



# NEWSLETTER



For some the month May means packing up the classroom to store over the summer. For others it means packing it up for good. But as the 2018/2019 school year begins comes to an end, we wanted to look back on all of the reasons we had to celebrate this year.

Congratulations to the students who were awarded the *Seal of Biliteracy* this year in French. Obtaining the proficiency level needed to pass a qualifying exam such as AAPL or STAMPS4s takes dedication- often several years of studying the French language. We applaud those teachers who encouraged their students to obtain the seal and guided them through the process. The next application window is in this fall. For more information, please check out <https://sites.google.com/view/arbiliteracy>

Felicitations! This year AATF AR was proud to award The Barbara P. Ransford award to Emily Patterson of Fort Smith. Emily will be traveling to France this summer with her teacher, Sheila Goodfellow. We congratulate Emily for all of her hard work and dedication to her French studies and look forward to reading more about her travels upon her return.

Our 2018 winner, Clementine Simpson, recently returned from her study abroad and documented some of her experience for us. She writes, "I went to a school called CLA (Centre Linguistic Applique.). There I took 18 hours a week of a full French immersion program. Upon arrival I took a placement exam and I placed into B1. This meant I had a pretty good grasp on understanding French and had a strong vocabulary, but that I just wasn't able to write and speak fluently without grammatical mistakes...As electives I took cooking and theater. The students in my school were primarily in their mid 20's and from all over the world."

*You can read Celentine's post in full on our website.*

Promoting future speakers of French is our goal. The deadline for next year's award will **April 1st, 2020**. For more information this award or others, visit the AATF AR website at [www.arkansasfrench.org](http://www.arkansasfrench.org)

**W**e also want to recognize the many students who attempted, and especially achieved high ranking scores on this year's Grand Concours. Ribbons and chapter prizes were sent out to the top scorers in the state. Students earning the Gold ranking this year were: Abe Wardlaw (The Anthony School), Karen Demeyere (Conway High School), Gail Oudekerk (Conway High School), Anh Cao (Bentonville High School), Emily Ware (Fayetteville High School), and Dominic Dharwadker (Haas Hall Academy). Please remember that participation in *Le Grand Concours* is a requirement for any student applying for an AATF chapter award.

Next year's contest window will be **February 22nd-March 29, 2020**

**W**e hope to see you this summer at the *2019 AATF National Convention* in Philadelphia July 14-17th! This year's theme will be "*Le Français à Philadelphie: Interculturalité dans la ville de l'amour fraternel*". Our president, Amy Farrar, was chosen to participate in the 2019 Future Leaders Program as part of the conference and hopes that working in conjunction with other AATF chapters around the country will bring fresh, new ideas and help re-energize our state with a passion for the French language. For more information about the convention and to register, go to <https://frenchteachers.org/convention/>

**L**ooking for some summer reading? Join the *Federation of Alliances Françaises USA* and AATF Arkansas Chapter in reading *La Délicatesse* by David Foenkinos for the One Book One Federation program. For more information go to: <https://afusa.org/one-book-one-federation/>

**C**alling all 6th-12th grade students! Hendrix College in Conway will be hosting their inaugural **French Camp** this summer on the Hendrix campus.

#### **Session Information:**

**Session 1:** June 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for grades 6, 7, 8

**Session 2:** June 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. for grades 9, 10, 11, 12 (2019 high school graduates also welcome!)

#### **Program Description**

The program will include language instruction, crafts, games, sports, computer work in a language lab, music, and French films and is designed to provide young students with an introduction or enhancement of French and Francophone language and culture skills. Hendrix French faculty members Dr. Cathy Jellenik and Séverine Cottrant will lead the program, along with Hendrix students who are majoring or minoring in French.

*For more information and for registration, go to <https://www.hendrix.edu/french/summercamp/>*

