

# Quoi de neuf chez les francophiles à ISU?

LE PETIT JOURNAL FRANÇAIS: FRENCH AT ISU

## *How to contact us!*

@isupideltaphi on Instagram  
isupideltaphi@gmail.com  
French Clubs @ ISU on Facebook



## NOTRE COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF DE PI DELTA PHI

*Pictured left to right*

Sophie Cotter:  
présidente

Kristiana Mininger:  
secrétaire / trésorière

Adriana Rosales:  
vice-présidente

Kateri Olivares:  
relations publiques

## BIENVENUE À NOTRE NOUVELLE CHARGÉE DE RELATIONS PUBLIQUES, KATERI!

Kateri is a French education major with a minor in Spanish. She studied abroad last semester in Angers, France in the CIDEF program at l'Université Catholique de l'Ouest. We are so excited to have her on our executive board and for her to continue in the fall.

# *Les Cours de français*

## *FRE 215: Advanced Grammar and Oral Proficiency*

BY KRISTIANA MININGER

This semester's advanced grammar and oral proficiency course taught by Dr. Howell focuses on improving oral language skills through many different mediums. Students practice reading, writing, speaking, and listening in French in context using the textbook and activities that focus on different societal controversies. Grammatical structure is woven into the discussion topics. In various spoken and written activities students use TalkAbroad, a program where they converse directly with native French speakers. This course is a wonderful way to pull together many different aspects of the French language and improve skills while still developing cultural knowledge.

## *FRE 325: L'immigration et l'exil dans la bande dessinée postcoloniale d'expression française*

BY SOPHIE COTTER

In this course students broaden their knowledge about immigration and post colonization. Through the medium of comic books/graphic novels we learned about the lives of Francophone people and the history of French influence over them and their countries. Between Dr. Howell's expertise and her connections with many of the authors of these graphic novels, students learned to see a different point of view through the stories. For the final project, students are creating their own graphic novels on topics of our choice surrounding immigration and post colonization.

## *FRE 285: Foodways of France and the Francophone World*

BY KATERI OLIVARES

This course, taught by Dr. Ponnou-Delaffon, explores the connection between food and culture, found through the gastronomy and heritage of a country. We first started with France and how their gastronomic traditions explain their history, customs, and way of life. Each week the class would focus on a theme pertaining to the foodways of different francophone cultures. For example we learned about the gastronomy of French people living in Louisiana, the Congolese community and food in Morocco through essays, films, stories, and videos, all in French. Concentrating on food as a social expression of identity, belonging, and communication, the class engaged in a small service-learning project either volunteering at ISU's School Street Food Pantry, or creating a recipe to give to the pantry. This service helped us communicate with each other in French while also learning more about how our community helps students through the pantry. We also got to explore another country's gastronomy by talking to a native French speaker on Talk Abroad. It was a great experience to learn and speak with someone all in French about how food has an important role in their country. Overall, this class utilized various forms of media to help us learn more about the food we eat and how it shapes a country, a culture, and even ourselves.

# Speaker Series

*Kateri Olivares*

BY ADRIANA ROSALES

Several Francophone club members presented on their firsthand experiences with Francophone culture. Kateri, our public relations chair, gave the first presentation on her semester studying in Angers, France.

She shared how it was to make friends, improve her French, and how delicious the food was! It was great to learn more about the French study abroad program through one of our executives!



## *Growing up Francophone*

BY KRISTIANA MININGER

History education major and French minor Joel Pandess spent one conversation hour sharing about his experiences growing up in a Francophone home.

Joel described what it is like to integrate one's culture in a different country and how that impacts parenting strategies and how it feels to be a child with Francophone parents. It was a wonderful chance to grow in our understanding of cultural diversity and the richness it applies to many contexts.

## *Illinois Wesleyan Exchange*

BY KRISTIANA MININGER

This semester we collaborated with Illinois Wesleyan University, first by attending an exciting presentation about study abroad. The first presenter was an IWU student who had studied in Nantes who shared her experiences as an American studying in France. Next, we heard from a French student having recently completed her masters in France who is now working as a tutor at IWU during her gap year. She shared about her hometown in France and then gave a fun presentation on French stereotypes in the US. It was a lovely afternoon getting to know some fellow French speakers on the other side of town. A few weeks later we had a great time hosting IWU French students at one of our convo hours. We look forward to continued collaboration with them in the future.



# L'heure de conversation

HOSTED TWICE A WEEK BY PI DELTA PHI, FRENCH STUDENTS GATHER IN THE LANGUAGE COMMONS TO PRACTICE SPEAKING FRENCH IN A RELAXED, NON-ACADEMIC SETTING.

## Mardi Gras

BY SOPHIE COTTER

Pi Delta Phi hosted this year's Mardi Gras celebration to share lively conversation and make masks while also enjoying King Cake. The traditional sweet is eaten between Epiphany and Mardi Gras in Francophone communities in Louisiana and other places in the south of the United States. Often, a King Cake has a plastic baby Jesus hidden in it and whoever gets the piece with the baby is declared "le roi" or "la reine" (the king or the queen) and gets to wear a crown. Participants created a variety of colorful masks with jewels and feathers!



