

L'Élan

Bulletin de la Société Honoraire de Français et des Jeunes Amis du Français

Sous la plume de la présidente....

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Welcome and **Bienvenue** to our first-ever online version of the newsletter of the *Société Honoraire de Français* and *Jeunes Amis du Français*!!

As I write this, my husband is watching *le Tour de France*, and we have just returned from Saint Louis, where Katy, Justin and I had such fun, talking to so many wonderful sponsors at our breakfast. Only other teachers can understand that even during the summer, we are thinking of school! At our presentation, I was able to share the real reason that I founded my own chapter in 2000. While I certainly wanted to recognize outstanding scholarship in French class, more importantly I wanted to build an *esprit du corps* among my students and to honor their kindness and generosity towards their fellow classmates, their school and community, the francophone world, and others in need. However you envision your chapter, from honorary to very active, we hope to help and inspire you.

September is the month of new beginnings. Perhaps the most wonderful part of our job is that it is a year-long journey that ends in June, allows us time over the summer to reflect and reenergize, and gives us the possibility of starting anew and doing even better. For Katy, Justin, and me, this is especially appreciated as we have now begun our second year. While our term of office began officially in January, we set to work in Austin last summer when we redesigned the Annual Report and made it online submission only and created a Facebook page. It has been a great year for the “three blind mice”, as Katy called us! We learned so much as we began leadership of this wonderful organization and worked hard to add our own vision. We thank former president Sharon Rapp for all her help, and for staying on through the spring issue of the *Élan* as editor and as Travel Award chair. As you see, *L'Élan* is now online with a new editor, Roseann Lorefice. Along with our devoted SHF Secretary, Christy Brown, at headquarters, we are ready for a wonderful year.

Sous la plume...suite

Our two contests: The Creative Writing Award and the Travel Award will be online submission only this year as well; and the deadline for the Travel Award has been advanced to January. We have designed rubrics and are posting them as well so as to better help you guide your students as they prepare their entries that you will submit for them. We think that the online forms will also help you avoid any problems of eligibility. Justin Charles will be chairing the Travel Award committee, and Katy Wheelock will be chairing the Creative Writing Award committee until her term ends on December 31. There will be an election for her position as Teacher Representative this fall, and Justin and I look forward to helping our one “blind mouse” with whatever needs to be done!

As we read your reports this summer, we were absolutely amazed by all that you do and so grateful for the enthusiastic response we received from sponsors about sharing ideas. We hope you enjoy this new addition to the Élan – we are delighted to share your ideas and give visibility to your program.

As we put our finishing touches on our first newsletter, our prayers are with our members on the beautiful island of St. Maarten who was so hard hit by hurricane Irma today. Our thoughts will be with our Puerto Rico, Florida and southeast coast colleagues as they prepare for its arrival and with our Texas members as they rebuild their lives and their homes devastated from the winds and water of Harvey.

As you greet your new students, welcome back your returning ones in your freshly cleaned and decorated rooms, face the challenges of multiple preps and large or combined classes, and strive to make a difference in the lives of the children before you, our best wishes accompany you for a memorable year. *Bonne rentrée*

--Abbe

STATISTIQUES

FROM CHRISTY BROWN, SECRETARY OF THE SHF

Active SHF Charters: 1244 (3696 total Charters)
New SHF Charters: 149
Active JAF Charters: 52
New JAF Charters: 12



Orders filled last year: 2111
Certificates Issued last year: 22,703
Honor Cords Worn at Graduation last year: 7900

Reminder: The SHF charter is linked to your school. If you become the new sponsor of an existing SHF chapter, you need not reapply for a charter; simply contact Christy Brown (shf@frenchteachers.org) to inform her of the change in sponsorship. If, however, you left a school where you were the sponsor of a chapter and begin working in a new school that has never had a charter, you must apply for a charter for that new school.

