

A Night of Stars at the Residence of France



An afterparty at the French Ambassador's Residence followed the White House Correspondents' Dinner

The glitz and glamour of Hollywood took on a French flair in early May. For the third year in a row, the French Ambassador's Residence hosted the *Vanity Fair*/Bloomberg White House Correspondents' Dinner afterparty on April 30, bringing together the worlds of politics, press and entertainment. Guests arrived after the conclusion of the White House Correspondents' Dinner, where President Barack Obama and others shared political humor with a star-studded audience. The *soirée*, one of the city's most exclusive, created an atmosphere for officials and celebrities to engage in politics, and for journalists to interact with famous personalities — engendering a "behind-the-camera" glimpse into the insights of many prominent figures.

Hollywood stars, officials in the U.S. administration, journalists, and French diplomats conversed in the glittering atmosphere of the Residence and its gardens until the "oui" hours of the morning. Politicians Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich were joined by prominent figures such as New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Attorney General Eric Holder, Chairman and CEO of News Corporation Rupert Murdoch, News broadcaster Katie Couric, actors Scarlett Johansson, Bradley Cooper, Steve Buscemi, Sean Penn and Paul Rudd, musicians John Legend and David Byrne, and athlete Lance Armstrong.

Behind the Gates at European Union Embassies

A whirlwind tour of Europe in one day? It sounds too good to be true, but on Saturday, May 7, the embassies of 27 European Union-member nations in Washington, D.C., and the Delegation of the European Union to the United States opened their doors to the public for the 2011 EU Open House. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., free shuttles transported visitors throughout D.C., allowing them to travel to the U.K., Slovenia, Sweden and Hungary — no passport needed — giving them a rare "behind-the-gates" look at European culture and customs. With festivities ranging from a Latvian folk music performance to a German beer garden, the EU Open House provided visitors with a taste of Europe by showcasing national music, art, and food, as well as the opportunity to meet with representatives from the embassies.



The Economic and Financial Service of the French Embassy distributed cheese samples as part of a presentation on the industry in France today.

Visitors came to the Embassy of France to discuss military strategy and actions with members of the Military Mission, to explore advancements in research and technology with the Office of Science and Technology, and to sample a selection of French cheeses before indulging in a full-course French meal.

The breadth of activities and services piqued the personal and professional interests of a wide range of visitors. French instructors, for example, visited the embassy to pick up resources for their classrooms. One teacher from Virginia said, "We look forward to this event every year because we can share these resources and this experience with our students". Others came "for the chance to feel like I'm in Paris for a day and enjoy the amazing food," as one guest remarked. Coordinated by Cultural Tourism D.C., the Shortcut to Europe took place within the framework of a month-long festival, Passport DC, which celebrates the diversity, richness and rhythms of international culture with many events.

France Commemorates its Denouncement of Slavery



France was the first country to acknowledge slavery as a crime against humanity and has taken a strong stance against all forms of modern slavery.

On May 10, 2001, France became the first country to acknowledge slave trade and slavery as crimes against humanity. The tenth anniversary of this recognition is a time not only to remember the victims of slavery, but also to realize that even today, in many parts of the world, people are victims of human trafficking and are exploited in inhumane conditions.

France has taken a strong stance against all forms of modern slavery with a call to ratify an additional protocol to add to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2002. The text, one of three additional protocols, aims to prevent, suppress and punish the trafficking of human beings, especially women and children.

The Committee for the History and Remembrance of Slavery (CPMHE) is organizing various events across France to pay tribute to the victims of slavery and their fight for emancipation, human rights, and liberty. Highlights of the program include a roundtable discussion on the

"History of the Slave Trail" at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris and a musical performance at the Theatre Déjazet and the Bataclan. For more details about events taking place throughout the year in Metropolitan France and French Overseas Departments, please visit: <http://www.cpmhe.fr>.

