2015 – L’Année Vincent Van Gogh
Information available at http://www.vangoghbrabant.com/fr/actus! Think France/Belgium/Art/impressionism!

Lettre des Présidentes

The annual meeting of the Société Honoraire de Français took place in Saguenay, Quebec, at Hôtel La Montagnais, on Thursday morning, July 9, 2015, during the annual AATF convention. Ann Sunderland, AATF Présidente Honoraire, presided, assisted by Illeen Walvoord, Region VI Representative. Approximately 25 sponsors attended the early morning meeting. While enjoying a delicious breakfast, the group discussed several important issues.

A discussion of recent changes was the first order of business. The SHF secretary is now working out of national headquarters, which has moved to an office building in Marion, IL. Although the transition was a bit difficult, most problems have been resolved, and chapter sponsors should no longer have any problems receiving ordered materials or answers to questions and concerns. Additionally, the newly revised constitution is now on the SHF website, and is available to all sponsors to reference as they manage their chapters. Membership in a chapter of Jeunes Amis du Français for elementary and middle school students is a new opportunity to encourage younger students as they begin their French studies.

Several sponsors mentioned that they are proud to award SHF certificates to their best students, as they feel that the certificates are classy and more attractive than those for other language honor societies. Cords are always an important topic of discussion, as SHF cords are very appreciated by both students and sponsors. Schools that forbid the use of cords at graduation are an issue at some schools, one that we discussed at length. All agreed that the Société Honoraire de Français is a positive force in their schools as well as an important recruitment and public relations tool. Our next meeting will be in Austin, Texas in conjunction with the 2016 convention. We hope to see you there!

Ann Sunderland, Past President AATF
<mmesunderland@sbcglobal.net>

Following the updated SHF Constitution and Bylaws, we are now preparing for the election of a president and two new teacher representatives. Please review the biographical documents when you are notified they are on line and be ready to vote when you receive e-mail notification that balloting is open. (See page 7.)

We welcome each of the chapters new since the fall of 2014-15 listed in this issue (pages 2-3). You will find your chapter number on your charter and on the first line of the address on page eight. Should your new chapter not be mentioned, please let us know by contacting both the e-mail addresses below.

SHF is now being served in the office by:
Angelica Vickers, Executive Secretary
AATF – 302 North Granite Street
Marion, Illinois 62959-2346
Ph: (815) 310-0480 Fax: (815) 310-5754
E-mail: shf@frenchteachers.org
Web: www.frenchteachers.org/shf

Please mark your calendars for July 3-6, 2016, for the annual meeting of the AATF/SHF in Austin, TX. Venez nombreux!

