



American Association of Teachers of French

Francofeuilles

Chicago / Northern Illinois Chapter

Rentrée 2016

Un Message de votre Président

Bonjour, chers collègues de l'AATF,

Welcome to another year of AATF Chicago-Northern Illinois. I can assure you that it will include world of opportunities for you and your students. Every year in January, magazines include features such as "New Year, New You!" with ways to lose weight, get in shape, be more organized, find love, and so on ... For teachers, September is our January, and instead of worrying about diets and exercise, our "New Year, New You!" tends to focus on striving to be the best teachers we can be.

What are your goals for this year? 90% target language with your students? A thriving French Club or Société Honoraire du Français? A student trip? Collaboration with a colleague? Ditching your textbook? Whatever your goals might be, please know that we value you, and whether you teach elementary, middle, or high school students, or are a professor at the college level, we want you, we value your input, and we care about what your needs may be.

I hope that one of your goals for the year will be to participate in our AATF Chapter offerings – our three annual teacher programs, our student offerings including National French Week, the



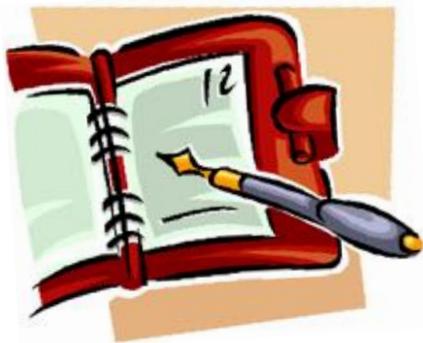
high school *Journée d'Immersion*, the college *Soirée d'Immersion*, *Champions d'Expression*, our chapter's *Concours Oral*, and the National French Test, and that you will reach out to your colleagues and encourage them to participate as well. Do what you can, and know that we will welcome you with open arms, and even *la bise!*

Amicalement,
Martha Behlow
Présidente du Chapitre de l'AATF,
Chicago/Northern Illinois

CALENDAR 2016-2017
Important deadlines and dates
AATF Chicago / Northern IL Chapter

2016

October 1	AATF Chapter Réunion d'Automne, Elmhurst College
October 7-16	Chicago-Paris 20 th Anniversary Sister City Celebrations
October 16	Deadline for student submissions: "My favorite French dish or pastry"
October 19-30	A la carte Chicago, celebration of French cuisine
October 20-22	ICTFL Fall Conference, Tinley Park <i>It's Showtime! Spotlight on Core Practices</i>
November 4	College Immersion Night, Elmhurst College
November 4 – 10	National French Week <i>En avant vers les nouvelles frontières du français !</i>
November 12	Wine and Cheese Tasting Event, Chez Moi, 2100 N. Halsted, Chicago
November 15	National French Week video, trivia, essay, and poster contest deadlines
November 19	ICTFL GlobalFest 2016 Welcomes the World to Illinois, Joliet Central H.S.
December 1	Deadline for Outstanding Administrator nominations
December 3	AATF Chapter Executive Council Meeting
December 9	Deadline for Journée d'Immersion student registrations
December 15	Deadline to submit Proposals for AATF Congrès National in St. Louis, July 18-20 Application deadline for Future Leaders Fellowship Program



CALENDAR 2016-2017
Important deadlines and dates
AATF Chicago / Northern IL Chapter

2017

January 1	Deadline for nominations for Prix d'Excellence du Chapitre award
February 1	Deadline for Dorothy Ludwig Excellence in Teaching Award nominations
February 2 – 25	National French Contest Grades 1-6 FLEX
February 4, 2017	AATF Chapter Atelier d'hiver, Glenbrook North High School AATF Chapter Executive Council Meeting, Glenbrook North
Feb 25– March 24	National French Contest Grades 7 – 12
March 1	AATF Small grants deadline
March 4	Journée d'Immersion (high school students), Dominican University
March 9-11	Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Palmer House, Chicago: <i>Performance + Proficiency = Possibilities</i>
March 31	Champions d'Expression - Concours Oral Registration closes
April 1	Deadline for Outstanding Chapter Officer nominations to AATF National
April 8	AATF Chapter Executive Council Meeting, location tba
April 22-23	Francophone Theater Festival
April 29	AATF Chapter Concours Oral, Elmhurst College
May 6 Luncheon	AATF Chapter Réunion du Printemps & Awards
July 14-15	AATF Future Leaders Fellowship Program, St. Louis
July 16-19	AATF National Convention, St. Louis Hyatt Regency: <i>Le Français dans une perspective globale: The Finest Confluence in the World</i>



CHAPTER NEWS

Notes on the 2016 Congrès in Austin: *“En avant vers les nouvelles frontières du français”*

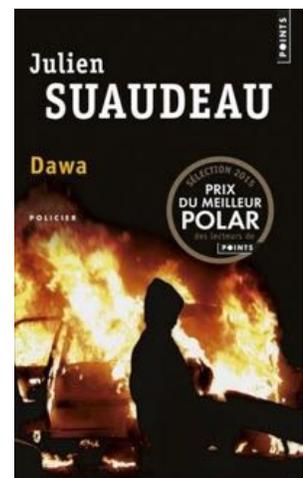
This year’s annual AATF Convention in Austin was one of the best in my recent memory. First, I had the opportunity to participate in the Future Leaders program for the two days preceding the *congrès*. This is a program by which the national leadership calls upon the chapters to nominate a person who is planning to continue in a leadership role with AATF. Future Leaders are then engaged in two days of meets & greets and training with the executive council, director, regional representatives, and other key players at the national level.