INSIDE

- 2 **Current Events**
France Heads UNSC
- 3 **France & America**
Pierre Assouline Tours the U.S.
- 4 **In Depth**
Cannes Film Festival
- 5 **Business & Tech**
Molecular Gastronomy
- 6 **Society**
The French Open
- 7 **Culture**
"Cave of Forgotten Dreams"
- 8 **France in America**
Degas Exhibition in Tampa

EMBASSY OFFERS “UNIVERSITY” FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL FRENCH TEACHERS

From June 23 -25, the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C., will host a mini-university for middle and high school French teachers. The program aims to provide French educators in the U.S. with an opportunity to acquire some of the newest teaching techniques in an immersive French environment. In an effort to continue to foster educational cooperation between the two countries, the embassy will host French teachers from across the mid-Atlantic region for three days of comprehensive instructional workshops. The first part of the workshops will be dedicated to pedagogical techniques, while the second part will provide a brush-up on French culture. For a small additional fee, French families from the embassy will host program participants during their stay in Washington, D.C. The brief home-stay will provide the teachers with three full days of complete immersion in French language and culture – an invaluable experience they can bring back to the classroom.

FRANCE TO HOST THE RYDER CUP IN 2018

France will host the Ryder Cup in 2018 for the first time since the golf competition's debut in 1927. The country came out on top in a highly competitive bid process against Holland, Spain, Portugal, and Germany. The 2018 cup will take place at *Le Golf National*, a stadium course near Versailles which regularly hosts the Alstom Open of France. The Ryder Cup is a competition between American and European teams. The biennial contest, jointly administered by the PGA of America and PGA European Tour, alternates between venues in Europe and the United States. Unlike most other golfing events, teams compete simply for the spirit of competition. Players receive no prize money, but rather vie for the legendary Ryder Cup trophy. The 2018 competition in France will be the second time in the cup's history that it will convene in continental Europe. The selection of France signifies the bid committee's faith in the country's golf facilities, public support, and business opportunities for the growth of the Ryder Cup. France's "contribution... to the development of golf," assessed by factors such as participation, professional tournaments, and legacy, also played a pivotal role in the decision. French President Nicolas Sarkozy welcomed the news that France will be hosting "this magnificent international sporting event" and expressed his sincere congratulations to the French bid team and French Golf Federation for securing the bid.

Atlanta Celebrates Europe Day

This year's May 9 Europe Day celebrations transcended the Atlantic. Honoring a tradition of unified European identity through national diversity, Europe Day's lesson on the importance of cohesiveness and individuality landed in Atlanta.

The European Center of Excellence at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) hosted several European consulates from around the city for teaching workshops and roundtable discussions. The workshop, held on May 7, provided local social studies teachers with material about the European Union. The May 9 roundtable discussion, titled "EU Leadership in an Uncertain World," included representatives from the consulates of Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. The participating countries also hosted booths to provide attendees with detailed information on different EU-member states. Business representatives from France and Germany lectured on the theme of "Industries of the Future: Economic Growth through Clean Energy and Clean Jobs."

The event took place on May 9 in honor of Robert Schuman, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs who on that date in 1950 proposed an economic unification between France, Germany, and other European nations in the wake of World War II. This proposal, known as the "Schuman Declaration," formed the foundations of what is now the European Union.



Interview with Stéphane Crouzat, spokesman of the French Permanent Mission to the UN

What is the role of the French delegation at the UN, and specifically at the Security Council?

The permanent mission of France to the UN is headed by an ambassador, permanent representative to the UN (not to be mistaken with the ambassador in Washington!). Its diplomats defend the interests of France in all the organs of the UN, notably at the General Assembly in conjunction with its partners of the European Union, and very importantly at the Security Council, where France holds a permanent seat with the right of veto. This is a huge privilege which entails heavy responsibilities on the international stage. Over a dozen diplomats assist the permanent representative on Security Council issues.

What are the priorities of the French presidency of the Security Council for the month of May?



As you know, the presidency of the Security Council rotates every month according to the alphabetical order of the countries on the Council. France is president during May, succeeding Colombia and preceding Gabon. Hot topics are naturally discussed during this month: Libya, the situation in the Middle-East, etc. For its presidency though, France has decided to put a particular emphasis on African issues, in two ways. First, we organised a debate on the Democratic Republic of Congo on May 18. This is not a very well-known conflict. It was brutal, claiming millions of lives in the last decade. Hundreds of thousands of women have been raped. A UN peacekeeping mission is on the ground in the east of the country, with 20,000 troops trying to maintain a fragile peace. We thought it would be useful for the Security Council to take stock of the situation as the country prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections in November, and to reflect on how to build a long-term UN strategy for rebuilding a functioning state in conjunction with the Congolese authorities.

