

# Le Petit Journal Français

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PI DELTA PHI

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## Notre comité exécutif:

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Présidente, Junior

### Adyson Bradley:

Vice-présidente, Senior

### Shannon Beaune-Lala:

Secrétaire, Sophomore

### Hannah Brown:

Secrétaire, Freshman

### Matthew English:

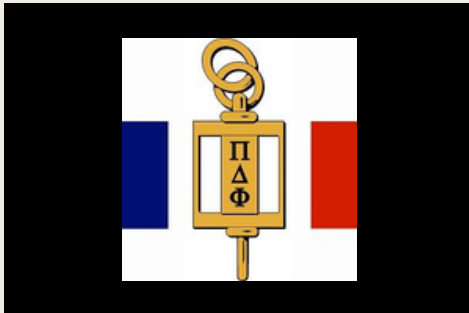
Relations publiques,  
Freshman

### Colette Reckamp:

Relations publiques,  
Freshman

### Faculty Advisors:

Laura Edwards and  
Sandra Keller



INTERESTED IN  
FRANCOPHONE CLUB OR  
PI DELTA PHI?

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## Conversation Hours – written by Hannah Brown

Conversation hours (*les heures de conversation*) are hosted twice each week by Pi Delta Phi, ISU's French Honor Society, in the Language Commons, STV 227B. They are fantastic opportunities for students to work on their French skills in a supportive environment, as well as have fun conversing with their peers! We also frequently play games and discuss current events.

This semester, several conversation hours were themed. We celebrated Valentine's Day (*la Saint-Valentin*), Mardi Gras/Carnaval, and Easter (*Pâques*) together, which included Valentine's cookies, King Cake, and crafts. We enjoyed making Valentines and Mardi Gras masks, as well as holding an Easter Egg Hunt!

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

## **TAPIF Zoom with Fletcher Peterson - written by Matthew English**

Fletcher, an ISU 2024 alum who majored in Journalism and minored in French and Francophone Studies, has spent the last year in the Toulouse region of France working with the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF) as an English teaching assistant at a high school. He was gracious enough to give a wonderful and very informative presentation via Zoom – despite the time difference! – about his time being in the classroom. He shared what the application process was like, what tips and tricks he learned when becoming settled in France, and his experiences teaching for the very first time. He also shared that he has fallen in love with the French way of life, and eagerly implores fellow ISU students to consider becoming a TAPIF assistant after graduation. 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 Fletcher for his time and generosity – *on te souhaite bonne continuation, Fletcher !*

## **La Saint-Valentin - written By Tiffani Kawa**

This year conversation hour was very fun-filled for the week of St. Valentine's. The attendees enjoyed decorating and eating cookies. We also all drew hearts with messages of love. It was a special time to reflect (*en francais*) on all of the things we are grateful for in life.

## **Chasse au trésor - written by Colette Reckamp**

This conversation hour presented a puzzle for attendees, with small plastic eggs hidden across Stevenson. Following clues written by Pi Delta Phi board members, attendees learned new treasure-hunt-related vocab words and tested their teamwork skills. A convo hour classic that we will definitely bring back, this year's *chasse au trésor* was a great success with everyone leaving as a winner.





## French 115 and 116 Field Trips



FRE 115 Visite d'Uptown Normal

1. **Décrivons** ce que (*what*) nous voyons autour de nous maintenant dans autant de détail que possible. Combien de mots de vocabulaire de l'Unité 12 (p. 538) pouvez-vous trouver?
2. **Chasse au trésor! (Scavenger Hunt)** Essayez d'être le premier groupe d'arriver à CoffeeHouse avec **4** photos. Voici vos possibilités :
  - a. Un lieu où vous aimez dépenser de l'argent
  - b. Un lieu pour retirer de l'argent
  - c. Des gens qui font la queue (*pas de visages dans la photo ! prenez les pieds, etc.*)
  - d. Un salon de beauté ou un coiffeur
  - e. Un endroit où poster une lettre
  - f. Quelque chose qui vous aide à vous orienter
  - g. Une bijouterie
  - h. Une papeterie
  - i. Une mairie
  - j. Un service ou un magasin qui est fermé maintenant