Once the convention got into full swing, I wasn’t the only one from northern Illinois! Other attendees & presenters from our chapter included our president, Martha Behlow, vice-president Rebecca Léal, treasurer Tom Sapp, past presidents Margot Steinhart & Eileen Walvoord, and my co-presenter Elaine Diveley. For being quite a distance away, our chapter was well-represented. The national convention is also a wonderful way to make connections with French teachers across the country. It’s amazing how quickly people can become lifelong friends through French conversation and barbecue! Austin had plenty to offer in the way of evening entertainment, food, and bats.

Although I have participated in many different kinds of professional development, I keep returning to the AATF national convention, not only because of the quality of the presentations & workshops, but because there is a notable difference when we hear the best from other French teachers who understand the challenges and opportunities that are unique to our profession and the language and cultures we teach. This year, I was able to grow as a presenter by delivering one workshop on my own in French (for the first time!) and another session with a colleague from another district. If you’ve never presented before, maybe 2017 will be your year. I assure you, people are appreciative and every teacher has something worth sharing.

Some highlights of the convention include the keynote speech & session by Julien Suaudeau, (availalbe online at <https://www.periscope.tv/w/1OdJrwLapbwxX>). This was an



CHAPTER NEWS

Notes on the 2016 Congrès in Austin (continued)

insightful approach to how we understand a world where terrorism exists and how we incorporate this meaningfully into our classes without giving our students the idea that it's the only current event in France. Also presenting at this convention were Martha Behlow and Rebecca Léal, both of whom were a hit with their attendees. Finally, our very own Eileen Walvoord was a winner at the dictée.

Erin Gibbons (Barrington High School)



Chapter member Erin Gibbons at the welcome luncheon



Appetizer from the awards banquet



Graduates of the 2-day AATF Future Leaders Program. Chapter member Erin Gibbons is pictured center of the back row.

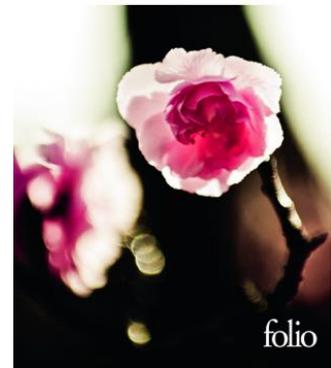
CHAPTER NEWS

Cercle de Lecture: Just for you, Just for fun

Inspired by the video podcaster, Geraldine, and her “*Comme Une Française*” segment “5 French books I love and recommend” (you can find it on YouTube), our chapter offered its first *Cercle de Lecture* this past summer. Four members participated on Thursday, June 23rd at the French/Algerian owned Café Versailles in Chicago, where we were served *en français*, and the background music selection was switched to the French classics for the occasion.

Though we were a small group, the discussion of Muriel Barbery’s *L’Élégance du Hérisson* was lively and entertaining. The book centers around the goings on of a bourgeois apartment building in Paris where Renée, the concierge, narrates an introspective and culturally rich view of the world behind the stereotypical façade of a fat, disagreeable, cat owning, TV watching concierge. There’s Paloma, a bored and precocious preteen who is bent on ending her life on her thirteenth birthday, and the new Japanese tenant M. Ozu, who will bring all three characters together and draw Renee and Paloma out of their shells and into the world. The general consensus was that second half of the book was better than the first half, so if you plan on reading it, give the characters a chance to develop and push your way through some of the slower sections early on – you won’t regret it.

Muriel Barbery
L’élégance du hérisson



Eileen Walvoord, Marnie Goodfriend, Claudia Hommel, and Brenda Crosby discuss *L’élégance du hérisson* at the *Cercle de lecture* meet up.

CHAPTER NEWS

Cercle de Lecture: Just for you, Just for fun (suite)

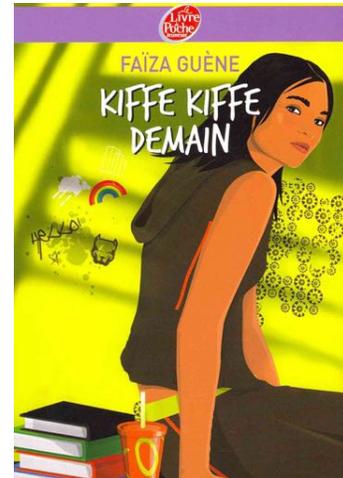
We could improve upon this event by setting the meeting date for next summer's "Just for you, Just for fun" *Cercle* in mid-July instead of late June. We found that there was interest, but folks needed more downtime between the end of the school year and our meet up, and some had student travel lined up that conflicted. We also need to advertise more robustly and with more advance notice.

We hope to offer another *Cercle de Lecture* to AATF members again in July of 2017. If you have suggestions for contemporary French novels for next year or would like to be more involved in the planning, please email Marnie Goodfriend at marnsgoodfriend@gmail.com.

Cercle de Lecture: A Working Group to Develop and Explore More Student Centered Novels for the Classroom

In a survey of AATF Northern Illinois/Chicago members last year, 63% of respondents were interested in a book club selection where teachers could explore a student level novel together, which they could then integrate into their classrooms.

The first book proposed to explore more student-centered novels for the classroom was Faïza Guène's, *Kiffe Kiffe Demain*. It was chosen because there's been so much hype in the past few years about this novel; its relevant subject matter about life in the banlieues, the *HLM* and the challenges faced by immigrants and their first generation children, particularly Muslims. It's also received a lot of attention due to its usage of *verlan* throughout the novel, something many teachers like to discuss in class to augment authentic language use and help our students relate to French teens.



