



# MILWAUKEE

## FRENCH IMMERSION FOUNDATION

Volume 3, Issue 1  
Fall 2014

### Casino Night

MFIF Silent Auction

**Friday, November 7, 2014, 6 p.m. – midnight**  
**American Serb Hall, 5101 W Oklahoma Ave.**

You love the Amity language models. You love the African dance program. Now is your chance to help keep these programs and more. The 2014 Milwaukee French Immersion Foundation (MFIF) Silent Auction and Casino Night fundraiser is coming soon! Tickets for the event are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door (and will be available soon from teachers or at [www.frenchimmersionfoundation.org](http://www.frenchimmersionfoundation.org)).

This event is the main fundraiser for the MFIF, with proceeds supporting French language immersion programming in Milwaukee French Immersion School (MFIS) and Milwaukee School of Languages (MSL). In addition to the Amity language models and African dance at MFIS, funds from past events have gone toward French textbooks for MSL and to grants for MFIS staff professional development.

An exciting addition to this year's fundraiser is Casino Night. You can also enjoy the silent auction and dinner, but this time you don't need to bid on anything to have a great time. Your ticket will include "\$500" in phoney money to spend at the tables and dealers will deal for fun. The Casino will operate from 7-10 p.m. featuring multiple tables including blackjack, craps, roulette, three card poker, and a money wheel. Novices are welcome.

Of course if you want to bid, the silent auction will offer great prizes including a Christmas Mountain getaway, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra packages, an Alliance Française Carte Blanche membership, and much more.

*Continued...*

#### *Silent Auction continued*

But wait, there's more! Enjoy a full dinner buffet from 6:30-7:30 and a 50/50 raffle. The 50/50 raffle is a great, economical way for everyone to get involved. Information on raffle ticket sales will be coming soon and the best part is that you don't need to be present to win. However, if you are there, the 50/50 raffle drawing will be held at 10:30 p.m.

The French immersion programs at MFIS and MSL are truly exceptional. However, they will only continue to stay strong and grow if we all pitch in. Join us at the 2014 MFIF Silent Auction and Casino Night or purchase a 50/50 raffle ticket (or two or ten). Small or large, every contribution helps.

**Get your  
Cajun on**



#### **Where:**

The Big Eazy  
2053 N. Martin Luther King Dr., 53212  
[www.bigeazy.net](http://www.bigeazy.net)

#### **When:**

October 24th, 2014

It's another fabulous Feast for French Immersion. Join us October 24th at The Big Eazy for authentic New Orleans cuisine.

MFIF receives a portion of the proceeds from food and beverage sales for all who mention that they are dining for MFIF.



## Back-to-School Picnic Kicked Off the 2014-15 School Year

As summer came to a close and the air was filled with excitement of change, the MFIF Outreach Committee kicked off the new school year with a **bang!** The inaugural Back-to-School Picnic was an opportunity for sun, fun, making connections, and meeting new families from both Milwaukee School of Languages and Milwaukee French Immersion School.

Held on August 30th at Hawthorn Glen, a MPS-owned nature reserve, the event drew approximately 100 people, allowing students, families, and staff to enjoy the last moments of summer fun, re-connect with school friends and get excited about returning to school. In addition, Amity language models joined the fun, so both families and many future students met them before starting school. It was a wonderful experience to say, "Bienvenue!"

Highlights included: hiking on the trails, a small scrimmage on the soccer field, unexpected weather (oh the rain!), meeting new families, seeing familiar faces, and an impromptu ice cream sandwich party. A big "merci" to the Chay family for the cool treat!

Thanks to everyone who attended! Based upon the success and feedback from attendees, MFIF Outreach can't wait to host the Back-to-School Picnic for years to come!

*The Foundation was started by parents! We need more parents to be involved. If you've hesitated about getting involved, talk with us or send us an email at [info@frenchimmersionfoundation.org](mailto:info@frenchimmersionfoundation.org) and find out where your talents can make a big impact.*

## Focus on New Board Members



*Victoria Hudson is an accountant at Iron Horse Hotel*

Meet MFIF Board Member and Treasurer Victoria ("Vicki") Hudson. Ms. Hudson brings a wealth of experience as an accountant and the invaluable perspective as a Milwaukee community member who is interested in French immersion, but not otherwise tied to the organization. Her involvement with MFIF owes much to serendipity. It began with an off-hand remark to her good friend and fellow Board Member, Stephanie Wesselowski. Ms. Hudson explained, "I expressed that if she was writing the checks for the MFIF Board someone else should be reconciling the bank account." At that point, she was drafted into service and her tenure on the Board began!

Ms. Hudson and her family live in Glendale. She enjoys cooking, reading, skiing and serving on the MFIF Board.



