

LE PETIT JOURNAL FRANÇAIS: FRENCH AT ISU

PI DELTA PHI

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NOTRE COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF:

Pictured left to right:

Shannon Beaune-Lala: Secrétaire, Sophomore
(Another ISU francophile)

Orion Berardi: Vice Président, Senior

Tiffani Kawa: Présidente, Junior

Adyson Bradley: Relations Publiques/
Recrutement, Senior

Faculty Advisors: Laura Edwards and Sandra Keller

Interested in Francophone Club or PDP?

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

L'HEURE DE CONVERSATION

Pi Delta Phi hosts Francophone Club conversation hours twice per week throughout the semester in STV 227B/Language Commons and invites all interested ISU students to join. You may not be sure whether you want to participate. Instead of writing what we think about these get-togethers, we invited two new students to share their impressions of *l'heure de conversation*. Read on!

How did you first find out about *l'heure de conversation*?

Matt: I saw the posters around Stevenson and I believe Dr. Edwards may have mentioned it to me at orientation as well.

Colette: I first found out about *l'heure de conversation* from Dr. Keller when I was in her FRE 115 class. Then, when I bumped up to FRE 116, Dr. Nikolova also mentioned *l'heure de conversation*, recommending that we, her students, take the time to visit at least one or two sessions because the club is a good way to get to talk to other people with varying levels of French.

What did you think? Were you excited, nervous, intimidated, etc?

Matt: I was completely terrified—sometimes still am—but I told myself that only good can come from this. Without attending the meetings, there was really no other means for me to practice conversationally, so I pushed myself to go for the betterment of my French.

Colette: I was very excited to find out that there was a French club. When I was originally searching through the RSO website, the only French organization that I could find was Pi Delta Phi, which I took as more sorority-based than conversation-based. I was part of the French Club at my high school, and I knew how much those interactions helped me improve as a French speaker, so I was looking forward to getting to meet people who had different levels of French than I do and getting to use my French in a more conversational manner. It was intimidating to go to the club for the first time, especially once I realized that some of the members were native speakers. However, everyone was very welcoming, offering biscuits and coffee and friendly smiles right away. *(continued, next page)*



Now that you have participated, how has it helped you?

Matt: My confidence in speaking (although not perfect) has skyrocketed tremendously. At the beginning of the year, coming from three months of no real French practice, it was definitely intimidating; as the semester passed though, I feel so much more at ease while speaking!

Colette: *L'heure de conversation* has not only helped me meet new people, but it's also been a fun way to practice my French in a less academic setting. Much of the speaking that we do in class (or at least, that I've done in class this semester) is meant to practice grammar and involve reading or putting together formulaic sentences. Coming to *l'heure de conversation*, I get to use and learn colloquial French with people of all French levels. I've even gotten to speak with some native French speakers! Even though I sometimes have a hard time keeping up, it's been an incredible learning experience.

What is a favorite part and /or memory of/from *l'heure de conversation*?

Matt: Honestly, the first *l'heure* I attended. It was the second meeting where we played bocce/pétanque, and I felt so inspired afterward, that it completely relit my passion.

Colette: My favorite experience from *l'heure de conversation* was when Ghali shared his presentation about Morocco. Although it was a struggle for me, as a less advanced French speaker, to fully understand everything that he was talking about, it was fun challenge, and I felt like I learned a lot. It was also really neat to see the pictures and to listen to a native French speaker who does not necessarily have a traditional "France" accent.

Is there something that you'd like to do in future *heures de conversation*?

Matt: Maybe this is because I plan on becoming a French teacher, but I feel like coupling the "conversation" with an activity helps to facilitate more casual conversations, and speaking becomes a lot less daunting.

Colette: In the future, it could be fun to play *Jeu de la barbichette* or perhaps *Les Loup-garous de Thiercelieux*. I also really enjoy getting to learn about different Francophone cultures, so a Kahoot or other trivia game about dialects of the French language, varieties of food, or other global cultures would be neat too. And finally, because my first love is word games, I really enjoyed the word puzzle game that Orion brought once. I would have no complaints if we just played that game every day.