Though there was small turnout for this event, we generally found that that while the language level was accessible to upper level students; the vocabulary included so much *verlan* and profanity that it would be very difficult to justify using this at the high school level.

We also generally agreed that for high school students who are working with longer texts in L2, the story needs to be engaging enough to help them get past any rough patches while they are working through new language, and the story didn't hold one's attention enough to accomplish this. The story is much more of

CHAPTER NEWS

Cercle de Lecture: A Working Group to Develop and Explore More Student Centered Novels for the Classroom (suite)

an inside meditation on her daily life, and her ultimate decision to move forward towards something more positive instead of standing still in the midst of hopelessness (hence *Kiffe Kiffe Demain* – same old, same old, day in day out). The New York Times review of the book describes it, “more like a series of adolescent diary entries than a novel,” but one which touches upon important subject matter from the mind of an insightful 15 year old with few choices at her disposal.

Because of the slow movement in the storyline it would hard to use excerpts because the context is important enough you’d spend half the time explaining the context before the scene becomes relevant – and you’d have to blank out plenty of swear words – too much work for a busy high school teacher. We’d heard so many great things about this book that we really wanted to check it out and see what it was all about, but we were ultimately disappointed.

I know there are some teachers who have found productive ways to use the novel and work around the language issues – We would love to hear how you do it! If you have any suggestions or other feedback on using *Kiffe Kiffe Demain* in the classroom, please share them with us on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/aatfchinil>. It would great to get a discussion going from those of you who have used this novel in the classroom – what worked for you?

If there’s interest, we hope to offer this meet up again in early August of 2017. Future novel suggestions include *L’Enfant noir* (Camara Laye), *Un papillon dans la cité* (Gisèle Pineau), *Le Gone du Chaâba* (Azouz Begag) and *Oscar et la Dame Rose* (Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt).

Marnie Goodfriend

SAVE THE DATE !
Friday, April 8, 2016



Questions on France & Francophonie
Sponsored by the ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE du NORTH SHORE

Create Your Team of 10: Prizes! Tombola!

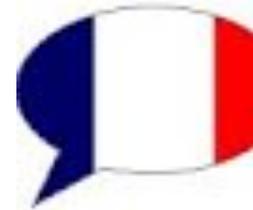
Funds Raised will support the activities of the Chicago/N IL Chapter of the AATF

CHAPTER NEWS

Compte-rendu du Concours Oral 2016

The 2016 *Champions d'expression Concours Oral* was a great success. This was the sixth year that our AATF chapter has offered this opportunity for middle and high school French students. Individual students recited memorized poetry and presented persuasive speeches. Pairs of students were given ten minutes to prepare impromptu conversations, and small groups presented skits or reader's theater pieces. All presentations were presented before a panel of three judges. With fourteen schools participating, we were able to award 83 blue ribbons (for students scoring "I") and 25 additional ribbons for students scoring "II" or "III."

This event is graciously hosted at Elmhurst College by the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, with particular support from Dr. Rebecca Léal. Teachers and volunteers frequently remark that this is wonderful opportunity for our younger French students to step onto a college campus and interact with college students and instructors who share their enthusiasm for French. "Collegial" certainly is the word to describe the atmosphere on contest day! Students dressed professionally and practiced their performance pieces throughout Circle Hall as they waited to go in front of the judges, and many participants and teachers took advantage of downtown Elmhurst's restaurants and cafés to celebrate when they had finished.



The success of the 2016 *Concours Oral* is due in large part to a record-breaking number of volunteers, including many AATF members, retirees, Francophiles, and even some Elmhurst College students! The contest committee and the AATF Chicago/Northern Illinois chapter would like to once again thank the following volunteers for their time, skill, and enthusiasm: Patty Acosta, Debbie Adams, Janette Bayles, Martha Behlow, Stefan Carson, Brenda Crosby, Elaine Diveley, Rodrigo Estrada, Justin Frieman, Suzie Giacotto, Sandra Grandolfo, Leonard Hinds, Cathy Kendrigan, Myanna Klein, Rebecca Léal, Nicholette LeBlanc, Gloria Malesewski, Korin Mihevc, Liz Morton, Phyllis Perkins, Lynn Robinson, Laura Schmuck, Fiona Spence, Amanda Wall, and Eileen Walvoord

Save the date for next year's contest and keep your eyes peeled for a new category:



*Saturday, April 29, 2017
at Elmhurst College.*

**Erin Gibbons (Barrington H.S.),
Director of the Concours Oral**

Ninth Annual Immersion Day for High School French Students



Journée Intensive en Français Fêtons le monde francophone!

Sponsorisée par l'Association Américaine des Professeurs de Français avec le soutien de l'Alliance Française du North Shore, de la Délégation du Québec au Midwest, et du Service Culturel du Consulat Général de France

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2017

Time: 7:45 AM - 4:00 PM

Place: Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois

This unique program is open to French levels III, IV, and V students, as well as highly motivated French level II students, who are seeking an opportunity to increase their competence in French. The cost of the program is \$30 for each participant if registration is postmarked by Friday, December 9 or \$35 if one's French teacher is not a member of AATF. It includes *un petit déjeuner à la française*, cultural sessions, games, linguistic activities, lunch, afternoon refreshments, and a *Chasse au trésor!* Participants will be asked to take a simple pledge to stay in the language all day! Those who succeed in speaking entirely in French, which is the goal of the immersion, will have the opportunity to win prizes too.

