



SHF
SOCIÉTÉ HONORAIRE
DE FRANÇAIS

L'ÉLAN



JAF
JEUNES AMIS
DU FRANÇAIS

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



FALL 2023 SERIE 51 NO. 1

Dans ce numéro....

.....

Lettre de la présidente..... 1

Mot de la rédaction..... 3

La Bourse Aux Idées..... 5

Carnet de Voyage..... 21

Calendar.....29

Présidente: Regina Symonds
symondsshf@gmail.com

Secrétaire: Robin Andereson
shf@frenchteachers.org

Représentants: Kimberly Bryant Harter
shfteacherrep_mexico23@gmail.com

Henriette Sindjui
shfhenriette@gmail.com

Redactrice: Fanny Clonch
fclonch@yahoo.fr

SOUS LA PLUME DE LA PRÉSIDENTE



Chers et chères Sponsors de la Société Honoraire de Français et des Jeunes Amis du Français,

As the vibrant hues of autumn begin to paint our surroundings

and the crisp breeze carries the scent of change, I find myself reflecting on the warmth and unity that defines our AATF French Honor Society. It is with great pleasure and a heart full of gratitude that I extend my greetings to each and every one of you. It has been delightful to work with SHF/JAF teacher representatives Kimberly Bryant Harter and Henriette Sindjui, our Elan editor Fanny Clonch and AATF/SHF/JAF Secretary Robin Andereson throughout this year, and it was especially wonderful to greet those

of you who attended the annual AATF convention in Trois Rivières this past July. It is hard to believe that we all just celebrated National French week already; I hope you and your students all had a wonderful time!

This season, much like the diverse tapestry of our society, reminds us of the beauty found in the variations of life. Just as the leaves transform into an array of colors, each one of us brings unique perspectives, experiences, and passions to our collective journey in teaching appreciation of the French language and the francophone world.

I am honored to serve as your president during this time of growth and transformation. The AATF JAF/SHF is not merely a collection of individuals; rather, it is a community that thrives on collaboration, curiosity, and a shared love for all things French. Together, we create a space where language becomes a bridge connecting us to new worlds, ideas, and friendships.

As we immerse ourselves in the richness of fall, let us also embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Our upcoming events, meetings, and projects promise to be both enriching and enjoyable. From regional AATF language workshops to cultural celebrations, there are a myriad of activities planned to deepen our practice and enrich the studies of our students.

I encourage each of you to actively participate, share your insights, and let your passion for the French language shine by participating in the JAF and SHF Creative Writing Contests, and having your students apply for the Francophone Studies Stipend. Whether you are a seasoned sponsor or just beginning your journey with the AATF JAF/SHF, your sponsorship is invaluable, and your contributions are eagerly welcomed.

In the spirit of peace, unity and camaraderie, let us make this fall a season to remember. Together, we will continue to foster an environment where learning is a joy, cultural exchange is celebrated, and lasting connections are formed.

Je vous remercie de votre engagement continu envers la Société Honoraire de Français. Que cette saison automnale soit riche en découvertes et en amitiés.

Bien à vous,

Regina Symonds
President, AATF French Honor Society



Like Us On Facebook!

Please join us as one of the over 855 members on our page. Members of this group share ideas for activities for their chapter, such as National French Week celebrations, induction ceremonies, chapter, service, and fundraising activities. Please feel free to use French or English, as you prefer.

HOW EXCITING!!

AATF now has a new look with a new logo! This will appear on all matters relating to the organization: website, SHF and JAF newsletter, French Review, Journal, email correspondence, etc.

21st Century, we are here!!

LE MOT DE LA REDACTION

Chères lectrices et chers lecteurs



Je tiens à vous saluer chaleureusement dans ce nouveau numéro de notre bulletin de l'Élan. En cette période de grâce et de réflexion et à l'approche des fêtes de fin d'année, c'est le moment où je songe aux vacances passées et futures et aux voyages scolaires qui permettent à nos élèves de découvrir d'autres régions et contrées, d'autres villes et villages

dans d'autres pays et territoires. Mes déplacements en France et au Canada l'été dernier ont été marqués par les vagues de chaleur, les canicules et les incendies de forêt. Mes vacances ont été très agréables mais elles étaient accompagnées d'une actualité en fumée, feux dévastateurs au Canada et aux États-Unis obligeant. Autant de rappels poignants de l'urgence d'agir en enseignant à nos élèves les conséquences de nos actions à l'échelle nationale et internationale, car les impacts vont au-delà des frontières.

En France, j'ai aussi vu les nouveaux visages des migrants et j'ai pensé à ceux qui en fuyant les conflits et les guerres ont risqué leur vie en traversant la Méditerranée dans des conditions précaires. Cela aussi, nous devons l'enseigner à nos élèves pour illustrer la complexité et la gravité de ces enjeux mondiaux. C'est malheureusement dans ce contexte actuel, marqué par les conflits et les guerres, les défis environnementaux et les changements climatiques, que je tiens à souligner le rôle crucial que joue l'apprentissage des langues dans la compréhension de la souffrance des peuples du monde entier.

