



History of *La Maison Française*



1
2
3 *La Maison Française* was dedicated on October 4, 1971. Through the efforts of Theodore
4 Wakefield, Paul Wurzburger, the Honorary French Consul in Cleveland, made a gift of \$50,000
5 to furnish *La Maison Française* as a residence where students could become acquainted with
6 French culture, learn about French customs, and increase their knowledge of the language.
7 Professor Micheline Ghibaudo was named the first Faculty Director of the *Maison*, a post which
8 she held until her retirement in 1990.
9

10 In the years following its dedication, supporters continued to endow *La Maison Française*,
11 enabling it to fulfill its mission. Mrs. Henry Dodge assisted in the establishment of the Dolly
12 Donnell Fund to support cultural activities in *La Maison Française*. The late Mrs. Donnell's
13 interest in the French House has been continued by her daughter Mrs. Susan Konkel. Also with
14 the help of Mrs. Dodge, the Paul Wurzburger scholarship was created to assist residents of *La*
15 *Maison Française* in studying in France.
16

17 A ten-year rededication ceremony was held in 1982. A full week of French activities ended with
18 an address by Jacques Royet, French Consul in Detroit, a reception for French House alumnae
19 and buffet dinner dance.
20

21 In 1992, the twentieth year of *La Maison Française* was celebrated. The French Consul in
22 Washington, Jean Dufay, came to *La Maison Française* to confer the Order of the Academic
23 Palms upon Professor Micheline Ghibaudo. He was accompanied by the French Honorary
24 Consul in Cleveland, Albert Borowitz.
25

26 In October 2002, the thirtieth anniversary of the *Maison Française* was celebrated with a
27 reception for residents, university faculty and administrators, and Advisory Board members.
28
29