The second African focus is the Security Council trip to East Africa in the last week of May. The 15 ambassadors of the Security Council travel to various parts of the globe once or twice a year. Here, the Council will concentrate on two topics. First, South Sudan: a new country will appear on the map on

July 9, following the referendum in January in which the South-Sudanese voted overwhelmingly for independence. This is a major milestone, which will mark the end of several decades of civil war. But there are many issues that still need to be resolved: the border demarcation, the sharing of resources, the fate of the region of Abyei. The Council will meet with key players to reflect on the future of the UN mission in South Sudan, and, more generally, on how the international community can help make South Sudan a viable state. The second topic is Somalia: the country has been ravaged by civil war for 20 years. It is plagued by piracy off its coast. The UN supports an African Union mission there which has helped the Transitional Federal Government push back the rebels. In Addis Ababa the Security Council will meet with key actors to discuss the future of this war-torn country, including UN funds and programs which are active on the ground. In Addis Ababa, the Security Council will also meet with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

What issues has France been instrumental in resolving lately?

In recent months, France has been very active at the Security Council on the crises in Libya and Côte d'Ivoire. On Libya, along with the UK, France led the way for the adoption of two seminal resolutions: Resolution 1970, which referred the situation to the International Criminal Court, imposed an embargo on weapons to Libya and sanctioned Gaddafi and several of his cronies; and Resolution 1973, adopted in March, which authorised the use of force to protect the populations and territories under threat of an attack by the Gaddafi regime, imposed a no-fly zone, and further strengthened the sanctions regime. With this second resolution, for the first time, the Security Council gave a blanket authorisation to the international community for the use of force to protect civilians. This is unprecedented! For Côte d'Ivoire, France played a key role in the resolution of the crisis which stemmed from former President Gbagbo's refusal to step down after he lost the presidential election against Mr. Ouattara. At the Council, we adopted a resolution in April which gave full support to the UN force on the ground to prevent the use of heavy weapons against civilians. A few days later, Gbagbo was finally compelled to step down by the Ouattara forces. Many other topics are raised at the Security Council, from Syria to Western Sahara, from Kosovo to East Timor, from nuclear proliferation to terrorism, and France's position is heard on all these issues. These are busy times at the UN!

Chanel's *Haute Couture* on Display in North Carolina



The Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina, is hosting a big exhibit on Chanel until December 31.

Chanel: Designs for the Modern Woman, an exhibit of more than 50 designs from the fashion legend's workshop, will be on display at the Mint Museum Randolph in North Carolina from May 21 until December 31. The museum has compiled the showcase of the House of Chanel's creations entirely from the Mint's own Historic Costume and Fashionable Dress collection. The exhibit will feature evening wear, suits, handbags, shoes, perfume, eyeglasses, and more from the 1920s to the present.

Since the debut of Gabrielle Bonheur "Coco" Chanel's trademark women's suit in 1925, the style icon has left her mark on the world of fashion. Her designs are known for their clean lines, elegance, simplicity, and comfort — a revolutionary digression from the corsets and frills popular at the turn of the 20th century. "Many of the items featured in the exhibition represent milestones in the collection's acquisitions history, thanks to several generous donors," stated Charles L. Mo, Director of Fine Art at the Mint. "The name Chanel is renowned around the globe, and has become synonymous with high fashion, impeccable construction of the garments, and leadership in design."

For more information, please visit: www.mintmuseum.org.

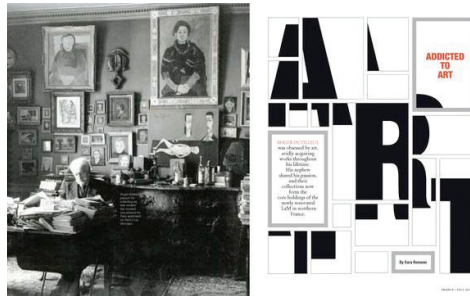
France Magazine Earns Industry Acclaim

France Magazine has won three prestigious design awards for its creative typography displays. The Type Directors Club (TDC) is a highly competitive annual competition that recognizes excellent work from the previous year's typography in graphic design. Thanks to the talents of Art Director Todd Albertson, who frequently creates bespoke typefaces and letter shapes for *France Magazine*, the periodical won awards for three feature stories published in 2010. All appear in *Typography 31*, the TDC's annual publication of winning entries.