Qu'il s'agisse d'incendies de forêt, d'intensification de

cyclones, d' ouragans, d' inondations, de montées de niveau de la mer, de sécheresses prolongées, la liste des changements climatiques est bien longue. Au déplacement des réfugiés climatiques s'ajoutent les déplacements des réfugiés politiques et économiques. L'étude des langues étrangères et en particulier l'étude du français aide nos élèves à comprendre ces enjeux.

C'est grâce à votre enseignement de la langue française et des cultures francophones que nos élèves peuvent accéder aux récits authentiques et aux expériences de ceux qui sont touchés par ces réalités complexes. Vous tous qui êtes professeurs de langues jouez un rôle primordial en facilitant cet accès et en guidant les étudiants vers une compréhension plus profonde des enjeux humanitaires auxquels notre planète est confrontée.

En tant qu'enseignants et enseignantes, notre responsabilité est de préparer la prochaine génération à comprendre les dangers qui pèsent sur notre humanité. Grâce à l'apprentissage des langues en général et du français en particulier, nous offrons à nos élèves la clé pour déverrouiller des perspectives, encourager l'empathie et susciter une conscience mondiale.

Dans cette optique, je tiens à remercier tous ceux et celles qui partagent leurs méthodes d'enseignement innovantes qui permettent d'aborder ces questions sensibles, encouragent le dialogue ouvert en classe et inspirent les élèves à devenir des citoyens du monde sinon engagés du moins informés. Je souhaite donc exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance envers chaque professeur.e. de langues qui, par son labeur acharné, ouvre les portes du savoir à ses élèves. Vous êtes les architectes du pont qui permet à la jeunesse de comprendre les défis mondiaux, faisant de chaque élève un témoin éclairé des enjeux qui touchent notre planète.

En partageant vos connaissances cruciales, vous n'offrez pas seulement un aperçu des problèmes, mais vous offrez également une lueur d'espoir pour un avenir meilleur. Vous inspirez l'action, l'empathie et le changement positif. Dans chaque classe, vous éveillez la conscience humanitaire et environnementale qui contribuera à la création d'une génération prête à relever les défis et à œuvrer pour la paix.

Merci de votre engagement continu dans cette mission éducative vitale.

Par ailleurs, je suis ravie et honorée d'avoir été acceptée dans le programme de l'AATF Leadership Academy. J'attends avec impatience l'opportunité d'apprendre et de collaborer avec vous et d'autres candidats et dirigeants dans la belle ville de San Diego cet été et j'espère vous voir nombreux durant notre conférence annuelle.

Très cordialement,

Fanny Clonch

La bourse aux idées

“SHF AND NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK”

By Cheryl Herman

Mishawaka High School

Each year for National French Week my SHF members plan special events. Mostly they involve French foods to share with the staff and students. In the photo, we were selling croissant and a beverage to staff and students as they walked into school. We also took pre-sale orders. The croissant fillings were a choice of Nutella, jam, almond paste, butter or plain. The beverage choice was coffee, tea, orange juice or water. At lunch we make and sell crepes at a table near the cafeteria. We use a teflon crepe maker which allows you to dip the maker into the batter, then turn it over and it takes 30 seconds for a crepe to be ready. We then fill it with Nutella, jam, bananas or plain. We also make Eiffel Towers out of wafer cookies and frosting. Then we have a race to see who can make it down the hall without it falling over on the plate they are holding with one hand. We also do French waiter races while holding with one hand a tray and an empty plastic glass. The members enjoy planning and participating in French Week each year.



On mange! C'est ce qu'on fait!

By Brian Wopat

Onalaska High School



With the needed attention being given to food allergies in the classroom, my colleague and I have had to explore other ways to curb our students' appetite to discover and taste new foods. We decided to center our French Club activities around trying out different French foods throughout the school year. Since our French National Honor Society members are required to attend a number of club meetings and complete a number of club activities per year, food tasting allow students to earn credit by volunteering to bring something in (forks, plates, etc) and earn credit for attending. The advantage of doing this allows us to try foods at the appropriate times they are traditionally eaten throughout the year, creates a different community of French learners than that of their peers in a specific level, and incentivises students to get involve using a relevant, purposeful, and joyful learning experience, food. Here's an overview of what we do. For each event, we have students sign up ahead of time and volunteer to bring something or pay a dollar or two towards the cost of supplies. We start the year with the simple activity of making and eating crêpes. Before Thanksgiving break,

we pair up with Spanish Club and participate in what we call Treats-giving. It is a large-scale treat exchange where students bring in samples of a traditional family dessert and they take one sample from every student to make up their platter of desserts to take home. In December, the students make Bûche de Noël and in January they make Galette des Rois. In the spring, the students like to try out different types of cheeses. We supply them with a variety of typical French cheeses, and they supply the baguette. Finally in May, we take the students to a local French Restaurant, and they get to try three different French dessert samples along with apple cider. To help offset the costs for students, we sell Bonbons during

the month of February. These activities allow our French National Honor Society members to meet their requirements and keeps our French Club thriving.

