

LE PETIT JOURNAL FRANÇAIS: FRENCH AT ISU

PI DELTA PHI

VOL. 5 ISSUE 2

PRINTEMPS 2024



NOTRE COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF:

Pictured left to right:

Adriana Rosales: Présidente, Senior

Joel Pandess: Secrétaire, Junior

Tiffani Kawa: Vice Présidente, Sophomore

Alison Skelton: Relations Publiques/
Recrutement, Sophomore

L'HEURE DE CONVERSATION

Francophone Club/*les heures de conversation* are hosted twice a week by French Honor Society Pi Delta Phi Exec members in the Language Commons, STV 227B. They are a great way for students to practice their conversational French skills in a relaxed setting. Occasionally, we host themed convo hours based on various holidays such as *La Chandeleur, Mardi Gras, la Saint-Valentin, Pâques*, etc.

In February during conversation hour we had a really great turnout and celebrated Mardi Gras. We played super fun games and ate two different kinds of King Cake. Alison found the hidden baby in the cake.

Also during February, the Pi Delta Phi exec board created "Le Mur de l'Amour", inspired by a multilingual urban art project in Paris, France. We added sayings of "I love you" in many different languages and other love expressions. It was very fun having so many different languages grace our hallway. Also, when we hung the display up, we included a poster of the wall's history and encouraged passers-by to add their own words of affirmation on the wall.

This year to celebrate the period of time around Pâques, we held "une chasse aux oeufs" with various hints and eggs hidden throughout Stevenson. The students worked in pairs, racing to decipher the clues and find the next egg. All ISU francophiles are welcome to attend convo hours!

Written by Tiffani Kawa & Alison Skelton



Kristiana Mininger's Fulbright Year in Senegal

Collected by Adriana Rosales



I graduated from ISU in May of 2023 with a major in Communication Sciences and Disorders and a minor in French. Since then I have had the opportunity to be in Senegal on a Fulbright grant to teach English. I live in Thiès, Senegal, about an hour inland from Dakar and spend a lot of my time at the local cultural center. It is here where I co-teach adult English courses, lead conversation clubs and TOEFL preparation courses, and organize other special events like karaoke and trivia nights. I am also very thankful to be able to do volunteer speech therapy with some local children in my city as well as weekly English lessons with the cutest preschoolers. It has been such a transformative experience to be able to learn a new language and culture over the course of the past 6 months. While there have been challenges, I have grown significantly in being flexible and letting go of my expectations. Language learning skills and more specifically French-language skills have been invaluable during my grant in being able to communicate as well as dive into learning the local language, Wolof. Some of my favorite moments have been connecting with new friends here and exchanging words and phrases in English and Wolof. I look forward to returning to ISU in June to continue my studies with a new perspective and experiences.

(Kristiana is also a past Pi Delta Phi exec board member.)

Spotlight: Des cours de français

FRE 115 and 116

As a conversation opportunity in Dr. Keller's FRE 115 and 116 classes, she takes students on excursions in the Bloomington-Normal community to participate in real-life situations where they can use their French in a more natural way. In recent years, Dr. Keller has had students practice giving directions and use public building vocabulary around town. This semester students had the choice to visit University Galleries and practice art vocabulary while taking in the creativity of the 2024 Student Annual and/or the Miller Park Zoo in Bloomington, where they practiced animal vocabulary while they visited a variety of exhibits and saw a number of different animals up close.



FRE 215

Advanced Grammar and Oral Proficiency, taught by Dr. Howell, aims at improving oral communication in French through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Many students in the class were at various proficiencies of French, coming from FRE 116, FRE 213, and native speakers. The focus of the class is for students to expand their vocabulary and improve reading speed through various exercises. We incorporate various readings and exercises about the francophone world to practice our speaking and listening comprehension and critical thinking by creating arguments to use in class debates. - Written by Alison Skelton

FRE 237

Critical Readings in French, taught by Dr. Ponnou-Delaffon, is a class that gives each student an opportunity to speak and understand French language and culture better. We learn about different eras in history through readings from each of them. We have in-depth discussions each day that are very engaging. We write two essays throughout the semester based on a reading of our choice. This class is super fun and enjoyable for anyone. - Written by Tiffani Kawa

FRE 314

In Studies in Contemporary Francophone Culture, taught by Dr. Howell, students learned about Francophone cultures all the way from pre-colonialism to today. It was really interesting to see the different relationships that francophone countries have with each other and to understand better the term "francophonie" and its implications, whether positive or negative. - Written by Adriana Rosales

Interested in adding a French and Francophone Studies major or minor?
[Read about it here](#) and/or [contact Dr. Laura Edwards](#)

Interviews with Current Students

Alison interviewed 2 frequent conversation hour attendees to get their thoughts:
Marlie (in FRE 115) and Shannon (will be taking FRE 213 in the Fall).

How did you find out about the conversation hours?

Marlie: Through my 115 class

Shannon: I saw Pi Delta Phi's posts on Instagram and considered attending, but I was too shy until I came with Marlie.

When you first heard about it, what did you think?

Were you excited, imitated, nervous, etc.?

Marlie: I was really nervous because I was not super confident in my French abilities, but my friend convinced me that she would help me the entire time.