"Aesthetics are a big part of France and therefore a big part of *France Magazine*," says editor Karen Taylor. "We put a lot of time and effort into making our publication not only a good read but also a beautiful object, and it is so gratifying to see those efforts recognized."

Out of nearly 1,500 entries from 32 countries, only 245 were selected for awards. The winners will be featured in exhibitions touring cities in the United States, Canada, England, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Russia and Spain.

To view *France Magazine*'s winning submissions, please visit: www.francemagazine.org/awards/awards.asp.



France Magazine won three typography design awards, including one for the above layout.

La République des livres with Pierre Assouline

The Alliance Française hosted Pierre Assouline, French writer and journalist, as a guest lecturer on May 6 in Washington, D.C. Assouline is the author of the most-read literary blog in France, *La république des livres*, published with *Le Monde*. Moderated by Corine Lesnes, correspondent for *Le Monde* in the United States, the conversation explored the impact of the internet on literature and the influence of blogs on journalism.

Assouline spoke at length about the creative process behind his blog. "When I write, I have to keep in mind that I am writing for 200 million people who can read French." The author reads every single one of the 300 – 400 comments that each of his posts receive and stresses that he has a close relationship with many of his readers. "It is a completely



Literary blogger Pierre Assouline speaks in Washington, D.C.

different experience because writers react to what you write. When you are writing the daily news, you don't see the reactions of readers... I see the influence of my blog on my readers. My reviews encourage them to go out and buy books, and then come back ready to discuss them."

After the conversation, many attendees inquired about the influence of the Internet, which puts infinite information at one's fingertips, on journalism and writing. Assouline expressed his optimism for a union between language and technology: "As a journalist, your computer is an indispensable tool... People think that newspapers will cease to exist in the future, but we will be able to read more thanks to the Internet."

VALÉRIE PÉCRESSE ENCOURAGES FRENCH-AMERICAN ACADEMIC COOPERATION

During a trip to Harvard University on April 11, French Minister of Higher Education and Research Valérie Pécresse gave a public lecture on cooperation between French universities and American academics, which was followed by a question-and-answer session. The visit follows recent reforms that give universities more financial autonomy from the state, with the aim of increasing decentralization of higher education and research. According to Minister Pécresse, as a result of the change, "universities have more freedom in recruiting faculty and developing their respective research strategies... to promote growth and attract talent and focus on bridging the academic and economic worlds." Pécresse expressed her hope for stronger educational partnerships between France and the United States, "France is working to extend relations with American academics by creating dual degrees — joint diplomas between an American and a French university," citing as an example the relationship between Columbia University and two Parisian *universités*. The event was co-sponsored by the Crisis and Reform in European Higher Education Study Group, the French Consulate General in Boston, and the Francophile Club at Harvard Kennedy School.

GREEN CONNECTION 2011 SENDS ECO-MINDED STUDENTS TO FRANCE

The Consulate General of France in Atlanta has organized and concluded their first annual "Green Connection" contest, a competition organized to promote student interest in the environment. High school students from Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee entered the competition by submitting four-minute videos in French or English that demonstrate their passion for the environment. The top seven winners, including grand prize winner Emily "Gracie" Corapi from West High School in Tennessee, will receive an educational stay in La Rochelle, France, focused on marine environment and ocean conservation. The Cultural Services of the Embassy of France in the U.S., the Maud Fontenoy Foundation, and the Youth Hostel of La Rochelle helped organize the competition. To see the winning videos, please visit: www.consulfrance-atlanta.org/greenconnection.

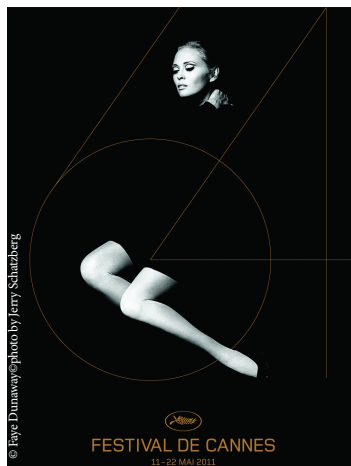
Stars, Sand, Sun ... Action! The Stage Is Set for the 64th Cannes Film Festival