Service and Celebrations by Mme Fabiana Maia-Davis

By Ed Webber

Immaculata High School

One of the four pillars at Immaculata High School located in Somerville, NJ is service, and the French Honor Society has a service project scheduled each year during National French Week. During the 22-23 celebrations of National French Week, we had two projects: students in French 1 created a French-inspired bistro and students in French 4 ran a bake sale. Both proceeds from the sales went to USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) to help our brothers and sisters in Madagascar.

French 1 students created a menu, and each student made a sweet or savory pastry from a Francophone country. They talked about the baking process, some recorded, and others took pictures and played in the classroom in French. After the presentations, the classroom became a bistro, where waiters and patrons could only speak French.

French 4, our veterans and members of the French Honor Society, asked French 2 and 3 students to donate edible goodies to a bake sale. The sales ran during National French Week. French students were only allowed to speak French to the patrons and help the non-French students with common courtesy in French.

It was a great way to get them involved and also use it for a great cause.

Learning a second language can be a challenge, but once you create a lovely and fun atmosphere to learn, you have an amazing outcome!



Café au lait to start the day!

By Jennifer Reschly

Clover High School



One of our favorite and most popular activities in SHF at Clover High School is one that we do annually during National French Week. Members sign up to come early to school one morning and prepare a croissant and café au lait breakfast for faculty and staff at our high school. To get everything done and students back to class on time, we arrive to school approximately 2 hours before the student bell. Students brew French roast coffee, warm up milk, and then combine them in large carafes to transport on one of the 4 carts we use to take the breakfast around to our staff. I like to be the taste tester to make sure it's the right ratio, of course! On the carts, we include cups, stirrers, and sugar cubes

as well. Next, we warm up croissants and supply butter and raspberry jam, along with napkins, tongs, and some spreaders. Once all of the items are ready and displayed nicely on the cart, members partner up and are assigned an area of the building. They take the cart around their area and offer this yummy treat to our teachers, custodians, office staff, guidance... any working adult in the building! A small team continues prepping while the carts are out so that if anyone runs out, we make a quick switch and replenish the low items. For us, it's a win-win. The students are proud of their work and receive a lot of praise and thanks as they go around, plus recognition for our program, and the staff feels appreciated and gets a special treat during the work week.

Boosting French Enrollment By Sophia Reuillon Downers Grove South High School



French teachers, WE ARE SO LUCKY! We get paid to teach the subject we fell in love with and talk about the cultures that enthrall us. If you're like me, you want to shout from the rooftops: "LEARN FRENCH!" But whether we sing it, shout it, or throw beautiful, Paris photo filled flyers in the students' faces, we still struggle with enrollment.

It's not your fault; with the variety of attractive, shiny new electives offered in our schools and in many cases, no graduation requirement for our content area, the task of increasing enrollment in French has become even more challenging. Every year, I try new efforts to garner attention and pique the interest of students in the halls, aiming to lure them away from "Baking & Pastry," "Fashion Construction," or "Rock Band." Though, I truly wonder: putting myself in their shoes, would I have ever taken French if those classes existed during my high school years? Maybe not...and what a shame that would be!



Although my efforts have not resulted in a complete

Napoleonic conquest of our student body, slowly but surely, our numbers are improving. I would like to share a few of these ideas that have-- perhaps-- played a part.

1) "DGS SPEAKS FRENCH!" WALL DISPLAY: To highlight the Francophone world and show our school that French speakers are among us, we reached out to the school with a survey to find French speakers on campus and learn what French means to them. Our EL teachers were particularly helpful in looking up which students came from Francophone countries, greatly facilitating my outreach. A simple google form allowed me to gather their answers and use them for a beautiful hallway display. Students expressed surprise to see just how present French was in our own school and learn that it is spoken in more countries than just France.

2) FRENCH MOVIE DURING LUNCH PERIODS: Our school has a new block schedule which gives students a 78 minute free period once a week. My French students proposed hosting a movie viewing in the Auditorium, inviting all and any students to watch Ratatouille. With announcements and signage giving credit to DGS French, the fun school-wide activity brought some attention to DGS French... or at least I hope it did!

3) MIRACULOUS LADYBUG PARTY: Never has French club had such a turnout! The students suggested we have a club meeting where we just watch Miraculous Ladybug. At 3:30 when the event started, my room was packed with Miraculous groupies! I had gravely underestimated the following of this modern French cartoon. Later that year, for the school-wide hallway decorating contest, Miraculous was our inspiration! We transformed our doorway into the Dupain-Cheng's bakery and flanked it with life-size printouts of Ladybug and Chat Noir. White butterflies with wings folded out in flight fluttered along the walls and danced on fishing line from the ceiling tiles. To my delight, teenagers trekked up to our door in hoards to take selfies with these beloved French superheroes, and the requests to keep Chat Noir when the display came down were countless!

4) PENPALS: With the internet and social media, there is no good excuse to not have French pen pals. I have been able to connect my students to French correspondents in different schools around France every year, with (luckily) very little effort. I align the content of their letters to what we are learning in class, giving the students an authentic opportunity to use their French with real purpose! Their letters, poems, and projects are shared between myself and the teacher in France, as to keep the students' identities confidential. A google form at the end of the year is a simple way to get parental permission for the students to share their names and social media contact information with their correspondent, letting them (finally!) connect on social media and communicate freely beyond our classroom.