Sharon Rapp, National President SHF
1817 South Blvd.
Conway, AR 72034
Tel/Fax: 501-327-4216
sbrapp@conwaycorp.net
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>Holly Fairlamb</td>
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| 5046 | Lincoln-Way East High School, Frankfort, IL   | Lisa Goetsch            |
| 5047 | Rustburg HS, Rustburg, VA                     | Rachel Nablo            |
| 5048 | Little Elm HS, Little Elm, TX                 | Bridget Shaskan         |
| 5049 | Halls High School, Knoxville, TN              | Amy Thomas              |
| 5050 | North Springs High School, Sandy Springs, GA  | Tyree McKenzie          |
| 5051 | Watertown High School, Watertown, WI          | Michelle Webster        |
| 5052 | Helias Catholic High School, Jefferson City, MO | Paula Zeltz          |
| 5053 | William Howard Taft High School, San Antonio, TX | Marina Garcia         |
| 5054 | Albany High School, Albany, NY                | Lynne MacKo             |
| 5055 | Rockridge High School, Ashburn, VA            | Veronica Billington     |
| 5056 | King's Ridge Christian School, Woodstock, GA  | Matthew Watts           |
| 5057 | Dobson High School, Mesa, AZ                  | Beth Brandt             |
| 5058 | Dos Pueblos HS, Golera, CA                    | Valerie Lent            |
| 5059 | International Studies Preparatory Academy, Coral Gables, FL, Corinne Lhermitte |
| 5060 | Lincoln East HS, Lincoln, NE                  | Barbara Frost           |
| 5061 | Garden City High School, Garden City, NY      | David Strauser          |
| 5062 | Dakota HS, Macomb, MI                         | Tonda Durasevic         |
| 5063 | Marian Central Catholic High School, Palatine, IL, Elyse Slezak |
| 5064 | Washington High School, Washington, MO        | Benjamin Stout          |
| 5065 | Crespi Carmelita High School, Encino, CA      | Pablo Martinez          |
| 5066 | East High School, Denver, CO                  | Tiffany Choi            |
| 5067 | Rogers Heritage High School, Rogers, AR       | Mary Parker             |
| 5068 | Cass Technical High School, Detroit, MI       | Crystal Cannon          |
| 5069 | Dwight D Eisenhower High School, Blue Island, IL, Katie Reed-Ellinoff |
| 5070 | Marlington HS, Alliance, OH                    | Teresa Phillips         |
| 5072 | Adel DeSoto Minburn High School, Adel, IA      | Lori Rezak              |
| 5073 | Booker T Washington HS PVA, Dallas, TX        | Jacqueline Cowen        |
| 5074 | D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School, Denver, CO        | Ghisain Sabre           |
| 5075 | Spartanburg Day School, Spartanburg, SC        | Margaret Sullivan       |
| 5076 | Weston HS, Weston, CT                         | Laura DelSavio          |
| 5077 | Vista Del Lago High School, Folsom, CA         | Verna Verspiereen       |
| 5078 | Cobleskill-Richmondville High School, Richmondville, NY | Sarah Matarazzo |
Harpursville Junior-Senior High School, Harpursville, NY, Megan White
Arabia Mountain High School, Lithonia, GA, Diane Clark
Martin Luther King Junior High School, Lithonia, GA, Kodjo d’Almeida
Ladue Horton Watkins High School, Ladue, MO, Bridget Milford
Lancaster High School, Lancaster, OH, Elizabeth Smathers
Smithfield High School, Smithfield, VA, Gwendolyn Stancil
Hart High School, Newhall, CA, Vanessa Perez
Jackson High School, Massillon, OH, Vasiliki Delis-Parker
The Seaton Keough High School, Baltimore, MD, Danielle Arristide
Billerica Memorial High School, Billerica, MA, Terri-Anne Byrne
STEM School and Academy, Highlands Ranch, CO, Peggy Veal
King/Robinson Magnet School, New Haven, CT, Hanna Sam
Mercer Island High School, Mercer Island, WA, Deana Wiater
Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, La Canada, CA, Stefani Collier
Lakewood Ranch High School, Bradenton, FL, Audrey Irias
Division Avenue High School, Levittown, NY, Kristina Morgan
Great Valley HS, Malvern, PA, Patricia Carlini
Standley Lake High School, Westminster, CO, Laurence Darger
Adamsville Jr/Sr High School, Adamsville, TN, Julia Stevens
Oelentangy Orange High School, Lewis Center, OH, Larissa Sauder
Livermore Valley Charter Preparatory High School, Livermore, CA, Rebecca Assassi
Oneida High School, Oneida, NY, Catherine Jeannin
Trinity High School, Louisville, KY, Alan Wilson
Corona del Sol High School, Tempe, AZ, Michele Coble
Radford School, El Paso, TX, Jose Vasquez
Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School, Burnt Hills, NY, Rosine Leloir
Northwood High School, Silver Spring, MD, Susan Bartolacci Dahlya
North Canyon High School, Phoenix, AZ, Jeffrey Crawford Gallup
Oak Ridge High School, El Dorado Hills, CA, Kristina Rogers
William Cullen Bryant High School, Long Island City, NY, Sean Nason
Tabb High School, Yorktown, VA, Christopher Elliott
Radford School, Honolulu, HI, Monica Belden
Spring Hill High School, Chapin, SC, Rebecca Davis
The Village School Houston, Houston, TX, Flavia Horton
Rancho Mirage High School, Rancho Mirage, CA, Marcia Ann Hilger
Norwalk High School, Norwalk, CT, Marie-Pierre G'Raf
Westminster High School, Westminster, MD, Denise Diegel
Northshore High School, Slidell, LA, Edward Larson
Riverdale High School, Fort Myers, FL, Guerlene Fettl
Alexander High School, Douglasville, GA, Brittany Blackmon
Waterford Union High School, Waterford, WI, Karen Morgan
Mayfield Senior High School, Pasadena, CA, Bertha Sevilla
Redondo Union High School, Redondo Beach, CA, Cynthia Fronda
Morton Ranch High School, Katy, TX, Virginie Bopda Kontchov
Brentwood High School, Brentwood, TN, Virginie Jordan
North Salem High School, North Salem, NY, Jessie Wasserman
John Glenn High School, Walkerton, IN, Danielle Sebranek
Merrimack Valley High School, Penacook, NH, Adriana Cauley