At the beginning of the year, it is also important to keep in mind that your status as an active charter requires, as per the national constitution (Section VI: Chapter Status, sections 2 and 3) that you submit an Annual Report each spring and that you order inductions. Christy is now going through all chapters to determine which chapters will be considered inactive; however, it would be helpful for you to contact her with any missing information.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST 2018



Concours 2018: Creative Writing / Composition Originale

Catégorie A = Niveaux 2-3

Catégorie B = Niveaux 4-6

The topic for this year's writing competition may be addressed in a variety of tenses. You may choose to respond to the question in poetry, conversation, prose or a combination thereof. Note that all directions for the Creative Writing Contest are available on the AATF website, www.frenchteachers.org/shf/creativewriting. The deadline for this contest is February 1, 2018 (23h59).

TERMINEZ CETTE PHRASE ET ECRIVEZ L'HISTOIRE QUI L'ACCOMPAGNE: « Vous n'allez jamais me croire quand je vous dis que je...mais c'est bien vrai et je peux vous le prouver. »

SHF TRAVEL AWARD 2018



La Société Honoraire de Français is delighted to once again offer a generous \$1000 Travel Award to an outstanding French student who is an active member of SHF to help defray the cost of travel in a formal program during the current academic year or the following summer. It should be understood that given the

January 17, 2018 application deadline, the award may arrive after the final payment for a spring or summer trip is due, or even after a fall or winter trip. Note that all directions for the Travel Award are available on the AATF website, www.frenchteachers.org/shf/travelaward.

CALENDRIER



November 1 – 7, 2017

November 13 – 17, 2017

January 17, 2018

February 1, 2018

February 11 – 24, 2018

February 24 – March 25, 2018

March 5 – 11, 2018

July 18 – 21, 2018

National French Week

International Education Week

SHF Travel Award Deadline

Creative Writing Award Deadline

Le Grand Concours, Grades 1 – 6 (FLES)

*Le Grand Concours, Grades 7 – 12
(Levels 01 – 5)*

National Foreign Language Week

91st Annual AATF Convention,

La Pointe-du-Bout, Martinique

Au Marché

(courtesy of Justin Charles)

Earlier this year, we sent out a survey to all sponsors asking what materials they would like to see us offer in the future. We received responses from about 350 SHF and JAF sponsors. Based upon those responses, we evaluated the areas of most need for both SHF and JAF, and got to work. We are thrilled to be able to announce that seven new items will be available in the near future, with at least another three becoming available in 2018. As items become available you will receive an e-mail notification, and they will be added to the online store and the printable order form on the website. All prices below include Priority Mail shipping.

Available Now/Soon:

SHF Banner (\$65) –
24” x 48” red vinyl banner with logo and “Société Honoraire de Français”

SHF Graduation Stoles (\$19) –
a royal blue satin stole with logo and “SHF” printed in gold.

SHF Certificate Covers (\$2, 10/\$15, 20/\$28) –
navy folder with SHF logo embossed in gold

SHF Invitations and Envelopes (12/\$10) –
white invitations with SHF/AATF on front and short pre-printed message in English and French with room for information on the local ceremony inside.

SHF Pens (10/\$6.50) –
Blue pens with “Celui qui sait deux langues en vaut deux”

SHF Pencils (10/\$5.50) – Red pencils with “Société Honoraire de Français”
JAF Pencils (10/\$5.50) – Green pencils with “Jeunes Amis du Français”

Coming in 2018:

SHF T-Shirt – a new design to be offered alongside the current t-shirt

JAF T-shirt – a new t-shirt available in both youth and adult sizes

Registry Book – a leather-bound book for students to sign as part of an induction ceremony.

There were a few items that sadly did not “make the cut” this year due to low demand or a variety of expectations on what the items would be. While we are not currently pursuing offering these items at this time, we may revisit the possibility of offering them in the future.