A participant's teacher is not required to attend. However, up to five teachers will be accepted and are welcome to register with their students for the same fees as explained above. The registration form will be available on the AATF Chicago / Northern Illinois Chapter web site: <http://www.aatf-chicnorthil.org/>, in *Francofeuilles*, and on our own immersion site which is helpful to consult: www.aatfjourneeintensive.edublogs.org

Pack up your pencil or pen and a French-English dictionary and get set to take a voyage of discovery *tout en français!*

Questions?

Contact Donna Czarnecki, director, at cdczarnecki@sbcglobal.net or 708-246-3641; or Sylvie Goutas, assistant director, at sylviegoutas@gmail.com or 630-380-4278.

Deadline: Registrations must be postmarked by December 9th.

N.B. Teachers: Only 90 student participants will be accepted. Registrations are on a first come, first served basis. There is a maximum of 10 students accepted from each school. If you have more than ten interested in attending, we will put the extra students on a waiting list. If there is space after the deadline, we will accept more than the 10 per school limit. This event fills up quickly and before the deadline. Don't wait until the last minute to send in all of your registrations. Rather, send them in as you receive them from your students so that no one will be disappointed, especially those who get their registrations to you the day after you announce the event!


Journée Intensive en Français


Le 4 mars 2017

L'Association Américaine des Professeurs de Français, Chapitre de Chicago/No. Illinois

Soutenue par l'AATF, l'Alliance Française du North Shore, la Délégation du Québec au Midwest, et le Service Culturel du Consulat Général de France

Feuille d'inscription (Registration sheet for students and teacher-participants)

Please fill out this form completely and legibly. An incomplete or illegible form will put you on the waiting list delaying your registration! This event fills up quickly!

Participant's name _____

Participant's email address _____

Street address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

Home phone (____) _____ Cell phone (____) _____

Emergency contact's name _____

Emergency contact's phone number (____) _____

Name of school _____ Principal's name _____

Street address _____ City _____ Zip code _____

School phone number (____) _____

French teacher's name _____ Teacher's email address _____

French teacher's or Foreign Language Department office's phone number (____) _____

Participant's level of French: French 2 French 3 French 4 or AP French V Teacher
Have you participated in a previous Journée Intensive? No Yes **When? 201** ____

PETIT DÉJEUNER: The immersion begins at 7:45 a.m. with *un croissant et un chocolat chaud*. Please arrive as close as possible to that time so that you will be able to participate in all the activities!

DÉJEUNER: Please check off your choice of a sandwich. It will be written on the folder you will receive at the immersion. If you do not check a box, you will be given turkey.
 Turkey Ham Roast Beef Chicken salad Tuna salad Veggie (roasted vegetable wrap)

Food allergies: None Some (explain) _____
Any other special needs? No Yes (explain) _____

<i>COST</i>	AATF members & their students	Non-members & their students
Early Bird Registration If postmarked by Dec. 9	\$30	\$35
Late Registration Between Dec. 10 and Jan. 27	\$35	\$40

***Absolutely NO registrations will be accepted after Jan. 27 and there will be no reimbursements for cancellations after that date.**

****Students can EITHER give this form and a personal check, bank check, or money order payable to AATF/Chicago-Northern Illinois to their French teacher to send in to the immersion director => Donna Czarnecki, at 105 Indian Wood Lane, Indian Head Park, IL, 60525 OR the student can mail the completed registration form and check directly to the director. Please do not send cash.**

N.B There is a limit of 90 student participants, 10 per school maximum. If more than 10 from a school want to register, those students will be placed on a waiting list in case openings occur, which they often do the last week before the immersion. Registrations must be paid in advance even to reserve a place on the waiting list. In this way students on the waiting list can be contacted to participate even up until the last few days before the immersion if an opening occurs. The money of those on the waiting list will be refunded soon after the immersion, if no openings occur or if, when contacted at the last minute, they are unable to participate. If registered students need to cancel before January 27th, their registration fee will be refunded following the immersion. **Absolutely no fees will be refunded for cancellations after January 27.**

*****Teacher-participants:** Teachers are not required to accompany their students. They may attend if they wish. A maximum of 5 teacher-participants will be accepted. Teachers will register using the same form and paying the same registration fee as the students. They are assigned to classes at the beginning of the day. However, they are invited to observe all the class sessions, if they so wish. They should come ready to participate fully in all the activities, including any skits, dancing, and games!

LOCATION: Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois For a map and directions see the website – **dom.edu**, and click “ABOUT”, then “Locations and directions”. Registrants will be given the address on the campus where the immersion will take place.

A parent or legal guardian and the student must 1) agree to and sign the following waiver, and 2) check an appropriate box regarding permission to allow the student’s picture to appear in AATF publicity.

WAIVER:

Please read this form carefully and be aware that in signing up for and participating in this program, you will be waiving and releasing all claims for injuries you might sustain arising out of this program:

As a participant in the program, I recognize and acknowledge that I assume the full risk of injuries, damages, or loss, which I may sustain as a result of participating in the activities associated with this program. I agree to waive and relinquish all claims I may have as a result of participating in the program against the American Association of Teachers of French, the French Cultural Services of Chicago, Dominican University, River Forest, Illinois, and their officers, agents, servants, and employees. I do hereby release and discharge the aforementioned from any and all claims from injuries, damage, or loss, which I may have or which may accrue to me on account of my participation. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the aforementioned from any and all claims resulting from injuries, damages, and losses sustained by me and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with the activities of the program. I and my parent(s), or legal guardian have read and fully understand the program details and waiver release of all claims.