Help Requested

Should the charter number on your mailing label or in this list not match the number on the charter you received, please send an e-mail including those numbers to both of these addresses:

shlfrenchteachers.org
sbrapp@conwaycorp.net

If there is no charter number listed on your mailing label, or if your new chapter is within the numbers above, but not listed on pages 2-3, please notify both of the addresses above. We want our records to be accurate and we want to honor each new chapter of Société Honoraire de Français.
Concours - SHF Travel Stipends

In recent years, up to twelve (12) stipends have been awarded. Each stipend last year was in the amount of $1000.

1. Each chapter may submit no more than two applications.

2. The teacher of the student applicant must be a member of AATF by Feb. 1, 2016.

3. The applicant must be a member of the SHF by the application deadline, currently studying French, and possess a good knowledge of the language.

4. Awards must be used for travel to a French speaking area, not tuition, course fees, etc. Proof of registration by May 1 in the program described on, or attached to, the application form and/or travel reservations may be required before disbursement is made.

5. The applicant must be registered in, or able to register in, a program approved by the SHF sponsor. Although independent travel is discouraged, exceptions will be made if the applicant and sponsor provide a detailed program of travel/study and justification.

6. Travel must be completed within 12 months of the award deadline (by 2/1/17).

7. Each recipient is expected to send to the address below a brief description of the travel/study experience and its significance within one month of completion of the trip. The form will accompany the stipend and is also on line at: www.frenchteachers.org.

8. Only applications which are complete will be reviewed. The sponsor must mail all the following items in one envelope:

   a. Completed application form
   b. Student essay, hand-written in cursive, signed and dated by student (see center of application form—in bold print—for details)
   c. Letter of recommendation, signed and dated, from current French teacher
   d. Letter of recommendation, signed and dated, from another faculty member of the school the applicant is now attending
   e. Official transcript through first semester 2015-16
   f. Paper copy of travel/study program prospectus (or justification)

9. A student may receive only one travel stipend.

10. NOTE: Winning students' names will be published in L'Elan, on the SHF Web site and/or in the AATF National Bulletin unless permission is denied in the application (see form, page 5).

    NOTE: T00: SHF assumes no responsibility for the trip as a result of the granting of this award.

Postmark Deadline: February 1, 2016 to:
Sharon B. Rapp, President SHF
1817 South Blvd.
Conway, AR 72034-6205

Question et réponse

Q: What is the difference between the travel essay and the creative writing essay?

R: The travel essay is described in the middle of the cover form, page five, as stating "your reasons for applying for this travel award" and, written in the student's own cursive handwriting, is to be submitted along with the materials for that concours (page four). The creative writing entries are to address the topic on page six and are to be typewritten. The competitions are completely separate and, within the limitations set forth in the rules, a student may enter both.

Dates to Remember

National French Week, November 4-10, 2015 and 2016: www.frenchteachers.org

Deadline for Submissions to National French Week Contests: Essay and Video/Animation (received by) November 15, 2015 www.frenchteachers.org/nfw/contests.htm

International Education Week, November 14-18, '15 http://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/international

International Education Week, November 14-18, '15 http://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/international

Le Grand Concours

Grades 1-6 (FLES): February 14 - 28, 2016
Grades 7-12 (levels 01-5): Feb. 20 - March 21 2016

National Foreign Language Week, March 7-13, '16 Theme: Languages Enrich Your Mind Sponsor: Alpha Mu Gamma http://www.lacitycollege.edu

La Journée internationale de la Francophonie 2016 http://20mars.francophonie.org

89th Annual AATF Convention, July 3-6, 2016 Austin, Texas
Application for an SHF Travel Stipend

This completed form (which may be copied) and all supporting materials (see page 4) must be sent by the sponsor in the same envelope, postmarked no later than February 1, 2016, to the address below. The applicant must be a member of SHF and the applicant’s sponsoring teacher must be a member of AATF by the application deadline.

