

La Maison Française

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Program Directors

Lance Johnson:

I have been hooked on French ever since I began taking courses in my freshman year of High School. When I learned of the programmed housing offered by Living and Learning I was happy to learn that the Global Village offered a French themed house. After spending my first year living in La Maison Francaise, I realized that not only did I want to improve this program, but that I wanted to be a part of the amazing experience that is Living and Learning. I have spent the past year working to renew the French house program with Professor Acquisto and Hannah Jensen. It has been a pleasure to watch the program grow, and to be at the head of such a great transformation is an honor. I would love to continue growing the French program to include the greater Burlington and UVM communities.

As a returning Program Director I have learned a lot over the past year. I've learned that it's a process and it's very important to be committed from the start. I have had an amazing time interacting with all the staff in the main office as well as the other Program Directors. It is such a unique experience to be able to live with such a diverse environment of people and ideas, and I'm looking forward to the prospect of learning more from all these unique individuals.

Anna Weber:

Last year, instead of going directly to college, I applied to and was accepted by Rotary International Youth Exchange to live and study in Belgium for ten months. I stayed with three host families and attended the local high school. I've since fallen in love with French and the cultures of countries in which French is a predominant language. I enjoy speaking French on a daily basis and the opportunity to lead a program that focuses on learning and practicing French in a community setting is appealing. Being a program director would allow me to replicate a kind of miniature cultural exchange with others – I share my own experiences, and they share theirs, as well as additional knowledge. I'm excited by the opportunity to direct discussions and activities that center on such an interpersonal exchange. While the idea of being in charge of a well-established, fourteen-person program in Living and Learning is a little daunting, I'm ready to take on the challenge, and I'm confident that my fellow French House residents will make my job easier by being just as eager and willing as I am. I'm hoping to stimulate the imaginations of French House residents by proposing a number of conversation groups, projects, field trips, and other endeavors to promote the learning of the French language and of French cultures worldwide; in this way, I'm hoping to get people thinking outside of the "France box," so to speak. There are so many other fascinating French-speaking countries in the world in addition to France that should be considered in one's foray into French! Besides direction the French House program, I anticipate continuing my membership with the UVM dressage team next year, as well as potentially trying out for club field hockey, helping in the edition of Vantage Point, and possibly adding another club or two to the list.

Claire Crisman:

I would like to be a Program Director because I really enjoy working with people and I have a passion for French culture. I would encourage the French language and encourage the participation of my fellow suitemates in program activities and Living/Learning community activities. I believe that, each year, people get caught up in school work and don't have time for their community. But Living/Learning is your family while you are at UVM and it is important to be part of that community. I really enjoyed this semester because of the fact that my suite felt like my family and as a PD, I will encourage activities and events that will continue that. My only time constraint for this job, which may conflict with my duties but will not conflict with my job is that I am training to become an RA for the fall semester.

OVERVIEW

Students who are studying French language, literature and culture in an American setting need opportunities to speak the language outside the classroom, to develop the use of the language in their everyday lives, and to enrich their understanding of the contexts of Francophone culture. The Living/Learning Center offers students a community based on their interests in Francophone language and culture, in which they make French the language of their everyday activities. Our student resident organizers will lead the group. Residents of the French house will agree to use French exclusively for a specified portion of the day. The French house will also be the center for many activities based on Francophone culture which are available in or close to Burlington; films, lectures, contacts with French speakers throughout the University and city community, visits from experts on the Francophone developing world, visits to Quebec, theater, music, museums, television programs and reportage. Participants in the French house will improve their fluency and gain a greater familiarity with issues in contemporary Francophone experience.

Potential activities may include the following:

- Having monthly dinners with a member of the French faculty who presents a focused discussion on a particular Francophone subject;
- Inviting members of the Burlington Francophone community to participate in events;
- Attending locally-held Francophone events in the greater Burlington area;
- Viewing and discussing French films;
- Reading and discussing works of Francophone literature;
- Researching on the Web subjects of present concern as expressed in the French media and presenting on these findings.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To help students improve their fluency in French.

Action Steps

- Establish French as the language of communication for a definite period of time or set of circumstances (for instance, all communal meals, all meetings and public discussions, and informal interactions in public areas).
- Make available audiotapes, videotapes, TV programming, the French CBC channel, magazines, and dictionaries.
- Establish contact and organize meetings with Francophone speakers from the university and the community (see below).
- Students more adept at speaking French can offer consultation and advice to up-and-coming French speakers.

To make accessible the Francophone intellectual and artistic resources of our region.

Action Steps

- Films: There is a wealth of great French film available on videocassette and DVD. Possible topics for film series include: World Wars I and II, the end of the French colonial empire, the art of the theater, perspectives on feminism, etc.
- Art exhibits: The Fleming Museum frequently has exhibits or lectures involving art of the Francophone world.
- Lectures: (a) From French-speaking UVM faculty: the French House students would interview Francophone faculty to discover their common areas of interest, including subjects related to Canada, Africa, the Caribbean, etc. (b) Other speakers from the region (possibly including Montreal) whose specialties in literature, the arts, the social sciences or natural sciences interest the students.