5) COMMUNITY OUTREACH: My own children's elementary school held its first annual cultural fair last spring. Needless to say, I reached out to offer a French touch to the soirée, as languages and cultures are right up my alley. This year, the coordinator extended an invitation to organize a French related activity at the event, and with an aim to share my passion and generate more young francophiles, I accepted. I hope to involve my French

club in the evening by proposing it as a field trip and community service opportunity for members. The way I see it, planting the seed early through Francophone presence in the feeder schools can only help our cause! Other ideas to improve presence in the community could be inviting Francophone speakers to present in your school, hosting French language classes in the local library on the weekend, or encouraging students to share their love of French in public (wearing French Club shirts, offering to give French lessons to neighbors, writing French letters to local senior citizen centers, and any other way you can think to help students spread the message that FRENCH IS WONDERFUL!)

As your consoeur, I know the struggle and the constant fear of declining enrollment. My hope in sharing these five ideas is to remind you to keep trying. Remember the magic you experienced when learning French for the first time and stay hopeful that your program can and will thrive. Perhaps you'll find that these ideas pale in comparison to your own creative efforts or that I haven't shared anything novel, but in the spirit of French camaraderie and soutien, I share these tips. May they reignite your motivation, pique your creativity, or simply remind you that your heart is in the right place. Bonne année scolaire, et bonne continuation!

WHS Goes Global
By Wendy Candy
Westerly High School



Each spring at Westerly High School in Westerly, Rhode Island, the Société Honoraire de Français, the Società Onoraria di Italiano, and the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica create an immersive gallery walk celebrating cultures across the globe and highlighting the work of our

talented World Language Honor Societies members. They create a world within a room where community members, staff, and students walk around the “globe.”

This past March, Language Honor Society members worked in pairs to each select a country to bring to life at WHS Goes Global. They then created an immersive cultural/language activity from their chosen country. As visitors (students/community members) walked “around the world” they were able to partake in each activity to give them the feeling of actually visiting each country. Groups were organized in the school gym by continent, so you might walk from Greece to India. For example, visitors to Egypt learned about hieroglyphs and wrote their names using a hieroglyphic alphabet. There were approximately 15 countries represented this past year.

Additionally, students researched their country and displayed information and photos (digital or trifold, poster board, etc.) so the school community walked away from the event with an improved knowledge of other cultures.

Each group also selected 5 songs from their country that were added to the global playlist and played during the event.

During the event, donations were collected to support a cause chosen by the officers of the Language Honor Societies; this year we supported Jose Andres’ World Central Kitchen. Officers sat at the center of the “world” (center of the gym) and shared information about World Central Kitchen’s mission and why it was chosen.

Honor Society members and school community members attest to how valuable and memorable they find the day to be. We are fortunate in Westerly to have strong leadership from our district world language coordinator and to have robust support from our school and district administrators; which allows for participation in events such as this.

Our next WHS Goes Global event is scheduled to take place at the end of March 2024, as a culminating event of smaller activities that take place during World Languages Month.

French Honor Society at ISPA
By Corinee Lhermitte
International Studies Preparatory Academy (ISPA)



On ne vous dit pas tout project sponsored by the French Embassy in the United States

To celebrate "la semaine de la Francophonie" (March 18-26, 2023), International Studies Preparatory Academy (ISPA) participated in a project sponsored by the French Embassy in the United States and the Consulate of France in Miami. Juniors and seniors in the Dual Language program including all French Honor Society members were asked to design science videos describing various causes of global warming and their impact on South Florida. The goals of the project were three-fold : encourage students to study science; bring awareness to global issues; and teach them how to make instructional videos. In January 2023, students selected five acute problems facing Florida today such as rising sea levels, hurricane formation, coral reef disappearance, mangrove protection and salt levels in oceans. They researched, and collected scientific

data, interviewed researchers, and wrote three-minute-long scripts for their videos. Their scripts were reviewed by college scientists who checked their work for accuracy. In February, French You-tuber and Astrophysicist, Sebastien Carrassou, PhD. visited our school and helped students record the videos in the school's studio. The students learned how to speak in front of a prompter, insert images on a green screen, add sound, special effects, and subtitle videos. This project provided students with a unique opportunity to explore their surroundings with a scientific mindset, meet experts in the fields, and design videos while honing their speaking skills. The final products were posted on the French Embassy's YouTube website (France in the US)

and can still be viewed today under the title: "On ne vous dit pas tout: explaining Sciences through Videos." The students were proud to bring awareness to global issues and to share the videos with the school, family members, and the community at-large.

Vive SHF Tous Ensemble
By Michele A. Roberts
Williamsville East High School



SHF in 2022-2023 has been a memorable one filled with many momentous events for which I had the privilege to sponsor by our enthusiastic Williamsville East High School Société Honoraire de Français. With a dozen active members, we enjoyed serving our community à la française!