## La fête de la Saint Valentin

BY ADRIANA ROSALES

In honor of Valentine's season, during conversation hours, Pi Delta Phi encouraged participants to help cut out hearts and write words/phrases of love on them to prepare for our "mur de l'amour." Some of our members were extra-creative and made "love bugs" out of our paper hearts. While crafting, we also engaged in conversation based on conversation heart candies. We would read what was on the candy hearts and discuss what the equivalent in French might be.



## Parler français: les opportunités parascolaires



French 115 students had an excursion to Miller Park Zoo and University Art Galleries to learn how to talk about des loups, des pandas roux, des loutres, des serpents, and more all in French! They toured the gallery together and talked about what they liked in each artwork with a fun ocean activity!



# Francophone highlights

## *Bench Backs*

BY ADRIANA ROSALES

Pi Delta Phi's contribution for world languages week this semester was presented on the second floor of Stevenson Hall. The exec board, along with members of the Francophone club and Pi Delta Phi, created bench backs out of colored paper and picked famous quotes in French to write on them. It was great to walk through the building and see representation of the French language in such a creative manner!



## *Mur de l'amour*

BY ADRIANA ROSALES

Every semester we create a "Mur de l'amour" or "Wall of Love" for Valentine's day. Our mural is based on "Le mur des je t'aime" in Montmartre, France. This enamel mural was brought to life after Frédéric Baron, along with help from others, collected words of love from people in their native languages. These amounted to over 300 languages and dialects in the world. To commemorate this, we allow people to write words or phrases of love in their language of choice as they pass by our mural. It's nice to see that Illinois State's multilingual students take their time to put this mural together.

## *High school visit*

BY KRISTIANA MININGER

On March 1st this semester the language department organized a wonderful event to encourage local high school students to continue learning languages. High school students participated in "a day in the life" of an ISU language student by trying out various language mini-lessons taught by ISU professors. Afterwards current ISU students joined them for a lunch where they could ask questions or simply hear about what studying language looks like at the collegiate level. Pi Delta Phi members took part in this event and chatted with high school students about their own personal experiences as well as sharing about Pi Delta Phi, francophone club, and study abroad opportunities. What a great way to be able to promote continued language learning!



# Francophone Entertainment

BY KATERI OLIVARES

## Les émissions de télé

### LES COMBATTANTES



Les Combattantes (Women at War), a Netflix historical drama series about women during WWI in which they must deal with the consequences of war at home in France without men. The story follows four women, a Parisian prostitute named Marguerite, a nurse named Suzanne, a nun named Agnes, and Caroline, a young woman who becomes the head of her family's factory. If you enjoy watching series based on historical events with strong female characters,

### REPRESENT (EN PLACE)

A youth center leader from the suburbs of Paris becomes a candidate in the presidential election. But is France truly ready for a Black president? This is the description of the new French series En Place (Represent). In this first six-episode season, you get to meet the characters as well as see how our main character Stephen manages to accidentally put himself in the running for office. If you are looking for a quick binge this political comedy is a perfect fit ! Catch out the first season on Netflix.



## Les Films

### ILLUSIONS PERDUES



This two-hour film tries to fit Honoré de Balzac's novel by the same name divided into three parts. The movie, however, tells the rise and fall of a young man, Lucien, as he tries to become a respected journalist in the aristocratic world of Paris. Though a long film, it has great ratings all throughout. It also won the César award for best film in 2022, the most prestigious film award in France! Available to purchase on Amazon and Apple TV.

### LE PETIT NICOLAS

The film adaptation of René Goscinny's classic children's books Le petit Nicolas. It presents the story of schoolboy Nicolas who panics after finding out that his parents are going to have another baby. Afraid that they will abandon him, he takes matters into his own hands and thinks up a plan to dispose of the baby, with the help of his friends in school. A comedy film, this movie presents a cute family story of life in France in the 60s. It is available to purchase on Amazon, Apple, and/or Youtube.



# *Interviews with French Students*

## *Communications with Fletcher Peterson*

BY SOPHIE COTTER

### **What is your major and minor? Why did you choose to pursue that?**

My major is journalism. I work at the radio and TV outlets on campus, WZND and TV-10, where I produce newscasts. I've always loved learning, storytelling, and writing, and journalism is how I can do all of that at once. My minor is in French and Francophone studies.

### **Why did you decide to study French as well?**

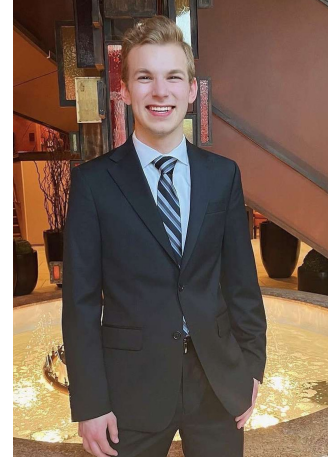
I took French in high school and realized I was missing it when I came to college. I always thought it was such a beautiful sounding language.