La Bourse aux Idées

(editor's note: This is a new feature of our online newsletter. Feel free to submit articles to the editor and share your chapter activities and special events. As you prepare your article, please keep in mind that our goal is to share not only the activity but how you organized it. It is often very helpful to note how large your school is, as some activities are more successful in a large or small school community. Also, organization, funding and timeline are all helpful.

CHAPTER: Mount Paran Christian School

LOCATION: Kennesaw, GA

SPONSOR: Jennifer Bonn

Every year for the past five years, our French Club and French National Honor Society have hosted a breakfast for the entire high school (population 450) on the Friday of National French Week. We charge a fee for both the French Club and The French National Honor Society, and I use some of this money for basic things like paper goods and water. My students all sign up to bring in food (either homemade or store-bought) such as macarons, cherry tarts, brioches, palmiers, petits fours, and quiche, and my youngest daughter and I spend the night before making about 200 crêpes and madeleines. Our maintenance department sets up tables for me, I use tablecloths that I bought at the thrift store, and we usually decorate the room a little. We also have French music playing.



I see how proud my students are when they are serving the food. When someone says “What is this for?” My students will say “It’s National French Week!” I always hear several Spanish students say “Man, I wish I had taken French.” It also gives us a chance to show a little bit of what French is about. It also feels good to serve a free meal to students who have not had time for breakfast. They remember the kindness.

I love when school starts and we have our first meeting because there is always a student who says “Are we serving breakfast to the high school again, ‘cause I know what I’m going to make!” When our students leave us, they will remember activities like these more than they will remember how to conjugate the subjunctive. Although I hope they remember both, I will be happy if they pass on their love of French to someone else because of their positive experience.



Students enjoying a complimentary French “petit déjeuner” at Mt. Paran Christian School.

CHAPTER: William Henry Harrison High School

LOCATION: Harrison, Ohio

SPONSOR: Alana J. Minor

WHHHS French students endeavored this year to raise funds for the Belgian non-profit, APOPO. APOPO is based in Tanzania and trains Giant African Pouched Rats, called Hero Rats, to detect landmines and munitions in ex-conflict areas in Africa and the southwestern Asian peninsula, as well as to detect tuberculosis in several African countries. This service project raised awareness within the classes and the school about global health and welfare in parts of the world that don't usually get discussed in traditional curriculums. To adopt a HeroRat (the adoption is in the sense that you fund their care for a calendar year; the HeroRat will not come to live with you!), it is either \$7 a month or a one-time donation of \$77. Students in the Honor Society helped create informational flyers for the fundraiser. French students participated by bringing in cash or coins and for some it was foregoing a snack in the afternoon.



The students raised enough money to fund two HeroRats, Ikemba and Chewa. Ikemba sniffs out landmines in Angola, and Chewa sniffs out tuberculosis in Tanzania. Each month, APOPO sends an e-mail with updates about the HeroRats and statistics about their work. Students love hearing about how "their heroes" are doing and tracking their progress. We "adopted" two rat plush toys from Ikea to represent Ikemba and Chewa in the classroom, and students wrote French valentines to the HeroRats for Valentine's Day.



This coming year, we are expanding our fundraising efforts to include the entire school. We plan on making a "commercial" to be shown on our CCTV morning news. One of the most amazing items one can donate to APOPO is a full protection suit (\$620) for those who are tasked with de-mining an area. My French students are confident they can raise enough money. In addition, my advanced students will make a French-language commercial to be uploaded to YouTube and sent to my local Alliance Française and several other Francophone organizations.

Students reported feeling more cognizant of their global citizenship and more capable of creating change at home and elsewhere. Adopting HeroRats, or even funding a HeroRat gift, is an act that will give students a more meaningful connection to the world at large, as well as new respect for those working to change our world. (pictures: Our "Hero Rat" and handler with rat.)

CHAPTER: Learning Unlimited Preparatory School

LOCATION: St. Maarten

SPONSOR: Anolan Hernandez

Every year we celebrate “*The French Day*”, dedicated to French culture, in our entire school. Our 300 students come to school dressed to represent a French country or region, including African dresses, and dresses from the francophone side of our island: Saint Martin. Even our teachers will dress up and try and speak French! Our parents provide the funds to purchase a petit déjeuner of croissants, pains au chocolat, and orange juice for each child in the school.



