

ANNETTE R. PLANTE SCHOLARSHIP

Updated Fall 2014

HISTORY

Annette Plante taught students at SUNY Potsdam the basics and the beauty of the French language for 26 years. According to one non-traditional student, Mrs. Valere Ricaud, Professor Plante was “a marvelous teacher and an inspiration to her students.” SUNY Potsdam prizes quality instruction and student-centered teaching, and Professor Plante epitomizes the dedication and love of teaching that is required to achieve excellence in her own profession. Her skills helped to create an atmosphere that allowed modern language students to become fluent in the language and culture of other countries.

PURPOSE:

In recognition of professor Plante’s contribution to her life and the kindness of SUNY Potsdam students in the classroom, Mrs. Valere Ricaud created a scholarship endowment to honor Professor Plante. This scholarship provides an award in the amount of \$ 3,000 for French majors to study at a University in a French-speaking country.

ELIGIBILITY

A selection committee will be chaired and managed by the Chair of the Modern Languages Department. Other committee members will include all French professors who are familiar with the quality of the students’ work, and the Director of International Education.

- Applicants will submit an application form with a written plan of study and an essay describing why they are interested in this opportunity;
- The award recipient will be a French major in the sophomore, junior or senior year, and must have studied at Potsdam at least one year before traveling abroad;
- The overall grade point average will be at least 3.0;
- The grade point average in French will be at least 3.0;
- Preference will be given to students for whom French is not their first language.
- The recipient will commit him/herself to one semester of study in a French-speaking country at a recognized school at the collegiate level;
- The recipient will agree to submit a written report to the department chair within three months upon returning from their semester abroad;
- Where other criteria produce equal candidates, financial need, and enthusiastic commitment to the language, and a desire to teach French, will be the determining factors.

INITIAL FUNDING:

The endowment fund was created in 1998 through a gift of \$20,000 from Mrs. Valere Ricaud.

MANAGEMENT:

Scholarship awards will be funded following Potsdam College Foundation policies governing the expenditure of income earned on endowment investments. Currently, 6% of income earned may be spent for the purposes of an endowment. Any additional interest generated will be reinvested into the endowment.

Selection of the recipient will be made by a committee headed by the Chair of the Modern Languages Department based on the above criteria. The application form and process will be developed and administered by the Chair of the Modern Languages Department. In addition, appropriate plans for advertising the scholarship to secondary schools and other collegiate French programs to aid in recruitment will be developed by the Chair of the Modern Languages Department.

The total scholarship payment will be made directly through the Student Accounts office and applied to the student's account in the semester that the student is abroad. The student will be required to provide appropriate documentation of the expenses of studying abroad, and to make sure credits are transferred towards the student's SUNY Potsdam degree if credits were earned through another institution.

If, in a given year, no qualified student is identified, the income will be reinvested in the endowment. If a selected recipient chooses not to participate, a new recipient will be selected from the list of initial applicants.

Each recipient will be notified in writing of his /her obligation to maintain his/her eligibility during the period of their award. Should a recipient not complete their semester abroad, the Department of Modern Languages may elect to rescind the award and will notify the recipient in writing.

Awards will be made annually in amounts equal to what is available in the endowment income account. In no event shall the award exceed the cost of tuition and essential expenses for a given semester.

The principal will be invested by the Potsdam College Foundation Board of Trustees and will be maintained in perpetuity. Current Foundation policy allows a return of 6% of the principal as annual income to be used for the award. Any interest income over 6% of the principal will be returned to the principal for future growth at the end of the fiscal year.

Any changes to these guidelines will be made to agree with changes in Potsdam College Foundation policy or through consultation with Potsdam College Foundation administrators.

REPORTING PROCEDURES:

On an annual basis, the College Advancement Office will advise the donor of the selection of the recipient(s) and the status of the endowment. The donor will be notified on any changes affecting the eligibility of a student.

Potsdam College Foundation Date Mrs. Valere Ricaud Date

Mrs. Annette Plante Date Dean, Arts and Science Date

Chair, Modern Languages Date