

# MILWAUKEE

## FRENCH IMMERSION FOUNDATION

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## First Annual Silent Auction

The First Annual Milwaukee French Immersion Foundation's silent auction was a night of fun and friends at Blue's Egg restaurant. Delicious appetizers were served and fabulous items were available for auction by our generous donors. Some of the most sought after items were French themed baskets assembled and donated by MFIS teacher Kate Laritson. If you



Sarah Metzger, Kate Laritson enjoy the bread they bought at the Silent Auction.

missed it, you'll have to start planning for next year. The evening raised enough to fully fund **three** Amity Language Models for the 2013-2014 school year. Thank you to

Delara Chaoui and Valerie Pilmaier for chairing the Silent Auction and to the MFIF fundraising committee for making this event a night to remember.

## Financial Report

The Foundation was founded in early 2012. In fiscal year 2012 (which ended in June 2012), the Foundation raised \$17,900, enough to fund the five Amity

Language Models assigned to MFIS this 2012-2013 school year.

So far in fiscal year 2013, the Foundation has raised \$12,800

which allows us to commit to support four Amity Language Models for the 2013-2014 school year (three at MFIS and one at MSL).

## Annual Appeal

Stay tuned for information regarding the Foundation's First Annual Appeal. After much consideration and discussion, the board would like to decrease the amount of "sales" type fundraisers and move to

an annual appeal. We're counting on the power of numbers. If each family at MFIS and MSL gave \$5.00 per month, for instance, we would raise enough to fund at least five Amity Language Models for the next year. Expect

to hear more from us soon. If you enjoy the benefits of having language models in the classroom, we hope that you will support our Annual Appeal in whatever amount you can.



*What I like best is that the kids at school help me improve my teaching skills, and they are eager to get to know us better, which is great because they are interested in discovering a new culture, different from their own. – Aline Leang*

## Surprise!

The MFIF is happy to announce that we were able to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to bring an Amity Language Model to Milwaukee School of Languages. Please

welcome Audrey Fily to the MFIF Amity Program!! Audrey will be assigned to MSL for the spring 2013 semester. We give an enormous thank you to David and Kelly Guthery

and to Lori and Rodney Banks for opening their homes as host families to help MFIF take advantage of this unexpected opportunity.

## Amity Language Model Spotlight – Aline Leang

Aline is from a small town in France called Pau, known for being the birthplace of Henry IV of France and Jurançon wine. She graduated from Université de Pau with a degree in LEA, which means that she is very good at foreign languages! Aline has been very active tutoring (working with six children) and she lives on the south side of Milwaukee with Kris and Cully Carstens and their

daughters, Danni and Jacqueline.

We had a chance to ask Aline about her experiences here.

### **Why did you decide to become an Amity Language Model?**

I decided to become an Amity language model because a professor of mine told me about the program and the idea of teaching French in America really appealed to me. I was looking forward to see

how American students learning my native language.

### **What do you like best about working with our kids?**

What I like best is that the kids at school help me improve my teaching skills, and they are eager to get to know us better, which is great because they are interested in discovering a new culture, different from their own.

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## Aline Leang, cont'd.

### What would you like to do after your year here?

After my year here in Milwaukee, I would like to continue my studies. I have already studied English for 3 years at University, and I think I will do a Master's degree either to teach English or to teach French to English-speaking people.

### What are your hobbies?

During my free time, I like reading novels, spending time on my computer,

and watching movies and TV shows. I also enjoy working out and playing different sports (tennis, basketball...). One of the best things while being here in America is that I get to discover new activities and places (going to sport games, museums, playing in the snow...).

### How is your hometown different or similar to Milwaukee?

My hometown, Pau, is quite different from

Milwaukee. It is a smaller city, calmer and there are not a lot of things to do there. What is good in Pau is the weather. It is a temperate weather so never really cold and quite warm during summer. The city is between the beach and the mountains (about 1-hour drive to get there). On the other hand, Milwaukee is great because it's a big enough city and there are lots of activities to do.

## Valentin Loudenot

Born and raised in Le Creusot, France, Valentin has an older brother and a younger sister. He graduated from Université de Bourgogne in June 2012 with degrees in English and Italian. He loves to learn about new cultures and meet new people. While in Milwaukee, Valentin is living with Susan Klumb and her daughter Aria who is a student at MSL.

We asked Valentin a few questions to get to know him better. His answers are below:

### Why did you decide to

### become an Amity language model?

I decided to apply to Amity Program in order to experience American culture from a non-touristic view, but also to impact the students' lives by teaching them things I hope they will remember for a long time.

### What do you like best about working with our kids?

I think what I like the most about working with the kids is the fact that most of them already speak French pretty well (I mean, their

French is impressive when you know that none of them are older than 10 or 11). And practically all of them like the French culture and are really excited to talk to us all the time (even though it's not always in French...)

### What would you like to do after your year here?

I still have no idea of what I'll do next year. I think I will probably get my job back in the high school where I used to work as a supervisor because it would permit me to stay in touch with students (since I happen to teach them some English at night in the dorms).

*I think what I like the most about working with the kids is... practically all of them like the French culture and are really excited to talk to us all the time – Valentin Loudenot*

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[www.frenchimmersionfoundation.org](http://www.frenchimmersionfoundation.org)

**What are your hobbies?**

My hobbies are mostly around sports (either watching or playing), but I also like reading manga (Japanese comics), because I think most of the stories are fascinating. I totally understand that I sound like a 14-year-old boy right now, but I think I'm fine with that. Ha ha.

**How is your hometown different or similar to Milwaukee?**

My hometown is really different than Milwaukee since the population over there is around 30,000, when it's 600,000 in Milwaukee. Obviously everything is bigger, and the streets are all perfectly lined up (but it's only because it's just the American model). There is much more to do in a big city such as Milwaukee.

**Consider Matching Gifts from Your Employer**

Because the Foundation is a 501c3 charity, you may be able to double your gift to the Foundation if your employer matches charitable contributions. If your employer needs financial information from the Foundation, please contact Stephanie Wesselowski, Treasurer, at [stephanie.wesselowski@experis.com](mailto:stephanie.wesselowski@experis.com).

**What's on Tap?**

Due to your investment in the Foundation and the success of our fundraising, we have been able to invite three Amity Language Models for MFIS and one Amity Language Model for MSL for the 2013-2014 school year. In order to secure five Amity Language Models for MFIS next year (like we did this school year), MFIF still needs to raise at least \$7,000 by March 30,

2013.

We've heard from parents and teachers and by far everyone has told us that the Language Models have made a huge impact on the program and that supporting language models each year is a priority for the program. If you've noticed a difference at the school, or your kids discuss Antoine Barre, Sarah Metzger, Antoine

Simon, Aline Leang or Valentin Loudenot, please consider supporting the MFIF by making a tax deductible donation today. The all-volunteer Board of Directors is committed to making the most of each donation and ensuring that your contributions directly support the Milwaukee French Immersion Program.

The mission of the Milwaukee French Immersion Foundation, Inc. (MFIF) is to support French language immersion programs in Milwaukee public schools by supporting a challenging and enriching educational experience that maximizes the learning potential of every student and prepares them to excel in the competitive global economy.