In class, high-school students present various projects about French monuments, French cuisine, or French artists. Middle-school students recite French poésie, such as “*Mon cartable*” from Pierre Gamarra, “*L’école*” from Jacques Charpentreau, and “*Les petits souliers*” from Maurice Carême. Our elementary school students sing traditional French songs with great pride and amusement.

Though a very tiny island in the Caribbean, St. Maarten benefits and embraces the multicultural richness offered by its inhabitants.

CHAPTER: Naperville North High School

LOCATION: Naperville, Illinois

SPONSOR: Lisa Shamrock

At Naperville North High School, the French Film Festival is a required project for students in French 3, 4, and AP that was created five years ago. Students work individually or in small groups to create a video that corresponds to the theme and guidelines of the AATF’s annual video contest.

Students in each class watch their classmates’ videos, and each class votes for its favorites to be shown at the film festival, which coincides with National French Week. The film festival is an in-school field trip during the last period of the school day to the auditorium where we show the videos on the large screen on stage. We make a YouTube playlist and connect a computer to the projector and speakers. All students of French, including the lower levels, attend the festival and they vote for their favorite at the end. One year we invited the French classes from the junior high feeder schools to attend the festival. Videos that do not meet the AATF requirements for length and copyrighted images can be submitted to the Festival but not to the AATF contest.

La Bourse aux Idées...suite..

CHAPTER: Waterford Union High School

LOCATION: Waterford, Wisconsin

SPONSOR: Karen Morgan

Each November, French classes across the country prepare to celebrate National French Week. My students greatly anticipate this because of our annual tradition of the French Week Scavenger Hunt. This day allows classes to explore French language and culture outside of my classroom. Students compete in groups/partnerships to find answers to trivia questions by the end of the class period. The questions follow a theme and while most of my themes challenge students to discover Francophone world outside of our community, the students' favorite theme over the years has been "The French Connection"—exploring our local community's French connections with the world. Students discover facts about their own "non-French" teachers' French connections.



A few weeks before the scavenger hunt, I send out a Google forms survey to the staff, asking them to share any French connections they have. I am always overwhelmed with how many staff members have studied French, traveled to French-speaking countries, or simply appreciate a French cultural interest. They shared incredible anecdotes: a Phy-Ed teacher shared a story of visiting Paris in high school, tumbling at the Arc de Triomphe, and visiting the emergency room; A Science teacher shared that her husband has the image of Seurat's *La Grande Jatte* tattooed on his back. I collected many staff anecdotes and assembled a handout for students to fill in as they wandered the school. I wrote clues to hang outside of the classroom of each teacher whose fact I would include. I created a few "Zonks" to keep them guessing. I turned the students loose at the beginning of class to find the answers.

The staff's French connections formed unexpected emotional connections with my students, who realized that many of their teachers shared a common interest in the Francophone world. Sharing the French connection with other staff also allowed the "non-French" staff members to become part of our French family. The scavenger hunt also creates fun moments of reminiscence. I might say, "Remember Mrs. R.'s story about saying "chapeau" instead of "chaussure" when trying to explain to a French conductor how her sister lost her sandal as she stepped into a train?" These moments reinforce the adventure and joy we've experienced with French which we hope to pass on to our students to discover for themselves. This scavenger hunt served not only as an engaging activity, but as a true emotional bridge that expanded our French family and allowed my students to see the true connection that Francophone cultures bring. Vive La Semaine Française et Les Chasses au Trésor!