Une fois arrivés à CoffeeHouse, vous nous montrerez vos photos ET vous décrirez la route exacte que vous avez prise pour les prendre (par exemple : *Du rond-point d'Uptown, nous avons pris la rue North vers l'ouest et nous avons continué jusqu'à un pot de fleurs à gauche.*

*Si vous avez entendu des étudiant·es qui parlaient français à Uptown Normal, voici pourquoi!*

Dr. Keller, who frequently teaches FRE 115 and 116 (Intermediate French, Parts I and II), is passionate about giving students opportunities to apply their classroom learning in real-world contexts. This past semester, she organized field trips to locations such as Uptown Normal, where students participated in a scavenger hunt using vocabulary and expressions from class, and to the University Galleries, where they practiced art- and health-related vocabulary while exploring and discussing an exhibit by ISU alum Margaret Crowley that explores our health, wellness, and pain management industries through art.

**FRE 209: French Phonetics**  
**Written by Hannah Brown**

French Phonetics, taught by Dr. Howell, takes a scientific approach to French pronunciation. This course focuses on the proper formation of French sounds, as well as the practical application of the theory of phonetics. Students learn to transcribe passages in French using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and work on their pronunciation of French words and phrases. Other topics include distinctions between similarly-pronounced vowels and consonants, the organs of speech, and rules of intonation and liaisons. Assessments in this course are both written and oral. While the content can appear overwhelming at first glance, it is an enjoyable and informative experience that enhances the French skills of all students!

**FRE 215: Advanced Grammar and Oral Proficiency**  
**Written by Matthew English**

This course, taught by Dr. Nikolova, invites students of all levels to a consolidated review of French grammar, with a focus on particularly troublesome points. The course textbook, *Controverses*, includes a breadth of topics with each having a *point* and *contre-point* with related articles, vocabulary, and cultural ties, all related to various topics concerning either Francophone or global issues. We are also given many opportunities to practice our oral proficiency through classroom debates, using textbook material to support our arguments.

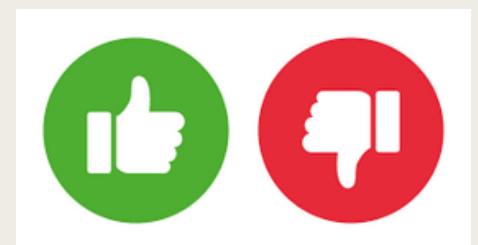
**FRE 386: Topics in French and Francophone Cinema**  
**Written by Tiffani Kawa**

One of the amazing French elective classes offered this semester is 386, a topics course about French and Francophone cinema. The course, taught by Dr. Ponnou-Delaffon, has focused on the history and origins of French cinema. Together as a class, we have analyzed a variety of films, learning about filmmakers, their styles, recurring themes, and different critical approaches dependent on time periods. We have watched about one movie a week throughout the semester. Everyone has been able to pick out a movie of their choice about which to do a presentation and essay analysis. It has been a pleasure to be in this class and learn something new every week while testing my skills.

**LES VOYELLES NASALES**

[ɛ̃]	[ɑ̃]	[ɔ̃]
pain	blanc	pont

Master Your French



# LANGUAGES WEEK, March 3-6

## Poster Display — all week long

For this year's Carnival celebration, members of Pi Delta Phi created vibrant hand-made posters showcasing the unique traditions of four Francophone regions: Nice, France; New Orleans, USA; Québec, Canada; and Martinique. Each poster featured a distinct color scheme, font, and theme to reflect the spirit of its respective region. These were displayed in a high-traffic area—on the second floor of Stevenson Hall—so that passersby could easily stop, skim the blurbs, and learn something new about each place's festivities. The final display was colorful, engaging, and educational. **Written by Shannon Beaune-Lala**