To kick off our automne, our SHF hosted a French pastry table at our Homecoming Bon Feu event with French club in order to donate proceeds to our WEHS French club. SHF members also designed and directed a student created French "Jéopartie" game, using the Jeopardy app by

slidescarnival.com at our French Club meeting during La Semaine Nationale de Français. Students generated their own game questions and categories such as: Francophone countries, French traditions and fêtes, Celebrities-parlez-vous français?, French landmarks & monuments, and Cuisine française. SHF committee members, also quite active French club members, were the Emcees and producers of the game at the French Club meeting bien sûr!

Another celebration of francophone culture, was hosting our guest speaker native to Democratic Republic of the Congo. Monsieur Gabriel Shalamba is a Journey's End Refugee Agent in Buffalo, NY. Monsieur Shalamba's genuine compassion to help and communicate in several world languages energises us to helping a refugee in their native language while they settle into their new English language. Our members most enthusiastically wanted to volunteer their time and effort to help refugee families, especially the children. Students organized a SHF Children's Book Drive with promotional material,

announcements and drop boxes. Our school community donated 101 children’s story books in French, Spanish and English to Journey’s End Refugee Program during World Language Month of March! SHF also hosted a February Bake Sale D’Amour baking such treats as mini chocolate mousse cups, croissants, Saint Valentin cupcakes, beignets and petits gateaux. Their delicious efforts selling to classmates, faculty and staff, raised \$155 proceeds donated to Journey’s End Refugee Program.

Tous ensemble, our active SHF ingenuity aims to serve our French club, our school community and non-for profit community organizations of Western New York. Vive SHF!

LA SEMAINE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE À GCM

BY MANUELA LANGLOIS

Goose Creek Memorial High School



Each year the French Honor Society (SHF) at Goose Creek Memorial High School organizes “la Semaine de la Francophonie” to celebrate the Francophone language and culture through a vast variety of activities to bring students, faculty and the community together.

Every day, we start off with a French song played over the intercom during passing periods and a “French Word of the Day” during announcements, to enlighten how many French words are also commonly used in English.

The whole school has an opportunity to learn about the francophone culture with games, a Francophone

Country Project competition for the freshmen class, and learning how to prepare "les crêpes". French Week is generally hosted in March: during our Mardi Gras themed breakfast for the faculty, we serve croissants, quiches, chocolate crêpes, éclairs, and much more. This

event has become an interdisciplinary collaboration: the Culinary Arts provides some of the refreshments and our Jazz Band performs a concert as entertainment.

During French Week we have several dress-up days to allow the students and teachers to get involved and learn more about culturally significant francophone people. At the end of the week, we raffle a French themed prize for all those who participated.

We also hold activities after school: Kahoot games create fun moments for students to learn about French culture, architecture, history, and common French expressions. We organize a mini soccer tournament, a Pétanque tournament, a movie day, a board game day, just to name a few.

During all lunches, we put up a canopy in the cafeteria where each day we offer French related activities to all students: a henna tattoo day, a trivia contest, face painting, or mini-French lessons presented by the SHF students. The Art Department provides the supplies and helps with the task.

We are happy to attest the spirit of French Week at Goose Creek Memorial has spread among different departments and has become an opportunity to collaborate with other school clubs/associations and subjects. La Semaine de la Francophonie has become an event that our campus looks forward to and its participation has been growing every year.

Le dîner En Blanc - une célébration

By Jennifer Grobeck
South Forsyth High School



Le dîner en blanc: A vision in white. The South Forsyth High School French students came together on the afternoon of April 21 to celebrate the history and culture of this worldwide event as a way to culminate the school year and send off the senior class of 2023 with a bang. Each student in Société honoraire de Français was invited to participate and be a part of our school's sit down dinner, at which students reflected on a year filled with joy, memories and community.

Picture this: A long table spanning the width of the dining hall with white tablecloth, glowing lanterns, and twinkling gold fairy lights. Beautiful white flower arrangements line the table, while every little detail ranging from the French flag napkins and Eiffel tower decorations highlight the cultural significance of this day. And then the main event: the students themselves! All dressed in white formal wear, the night had an air of perfect elegance and grace, as the students seated themselves around the table, each with a personalized name tag, plate, and utensils laid out for them. Each student had the opportunity to bring homemade dessert confections for the dinner, and students sure did deliver! From Crème brûlée to Flan to a special French club cake, the love of the language here at South was evident indeed!

Madame Grobeck, the head French teacher at South Forsyth High School, along with the student officers of the honors society, planned and organized each feature of this night weeks ahead of time as ideas from all students were merged to create the most beautiful ending to the school year. Held as a senior surprise, our officers spent time handcrafting personalized gift bags for every graduating student to make the night even more special. Throughout the dinner, the senior students were honored with awards and recognized for the work they put in for French. The night then reached a finale as a student-created video played on a large screen, commemorating pictures and videos from the past year, and highlighting the impact that French had on each student's life.

By - Namita Nelson

Activities and Achievements of the Riviera Preparatory School's SHF

By May Wassaf

Riviera Preparatory School



Bonjour, French Honor Society Members!

As the year starts again, we at the Riviera Preparatory Schools' French Honor Society can reflect on a successful year filled with exciting events and community service.

We started strong with our first board meeting in August, where we brainstormed upcoming events and

drives for the year. Our hard work paid off as we had a jam-packed year of activities.