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Survey link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPbfbDc4ndXqcvTY9hj7gl3q0_auyHQNgu00B1z9NkezGn2w/viewform?usp=sf_linkSurvey link:

Student handout:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wyYYT5XgWIpj8XBIIdY1Jbe0IWYNsRrMAUo19HLD3GTQ/edit?usp=sharing>

CHAPTER: Trinity Preparatory School

LOCATION: Winter Park, Florida

SPONSOR: Vanessa Spallone

This past year, we strengthened our peer tutoring program. We created Google Forms, which we shared with all current members to determine who could stop by our French classrooms after school to tutor our struggling students and when they were able to volunteer. We also created a FHS group remind.com so that both peer tutors and students would not forget to stop by. A calendar was pinned to the bulletin board, and both FHS peer tutors and students wrote their names every time they worked together to help us keep track of everyone's work. The FHS peer tutoring program was recognized as community service at our school, which was an additional motivating factor. Struggling students were matched with a FHS peer tutor for a full semester. Others would come before a quiz, test or oral and were helped by whoever was on call that day. It was a very successful year!



on

CHAPTER: Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School

LOCATION: Rumson, New Jersey

SPONSOR: Christine Berg

Being the advisor to the French Bulldawgs, the Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School chapter of the *Société Honoraire de Français*, has been one of the best experiences of my teaching career as it has allowed me to bring the mission statement of the constitution relating to Francophone cultures to life. It has had a tremendous impact, not only my classes, but on the entire school community.

One of the most important initiatives the French Bulldawgs have undertaken has been the relationship that we have established with the *Haitian People's Support Project*, based in Woodstock, NY. We have worked closely with them over the last five years to support a school and an orphanage in Haiti. Each year, we sponsor a basketball tournament, "Hoops for Haiti", which recruits students from the entire student body as well as staff members to compete. Each team member must donate \$5 in order to play. Our superintendent has participated every year, which lends tremendous support to the event. The winners receive a small gift certificate to a local French bakery and a t-shirt proclaiming them "Hoops for Haiti Champion"! They also have their picture displayed on the television in the cafeteria for the entire student body to see.

My students and I have had the profound satisfaction of knowing that our contributions have made a significant difference in the lives of children in Haiti. We have even been fortunate enough to receive a visit from one of the teachers at the school who came to thank us for all of our support. Our work with the Haitian People's Support project has truly fostered an understanding of a Francophone culture and has created a lasting friendship with the wonderful Haitian people we have met. For more information about the Haitian People's Support Project, go to: www.haitiansupportproject.org

CHAPTER: Linden High School
LOCATION: Linden, New Jersey
SPONSOR: Asumpta Foy

Following in the footsteps of their predecessors, this year's SHF members offered a breakfast 'à la française' on Friday, February 24 from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. to the Linden High School faculty and staff. Though this activity usually takes place during Teacher Appreciation week or National French Week, this year, we decided to make it part of the week-long activities leading up to Mardi Gras celebration.

For teachers to get their breakfast, they had to order their food in French! So, they used every resource available to them. They learned basic French restaurants phrases from students, French teachers, interactive language programs on their MacBook Airs or on their cell phones. Before the day of the breakfast, students made announcements every morning informing faculty and staff about the breakfast thus, giving them enough time to get their French on!

The teacher's cafeteria was transformed into a French Café with some favorite French tunes from Edith Piaf and Charles Aznavour, to Lara Fabian playing in the background while faculty and staff savored their 'petit-déjeuner'.

This event took place only because of the hard work of members who organized many fundraisers from the beginning of the school year, donations from parents and the support of our principal as well as the board of education.



CHAPTER: Charlotte Christian School
LOCATION: Charlotte, North Carolina
SPONSOR: Dawn Young

Danser Fiesta, was designed to promote interest in foreign language study through a cooperative effort with fellow Spanish and Latin students. With the incentive of some extra class credit, delicious food, fun games, and cultural music, all language students are invited. Students create and post flyers, broadcast announcements, and sell tickets during lunchtime the week preceding the event.