Check one and sign below: **I also give permission for my child’s photo to appear in AATF publications.***
 I do not give permission for my child’s photo to appear in AATF publications. It is my child’s responsibility to tell his/her assistant that he/she needs to avoid getting his/her picture taken.

•These publications may include the AATF web site, AATF Facebook page, the immersion program’s Edublog, or any other written or filmed document. **N.B If you forget to check one of the boxes above, we will presume that your permission is granted.**

Parent’s Signature _____
Student’s signature _____

Date _____
Date _____

Language Pledge:

- I promise to remain in French during the entire immersion day, from the time I arrive until we are released from this pledge at the end of the day at 4:00 PM.
- I know that I may not know how to say everything I would like, but I will talk around it.
- I know that I can always use sign language, a dictionary, or the French alphabet to indicate an English word that I need to say in French.
- I am attending this immersion day to practice my French and to acquire more knowledge of the language and the culture.

Student signature _____

Date _____

La Journée Intensive en Français

Please read carefully and then keep this page.

Below you will find a copy of the schedule, pertinent information about the immersion, the phone numbers of the director and assistant director, and our internet blog address. This sheet will remind you of the date, arrival time, and place where the immersion will be held. Since you will also receive a copy of this schedule in your packet upon arrival at the Dominican University campus, you should leave a copy of this page with your parents the day of the immersion.

Schedule:

Horaire de la Journée Intensive en Français, le 4 mars 2017
Dominican University Campus, River Forest, IL 708-771-3030

Directrice : Donna Czarnecki : 708-246-3641 ; cdczarnecki@sbcglobal.net

Directrice adjointe : Sylvie Goutas : 630-380-4278; sylviegoutas@gmail.com
<mailto:sylviegoutas@gmail.com>

7h45 – 8h00	Arrivée ; Inscription ; Contrôle des passeports à la douane ; Petit déjeuner: croissant et chocolat chaud
8h00 – 8h30	Jeux de société
8h30 – 8h45	Présentation du programme par les directrices; Engagement d'honneur (compte à rebours)
8h50 – 10h05	Jeu : Cherchez quelqu'un qui..., et première session (salles de classe)
10h10 – 11h10	Deuxième session (salles de classe)
11h15 – 12h15	Jeux : Identification d'objets dans les sacs, mises en situation, et jeux divers (salles de classe)
12h15 – 13h00	Déjeuner (à la « cantine »)
13h05 – 13h45	Groupes A et B = chansons ; Groupes C et D = danses ou spectacle
13h50 – 14h30	Groupes A et B = danses ; Groupes C et D = chansons ou spectacle
14h35 – 15h30	Friandise-surprise et Chasse au trésor
15h40 – 16h00	Distribution des prix pour les gagnants de la Chasse au trésor ; Evaluation de la Journée Intensive ; Loterie ; Remerciements ; Compte à rebours et fin de l'engagement ; Départ

How to dress: Dress is casual and comfortable. If you have a t-shirt or outfit from a French speaking country or clothes the color of the French, *Québécois* or other French speaking country's flag, wear them!

Items to bring: A pencil or pen and a French dictionary, if you wish.

For more information: Consult our internet site at: www.aatfjourneeintensive.edublogs.org If you have any questions about the *Journée Intensive en Français*, contact the director, Donna Czarnecki, before the immersion at 708-246-3641 (or cdczarnecki@sbcglobal.net) or on the day of the immersion after 5:45 a.m. call her cell phone number: 708-692-3641. You may also call or email the assistant director, Sylvie Goutas. Her cell phone is 630-380-4278 and her email is sylviegoutas@gmail.com.

N.B. If the two-page registration form is incomplete when we receive it, you will be notified and you will be put on the waiting list. You will NOT be accepted until it is complete. For various reasons we need ALL the information requested!

COIN PÉDAGOGIQUE

France, US and Francophone Elections



The French III & IV Classes at Guerin Prep HS began a virtual election exchange with a school in Pau, France last year that is somewhat historic and definitely relevant since our elections only coincide in the same school year every 20 years. France's Presidential Term is 5 years while the U.S. Presidency is a 4-year term creating an interesting opportunity for French Teachers. This exchange is in its preliminary stages and includes an AP U.S. Government Class from our school. I have included a list of questions that the students in France will be responding to via a Google Doc as well as the preliminary communications with our e-pals.

In addition, embracing "*La Francophonie*", my students, all four levels, have been introduced to *l'Élection Présidentielle au Gabon* because a friend from our parish is the son of the current Prime Minister of Gabon who is currently running for President. We created an election poster on his behalf and have been following the daily news since the elections on August 27th. You will see from the attached articles, or if you have been following this story, that the elections in Gabon have been compromised by a 40-year dynasty of Bongo Family Presidents. The two most interesting revelations that have presented themselves, as a result of connecting my students with France and Gabon, are their profound reflections to the "state of affairs" in Gabon and the French teachers hesitation to respond to our AP Government proposed questions for fear they will offend us.

En avant vers les élections aux U.S.A.!

Bienvenue: Welcome to our French-American Election Exchange 2016. Here is a bit of history behind our project. The students are in an AP English class in a French public school located in the city of Pau, about 20 miles west of the pilgrimage city of Lourdes. The idea behind this project would be to motivate the students from both schools in the process of learning the language and enhance that process by giving them the opportunity to work with their fellow students from the other country, exchange letters, emails, do some skype and possibly leading to a trip to the other side. These students are between the ages of 13 and 15 so all information should be age appropriate.