In September, we inducted five new members into our society and held our first annual meeting to discuss our plans for the year, including national events like Le Grand Concours and National French Week.

We were proud to coordinate with Books4You and donate school supplies to underprivileged communities in October. This was a high point for us as we knew that we were making a big difference in the lives of less fortunate students.

As November approached, we celebrated National French Week with a bake sale and a trivia game during lunch periods where we handed out prizes to winners.

During Christmastime, we dedicated our time and resources to Feeding South Florida, gathering food items and supplies to donate to the food bank branch under the national NGO Feeding America.

March was important to us as we held our annual Taste of Nations event in conjunction with our Spanish and Italian honor societies. It continued its legacy as the largest event of the school year, and we held a multicultural presentation that featured various cultural dances, songs, poems, etc. produced by our school's talented students. Afterward, we set up multiple tables with food representing a variety of cultures around the world.

Additionally, our students participated in the national Grand Concours, with multiple awards such as Platinum, Gold, and Silver. One of our students won a Platinum medal and Plaque for her perfect score on the test, making her one of only four students in the entire country to achieve this.

In April, we voted on next year's board and began devising a plan for the upcoming year.

Merci beaucoup and bonne chance to the SHF in the next school year!

Bracelets d'amitié pour une cause caritative

By Lindsay Krulock
Jackson High School

At the start of each school year, our Société Honoraire de Français members at Jackson High School brainstorm ideas for annual service projects. We believe service projects are a chance to better our community, as well as bond and connect beyond the classroom. We often seek opportunities to collaborate with other student groups and organizations at JHS because we have found that there is truly strength in numbers! This past school year, our students teamed up with Spanish Honor Society students to make friendship bracelets to raise money to donate to a



charitable cause. We chose Not for Sale, which was the focus of one of our senior's capstone projects. Not For Sale is an international nonprofit that assists in supporting anti-trafficking organizations and efforts. When asked to explain the importance of the collaboration, the senior conducting her capstone project explained, "getting to work with the French and Spanish honors societies to promote connection through learning language and fighting global issues was really inspiring. Building community across borders is one of the key ways to prevent human trafficking and it was exciting to see it manifest here at Jackson."

SHF students spent multiple free periods and dedicated time after school making bracelets with popular French words and expressions to prepare for a week of sales. During the week of Valentine's Day, our students sold bracelets during all four lunch periods for \$2 each, and were able to raise over \$250! Our proceeds were donated to the Ohio branch of Not for Sale, which works to support local anti-trafficking organizations, help victims, and hold community educational events. We were very fortunate to be able to support our student who was very passionate about this important cause. The bracelets were a big hit, as students bought them not only for themselves, but also to give to friends, classmates, and even teachers. We were able to spread French while assisting a charitable cause, which we felt was a win-win! The students are eager to continue a similar project this year, and we hope it will be just as successful, if not more!

Sabot Day at Noble High School!

By Jennica Osborne

Noble High School



Noble High School's chapter of the French National Honor Society, known as Les Chevaliers (modeled after "the Knights," our school mascot) organizes many community events each year including, among others, movie nights at our local elementary school, breakfast fundraisers, Thanksgiving baskets, National French Week, le dîner en blanc, and a unique event that we call "Sabot Day." In honor of la Fête de Saint-Nicolas, we cut, sew, decorate, fill with treats, and deliver 300 felt "sabots" for every student at our local elementary school (where many of our Les Chevaliers members, French V Mentors, teach French to students in grades 1-4) on December 6th. Our entire chapter participates in this all-day, in-school event along with many other Noble

students who volunteer—it's a community service event, organized by Les Chevaliers, that many people even beyond just our French department can participate in. Each year, the elementary school students are elated to receive their personally hand-made sabot!

Carnet de Voyage

Anna Groth: Le voyage en France



This trip gave me a new appreciation for my own culture. Before this trip, I didn't think that there was much of a unique culture that I was a part of. I thought that there was a lack of traditions and unique experiences to being an American, and I have never really been a part of the cultures related to my heritage. However, through this trip I learned that I have experienced things that people from different backgrounds may not, and the things these experiences taught me can benefit others as well. These experiences make my way of life unique in a way I wasn't truly aware of until sharing them. This experience also made me realize that there were things that I would miss not out of habit, but because I liked doing them. It gave value to little habits in my life that I had previously overlooked. It taught me the value of cultures and what sharing them can do for people. Both in identifying with your own and learning about other cultures opens so many doors. Partly

beneficial to your own identity as it becomes easier to share your individual culture the more you are aware of it. The more you know about other cultures the more well rounded and authentic your experiences abroad can be. As well as the more you know of other cultures the less prejudice you tend to emit into the world. This experience really solidified the idea that every person has unique experiences and perceptions. The more we can learn about each other the better the world can be. That is a little large-scale, but I do believe that because of this cross-cultural learning I am a better person. This is from both learning different ways to experience life and from learning what each person can offer the world.



Marie Lucas: Voyage en France

J'ai passé un moment incroyable en France cet été, j'ai rencontré tellement de gens et je me suis fait tellement d'amis avec lesquels je n'aurais jamais pu me connecter en dehors d'un voyage comme celui-ci.