Entirely organized and staffed by students and new inductees to *la Société Honoraire de Français*, the Danser Fiesta takes place in one of the school's gyms. Sparked by the DJ skills of one SHF member, students show off some cross-cultural dance moves as they enjoy the mix of French and Spanish pop music - as well as the lights, decorated tables, game and craft stations, photo booth (stocked with Madame Young's *vêtements extraordinaires!*).



At the food table - run by another inspired SHF officer, attendees can have made-to-order Nutella or cinnamon crêpes as well as chips, salsa, and grapes to integrate the Spanish and Latin cultures. To test number and alphabet skills, Madame Young and Señora Nieto lead a couple of rounds of *Bilingo Bingo*, reading letters and numbers off in both French and Spanish. Other event highlights include a piñata, corn hole, waiter race, and (most importantly!) dancing. Approximately 50 students each year purchase tickets and attend, with surplus money from ticket sales being donated in 2016 to a missionary family in Lyon, France, and in 2017 used to fund a French food day event to culminate the

school year for French students. Although original organizers have graduated, they began a wonderful cross-cultural event which current members wish to expand and adapt to continue promoting and modeling linguistic cooperation and celebration.

« COUP d'ŒIL » sur

CHAPTER : Corinth Central High School
LOCATION : Corinth, New York
SPONSOR : Heidi Mullen

WHAT : In a small, rural school, the highlight of Induction Ceremonies is a joint ceremony between the French and Spanish Honor Societies. The highlight is presentations of original skits by the Level 4 and 5 students. Productions are original with students providing props, scenery and costumes. It promotes excitement and motivation among the younger inductees and fosters pride among the parents attending. In addition, a community member will address the group and tell how the study of language has impacted his/her life. Often, the speaker is a former student who will speak about personal experiences in the Peace Corps, study abroad, global internships, au pair experiences and career choices. Technology has added to the program by providing video clips and photos, with some presentations done via Skype and Facetime. These incredible speeches promote the language programs and goals and provide concrete evidence of the importance of the study of language in everyday life. How amazing to see current and former students from a small, upstate community celebrate their accomplishments in language.

CHAPTER : Newman-Smith High School

LOCATION : Carrollton, Texas

SPONSOR : David Hardy, Raquel Rodriguez

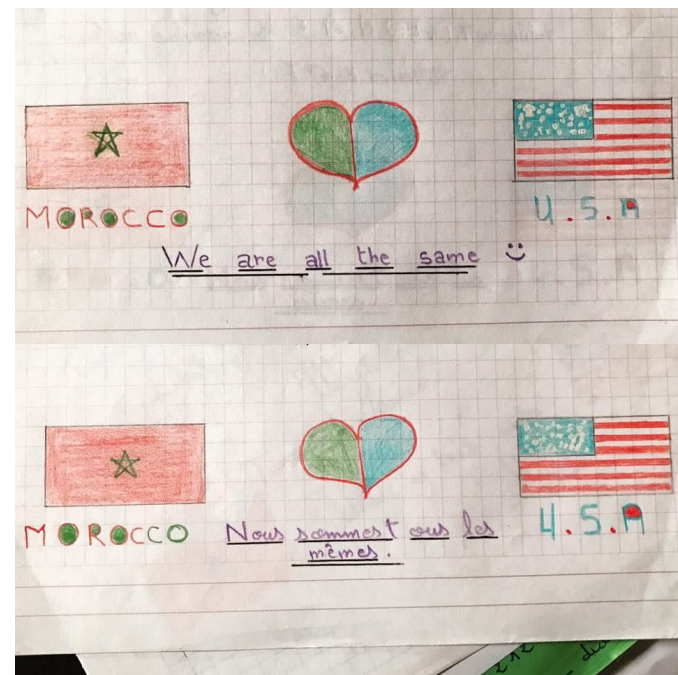
After hearing a Moroccan businessman speak at our school through the [World Affairs Council](#), our students developed a deep interest in Moroccan culture. They inspired us to initiate a pen-pal exchange with [Sidi ou Sidi High School](#) in Taroudant, Morocco to further our cross-culture language learning. We were able to connect with Sidi ou Sidi because of Angel Hardy a former Newman Smith history teacher and the daughter of our former French teacher David Hardy, who had traveled to Sidi ou Sidi as part of a [Teachers for Global Classrooms Fellowship](#) through the U.S. Department of State. There, she met Hassan Aitman, an English teacher working with underprivileged youth through the [MATE-Access program](#). Thanks to the both of them, we began a virtual connection that was particularly exciting because it was Newman Smith's first student exchange with francophone Africa.