Because both countries will be electing their president during the next school year, I thought it could be interesting to work on that subject – without getting into political issues. For example,

COIN PÉDAGOGIQUE

France, US and Francophone Elections (continued)

we could work on the processes in each country to elect the president and officials, on biographical elements from different candidates, on regions etc... not to mention a possible look at France and America now and then with the study of some excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's book *Democracy in America*, or the mutual influence of the two countries in different aspects of our lives (cultural, legal, D-Day ...) or greatest heroes from our shared past (Lafayette, Jefferson, Franklin, D Roosevelt...)

Marguerite de Navarre is an urban school of about 1000 pupils. We offer classes in English, Spanish, German and Russian as well as ancient Greek and Latin. The German department has a signed agreement with the city of Gottingen and every year about 50 of our students spend two weeks at the end of June in Germany while their counterparts come in France the following fall. This type of exchange is also conducted in Spain with the city of Saragossa.

Pau, France is a mid-size city located only one hour from the Spanish border, two hours from major cities such as Bordeaux and Toulouse. It is a very safe community. It is the hometown of King Henry IV and boasts museums, cinemas as well as outdoors activities in the nearby Pyrenees Mountains etc....”

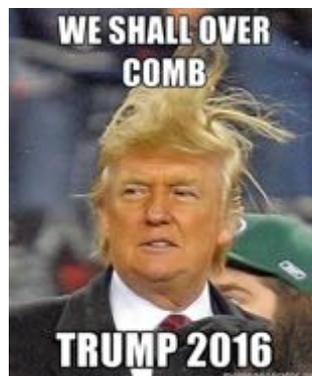
First Step: Introducing our school

[Guerin Prep High School Website](#) We are located in the suburbs of Chicago only 9 kilometers from the city center and have approximately 330 students at four levels of High School equivalent to 3ème, 2ème Première & Terminale in the French school system. Our students have a choice of 4 languages: Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese and Italian. Most of our students study Spanish and many of them speak another language at home, Polish, Spanish, Italian, Ukrainian, Greek, etc.)

Second Step: Class introductions: (Each student & myself created an introduction and added a political meme or two or three:) I have only included my introduction and omitted my students in this article.



Bonjour, my name is Mme. Suzanne Giacotto and I am a French Teacher at Guerin Prep High School. This is my 8th year teaching French and I previously worked for 3 French companies including: Air France, Accor International and Demarle. I love to cook, travel to France, hike outdoors and spend time with my family. I love French films as well as American films and have 4 children and an adorable dog. My husband is from Lyon, France so we are fans of OL! Allez l'OL!



COIN PÉDAGOGIQUE

France, US and Francophone Elections (continued)

Third Step: Questions posed by AP Government Class (French students have begun to translate)

Questions for French Students from AP Government as translated by French IV Class:
(Please note: These are actual student translations and contain errors typical of French IV students.)

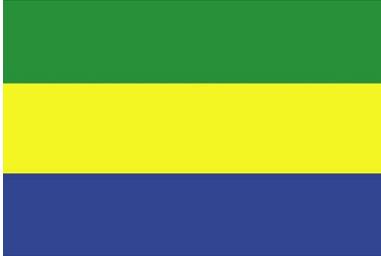
- How has political climate changed in France since bombings in Paris?
Comment est-ce que le climat politique a changé depuis les attentats à Paris?
- What is it like having a multi-party system?
Comment est-ce que c'est en France en ayant un multi-système de parti-politique?
- How competitive are elections?
Est-ce que les élections sont compétitives?
- What is the largest demographic of voters?
Quel est la plus grande démographique de voteurs?
- Which party do youths tend to support?
Quel parti politique est-ce que les jeunes ont la tendance à supporter?
- What party (in France) do you support?
Quel parti-politique (en France) supportez-vous?
- What are your thoughts on Donald Trump?
Que pensez-vous de Donald Trump en tant que candidat?
- What are your general thoughts on the United States election?
Que pensez-vous des élections présidentielles Américaines?
- Which American candidate do you think would be the most successful if that candidate was running in France?
Parmi les deux candidats américains, quel est celui qui serait le meilleur candidat s'il se présenter aux élections présidentielles en France?
- What perception do you have of the United States based on American politics?
Quel image avez-vous de l'Amérique par rapport aux élections présidentielles qui s'y passent en ce moment?
- What is the major differences between political parties?
Quels sont les parti-politique principaux en France et quelles différences idéologiques ont-ils?
- What is France's their equivalent of the U.S. Judicial Branch?
A quoi correspond "the U.S. Judicial Branch" Américain dans le système gouvernemental français?
- What's their opinion of our current President, Barrack Obama?
Quel est l'opinion sur Barack Obama par la population française?
- If they could change one thing about their country, what could they change?
Si les français pouvaient changer quelque chose dans leur pays, que serait-elles?
- Do you think the American style of government is more effective than the French? Why?
Pensez-vous que le système politique Américain soit plus ou moins efficace que le système français?
- Comparing France and American, what is the difference between the methods of how our leaders are elected (how they are chosen)?
Quelle sont les différences entre la façon dont les candidats sont choisis en France par rapport aux États-Unis?
- What is a normal school day like in France?
Décrivez une journée scolaire typique en France?
- What American stereotypes do young French students joke about?
Quels sont les critiques sur les jeunes Américains selon les jeunes Français?
- What things about France do Americans not usually know?
Quels sont les caractéristiques peu connues par les Américains par rapport à la France et les Français?