L'expérience de séjourner en France avec une famille française pendant six semaines a été l'opportunité d'une vie. J'ai beaucoup appris sur leur culture et la façon dont ils vivent leur vie quotidienne. Avoir aussi l'opportunité d'aller à l'école là-bas était aussi incroyable. Leur système scolaire est si différent, lire à ce sujet ne se compare pas à en faire l'expérience pendant quelques semaines. Je crois maintenant fermement que le lycée français est beaucoup plus exigeant que celui américain. J'ai particulièrement apprécié tous les musées de France, de Monet à Renault, l'art était tellement cool à voir de mes propres yeux. J'ai toujours été un grand fan de

l'impressionnisme, et j'ai découvert

qu'il y a tellement plus à voir quand on peut regarder la pièce de différents points de vue. Je crois aussi que mon français parlé s'est considérablement amélioré au fur et à mesure que je l'utilisais au quotidien. Je conclus fortement que ce voyage a solidifié ce que je veux faire à l'avenir. Je veux continuer à utiliser le français pour faire une différence dans le monde, que ce soit en traduisant ou en interprétant. Cette opportunité incroyable ne m'aurait pas été offerte sans cette bourse, et j'espère qu'elle continuera à donner aux lycéens la chance d'explorer le monde francophone.



Sam Bertholf: Andégo Internships Abroad

Receiving the AATF Francophone Studies Stipend has allowed me to participate in a 1 year English teaching internship in Angers, France, via Andégo Internships Abroad. This generous award helped contribute to the program fee, allowing me to live abroad in a host family, while working part-time as a language assistant in a middle school. I work with 4 different age levels and lead English conversation classes, English workshops, and assist other teachers in the school. I am very fortunate to work with students, aiding their English skills, while also improving my French skills thanks to the immersive nature of my internship. Not only has this program allowed me to pursue my interest in education, but I have also gained a lot of memorable experiences. Living in France has also made traveling much more accessible! So far I have visited many cities around France, as well as

England and Belgium 2 times each. I am lucky to be able to take advantage of the French holidays and weekends to travel the country, whether it be alone or with other assistant friends. Going outside of my comfort zone to live with a French host family 24/7 was difficult at first, although now I can gladly say that I would have it no other way. I am looking forward to continuing my studies of the French language in university, and I am confident that my year abroad will greatly help me both in culture and linguistics.

Je voudrais remercier l'AATF et La Société Honoraire de Français de m'avoir encouragé à poursuivre mes études de français grâce à votre aide et générosité, et aussi pour avoir amélioré mon éducation au lycée. J'étais membre de La Société et j'ai gagné beaucoup d'expériences au lycée. Je suis sûr que cette décision a réellement changé ma vie positivement, et que ces souvenirs et ces connexions françaises dureront pour toujours. Merci à tous de m'avoir aidé à atteindre mes objectifs et à participer à ce merveilleux programme.

Sam Bertholf



Ivy Mendez: L'expérience

Dear AATF SHF,
I would like to start this off by thanking you for your generosity and for allowing me to embark on this adventure of a lifetime. Thanks to your donation I have been getting to experience French culture and improve my French in a whole new way. I had no doubts before coming to

France about the power of full immersion, but it has been incredible to be able to experience it first hand.

While I was feeling confident in my speaking abilities when I first arrived, I realized very quickly that while my academic vocabulary was extensive, my conversational French was not. Heater (chauffage), dust (poussière), and helicopter parents (parents de poule), are all examples of words that I have been learning throughout my stay, and I continue to improve my conversational French.

I have been very proud to notice an improvement in my French since I first arrived. An example of this is that I have been able to be more aware of when I am pronouncing an adjective in the masculine or feminine form, something that I had struggled with since I started studying French almost five years ago. Similarly, I have found myself being able to speak at the speed that I normally do in English, and I have been able to continue conversations with host families in French despite being tired.

As for my experience, I am happy to report that I am having a lovely time in France. Despite a few hiccups with the school at which I am working, I have been lucky to work with kind and engaged students. I am teaching Spanish with students from ages 11-18, and my role in the classroom ranges from running activities to being a full Spanish professor with the "sixièmes." I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know my students and teaching them about my Latin culture as they in turn teach me about their french culture.

I have also had the wonderful opportunity to meet many host families during my weekends. They have been kind enough to welcome me into their homes and allow me to experience how French families work and also expand my knowledge on French cuisine. I have enjoyed getting to tag along with the mothers while they run errands, and also getting to watch sports matches with the fathers. Getting to meet my host families has definitely been a highlight of my experience here in France as it not only gives me the full immersion experience into French culture but also allows me to feel a little less lonely across the sea from my own family.

I would like to once again thank you for your generous donation that has allowed me to have this wonderful experience. Through this program and your donation I am achieving my goal daily of improving my French and becoming more knowledgeable of French culture and traditions, and for that I am truly grateful.