## Carnaval Celebration — Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

On Wednesday, Pi Delta Phi hosted a special edition of our regular Francophone Club conversation hour. In addition to practicing their French, attendees decorated traditional Carnival masks and enjoyed slices of King Cake, adding a festive touch to our usual language practice. Altogether, the celebration was a fun and creative way to honor Francophone cultures and bring students together through art, food, and language. **Written by Shannon Beaune-Lala**



## Francophone Panel — Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

As part of our celebration of Languages Week, we took the opportunity to shine a spotlight on our vibrant Francophone community by hosting a special panel event. This panel brought together several of our community members who shared personal stories, insights, and reflections on what being Francophone means to them. It was a meaningful conversation that highlighted the cultural richness and diversity within the French-speaking world. Among the countries represented during the discussion were Burkina Faso, with insights from Somé; Morocco, with perspectives shared by Ghali; and Haiti, represented by David. Amanda also contributed to the panel, offering her unique experiences and connection to the Francophone identity. The event served not only as a celebration of language but also as a powerful reminder of how language connects us to culture, heritage, and one another. **Written by Adyson Bradley**

## **French and Francophone Studies student Interview**

Pi Delta Phi reached out to *heure de conversation* participant, Alani, to learn how she experienced this extracurricular activity.

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

I found out about *l'heure de conversation* through my roommate, Shannon! I was planning on starting my French minor in the spring, since I studied it all throughout high school and really wanted to continue my learning. However, I was scared that I would be unprepared since it had been 2 years since I had actively been learning it—so I decided to go to the conversation hours to expose myself to the language and practice my speaking before taking my actual course!

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

In the beginning, I was actually very nervous. It had been a while since I practiced it, and although my comprehension levels were good, I hadn't ever really practiced my speaking abilities outside of class. It was a little intimidating at first, especially since I was having to dig through my memory to remember how to formulate responses, but in the end it was actually very helpful and educational! Everyone was very warm and welcoming, and willing to be patient with me when I was struggling with a response.

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

Conversation hours have really helped with a lot of different areas as I learn the language. My conversational and comprehension skills have significantly improved since attending, and it's also helped my self-confidence when speaking in French. Now that I've actually started talking in my French classes, I'm able to practice things I learned and make connections that really further my understanding of the language as I learn.

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

I think one of my favorite memories from *l'heure de conversation* is when we were playing the "Mot non poli" game! It was very entertaining to watch everyone play together, as well as the chaos that unfolded.

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

Play more games! I really enjoy when we're able to get together as a group and practice our French while also making it entertaining. Something else that could be fun could be trying francophone foods?

## French and Francophone Studies student Interview, continued

**Could you speak about what you appreciate about a current French course of yours or the French program in general? (For example, how students interact, how you feel your skills are developing and why, where you've found community, or anything else that comes to mind!)**

I really appreciate a lot of things about my current French course, as well as the French program in general. As I mentioned, I took French in high school, and although it definitely gave me a foundation to build on, I often felt like there wasn't as much stress on things like pronunciation or actual speaking. My French 112 class is already such a big leap from what I learned in high school, and I really appreciate how much time our professor spends helping us with pronunciation and speaking, teaching us about the culture, and challenging what we know with our daily activities in class. It's a much more engaging experience compared to my high school experience, and everyone in the department has been incredibly warm and welcoming!

### Les divertissements

*Nous espérons que ces  
divertissements vous plairont!*

#### Fav songs, films, tv shows, books, food

##### Food:

King Cake  
Kouign-amann  
Paris-Brest  
Brandade de morue

##### FILMS:

Été 85 - François Bozon  
Loup-garous - François Uzan  
Le Grand bleu - Luc Besson

##### TV Shows :

Lupin  
Dix pourcent  
Family business

##### MUSIC:

Ta reine - Angèle  
Non, je ne regrette rien - Edith Piaf  
L'amour, Les baguettes, Paris - Stella Jang

##### BOOKS:

Arrête avec tes mensonges & En l'absence des hommes- Philippe Besson  
Arsène Lupin l'édition complète - Maurice Leblanc  
Le Petit prince - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

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

**MERCI D'AVOIR LU NOTRE PETIT JOURNAL!**