Each May, film professionals and cinephiles flock to the French Riviera for 11 days to attend the Cannes Film Festival, marveling at the stars and soaking up the sun. The Festival is a star-studded event that attracts the best and brightest of the film world. Cannes is not only the hottest place to be seen, it is also the place to see: this year's 64th Cannes Film Festival featured 142 entries from 33 countries from May 11 - 22. The festival kicked off with a film that exemplifies the festival's international character: Woody Allen's *Midnight in Paris*. Allen's homage to the City of Love features American stars Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, and Kathy Bates, as well as French Oscar-winner Marion Cotillard and a cameo by French First Lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy in her film debut. The First Lady explained her decision to play a role in the film, "When I'm a grandmother, I'd like to be able to say I made a film with Woody Allen."

Though the opening film at Cannes is always screened "Out of Competition," dozens of other films compete for awards, including the Palme d'Or, the festival's highest honor. This year, American actor Robert De Niro presided over the deliberations as President of the Jury. A vibrant group of actors, filmmakers, and critics joined De Niro to select the Palme's recipient. An eclectic collection of 19 films competed for the award this year. Five French directors competed for the top award: Bertrand Bonello (*L'Apollonide — Souvenirs de la maison close*), Alain Cavalier (*Pater*), Maïwenn (*Polisse*), Michel Hazanavicius (*The Artist*), and Radu Mihaileanu (*La Source des femmes*). The Festival closed with *Les Bien-aimés*, featuring one of the France's most respected actresses, Catherine Deneuve. Terrence Malick's highly anticipated film *The Tree of Life*, starring



The Tree of Life, starring Jessica Chastain, Tye Sheridan, and Brad Pitt, won the Palme D'Or this year.



Brad Pitt and Sean Penn represented the United States "In Competition" and brought home this year's Palm D'or. Two American blockbusters — *The Beaver*, directed by Jodie Foster and starring Mel Gibson, and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*, directed by Rob Marshall and starring Johnny Depp — also debuted at the festival "Out of Competition." The festival celebrates cinematic heritage with screenings of remastered classics. This year included tributes to Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, newly restored for the festival, Robert De Niro's *A Bronx Tale*, and George Méliès' *Le Voyage dans la lune*, one of the earliest French films, from 1902, accompanied by a new soundtrack by the French electro-pop group Air. Film-lovers were able follow the events live on the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AFFCinema) of Agence France-Presse (AFP). The site featured multimedia updates of the films and the stars. At the festival's halfway point and its conclusion, Facebook users could chat live with AFP's journalists about the festival's highlights.

History of the Festival

Cannes has come to be synonymous with glamour and prestige. The city's pleasant climate and reputation as a hub for international artists are only a few of its distinguishing characteristics. The festival's roots stem from an idealistic

foundation. The framework for the Cannes Film Festival began in 1938 in protest to the propaganda films sweeping the most popular film festivals of the time. French, British, and American jury members withdrew from Mostra Internazionale d'Arte Cinematografica, an Italian film festival, that gave its best foreign film award to a Nazi propaganda film by Leni Riefenstahl. Later that year, critics and filmmakers established the Cannes Film Festival with the goal of creating a festival free of political bias and censorship, although the first festival did not actually take place until after the war, in 1946. This political engagement is still at the heart of this year's festival, where organizers honored a national cinema, that of Egypt, for the

first time, with a screening of *18 Jours*, a film about the revolution in Egypt.

Over the last 60 years, the festival has expanded to encompass seven major sections: "In Competition," "Out of Competition," "Un Certain Regard," "Cinéfondation," "Critics' Week," "Director's Fortnight," and the Marché du Film. The first two categories indicate simply whether or not a film will be eligible for the Palme d'Or. The "Un Certain Regard" category, the largest in the festival, was created in 1978 to promote world cinema and to incorporate several side events. "Cinéfondation," which presents short films, give out three prizes. "Critics' Week," established in 1962, is run by the French Union of Film Critics, and "Director's Fortnight" is open to feature-length and short films. Films, as well as foreign rights, are bought and sold at the Marché du Film (Film Market).



Cannes borders the Mediterranean Sea on the Côte d'Azur.