We began connecting by exchanging video clips on [YouTube](#) and Dropbox of students introducing themselves in both French and English. We then decided to mail each other handwritten student letters and we used our SHF club funds to pay for the snail mail delivery costs at our local post office. Overall, our initiative was successful because it was facilitated by communicating with Mr. Aitman through e-mail every step of the way, driven by experienced SHF student leaders, and mainly composed of French beginner participants– many of whom were interacting with native French speakers for the first time. Our students learned about the aspirations and passions of Moroccans through their thoughtful letters, and even saw glimpses of their school lives through their personal video messages.

We were very lucky to have Ms. Hardy connect us with a specific school in Morocco; however, we understand that enriching opportunities like this are incredibly unique. We want to encourage all SHF chapters to look for ways to collaborate with French speakers in Africa through organizations helping to connect students globally.

Looking back on the experience, there are some things we would build on if ever given the chance. Connecting students via social media early on would allow us to plant seeds of lifelong friendships more effectively; we could create Facebook groups for easier communication among pen pals, design Padlet forums for student discussions, and organize Google Hangouts video calls to see and learn from each other in real time.

Regardless of what we could further develop, the experience was one that started student-to-student conversations across the globe. A letter from a Moroccan student read “nous sommes tous les mêmes” which means “we are all the same”: this is at the heart of everything our connection represents– realizing that we are all human beings first and foremost. We hope that by connecting with French speakers in Morocco, we equipped our students with the knowledge necessary to break down stereotypes and misconceptions, and become better global citizens in the process. (Article written by Lamisa Mustafa, former president of the SHF and now a freshman at Southern Methodist University.)



EDITOR'S NOTE: It was an honor to be asked by Abbe Guillet, President of the Société Honoraire de Français, to develop an online version of l'Élan, Bulletin de la Société Honoraire de Français et des Jeunes Amis du Français. With much pride and a good deal of effort, we are offering this first édition, to you, the sponsors of the many chapters. We thank the sponsors who responded to our requests for articles. There was, in fact, such a tremendous response that we were unable to include all of them. However, rest assured that the next spring issue will feature them! And we encourage all sponsors to submit articles and photos and share. We will communicate deadlines as well as proper formatting for the spring issue.

There are so many innovative and outstanding activities undertaken by the chapters that it is hoped that sharing them will inspire more to be as creative and productive. How fortunate your students are to have such dedicated world language teachers, involved in both the school and local community. What outstanding role models you are for these future global citizens.

Continue your efforts to share your love of the French language and culture with your students.

*Amitiés,
Roseann*

RENSEIGNEMENTS

Important: Our name is SHF

Pi Delta Phi is the French National Honor Society for college and university undergraduate and graduate students. During past years, Pi Delta Phi has had to ask Facebook chapters of SHF and high school SHF chapter web pages to cease using the name: French National Honor Society, Pi Delta Phi, their Greek letters ($\pi\Delta\phi$), and/or their images to represent SHF. We do not have the right to make use of their name or symbols. Merci beaucoup!

What's new this year in the SHF ?