Les cours de français: automne 2024

FRE 115

This semester, students in French 115 (Intermediate French, part I) had the opportunity to participate in three French-speaking field trips. These outings, led by Dr. Keller, give students the chance to use their French skills in the 'real world,' to react to things they see and feel. During a unit focused on navigating around town, students completed a photo scavenger hunt in Uptown Normal. They practiced vocabulary for shops and services and then enjoyed a drink at Coffeehouse while narrating to others the route they took during the scavenger hunt. During a unit with a focus on hypothetical statements, students visited University Galleries to discuss the Faculty Biennial art show and relate the emotions they would feel, were they in the environment depicted in each work of art. Finally, during the last week of the semester, students will visit Schroeder Hall Gallery on campus, practicing relative pronouns as they discuss an exhibit featuring photographs of Japanese war memorabilia returned to original owners to offer closure. Pi Delta Phi exec board, led by Orion, will generously facilitate this last outing, as circumstances will require Dr. Keller to join over Facetime. Written by Dr. Keller



FRE 116

In FRE 116 (Intermediate French, part II) we learn/review a lot of basic grammar concepts (le passé composé, le conditionnel, le subjonctif, etc.), through the means of various media: short films, text excerpts, and comic strips. We also write three essays in total, have two video podcasts, and one presentation; all to nurture the four domains—writing, speaking, listening, reading. Overall, I really have enjoyed this course, and I feel that it has given me a stronger foundation in the fundamentals of French grammar, and has pushed me to get outside of my comfort zone in a positive way. Written by Matt English, incoming exec board member

FRE 213

This semester's Written Communication in French course taught by Dr. Howell aimed to enrich the stylistics, linguistics, and cultural competencies of the French language. We frequently reviewed French literature and grammar as a base for larger discussion. Dr. Howell often taught lecture-style lessons with the help of worksheets and online documents available to students, ultimately instructing how to write in many genres of texts including narratives, argumentative, and descriptive. She would also organize partner and group activities where students were often prompted to interact with others in French while using the grammar rule in question, serving as a dual-faceted approach to learning. Outside of class, students had a list of writing assignments to complete throughout the semester – ranging from minor to extensive – that followed a script/storyline each student had established at the beginning of the semester. Written by Shannon

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: automne 2024 (*continued*)

FRE 224

Contemporary France, taught by Dr. Ponnou-Delaffon, strengthens your knowledge on contemporary French culture and society by way of cultural readings, media documents, films, songs and also presentations by your peers based on personal interest and extensive research.

We do intuitive discussion posts based on our daily class topics. We also complete zoom calls with native speakers to help us communicate effectively. The class is focused around the question of what does it mean to be French today. We've discussed many topics such as social and political structures, values and worldviews, family and education, work and leisure, demographics and immigration, religion and secularism. Written by Tiffani

FRE 340

Introduction to Applied French Linguistics is a class unlike any other. It highlights the unique aspects of the French language itself, as well as its interaction with other languages that hold a place in French and Francophone societies around the world. Additionally, it develops a sociolinguistic foundation often found in anthropology or sociology classes.

From my experience as a sociology major and a French and Francophone studies major, this class offers many fascinating interdisciplinary perspectives. It allows me to enhance my linguistic skills and express complex ideas in French. I believe that higher-level language courses should prepare students to discuss and engage with their personal academic interests, and this class does exactly that. If you are interested in the social sciences, I highly recommend French 340. Written by Orion



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Special Events



Pi Delta Phi Initiation

On Friday November 1 at 2pm, Pi Delta Phi held its annual initiation ceremony. Exec board members decorated the Margery Ellis Library with colorful flags, candles and the PDP emblem with the *coq gaulois* and played a soundtrack of Francophone songs in the background. French faculty and even one parent attended. Six students were initiated:

Anna Agoranos	Emily Myers
Shannon Beaune-Lala	Jaylon Newsom
Orion Berardi	Emma Strong