COIN PÉDAGOGIQUE

France, US and Francophone Elections (continued)

There is much work to do as this conversation will continue into the French Elections of Spring 2017. A follow-up article will be published and if other French classes have the opportunity to connect with francophone schools, the AATF Chicago / Northern IL Chapter welcomes their reflections in the follow-up issue next spring.

LES ELECTIONS AU GABON 2016



Gabon Election Poster and articles:



Nouvelles Journals/Téles:

- [11 Candidates Run for President in Gabon](#)
- [Gabon Election News as Polls Close in Gabon](#)
- [President Bongo Awaits Election Results](#)
- [Gabon Elections Possibly Manipulated](#)
- [Gabon Army Deployed Prior to Announcement of Election Results](#)
- [Violence Erupts after Bongo Named Winner](#)
- [France News Report on State of Affairs in Gabon Following the Election](#)
- [Gabon Opposition Demands Strike](#)
- [Prime Minister Resigns](#)

COIN PÉDAGOGIQUE

France, US and Francophone Elections (fin)

Student Reflections for our Guerin Prep News Letter (en anglais) samples:

"The issues in Gabon are a result of years and years of oppression. This is the fault of the dictators, yes, but it is also ultimately a result of western expansionism and imperialism, and how our failed governments reflect on the countries that rely most on us."

"I am disappointed that Gabon, a country that defines its government as democratic, can have an unjust election. They have taken away the power the people by repressing their votes and their protests. I hope that their government officials make just decisions when coming to a conclusion."

Suzanne Giacotto (Guerin Prep)

AATF Small Grants Awards

Do you have some great ideas to enhance your French program, but lack the financial resources to implement them?

Why not apply for an AATF small grant?



The Chapter will make a total of **\$150** available to sponsor Small Grants Awards, due to the Chapter President by **January 1**. Projects must relate to the purpose of the Association to promote French studies and benefit other members or students. Upon acceptance, the recipient agrees to share the project with chapter members through an article in *Francofeuilles* and/or a presentation at a chapter meeting.

Application and proposal:

Send a letter to the Chapter President (with three copies) containing the following information **by Jan. 1**:

1. AATF member's name, title, address, phone number, and e-mail.
2. A brief summary of the project, including purposes, dates, individuals involved.
3. Total of anticipated budget with breakdown of expenses anticipated
4. Amount of funds requested.
5. Other sources of funding being sought, if any.

All requests will be reviewed by the Chapter Grants/Awards Committee and will be acknowledged by January 30.

LE PRIX DU CHAPITRE

Up to three awards may be given annually by the Chapter to recognize outstanding contributions to the teaching of French (pre-school, elementary, secondary, post-secondary, or adult education are all eligible).

Eligibility

1. Candidates must have been a member of AATF for two consecutive years and be a member in good standing of the Chicago / Northern Illinois Chapter at the time they apply or are nominated.
2. Candidates must have two years of teaching experience.
3. Currently elected Executive Council members are not eligible.
4. Previous winners of the award are not eligible.

Criteria

Contributions to the teaching of French may be defined by demonstrated performance in two or more of the following areas:

1. Pre-school, elementary, junior high and senior high award: classroom teaching, curriculum development, community involvement, professional commitment, service to the district, participation in AATF activities locally, regionally, or nationally.
2. Post-secondary, adult education award: classroom teaching, curriculum development, community involvement, professional commitment or service and / or publication, participation in AATF activities locally, regionally, or nationally.

Process

1. To nominate a candidate, send an email to the Chapter President containing the information requested in the nomination form below. Candidates may initiate the nomination process themselves.
2. After nomination, the candidate will furnish to the current AATF Chapter President a complete electronic dossier, which address the criteria listed above, and includes:
 - a. a curriculum vitae
 - b. a letter of recommendation from a supervisor (department head, principal, curriculum director, person in authority, etc.): original sent directly to AATF chapter president,
 - c. two additional letters of recommendation from those who know the work of the candidate:This dossier is to be sent via one email to the Chapter President with all supporting documents attached to that email.
3. Completed applications must be received by the president on or before January 30.
4. The dossiers will be reviewed by members of the Executive Council. Candidates will be notified after the spring meeting of the Executive Council of the decision of the Awards Committee. The decision of the Awards Committee will be final.

5. The Prix du Chapitre will be presented to the finalists at the spring meeting. Each recipient will receive a plaque and a check for \$100

1983 Monique Whiting, Martha Shreiner / 1984 James Berger
1985 Roland Dubosq, Rita Wenzlow
1986 Mary Ellen Young, Gerald Plotkin, Kathy Heilenman
1987 Marie-Rose Gerdisch
1988 Nancy Clark, Donna Czarnecki, Paul Kreiss
1989 Virginia Gramer, Bonnie Caldwell, Rosalee Gentile
1990 Mary Frances Crabtree, Peter Conroy
1991 Alan Wax, Pierre Simonian, Michèle Gragg
1992 Safia F. Haddad, Cathy Kendrigan
1993 Jo Ellen Sandburg, Mary Lauerman, Wahnetta Mullin
1994 Susan W. Norevich, Dorette Klein
1995 Janet Evans / 1996 Not awarded
1997 Lorri Stark-King, William D. Paden
1998 Margot M. Steinhart, Mary Ellen McGoey
1999 Terry Meyers, Marie-Simone Pavlovich
2000 Maureen Breen, Dr. Raymond Tourville
2001 Barbara Kane, Dan Doak / 2002 Anne Hebert
2003 Maria Kurt, Mary Lou Jenks
2004 Leah J. Bolek, John Tomme
2005 Liette Brisebois, Janine Pefley / 2006 Robin Wolf
2007 Jane Castle, Samantha Godden-Chmielowicz, Patricia Olderr
2008 Karen Provan, Maria Schoon
2009 Leo Conry, Lorin Pritikin, Janine Spencer
2010 Carolyn Dunoon, Reid Lewis, Mary Rooks
2011 Eileen Walvoord / 2012 Lynn Robinson
2013 Elise Helland, Bobbie Kieffer
2014 John Miles, Laura Schmuck
2015 Pam Cabeen, Gigi Olmstead
2016 Kristina Beck, Yvonne Fawell, Gloria Maliszewski