Sharon B. Rapp, President SHF
1817 South Blvd.
Conway, AR 72034-6205

Applicant’s name________________________________________ Initial if name should NOT be posted on Web _____

Home address____________________________________________
(street) __________________________ (city) __________________________ (state) __________________________ (zip) __________________________

Date of birth __________________________ Age on 2/1/16 __________________________ Date/Year inducted into SHF __________________________

Grade point average: Overall ___________ In French ___________ Rank in class ___________ of ___________

Class (circle): 9 10 11 12 Current French course (circle): II III IV V VI Is course? (circle): AP IB

School Activities and awards: _____________________________________________

___________________________________________

Other: _____________________________________________

A. Have you participated in Le Grand Concours (National French Contest)? (circle) Yes No Year/s __________________________

B. Have you participated in other French competitions? (circle) Yes No Year/s __________________________

C. Have you ever visited a French-speaking country? (circle) Yes No Year/s __________________________

If A, B or C above is YES, give details: _____________________________________________

On a separate sheet of paper, state in your own cursive handwriting in French your reasons for applying for this travel award. You must present your own ideas, but a teacher may correct your grammar.

Information below to be completed by the SHF sponsor:

(sponsor must be member of AATF by 2/1/16) (sponsor signature)

Sponsor’s name________________________________________ Home phone __________________________

School name________________________________________ E-mail __________________________

School address________________________________________
(street) __________________________ (city) __________________________ (state) __________________________ (zip) __________________________

AATF region (see www.frenchteachers.org—Chapters) __________ SHF chapter # (see address label) __________

Does the school have a travel/study program? (circle) Yes No If YES, date next trip __________________________

If NO, what alternative program has been chosen (*)?

Describe briefly on the back of this page and/or attach a prospectus for the school travel/study program the student will be joining (* or for the alternative program chosen and the justification for which an exception is requested). The program described must be the trip to which the stipend will be applied.
Concours – Creative Writing

Catégorie A = Niveaux II-III
Catégorie B = Niveaux IV-VI

The topic for this year’s writing competition may be addressed in a variety of tenses. You may choose to respond to the questions in poetry, conversation, prose or a combination thereof.

Imaginez que mille ans dans le futur que quelqu’un découvre un objet de nos jours. Quel objet est-ce qu’on trouverait et qu’est-ce qu’on en penserait?

A ne pas oublier...

☐ Chaque école peut présenter trois œuvres par catégorie au concours.
☐ Le professeur de chaque candidat doit être membre de l’AATF par le premier février 2016.
☐ On peut envoyer une seule sélection par élève (pas de travail de groupe).
☐ Veuillez indiquer sur la feuille le nom de l’élève, le nom et l’adresse de son école, le nom de son professeur, la catégorie et le niveau (par exemple, III, V)
☐ Il faut que le texte soit tapé à la machine, 250 mots maximum.
☐ Les présentations ne seront pas rendues.

☐ $50 et un «blazer patch» SHF seront accordés aux lauréats qui seront annoncés dans le Bulletin National. Nous pourrons tous les lire dans le prochain numéro de L’Elan.

☐ Please note: Submission of student writing constitutes permission to publish and permission to edit the submission to meet space requirements of L’Elan.

☐ Note, too: Names of authors of winning submissions will be published in L’Elan, on the SHF Web site and/or in the AATF National Bulletin unless a signed and dated statement denying permission to do so is included with the entry.

☐ Date limite: 1 février, 2016, à
Sharon B. Rapp, President SHF
1817 South Blvd.
Conway, AR 72034-6205

Félicitations!

Congratulations to these SHF sponsors honored this year for their teaching and service:

AATF Executive Council Members
Rita Davis, PA, Vice President
Margaret Dempsey, RI, Region I Rep
Deanna Scheffer, FL, Region IV Rep
Eileen Walvoord (retired), IL, Region VI Rep

AATF National Commissions Chairs
Adina Alexandru, CT, Teacher Standards
Justin Frieman, IL, Promotion of French
Anne Jensen, CA, High Schools
Janel Lafond-Paquin, RI, Middle Schools
Margarita Levasseur, IL, At Risk, High Needs, ...

AATF Convention Travel Award
Clarice Hammett, Bakersfield, CA
Sheryl Meservey, Camas, WA

AATF/France Scholarship
Amanda Coffee-Stansbury, Parker, CO

AATF Future Leaders Fellowship Program
Janel Lafond-Paquin, Leader, Eastern MA
Sheila Conrad, Iowa Chapter
Julie Crisafio, Western Pennsylvania Chapter
Melanie Taylor, Tennessee Chapter
Kathryn Wheelock, Northern Virginia Chapter

