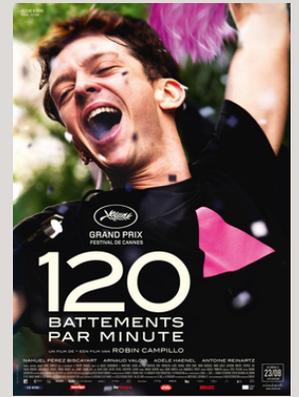
The class highlights the concept of "*devoir de mémoire*" which is the idea of preserving and diffusing the memories of these difficult times and periods. I have found this class to be very interesting as it discusses topics that are not always discussed in other French classes and this was the first time that I have seriously looked at a comic book as a tool to share memories like a book or film.



# Les événements

## French Film Series – Hannah Brown, Secrétaire

One of the many enrichment opportunities available to students taking French courses is the French Film Series. The series, which is sponsored by Dr. Ponnou-Delaffon, has been running for around 30 years. Each semester has a theme; this semester was LGBTQIA+ stories, while next semester will focus on Deaf representation. The three showings each semester offer an excellent chance to practice comprehension skills, as well as treat yourself to high-quality international cinema!



## Moroccan dinner – Colette Reckamp, Relations Publiques

This fall semester the Pi Delta Phi exec board joined Ghali El Houmaidi in sharing his Moroccan heritage by preparing (and devouring!) a delicious Moroccan feast. The menu included hummus, tomato salad, marinated olives and carrots, pitas, tagine, and a delicious *sfouf* (Lebanese turmeric cake) for dessert. This mouth-watering dinner was almost too pretty to eat, but we managed! Special thanks to Ghali for sharing his Francophone culture and to Dr. Edwards for generously hosting the event in her home and letting us use her kitchen as a learning lab.



## La cérémonie d'initiation pour les nouveaux membres du Pi Delta Phi

The yearly French Honor Society initiation ceremony was held on Friday morning, October 24, in the Margery Ellis Library. Six new members were initiated. The current executive board and faculty advisors conducted the ceremony which included a history of the society, reflection on and promise to promote love of all things Francophone, and our traditional break mid-ceremony to recite poetry, literature, and song excerpts. One new member even wrote their own poem!

New members received their certificates, pins and cords after which the whole group assembled around a table for crêpes and conversation.



## Interested in becoming a member of Pi Delta Phi?

The requirements for Pi Delta Phi are a minimum 3.0 GPA and having completed, at minimum, one 200-level French course.

If you are in FRE 116, you are invited to be a junior member, come to initiation ceremonies and take part in other activities to see if PDP is for you! Initiation is held once per year in the fall. If you want to be on executive board but are not yet a full member, some exceptions are allowed.



## Instagram Takeovers

### Alison Skelton, Recrutement

This semester we had the wonderful opportunity to have 1-day Instagram takeovers by our members who are currently studying abroad. In October, Amelia shared their daily experience at the ESSCA program in Angers, France.

Highlights include lunch in a cozy cafeteria and some new expressions such as the use of “*C’est chaud*” for frustrating moments. Then, in November, Anna Hippe shared a day at CIDEF (Centre international d'études françaises) at the Université Catholique de l'Ouest also in Angers, France.

Highlights include lunch outside and a lovely little tour of Angers. Many thanks to Amelia and Anna for sharing their life in France with us!



## Cheese night – Matthew English, Relations Publiques

Pi Delta Phi collaborated with the executive boards of Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish Honor Society) and La Tavola (Italian Club) to host a ‘Cheese Night’ where attendees were able to enjoy an assorted spread of cheeses, meats, breads, and jams! This fun evening event helped foster inter-RSO relations between members, as we all feasted upon the *amuse-bouches/tapas/stuzzichini* from each organization, sharing the gastronomical cultures of our clubs. The soirée culminated in some dancing, marking the success of another cultural event here at ISU hosted by our language RSOs!



## French Conversation Outings – Alani Sánchez-Flores, Relations Publiques

*Le Français au-delà de la salle de classe !*

This past semester, Dr. Keller’s French conversation outings took her and her students to various places throughout Bloomington-Normal, giving them the opportunity to practice their French in real-world settings. These class field trips, offered to FRE 115 students, included activities such as a scavenger hunt through the Downtown Bloomington Farmers’ market, a visit to the University Galleries, and a *rendez-vous* at Coffeehouse in Uptown Normal. Each outing was tied to the vocabulary and topics studied in the chapters at that time, encouraging students to apply what they’ve learned outside of a classroom setting, interact with their peers in French, and strengthen their skills by building confidence in their abilities.



## ISU Homecoming Parade – Matthew English, Relations Publiques

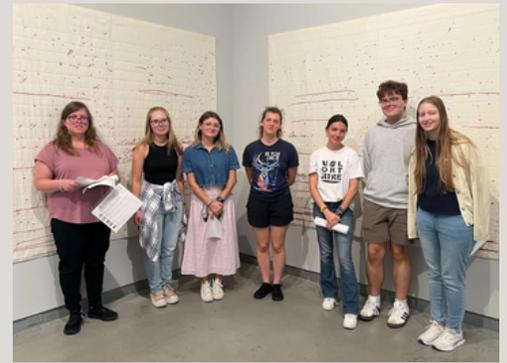
The department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures of ISU joined forces to “STATE” our languages in this year's homecoming parade. The combined faculty and student population of LAN proudly waved a myriad of global flags, of which Pi Delta Phi proudly boasted the flags of France, Haiti, and Morocco! For a fun cultural exchange, each language was provided with rubber ducks to inscribe expressions of their choosing from their respective languages; for example, *coin-coin* which means quack-quack in French.



## Conversation Hours – Shannon Beaune-Lala, Vice Présidente

Conversation hours (*les heures de conversation*) are hosted twice every week by ISU's executive board of Pi Delta Phi – the National French Honor Society – in the Language Commons, STV 227B. These hours serve as practical opportunities for students to enhance their abilities in French. They consist of a stress- and judgment-free space in which all attendees are encouraged to participate and converse but are just as welcome to simply listen. During a typical convo hour, we may tell stories or take turns answering questions Dr. Edwards prepared for us – all while snacking on *biscuits*! However, Pi Delta Phi has also organized game days, where we play *pétanque* in teams outside when the weather is pleasant, or hangman inside the cozy Commons when temperatures drop. We also organized a trip to University Galleries, where students explored and chatted in French about the various displays.

All ISU francophiles are welcome to attend conversation hours, regardless of skill level!



Several conversation hours during the month of October were dedicated to our fellow ISU students who studied abroad in French-speaking countries in Spring and Summer 2025. Alongside beautiful slideshows, Alison Skelton recounted her experience in Angers, France; Hannah Brown and Tiffani Kawa discussed their respective experiences in Grenoble, France; and finally, Shannon Beaune-Lala described hers in Québec City, Canada.