To initiate the nomination process, e-mail the following information to Chapter President Martha Behlow by Jan. 1, 2016. mbehlow@geneva304.org

Prix du Chapitre Nomination Form

I recommend the following Chicago / Northern Illinois Chapter member for the Prix du Chapitre:

Name: _____

School/Affiliation: _____

Home address, telephone and e-mail:

Nominated by: _____

School/Affiliation: _____

PROMOTING FRENCH AT EVERY LEVEL

Spotlight on HigherEd

Institution Name: **Illinois State University**

Institution Type: **4-year public university**

Location: **Normal, IL**

Faculty: **Dr. Jennifer Howell
Dr. Erin Tremblay Ponnou-Delaffon
Ms. Laura Edwards**



Degrees: **French Minor; B.A. in French; B.A in French Teacher Education; M.A. in Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (French focus)**

Courses: **Elementary and Intermediate Sequences; Phonetics; Advanced Courses in Composition, Conversation, and Grammar; Contemporary French Culture; French for Business and the Professions; Selected Topics in French and Francophone Cinema, Civilization, Literatures, and Cultures**

Other: **Conversation Table; French Club; Pi Delta Phi (National French Honor Society); French Film Series; Semester or Academic Year Abroad in Angers, France at the Université Catholique de l'Ouest; Summer Abroad in (1) Quebec, Canada at the Université Laval, (2) Grenoble, France at the Université Grenoble Alpes, or (3) Meknes, Morocco (faculty-led program)**

Contact: Dr. Jennifer Howell, Associate Professor of French

| 309-438-1956 | jthowel@ilstu.edu or <http://lan.illinoisstate.edu/french/>

In this new Francofeuilles series, we will be focusing on higher education opportunities in Northern Illinois. Feel free to share this information with students (handouts, class website, bulletin board) or consider signing up for enrichment courses yourself! If you wish for your institution to be included in this feature, contact rebecca.leal@elmhurst.edu

FRENCH FOR LIFE

Exploring language study and careers

Victoria Pike Douzamy

Major: BA: French/Education

MA: French, Linguistics/TESOL

Minor: BA: Music

Institution: Illinois State University

Job Description: Translation and Editing Independent Contractor;
French Teacher



FF: *Why did you take French?* I began taking French in high school having fond childhood memories of my mother singing Beatles songs with me, Michelle ma belle in particular.

FF: *What was most enjoyable about taking French?* I loved finding French all around me. I found that I understood English on a deeper level, given the borrowing between languages, as well as being able to understand Spanish and Italian to a degree.

FF: *How has French helped you in your education, career, or personal life?* Learning French opened doors for me, in education, career, and personal life. Studying a second language and then living in France gave me insight as to the challenges and misunderstandings a language learner may face. Being sympathetic in this manner assisted me in becoming a better teacher as well as a better tutor in working with adults towards my TESOL certificate. My studies in French and linguistics, as well as my connection to Illinois State's languages department, prepared me and assisted me in finding employment in the translation industry. And it is thanks to my high school French pen pal that I eventually met and married my husband! French has positively impacted every aspect of my life!

FF: *Do you feel that your French language skills have helped you get a job?* I am certain that my French language skills have assisted me in landing multiple jobs, as well as continuing to work from home as I am now the proud maman to a little dual citizen.

FF: *Do you use your French skills in your job?* I currently teach French to adults as well as translating and editing French to English documents for the company I was with from the end of my Master's studies to the birth of my son.

FF: *Do you have any advice for students considering French studies?* Follow your heart. Choosing to study a language means opening your heart and mind to not only the language, but the cultures and histories of peoples. You will never be the same once you've studied abroad, and you must study abroad to begin to really understand all the things the textbooks and classrooms do their best to simulate.

FF: *Do you have any relevant plans for the future?* My plans for the future include trips to France with my family and eventually pursuing a doctoral degree. For the near future, I will continue to translate and teach French, as well as volunteering at my local library to do French story time. I also look forward to when my son will start to speak; it will be both fun and linguistically interesting to hear his invented bilingual toddler words.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2015-2016

President

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*** Did you know...?**

Executive Council members are elected for one two-year term, after which they may be re-elected for a second two-year term. The numbers after the name of each Council member indicate the term and year of service, i.e.. (1-2) = Term 1, Year 2.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2015-2016

Council Members (continued)

Margarita Levasseur (1-1)
Proviso Math and Science Academy
Email : margaritalevasseur@gmail.com

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Fiona Spence (2-1)
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Nitya Viswanath (2-1)
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CHAPTER WEBSITE
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AATF WEBSITE
www.frenchteachers.org

AATF National Headquarters

AATF Executive Director

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Articles for Francofeuilles!

If you have a successful lesson or idea for promotion or advocacy, please share it with your colleagues. Submit all articles to cathykendrigan@gmail.com.



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Laura Schmuck
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FRANCOFEUILLES

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