Dictée au Congrès
Jody Lubbers (retired), 6th, Plano, TX

Exemplary Program in French
Sylvia Simard-Newman, Concord, NC

Exemplary Programs With Honors
Martha Behlow, Geneva, IL
Christen Campbell, Chapel Hill, NC
Mary Townsend, Kettering, OH
Jane Weaver, Nashville, TN
Kelly Simon, Austin, TX
Kathryn Wheelock, Arlington, VA

Exemplary Program With Distinction
Andrea Behn, Janesville, WI

ACTFL National Foreign Language Teacher of the Year 2015
Nicole Naditz,
Bella Vista High School, Fair Oaks, CA
Election Update

The new SHF bylaws, adopted in 2014, are in the process of being implemented by a Nominating Committee chaired by Ann Sunderland. The Committee is seeking candidates for SHF President and two Teacher Representatives. These three will join with the SHF Executive Secretary, the Editor of L'Elan, the Executive Director of AATF, and the national President of AATF (or a designee) to form the SHF National Council.

The President will serve on an interim basis in 2016 and assume the two-year office officially on 1/1/17. The Teacher Representatives will draw for a one-year and a two-year term so that their election years become staggered. Members of the SHF Council will be strongly encouraged to attend the annual AATF conventions. It is expected that some financial support toward attendance will be provided.

If you have—or know someone who has—the interest, knowledge, and time to serve in one of the above positions, please submit the name, address, and experience as an SHF sponsor to Ann at: <mmesunderland@gmail.com>. Voting will take place electronically following notification of the timeline in L'Elan or from the national office.

Statistiques

Most of the funds received during a year are reinvested in supplies in preparation for a quick turnaround as orders arrive. Executive Secretary Angelica Vickers reported several statistics from receipts for 2014-2015 which may be of interest:

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Remerciements

Here are excerpts from comments submitted by some of the recipients of the 2015 travel stipends:

"The history of each city I visited intrigued me and helped me to better appreciate the sheer beauty of francophone culture, and I am truly grateful that the SHF selected me as a recipient for a stipend this year."

"I have learned that 'yes' the U.S. is great, but so are other countries around the world. I have discovered that everybody has a story and we are all unique people everywhere."

"I also learned how rewarding it is to find success in these situations [by oneself in a foreign country], and to get a real feeling of independence. I feel better prepared for university life, and better prepared to study French at a university."

"Although I've learned about French culture from a textbook, it's a much different experience living immersed in it and something I'll remember forever."

"These are very modern families and homes that aren't so different than ours but I feel they have a stronger sense of family and its importance."

"This trip has brought me out of my comfort zone and forced me to use what I know of the French language. ... I've come to realize that I'm able to communicate fairly well."

"During my trip, I discovered that people are more open to help you than expected and that I can confront any adversity with confidence."

"I didn't just interact with French culture. I got to see the contrast between city life in Paris, calmer life in the south, and island life in Corsica."

"One of the best parts about this trip was connecting with my French peers and sharing our different cultures with one another."

«Merci de votre soutien et pour m'avoir donné l'opportunité d'apprendre et améliorer mon français.»

"I learned that people around the world—while they may differ in culture, language, and customs—are all very similar. We all aspire towards the same things."

Please Help Us With an Awkward Situation

Pi Delta Phi is the French National Honor Society for college and university undergraduate and graduate students. During past years, Pi Delta Phi has had to ask Facebook chapters of SHF (some with teacher moderators) and high school SHF chapter Web pages to cease using the name Pi Delta Phi, their Greek letters (ΠΔΦ), and/or their images to represent SHF. We do not have the right to make use of their name or symbols. Please look for news on the SHF Web site for a symbol to represent SHF that can be used in the above situations. Merci beaucoup!
Recipients of L’Elan can help SHF by updating addresses. Please see Lettres et Chiffres below. Merci!

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Lettres et chiffres

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Inside this issue:

Application Form for Travel Award .......... 5
Concours – Creative Writing .................. 6
Catégorie A ........................................ 6
Catégorie B ........................................ 6
Concours – Travel Stipends .................... 4-5
Dates to Remember .............................. 4
Election Update .................................. 1, 7, 8
Félicitations ......................................... 6
Lettres des Présidentes .......................... 1
Lettres et Chiffres ................................. 8
Nouveaux Chapitres ............................. 2-3
Ordering Information .......................... 8
Question et Réponse – Essais .................. 4
Remerciements .................................. 7
Requests for Your Help – SHF and PDP .... 3, 7
Statistiques ...................................... 7

SHF Election
Check the biographical information on-line at the Web site when you receive notification and be prepared to vote during the balloting window.