### **Do you see connections between your major and learning French?**

Absolutely! Everything is about communication. Communication is such a powerful tool and it can be used everywhere. I find that I'm a better communicator in English because of a lot of universal and shared concepts we apply to French.

### **What is your advice to a person thinking about studying French and possibly adding it as a minor?**

Do it sooner rather than later, then don't let your foot off the gas. Learning a language is tough, so you need to take it seriously...but taking it seriously can still be really fun!



## *Un semestre à l'étranger: Abby Moorehouse*

BY ADRIANA ROSALES

### **What were some highs from studying abroad?**

- My favorites excursions were the châteaux de la Loire and Monet's garden in Giverny, we also went to Normandie, Saint-Malo, Mont St. Michel, and Anjou Troglodytique.
- Meeting people from around the world- I've made friends with people from Italy, Mexico, Japan, Sweden, Norway, and other countries! It's super cool to learn about cultures from all over the world as well as France while at CIDEF
- I took art history as an elective and absolutely loved it! I looked forward to that class each week. It made my visits to art museums on my trips so much more meaningful and I learned so much. The professor, like all of the CIDEF faculty, was the sweetest.
- We did a program called the Journée Eudes where CIDEF students were placed in schools in the surrounding area and got to present their country and some simple phrases from their language to the children, and it was super cool! We played games with the students, ate lunch with the teachers, sang songs, and the school had been raising money for charity. I was placed in a tiny town called Loiré, and I had a ton of fun!



### **What were some low times?**

- The first week or so was honestly tough. It's scary to move to a city you've never been to before (or for some people, a country they've never been to before!), be surrounded by people you don't know, and have to get accustomed to living with a host family that you don't know. It's a lot to take in. I had been to France twice before studying abroad and still felt a bit disoriented.
- I think it's worth noting that although there are a lot of parts of study abroad that are exciting, there are still some of the same worries and problems as always such as studying for tests, cleaning, trying to stick to a budget (very hard when you're surrounded by pâtisseries!)... or realizing you forgot your keys after walking home in the rain in the middle of the night. That last one was probably my low for the semester, even if it's a little funny to tell the story now.
- I'm sure leaving will be very sad- I've made some great friends, made habits, found favorite restaurants, cafés, gotten to know my host family, and leaving won't be easy. While there are definitely things in the US I miss, it will be hard to say goodbye to the life I've found in Angers.

### **Did you experience any culture shocks?**

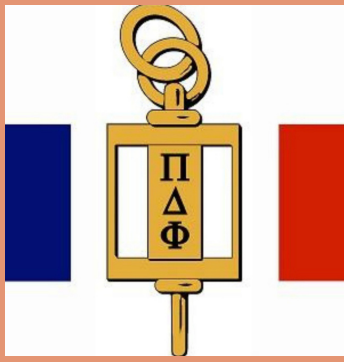
- There's a lot of things that are a little different in France. For example, my host family is very eco-conscious, as are many French people. They asked that I turn the shower on and off while I use it, they are very serious about only using the lights when needed and making sure to turn them off when leaving the room, and laundry is air-dried.
- The food I eat at home with my host family is not what I expected. Many nights, I ended up having to ask what it was we were eating. I ate a lot of new things for the first time such as lots of leeks, radishes, eggplant, mushrooms, crème fraîche, and cheeses. Some of it I liked, sometimes not so much. We also always ate three courses, even casual meals! Sometimes the appetizer was just some cut up veggies, or dessert was just some raspberries. But either way we always ate in three courses.

### **What was your experience with the language?**

- Being surrounded by the language meant I picked up lots of random vocabulary- I often realized that I didn't know the word for a random object. I'd go to ask my host mom to pass me something, and realize I didn't know how to say that in French. So I've put together quite a long quizlet of really random vocabulary I learned!
- There were a lot of Americans this semester at CIDEF, many of them are now my friends, but not very many of them were interested in speaking French outside of class. I don't get to speak French here as much as I hoped to because of this, which can be a bit frustrating.







# *Pi Delta Phi*



## *INTERESTED IN BEING A MEMBER OF NATIONAL FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY?*

The requirements are a minimum 3.0 GPA and having completed, at minimum, one 200-level French course. If you are in FRE 116, you are invited to be a junior member, come to initiation ceremonies and take part in other activities to see if PDP is for you!

## *Nos diplômées!*



Sophie first set foot on ISU soil at a department visit in March of 2019 to begin in the French major that upcoming fall. As a junior member of PDP, Sophie attended her first honor society initiation and read her first French poem all during the fall of her freshman year! She has since become not only one of our most active and devoted members, she has been on exec board for three years and présidente this past year.

*Pi Delta Phi announces the upcoming graduation of two of our exec members, Sophie Cotter, and Kristiana Mininger.*

Kristiana transferred to ISU as a junior CSD major who had already significant experience in French both in school and abroad. Kristiana jumped into French coursework and club activities. She has been an especially active member of Pi Delta Phi, weekly host of conversation hours and serves as secrétaire on the exec board this year! Kristiana has been accepted in the highly esteemed Fulbright program in Senegal next year!

