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French Poetry Reading Contest a showcase for students

Summary: The evening includes the induction of new members into Pi Delta Phi, the French Honor Society.

(April 5, 2010)-The University of Minnesota, Morris will host the 24th Annual Edith R. Farrell French Poetry Reading Contest on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 7 p.m. in Oyate Hall in the Student Center. The event provides a showcase for students to share the beauty of the French language. The public is invited to the free event.

Geoffrey Giraud, a Montpellier College exchange student from Carcassonne, a city in the south of France, is tutoring forty French students for four weeks in preparation for the French Poetry Contest.

“I help them to cut all the syllables in words, for the links between words, and we also work on different sounds that you do not have in English. I really like it. Of course, I am not going to change all their pronunciation, but I think they really improve their pronunciation on their poems. We will see the day of the contest in Oyate!”

The French Poetry Contest evening includes songs and poems personally chosen by each contestant, French music, and the induction of new members into the French Honor Society, Pi Delta Phi, which honors students committed to mastering the intricacies of the French language. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the evening in high school, beginners, intermediate, advanced, and faculty and staff categories.

“We get excited about this event every year, because it’s always a treat for the campus and community to see students excel in French outside the classroom,” says Stephen Martin, assistant professor of French. “It’s also great for the students to have an opportunity to be recognized in public for their efforts and skills, especially since they’ve worked so hard with Geoff. It’s a fun evening with student antics, songs and readings, and it’s wonderful to induct students into the Honor Society where other students can recognize what their peers have accomplished.”

The Division of the Humanities French department and the Entre Nous French Club student organization sponsor the event that honors the memory of Edith Farrell, longtime professor of French at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

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