- Visits to Montreal: to explore the architectural heritage of the city, to attend concerts, book exhibits, museums, theater, ballet, etc.
- Video and Television resources such as French CBC.
- Magazines and newspapers, such as *Le Monde*
- Music and other audio resources, such as contemporary French artist MC Solaar

To foster relations with the Francophone community in the University, the city of Burlington, and the region.

Action Steps

- Contact local Francophone organizations for exchange of hospitality: for instance, the Pause-Café in downtown Burlington, the Alliance Française, and other local social meet-ups that are French-themed
- Invite undergraduate and graduate students who are native French speakers from other disciplines.
- Invite exchange students from Francophone countries to meet up and discuss their cultures.
- Volunteer at local shelters for refugees from Francophone cultures.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The French House will serve as a center of hospitality for Francophone people in the University and in the Burlington area. There are many people on campus from Francophone countries (Ivory Coast, Zaire, Senegal, Haiti, France, Belgium, Switzerland) who welcome the opportunity to meet other Francophones to speak their native language. There are a number of people in the Burlington community of Franco-American background who want to preserve their family traditions of French language. The population of Burlington, which is becoming more diverse, now includes many people from Francophone Africa. The French House can therefore serve as a liaison between the University community and the Burlington area. Some ideas proposed were:

- Help new inhabitants to the greater Burlington area adapt into American life, while conversing with them in their native francophone language.
- Aid local organizations in setting up and hosting events
- Providing a place to host events and prepare food and or activities.
- Providing volunteers to help with local Burlington causes, fostering better relationships with UVM students and the greater community. (Burlington International Cleanup day)

PROGRAM ADVISOR

Professor Joseph Acquisto has once again volunteered to be our faculty advisor. He has been the advisor for the French house for several years and has been a great asset to our program. He is a very proficient French speaker and always encourages the program members to converse in French. He brings an excitement about the Francophone cultures to every event and always provides great feedback. Professor Acquisto has brought Francophone speakers from Vermont as well as Quebec to present on various contemporary topics and followed these up with small discussions sections for those more interested in the topics.

PROGRAM SUITES

The proposed plan for the French house is two co-ed suites. In the past the suites have been separate by a floor, and we would like to request two suites on the same floor to better facilitate interaction and cohesion between the two. The French house likes to cook themed food as well as preparing meals for visitors and discussions. Being near a kitchen is helpful to our preparation processes.

PLANS FOR INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER L/L PROGRAMS

The French house has always and will continue to be an active member of the Global Village Community, participating in the check up meetings as well as events for the Global Village and community at large. The ability to work with the other European houses especially other Romance language houses is something we really look forward to. Contacting the other houses either for a large scale event, or co-house dinners is a simple way to interact and share the great cultures and aspects of the individual programs.

PROGRAM MEMBER RECRUITMENT

We plan to plaster L/L with posters promoting the great events and opportunities prospective members will be able to partake in. We also plan to utilize the many electronic screens around UVM and the electronic bulletins that are frequently distributed.

La Maison Française
(Name of Program)

PLANNING TIMELINE - FALL SEMESTER 2011

<p>PRE-SEMESTER Orientation is Tuesday, August 23 thru Friday, August 26, 2011. You may arrive as early as 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 22, 2011, but must be checked into your room no later than 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2011</p>	<p>OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 2 - SEPTEMBER 7 Labor Day: Monday, September 5</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 3 - NOVEMBER 9 <i>La Fête Gastronomique</i></p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 8 - 14</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 10 - 16 <i>Armistice Day (Nov. 11) info session/discussion</i></p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 15 - 21</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 17 - 23</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 22 - 28</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 24 - 30 Thanksgiving Recess: November 21 - 25</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 29 - October 5</p>	<p>DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 7 <i>Saint Nicolas Day festivities (Dec. 6)</i></p>
<p>OCTOBER 6 - 12</p>	<p>DECEMBER 8 - 14</p>
<p>OCTOBER 13 - 19</p>	<p>END-OF-SEMESTER: Classes End: Thursday, December 8 Reading Days: December 9, 11, 14 Exam Days: December 10, 12, 13, 15, 16</p>
<p>OCTOBER 20 - 26</p>	

(See weekly + monthly events on reverse side)

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PLANNING TIMELINE - SPRING SEMESTER 2012

PRE-SEMESTER	MARCH 16 - 22
JANUARY 20 - 25 Martin Luther King Holiday: Monday, January 16 Classes Begin: Tuesday, January 17	MARCH 23 - 29
JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1	MARCH 30 - APRIL 5
FEBRUARY 2 - 8	APRIL 6 - 12
FEBRUARY 9 - 15 "Leus de France" relay race	APRIL 13 - 19 Honors Day: Friday, April 20
FEBRUARY 16 - 22 President's Day: Monday, February 20	APRIL 20 - 26 (early) Cannes Film Festival celebration
FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 1	APRIL 27 - MAY 3
MARCH 2 - 8	MAY 4 - 10 Classes End: Wednesday, May 2
MARCH 9 - 15 SPRING RECESS: March 5-9	END OF SEMESTER READING DAYS: May 3,5,6,9 EXAM DAYS: May 4,7,8,10,11 COMMENCEMENT: Sunday, May 20

Weekly: Sunday - Fran. Eng. conversation group
 Tuesday - Pause Cafe
 Monthly: discussion + dinner w/ Prof.