

## **The Petrossian-Tarrant Scholarship Fund**

### **History**

Alumni and friends of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures initiated the Petrossian-Tarrant Scholarship in honor of two influential Illinois State University foreign language faculty members: Dr. George A. Petrossian and Dr. Patrick Tarrant. These former students wanted to recognize Drs. Petrossian and Tarrant through their gifts to the Petrossian-Tarrant Scholarship fund. The Petrossian-Tarrant Scholarship fund was established to supplement travel abroad expenses for Illinois State University foreign language students.

Of Armenian birth, Dr. George Petrossian served in the U.S. army (stationed in Italy) from 1945-1947. Following the war, he received his B.A., M.A., and PhD. from the University of Michigan, in 1950, 1952, and 1974, respectively. He joined Illinois State in 1963, and he taught at the University until his retirement in 1991. During his long career, he served in the College Council and the Academic Senate. He was also Director of the Illinois State Summer Program in French at Grenoble, France, from 1970 until 1999. He also served as the host of the popular Cercle Français (now in its 45th year). Even after "retirement" George hosted the French Coffee Hour every week, arriving early to prepare the coffee and cookies. Dr. Petrossian was inducted as Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques in 1993. This award, founded by Napoleon in 1808, is conferred by the French Ministry of National Education upon those foreign citizens who have contributed to the diffusion of the French Language and Culture.

Dr. Tarrant received his B.A. in French from the National University of Ireland in 1947, his M.A. in French from the same institution in 1949, and his Ed.D. in French from Columbia University in 1960. Throughout a long and varied career, he taught in Ireland, England and France, as well as the United States. He was a member of the faculty at Illinois State University from 1963 until his retirement in 1987. During that time, he served as Chair of the French Section (1965-1974), member of the Academic Senate (1971-76), and Chair of the College Curriculum Committee (1965-68), as well as member of numerous other department, college, and university committees. He organized and directed the very first summer session in French for Illinois State at Grenoble in 1969. He was also very active in the IAHE, of which he served as president on two occasions (1975-76 and 1978-79).

### **Scholarship awards**

Preference will be given to awarding the scholarship for the Summer Grenoble program. If no candidate for the summer program is found to meet the qualifications, qualifying candidates for the fall/spring Angers or Quebec programs, or the summer Quebec program will be considered for the award.

**Scholarship candidate qualifications**

Each candidate for a Petrossian-Tarrant Scholarship must be or have:

- A. Enrolled in good standing at Illinois State University and must meet the prerequisites to participate in the French language study abroad program endorsed by the French faculty at Illinois State.
- B. Demonstrated financial need.
- C. Demonstrated strong academic achievement, as evidenced by a cumulative grade point average in French of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 scale and an overall GPA of 3.0
- D. Candidate must submit two letters of recommendation from Illinois State University faculty members.

**Please fill out the form below and turn in to STV 114. Application deadline: The first Monday of April each year.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Major/Minor \_\_\_\_\_

French GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

**French Classes Completed:**

French 111  French 115  Other \_\_\_\_\_

French 112  French 116  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Study Abroad Program you plan to attend:**

Grenoble  Quebec  Angers

Summer  Fall  Spring  Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of Financial Aid at ISU submitted by student:

Two letters of recommendation have been requested and will be submitted by faculty members:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_