Le Marché du Film

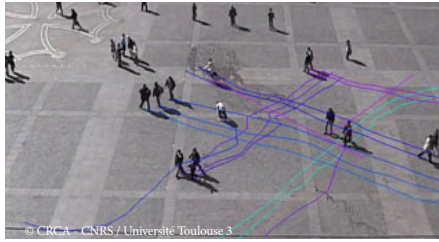
Behind the glitz, glamour, and lights of the festival is another annual event that is less known, but no less important. The Marché du Film is the commercial component of the festival and the world's largest film market. Buyers can attend screenings and have the opportunity to buy the rights to small- and large-budget films. The Marché aims to promote collaboration between film professionals, support and strengthen the film industry, and encourage the use of new technology to ensure the enduring success of the cinema, according to its website. The market was created in 1959 for film professionals to complement the success of the film festival. The first market had only a few dozen participants, and films were screened on a cloth affixed to the wall. Yet despite its humble beginnings, the market has expanded greatly. In 2011, there were over 4,000 films and over 10,000 participants from over 100 countries. Film buyers and sellers caught a glimpse of the future of cinema in 34 theaters, the majority of which were enabled with 3-D capabilities. The 3-D market, which has rapidly expanded in recent years, now composes about five percent of the films shown at the Market.

New Research for Safe Crowd Control

In a report published on April 18, scientists from Le Centre nationale de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) and the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale in Zurich, Switzerland, successfully simulated the collective movements resulting from interactions between individual pedestrians in large crowds. The research will enable event coordinators to predict and intercede in potentially dangerous situations involving large groups of people.

In response to several incidents where large crowd numbers precipitated fatal situations, including recent stampedes in Mecca in 2006 and at a 2010 music festival in Duisburg, Germany, the research identifies factors that help predict how pedestrians will behave in groups.

Unlike previous crowd behavior studies, which have



New research aims to predict the movement of crowds and mitigate fatal situations.

simultaneously adjusting his speed to maintain a safe distance from the nearest obstacles.

In digital crowd simulations, the new model replicated many signature crowd control issues present in recent stampede tragedies, such as spontaneous collective crushes, also known as “turbulence.” The developments facilitate the development of new risk-planning tools to avoid future loss of life.

traditionally modeled individual behavior in terms of the forces attracting pedestrians to their destination and the forces repelling them from obstacles, the new research suggests a less calculated approach. According to the study, a pedestrian in a crowd simply seeks to minimize congestion by walking to empty spaces that he or she can see, while

simultaneously adjusting his speed to maintain a safe distance from the nearest obstacles.

Google and French Research Center Unveil Tech Partnership

The search engine Google and the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) have announced a first-of-its-kind partnership for computer science research. The agreement, unveiled in February, will commit manpower and capital to studies in optimization, a growing field. Google has pledged nearly 325,000 euros, to be shared among five leading research teams based in French universities. CNRS will oversee the teams and contribute two PhD grants and a senior-level, salaried engineer position. “We chose the five teams together,” explains Philippe Baptiste, director of the Institute of Interactive Information Sciences (INS2I) at CNRS. The groups will work collectively on certain projects coordinated by the center, including establishing a research methodology.

Experts assert that the benefits of optimization are enormous and applicable to many sectors. Power companies will be able to maximize efficiency, shippers can better manage their delivery vehicles, and environmentalists can find greener alternatives. In addition to the five teams selected, Baptiste’s own group at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne will conduct a related project on programming long algorithms—which could vastly improve the speed at which scientists produce results. “The manner in which we organize the basic operations of an algorithm has a colossal impact,” Baptiste says. “The same calculation can take an hour, or three weeks.” The faster Baptiste’s teams can churn out algorithms and other optimization research, the more they will be able to accomplish—and the greater the innovation potential from the Google-CNRS partnership.



New research on optimization could yield many practical applications, including maximizing shipping and delivery efficiency.

Food as Science: An Appetizing Industry



Chefs prepare a molecular delicacy using liquid nitrogen to freeze ingredients.

France, whose gastronomy was recognized by UNESCO as an intangible world heritage, is at the cutting edge of a culinary revolution that uses science to redefine cooking: molecular gastronomy. The science explores the chemistry and physics of cooking. One French company, Cuisine Innovation, is now spreading the knowledge of France’s “test-kitchens” to the public.

The term “molecular gastronomy” was coined in 1988 by scientists Hervé This and Nicholas Kurti, who wanted to make better-tasting food and invent new dishes through science. The two organized international workshops that brought together scientists and culinary professionals to discuss topics such as the physics of chewing and how varied cooking temperatures affect the texture of meat.

