The Trip of a Lifetime

My Summer in Saumur

A presentation by Hannah Ishikawa
Hello, I am Hannah Ishikawa and I was a recipient of the Wayne Youth Fund last school year. The scholarship I received helped pay for my trip to Saumur, France with the IU Honors Program.

I spent six and a half weeks in Saumur with 16 other students and three teachers. The experiences and memories made will stay with me my entire life.
I was placed into the Barbier family, with one host mother and one host brother, Stanislas. We spent time together playing games like Rummikub and delving into the French culture with trips to L’École Nationale D’Équitation and participation in the Fêtes.

Playing Scrabble with my host mom – in French of course!.. Which is really hard! No one won!

Stanislas posing with the snakes when we visited the Zoo de Doué!
The stagiaires who spent the summer in Saumur with me were so much fun. We were from all around Indiana, so no one knew anyone else. We became so close after being together for six and a half weeks!
THE STAGIAIRES’ FAVORITE HANGOUT: CENTREVILLE

Centreville was basically Saumur’s downtown. After school all the stagiaires would walk down the street to Centreville for “Les Soldes” (the sales), the movie theater, and just hanging out!
The French Cuisine!
Mont-Saint-Michel
Before entering Paris, we made a stop by Versailles, famed palace of King Louis XIV. Practically everything in there is caked in gold.
Paris – the catacombs!

My group visited the catacombs – underground tunnels filled with human bones!
Paris – The Louvre
This is the famed Opera House that French author Gaston Leroux visited. He was so inspired by the building’s underground lakes and architecture that he wrote “The Phantom of the Opera”, a story that Andrew Lloyd Weber made into a musical. I love the story (book and musical), so when I visited Opera Garnier I nearly fainted!
My drum major pose. I missed three and a half weeks of marching band, so I promised my band teachers I’d take a picture of me in front of La Tour Eiffel to prove I’d worked!
Merci pour tout!

Thank you for everything! I had a wonderful time and will cherish these memories forever!