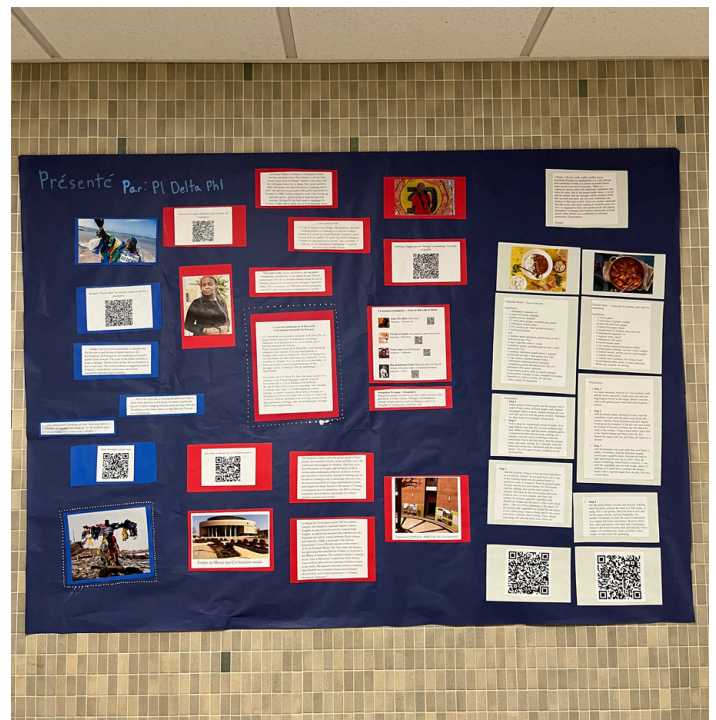


Dr. Edwards prepared madeleines in addition to crêpes and served them with Nutella and jam which everyone enjoyed along with lively discussion after the ceremony.

Interested in being a member of Pi Delta Phi?
Contact us: isupideltaphi@gmail.com

National French Week

For National French Week (Nov. 6-12) and National Pi Delta Phi day (Nov. 3), the exec board created a poster to hang in the halls of Stevenson that highlighted a Francophone country. This year, everyone agreed on Senegal since PDP alum Kristiana had just lived there for 7 months and would present about it during French Week. Between Kristiana's talk and researching our subjects for the poster, we learned a lot about Senegal.



Special Events

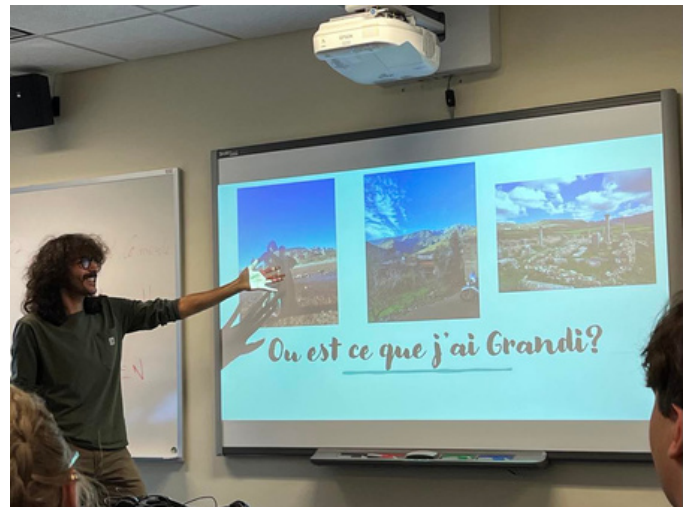


Orion's Study Abroad Presentation

Written by Shannon

Orion kindly presented to the Francophone Club his experience during his five-week long study abroad at l'Université Laval in Quebec. He showcased pictures and selfies taken during that time, with which he recalled fond memories of the friends he had made through the program, the beautiful long hikes he had taken, and the mouthwatering food he had enjoyed. He even thoughtfully mentioned the hard truths of living in Quebec dorms.

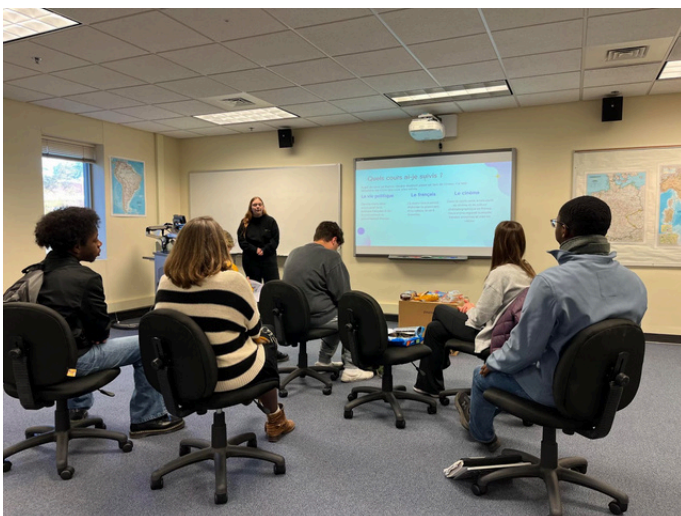
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Ghali's Morocco Presentation