Dr. Anne Cazor, the founder of Cuisine Innovation, was a student of Hervé This at the Collège de France when she began Cuisine Innovation.

The organization provides training and consulting to chefs and small businesses on how to improve and streamline food preparation. Cazor explains that nursing homes have been important clients: “We organize training classes on textures for chefs in retirement homes,” like that of Nuits-Saint-Georges, where “we gave a training course on how to use special cooking techniques to tenderize meat.”

FRANCE TO GET FASTER BROADBAND

Last week, French Minister of Industry, Energy, and Digital Economy Eric Besson announced a new development that will increase the speed of the Internet. France’s mobile operators will be able to purchase up to two 15 MHz channels of broadband spectrum in the 800 MHz band — one for uploads and the other for downloads. The announcement signifies an increase in the amount of broadband available for purchase per company. Currently, mobile operators in most European countries as well as in the U.S. are restricted to two channels of 10 MHz. Buying larger pieces of the broadband spectrum would allow users to benefit from faster upload and download speeds, similar to adding lanes to a busy road to reduce commute time. The decision to allow for 15 MHz per operator may also prompt networks and modems to consider upgrades to handle the wider spectrums. France’s mobile companies will have an opportunity to bid on the 15 MHz channels at the next LTE (Long Term Evolution) spectrum auction.

NEW INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY FOSTERS FRENCH-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

The France-U.S. Theory Institute for Physics with Exotic Nuclei (FUSTIPEN) recently began operations at the National Particle Accelerator for Heavy Ions (GANIL), located in Caen, France. A collaboration between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the Commissariat à l’énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA), and Le Centre nationale de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), FUSTIPEN was created to facilitate scientific cooperation between French and American nuclear physicists. The organization will encourage the exchange of interactions between theoretical and experimental research while supporting projects which develop around the use of some of the world’s most advanced particle accelerators. U.S. scientists participate in the collaboration through travel and subsistence grants awarded to those interested in furthering their research with the aid of French scientists. For more information, please visit: fustipen.ganil.fr.



Last month, the world tuned in to the royal wedding of Prince William of Wales and Kate Middleton. Amid the splendor surrounding the marriage, Middleton's long white dress adorned with intricate lace drew much attention. French luxury lace company Sophie Hallette produced the lace for the dress's designer Sarah Burton, who selected a lace pattern designed in 1958 and woven on artisanal looms. Romain Lescroart, CEO of Sophie Hallette contextualized the importance of the selection. "Our laces have adorned haute couture creations and luxury goods world-wide for 127 years, but this certainly marks a crowning achievement in our history [from] which we draw great pride." The company specializes in lace for haute couture, ready-to-wear and lingerie designs. Fashion houses around the world, including Versace, Dior, Marc Jacobs, and Balenciaga use Sophie Hallette lace.

PARISIAN GARBAGE COLLECTION "GOES GREEN"

French waste management company SITA announced the implementation of 11 new, fully electric garbage trucks in the Parisian suburb of Courbevoie. The first of the trucks commenced collection duties on May 12. The introduction of these vehicles signals an increasing incentive to reduce pollution and carbon emissions in France. According to Cyril Fraissinet, the industrial director of SITA, the new vehicles will emit 130 fewer tons of carbon dioxide per year than their fossil-fueled counterparts while also collecting trash for over 70,000 people in the city. All existing trucks, which currently operate on a dual thermal-electric motor, will be replaced before the end of the year by the new vehicles, which run on rechargeable ion-lithium batteries. "The engineers faced a real challenge of how to make it all work together, how they would be able to minimize overall electrical usage and come up with the vehicle that we have here," said Fraissinet. He added that "to date, it's the world's first new generation 100 percent electric vehicle equipped with lithium-ion batteries, and in a way, it's a French product because all the parts are put together in France."

All Eyes on Roland Garros for the French Open

The French Open at Roland Garros is underway this month, with competitors from around the world arriving in Paris to participate in the annual tennis tournament. From May 17 – June 5, the best of the best in the world of tennis will battle on the famed red clay courts for the championship titles and nearly 18 million euros total in prize money. Roland Garros will host both men's and women's singles and doubles tournaments, as well as mixed doubles and wheelchair divisions.