- Online, online, online! Annual Reports, Contests, and Newsletter!
- A new deadline for the Travel Award: the Wednesday after the MLK weekend, this year: January 17, 2018

SHF National Council Meeting

On July 17, 2017, the members of the SHF National Council met in Saint Louis, Mo. President, Abbe Guillet, Teacher Reps Justin Charles and Katy Wheelock, AATF President Catherine Daniélou, and AATF Executive Director Jayne Abrate, reviewed the progress of the 2017 goals and set the goals for 2018. The Facebook page, which began on January 1, 2017 now has 500 members, and the Annual Report is now online. Roseann Lorefice will serve as editor of l'Élan, which will debut online in the Fall 2017. In 2018, applications for both the Creative Writing and the Travel Award will be online submission only. Sponsors requested additional items be available in the store, and this will be a summer project so as to have these available in the new school year. Final revision of the constitution of JAF to align with SHF as well as more inclusive activities will also be a priority.

Local Constitution

It is most important to create a local constitution of your chapter's *Société Honoraire de Français*, specifically as it relates to **Bylaws I: Membership; 4. Member Status; a and b** of the national constitution (online on the AATF-SHF site). If parents contact the national office to ask about selection or dismissal criteria, they are referred to the particular school and sponsor and ultimately what the local constitution says.

Think about what is important to you and what works for your school. Ask yourself:

- If underclassmen are inducted, is it important to you that they continue to study French throughout high school to retain their membership and wear honor cords at graduation?
- How active must they be in activities and/or service projects?
- Are there any activities, such as National French Week and the *Concours*, that they must participate in?
- What will you do if they do not maintain their grade? What requirements may be imposed by your school?

Once you have completed your local constitution:

- Go over the specifics with your principal and give him copy. Better yet, leave a spot for you both to sign. Explain your reasoning and make sure he supports it.
- In the beginning of the year, give your students a complete checklist of all that they will need to do if they wish to be inducted and what they will need to do to maintain their membership.

Réflexions

Reflections of the 2017 Travel Award Recipients:

SHF is delighted to be able to offer such a generous award, given that student travel is so costly. For most of this year's award winners, it was the first time they had travelled in a francophone country. Here is a sampling of what students wrote after their travel experiences.:

- **Evelyn Mason** of California, student of **Bertha Sevilla**, said that "being immersed in the French language and hearing it all around me has helped me to better understand how it is spoken."
- **Donna Park** of Massachusetts, student of **Terri-Anne Bynoe**, reported that "this trip helped increase my confidence in speaking in French. I will continue to study French in order to keep my knowledge fresh, and to be able to return to France again. I am excited to explore and learn more in the future."
- **Kiana Y. Taguchi** of California, student of **Caroline Jones**, echoed her sentiment: "This trip greatly enriched my study of French in terms of culture and speaking. Many aspects of "la vie quotidienne" that I never would have known otherwise were in such abundance and it seemed as if my textbook had come to life. I am extremely grateful and hope to further my French studies in the future."
- **Juliana Cole** of Saint Louis, Missouri, student of **Paula Gyllenborg** wrote that "traveling has made me realize how curious I am about other people and cultures different than my own."

- **Anthony Yost** of Mexico, New York, student of **Kimberly Harter**, noticed a difference in the way food and technology played a part in everyday life.
- **Greg Kimmerer** of Lexington Kentucky, student of **Linda Froehlich**, learned much about supposed cultural differences. There certainly are some differences, but not particularly the superficial ones we first think of, which are more habits, like long meals and big supermarkets.
- **Grace Coldren** of Virginia, student of **Katy Wheelock**, wrote that her student exchange experience in Reims was exceptional and life-changing, and that experiencing another culture was not only extraordinarily helpful to learning, but fundamental.
- **River Mathieu**, student of **Edith Takantjas**, wrote that his student exchange was an amazing experience. His listening and speaking skills improved dramatically in the short time that he was with his host family, and he came home with an increased appreciation for world cultures.
- **Jade Green**, student of **Jill Hilgemeir**, was grateful for an immersion experience that enriched her understanding of the French language and culture in ways that a textbook or classroom were unable to do.

All in all, there were some wonderful lessons learned which will certainly impact their world perspective in the years to come.

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