Written by Shannon

Ghali generously presented to the Francophone Club about his childhood in Morocco, family, language, Moroccan traditions and hospitality, and his development into the person he is today with respective pictures. He shared many examples of Moroccan Arabic and Tamazight. At the end, the group naturally formed a circle and discussed at length a number of subjects brought up in his presentation, and eventually shifted from his path in life to politics and world affairs.



Adyson's Study Abroad Presentation

Adyson presented to us about her summer study in Grenoble, France. She described how students attend daily classes at the CUEF of the Université de Grenoble-Alpes, where they must speak and learn only in French. Adyson showed beautiful photos of the weekly excursions that she and others went on. Between history museums, castles, and walks out in the natural mountainous surroundings, Adyson made wonderful friends and improved her French.

Special Events



Kristiana's Fulbright Experience in Senegal
Pi Delta Phi was delighted to host former member and Francophone Studies minor alum, Kristiana, who spent last year on a Fulbright in Senegal. Kristiana presented on a broad variety of experiences from her time in Senegal, including Senegalese food, popular music, daily life, Senegalese hospitality, celebrations, and what Kristiana did for her Fulbright work while there. Finally, Kristiana gave us a mini-lesson in Wolof which culminated in groups having a full, simple conversation with each other completely in Wolof. Her visit was enriching and a lot of fun!



LANsgiving - Multicultural Thanksgiving

Pi Delta Phi and Francophone Club enjoyed the Languages department's first multicultural LANsgiving. Each club brought culturally representative food (which they introduced to all with history and other trivia) and a game to share!



Sonia's TAPIF Presentation

In November, interested French students had the opportunity to hear from recent ISU grad Sonia (Communication Sciences and Disorders, 2023; former French 116 student) about her current experiences in the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). Sonia joined us over Zoom all the way from Troyes, France, where she is a classroom assistant and conversational English facilitator at a high school that has a *section américaine*, or a U.S. focus. Sonia has very much enjoyed her assistantship year so far and generously shared a lot of information with us, including her weekly class schedule, opportunities to socialize with locals and practice her French, and recommendations for other students considering this paid opportunity to live and work in France. Interested students can learn more about this long-running program, sponsored by the French Embassy in the United States, at <https://tapif.org/>. We thank Sonia for her time and generosity – *on te souhaite bonne continuation, Sonia!*



Les divertissements

Nous espérons que ces divertissements vous plairont!

Dr. Edwards: Here are two documentaries I've enjoyed following on TikTok:

1) The daily life in a French family with 11+ children 2) A French family who has lived off-grid for 50 years:



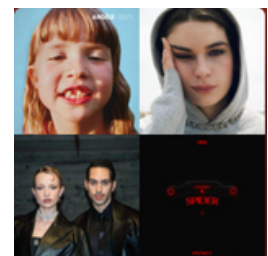
Dr. Keller: Do you like haute couture, TV shows about family relationships and betrayal, and a great soundtrack? If so, check out French-language series *La Maison* (2024-), streaming on AppleTV+. A New York Times reviewer deemed it “like *Succession*, but better dressed (and French).”



Orion: InnerFrench is an intermediate-level French podcast with well over 100 episodes. It uses conversational French to tell stories, interview guests, and discuss a wide range of topics. What sets it apart from other French learning podcasts, such as the Duolingo Podcast, is that it is entirely in French. While this can be a challenge for learners transitioning from beginner to intermediate, the rewards are well worth it. As someone who has gone through this struggle and listened to over 100 episodes, I highly recommend it.

Adyson: Check out this playlist of my top Francophone songs

1. Tout oublier de Angèle
2. Sempre / jamais de Mahmood & Angèle
3. SPIDER de GIMS & dystinct
4. Alabama de Adèle Castillon
5. Plus Tard de Bigflo & Oli



Merci d'avoir lu notre petit journal!