Shannon: I was super excited to meet others who are also interested in speaking French, but I also didn't have the courage to show up alone.

Now that you have gone, does it help you?

Marlie: Yes!

Shannon: Yes! My vocabulary has improved, I have made so many close friendships, and I get help every week on how to manage my French major and study abroad ideas.

Do you like going?

Marlie: It is a close inclusive group that encourages putting yourself out there and trying your best wherever you're at.

Shannon: Of course! We're all very close, and we talk about everything and anything.

What is your favorite part/ memory of/from conversation hour?

Marlie: My favorite part of conversation hours is the people.

Shannon: Maybe doing the Easter egg hunt, or just generally connecting with my friends.

Something that you are looking forward to in future conversation hours?

Marlie: I am looking forward to improving my French conversational abilities.

Shannon: I love snacks and Marlie.

Anything else you want to share about conversation hours?

Marlie: Come! It's fun!

Shannon: They have really nice vibes, and you honestly learn so much!



Student Teacher Highlights: Kateri and Abby

Interview by Adriana Rosales

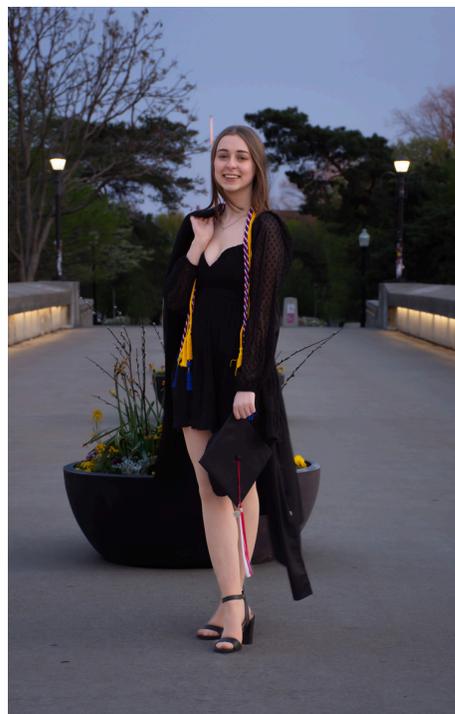


Kateri: “I wanted to teach French because I love the culture and the language. I am passionate about languages and they have always been an important part of my identity as a native Spanish speaker. However, while Spanish is my comfort language, French is my dessert. It’s something that I very much enjoy teaching. When I studied abroad in France I learned to make connections with their culture and my own and realized I wanted to discover more. As a French Teacher I have the opportunity to share these experiences and encourage students to explore different cultures, languages, and ideas that exist in the Francophone world. My best memory so far in student-teaching was when I did a readers section with my French classes. They all found it difficult to read only in French but with the help of a guiding question packet, which I created, they were able to read in French! My students all enjoyed the chapter book that they read and they said how much they liked having the guiding questions packet to help them read.

It made me feel great that I had created something that not only helped the students but made them feel more confident about understanding French. I have enjoyed teaching all my French classes and the rapport that I have created with them will make me miss them once I finish my student-teaching experience. Of course I have to mention the incredible support I received from the World Languages Department at Maine East. All the teachers made me feel so welcome and I love having daily conversations with them. Overall, I have had a wonderful and positive student-teaching experience and I feel optimistic about what will come next !!”



Abby: “I decided to teach French because it is something I have always been passionate about, and I had so many amazing and fun French teachers in my life who inspired me to do the same. Student teaching was admittedly very overwhelming up until spring break. Although ISU prepared me well, the lifestyle and routine change, plus the amount of work that comes with being a teacher was a lot to handle. But, it got easier. Eventually, I got ahead in my planning and was able to breathe a bit. One thing that made it worth it was, of course, the students. So many of them are so smart and funny, and seeing their growth is incredible. My favorite memories are when we do silly activities that make us all laugh and smile, like games, drawing, acting, singing, and dancing (yes, I made high schoolers do Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes in French). Teaching can be hard, but these moments make it worth it. Merci to all my students and fellow teachers at Riverside Brookfield High School for joining me as I start my teaching career!”



Department Collaborations

LAN Banquet

Written by Adriana Rosales

On March 20th, 2024, the LAN Exec Board held the first ever LAN Banquet at the Aaron Leetch Club at Hancock Stadium. We enjoyed multicultural music and appetizers as well as engaging in karaoke in different languages! It was amazing to see all the language clubs under the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures come together to celebrate each other and all of our accomplishments this school year. Professors in this department were able to recognize students that received scholarships and we all celebrated them together. We also had fun taking group photo booth pictures as well as pictures around our beautiful venue. We hope this banquet can continue to be an event for generations to come!

Karaoke Night

Written by Tiffani Kawa

In early February, all of the ISU language clubs got together and sang karaoke. It was a lot of fun and super inclusive with songs in French, German, Spanish, and many more languages. Each language club also brought food from one of their language's cultures. Pi Delta Phi/Francophone Club brought croissants and Nutella; there was also baked pasta, chips and salsa and much more! Students had a great time singing and spending time with each other!



Merci d'avoir lu notre petit journal!