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### MFIF Board Members

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## Meet the 2014-15 Amity Language Models

### **Caroline Bellet** (Guérande, France)

Mademoiselle Bellet grew up in a little city called Guérand on the West Coast of France. She's currently enrolled in a master's degree program for teaching French as a foreign language at the University of Nantes. She holds a bachelor's degree in foreign languages and international business from the same college. Her hobbies include running, playing the guitar, and cooking.



### **Fabienne Boissier** (Le Bouscat, France )

When she was young, Mademoiselle Boissier lived in Senejac-Medoc. She says, "Living in the countryside taught me very quickly how to get my hands dirty and appreciate sports." Later on, her family moved closer to Bordeaux where she and her two older brothers attended a private school. Mlle Boissier is pursuing a teaching career in either French as a foreign language overseas or English as a foreign language in France. She currently studies English literature and applied foreign languages at the University Bordeaux Montaigne.

### **Marie-Astrid Duquesne** (Buvrinnes, Belgium)

Mademoiselle Duquesne is studying to be an elementary teacher at Haute École Louvain en Hainaut. She lives with her mother, grandmother, older brother and younger sister in a house that has been passed down for two generations! Mlle Duquense is very active in a humanitarian youth group similar to Girl Scouts and spent last summer volunteering in Haiti.

### **Sandrine Eyang Eyeyong** (Libreville, Gabon)

Mademoiselle Eyang Eyeyong was born and raised in Gabon, Africa. She is one of 9 siblings, who all still live in Gabon. Mlle Eyang Eyeyong has spent the last several years studying in France, first receiving her master's in Francophone literature and now working on her doctorate at Sorbonne University in Paris. She loves watching professional soccer, has coached youth soccer, and likes to cook, travel, and shop.



### **Hadarane Ka** (Dakar, Senegal)

Monsieur Ka studies English and American studies at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. He is no stranger to working with children with much experience tutoring English and holding an internship at an elementary school. His family, including his parents, three sisters, and two brothers, stems from an ethnic group called "Fulani" or "Peulh." He's very fond of reading, playing and watching soccer, and likes spending time with friends especially over a cup of tea.

### **Mathieu Perocheau** (From Reze, France)

Monsieur Perocheau grew up in Reze, a city near Nantes, in the west of France. He has an older sister and a younger brother. M. Perocheau is studying history and geography at the University of Nantes and wants to be a middle or high school teacher in France. He hopes that being a language model at MSL will help him make the right career choice. He enjoys reading Manga (Japanese comics), playing soccer or handball, and listening to music.

## Mme Yanasak Brings Back Teaching Techniques from France via MFIF Grant



Recently the Foundation (MFIF) started a grant program for MSL and MFIS teachers and staff. Mme Laura Yanasak (K5 MFIS) was one of the first to use a grant for a learning opportunity. She traveled to Besançon for two weeks in July to study immersion teaching techniques and learning behavior at the Centre de Linguistique Appliquée (CLA), Université de France-Compté. During her time at CLA, she had four classes per day, every day, except for July 14th, La Fête nationale (a.k.a. Bastille Day). The professors teaching the classes specialized in teaching French to non-native-speaking immigrants. Mme Yanasak was in a class of 9, comprised of 7 Americans, a Costa Rican, and an Iranian. She also made particularly valuable connections with a number of Canadian French immersion teachers.

MFIS stands to benefit greatly from Mme Yanasak's experience as she will be leading a staff professional development in October to instruct MFIS teachers on the valuable techniques she learned. Some of the highlights include a phonics class about teaching non-native French speakers how to physically use their mouths to pronounce French phonemes, the nuances of which are difficult to grasp using the auditory system alone. Also, the professors developed games for teaching grammar and vocabulary that foster different, higher levels of learning than simple rote memory. Perhaps most significant, though, was, "collaborating with so many other immersion

teachers from around the globe." Mme Yanasak reports that the group she met already created a listserv including teachers from Louisiana, which has a more extensive statewide French immersion program. They have already begun sharing ideas with her about coordinating French immersion education with Common Core.

Mme Yanasak's trip also reminds us of the increasing global reach of MFIS and MSL. Former MFIS language model intern Laurieanne Cotte and family picked up Mme Yanasak from the airport on her arrival in Paris and hosted her for lunch. On her return, former MFIS intern Sarah Metzger and former MFIS paraprofessional Michelle Sment met Mme Yanasak at the train station. After a day in Paris with familiar faces, Mlle Metzger took Mme Yanasak to the airport the next day. The reach of French immersion in Milwaukee is broad indeed. In Mme Yanasak's words, "We have awesome interns thanks to MFIF."

In many ways, the combination of learning opportunity with extended community typifies the best of what French immersion in Milwaukee Public Schools can and should be. And neither the learning opportunity nor the extended community abroad would have existed without MFIF. We look forward to supporting more unique learning opportunities and building our community, both of which make our outstanding immersion programs even better.

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Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to learn more and to register the Milwaukee French Immersion Foundation to your Amazon account.