

LA SEMAINE DU FRANÇAIS À HOMEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 2003

The theme for National French Week 2003 at Homewood High School in Homewood, AL was, "Le Français m'ouvre le monde," like the AATF tee-shirt slogan. I attended the AATF convention in Martinique, and I drew on that experience, as well as from my travels in France and Canada, to show the students and the community how widespread and varied French language and cultures really are. French students created banners of Francophone countries, famous French people, and a timeline representing the relationship between France and the U.S. throughout history that we hung around our Media Center. We also hung laminated posters of French proverbs in the hallways. Our cafeteria manager got into the excitement of National French Week and prepared a French dish each day that was served to the entire student body. She even wrote the item in French on the school-wide menu. Once again students began the week with a performance for their parents before going to Tuscaloosa to compete in the annual French Convention whose theme was *L'Amitié franco-américaine*. One of my students spent the spring 2003 semester in France, and she made a presentation about her experiences in Lyon to all French classes the day after convention. My student teacher, Margaret Dumas, also did a presentation about her time teaching English in Vienne, France. Wednesday and Thursday of that week we combined forces with the Family and Society classes to cook specialties from Francophone countries such as Martinique, Canada, and Morocco. We hosted the second annual *ciné-club* on Friday and invited the student body to enjoy French films with us in our small auditorium. On November 10, Donna Christie, a friend who was in the Peace Corps, made a presentation about her time in Cameroun. She had wonderful pictures, slides, and artifacts from her trip that made her presentation very meaningful to the students.

On November 15 we turned the Family and Society room into a beautiful bistro where we hosted a dinner for the parents of French students as well as the high school's faculty. Chef Ken Barrett, another good friend, who is training at the Cordon Bleu school in Paris, created a special French *prix fixe* menu for those who made reservations. During the meal, Ken explained each course through stories and personal anecdotes. French music played in the background as the students served the diners and we gave a door prize to the person who had spent the most time in France.

Budget for National French Week

The school's World Languages Department helped pay the costs of these activities, and the students paid their way to the French Convention.

Groceries and supplies for student cooking and reservation dinner:
\$450.00

Advertisement in *Black and White*:
\$50.00

Total - \$500.00