Sincerely,
Ivy Méndez



Maxwell Nelson: Mon voyage en France
Chères AATF et Société de Honoraire de Français,

Bonjour! Mon voyage en France était super! Je voudrais commencer par vous remercier de m'avoir donné l'opportunité de gagner cette généreuse bourse qui m'a permis de voyager en France ce printemps. I am very grateful for being given this opportunity and greatly cherish your generosity. My experience in France, to put it shortly, was absolutely amazing. All the way from Saint-Malo to Caen, to the Loire Valley, to Paris, I had an amazing time every day of the trip. The sights everywhere we traveled to were breathtaking, and the food throughout the trip was unforgettably good. I do have to say that a majority of my favorite moments took place in Saint-Malo and Paris, though.

Walking through Saint-Malo and being able to experience such a gorgeous, historical city in person was an unforgettable experience for me. The small shops,

food stands, and populated squares within the city walls were so cool to see and I wish that I could've spent more time there to take in more of the city.

Another one of my favorite experiences was being able to visit Le Louvre in Paris. Although we only spent a couple of hours in the museum, I saw an incredible amount of pieces of art that have remained engraved in my brain ever since I was fortunate enough to see them in person. I honestly believe that I could have spent days alone in this museum just to be able to absorb all of that amazing artwork.

That visit was most definitely one of my favorite parts of the trip.

I'm also very blessed to have been able to make macarons with a French baker in Paris, who took us through the whole process step-by-step so we could pick up some macaron-making skills for ourselves. This especially became one of my favorite moments on the trip because, as it was on the last day, I was able to bring my macarons home and share them with my family. That was an experience that I definitely won't forget.

Merci encore pour tout. Il me tarde de continuer le français et d'apprendre encore plus de la culture.

Cordialement,
Maxwell Nelson



Louisa Vu: L'expérience de mon voyage en France

Thank you so much for giving me this amazing opportunity to experience life in France for several weeks. After years and years of dedicating myself to learning the language and to researching a bit on the culture, actually being in France was still such a surreal experience. I could actually see my skills in French in action with total strangers around me, and actually witness the lifestyle and habits of the French people. I realized that no matter how much I could try to learn about France and the French language, there were still so many other small details and nuances about daily life in France that I had never even thought about before.

Having this experience has shown me how much I have progressed over the years (which was very rewarding) while opening my eyes to the many things I have still yet to learn (which was

very enlightening). Every day brought a new adventure and experiences that I likely never would have done if I had stayed in the US. Some of these experiences included meeting elementary school kids to help them converse in English, visiting castles, and even going to a music festival with my host sisters (which I for sure would never have thought of doing as an indoorsy introvert). I even began to appreciate the more “mundane” activities, like visiting bookstores, cafes, or just simply walking through town. But even though they were familiar experiences that I’ve had in the US, seeing a French twist to them made them seem like new ones; it felt like every 2 minutes, I had my camera out to take a picture.

I could see myself changing too. I became more adventurous, always willing to drop everything just to see something new like the castles of the Loire Valley (each with their own unique architecture and role in history) in Angers and going on a scenic bike ride to Behuard (an island on the Loire River). In Paris, despite the rush of wanting to see the many iconic monuments, I found myself becoming more reflective, slowly taking in each experience as I walked through the exhibits of museums (like the Louvre and the Musee d’Orsay) and looked over the city from atop the Eiffel Tower and Sacre Coeur. I can only imagine the thoughts of other people as they see the result of centuries of history from the art in those museums to the very buildings that spanned across the horizon. Paris is a place of history and tradition, but also one of dynamism and innovation. It is a place to not only to savor the simple joys in life, but to indulge in once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

Again, thank you so much for this experience. Of all the trips I have done in my life, this one will surely stick out as one of the best.



Elise Blanchet: Programme d'échange

Back in April, I spent two weeks in France in the home of my exchange partner. We had been paired up on the American side of the exchange as well-- she stayed at my house for two weeks in October, and I came to live with her for the same amount of time six months later. This was an extremely rewarding experience for me, as I was able to be exposed to

the French culture from the viewpoint of a regular citizen, someone going about



their everyday life from a similar home situation that I can identify with, but in an entirely different environment externally. I was able to make many friends with the French students, as well as strengthening connections with the American students that I traveled with. I even picked up some French slang! Being in Vendée was much more comfortable than I could have ever expected, in fact. Because of the way we had been prepared in making connections with our partners on the American leg of the exchange, I felt well equipped to trust my partner and her friends, integrating myself into her everyday routines, be that shopping in the downtown area, playing pool at a sleepover, or spending a day at the beach. All in all, this stipend allowed me to comfortably enjoy an experience that has enriched my perspective of the world around me, meanwhile

enhancing the connections between myself and individuals worldwide.



CALENDRIER DES PROCHAINS EVENEMENTS



Rendez-vous à San Diego pour notre convention annuelle de 2024

December 4, 2023	2023 JAF Creative Writing Contest Deadline
January 8, 2024	Francophone Studies Stipend Deadline
February 5, 2024	SHF Writing Contest Deadline
July 7-10, 2024	Annual AATF Convention San Diego Bayside, California

Grand Concours 2024 Contest Dates:

February 12 - March 6, 2024	Grades 1-6 (FLES)
February 14 - April 8, 2024	Grades 7 - 12 (levels 01-5)