This year's favorites on the men's side include recurring contenders Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, and Roger Federer. The women's tournament includes notable players, such as Maria Sharapova, Kim Clijsters, and Serena Williams. All French eyes have also been on young up-and-coming Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, a Frenchman who aims to make waves at this year's tournament following quarterfinal and semifinal appearances at the 2010 Wimbledon Championship and Australian Open, respectively.



This year's French Open runs from May 17 through June 5.

CNRS Recognizes Distinctions in Scientific Innovation

The Centre nationale de la recherche scientifique (CNRS) recently inaugurated a new set of awards designed to recognize exceptional research in the technological, therapeutic, economic, and social domains. Selected by a jury of directors and scientists from CNRS, three laureates received the newly minted "Medals of Innovation" during a ceremony at CNRS headquarters in Paris. Valérie Pécresse, the Minister of Higher Education and Research, presided over the April 27 event.

Esther Duflo, 38-year-old professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was recognized for her work in advancing field experiments as a way to model the causal relationships in complex economic systems.

Time magazine recently named Duflo among the 100 most influential people in the world. The second laureate, Mathias Fink, director of the Langevin Institute, received

an award for his technological innovations, particularly the invention of Time Reversal Mirrors and signal processing. The invention has led to a number of advancements in fields including ultrasound therapy, medical imaging, underwater acoustics, and electromagnetic telecommunications. François Pierrot, deputy director of the Computer Science, Robotics, and Microelectronics lab in Montpellier, France, also received

an Innovation Medal for his revolutionary advancements in robotics, including the invention of the first robot capable of performing skin graft procedures.



Esther Duflo was one of three laureates of the 2011 CNRS *Medaille de l'innovation*.



LA DÉTENTE GÉNÉRALE: NEW MUSIQUE FOR THE PEOPLE



French-language music blog *La Détente Générale* (LDG), a project of two Montréal-based French students, Oscar Ritaly and Jean Dauvin, has been gaining international clout. Created two years ago, the blog now incorporates contributing students from Paris, Brussels, Singapore, and New York.

LDG helps garner support for featured artists, most of whom are relatively unknown and working to build their fan-base. The site aims to share music with as large an audience as possible, showcasing a variety of genres from hip-hop, techno remixes and indie, while avoiding more traditional channels of distribution. Contributors post blog entries daily, create playlists of old and new music weekly, record podcasts monthly, and present band interviews regularly. In addition, several French and international DJs upload downloadable mixtapes.

For more information, please visit www.ladetentegenerale.com.

News From France does not endorse the content, views, and opinions of authors expressed in the aforementioned website.

Herzog's 3-D Film Provides an Unprecedented View of Cave Art

Werner Herzog's newest film, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*, offers a rare glimpse into southern France's Cave of Chauvet Pont d'Arc, home to the oldest discovered wall paintings in the world. Although public access to the cave is not normally granted for preservation reasons, Herzog was able to gain special permission to film inside. The 90-minute film, which the *New York Times* describes as "a gift," depicts the cave's striking features in detail. The film offers a view of not only the Ice-Age paintings, but also the many present stalactites, stalagmites, and animal bones, all captured for the audience in 3-D.

The wall paintings in Chauvet Cave, which are pre-



Paintings in France's Cave of Chauvet Pont d'Arc may date back 32,000 years.

movie isn't just an understatement, it's a wildly inaccurate way to describe an experience that, in its immersive sensory pleasures and climactic journey of discovery, more closely resembles an ecstatic trance."

sumed to date back 32,000 years, are in near-pristine condition. Herzog's use of 3-D technology gives viewers a complete look at the paintings and allows them to appreciate how the texture of the cave wall was built into the art. Critics received his film with rave reviews, praising both his use of 3-D and his presentation of the cave art. Washington Post critic Ann Hornaday stated, "To call *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* a great

Grenoble Enjoys New Jazz Festival

The first annual *Les Détours de Babel* festival took place in Grenoble, a city in Eastern France, from April 8 - 23, hosted by the Centre international des musiques nomades. The new celebration is a combination of two previously existing events: the 38th Rugissants ("Roaring 38s") and Grenoble Jazz Festival. The "updated offering" will offer performances in many overlapping genres of music, corresponding to "the trend in musical creation...to break down individual aesthetic genres in favor of cross-disciplinary dynamics," according to the festival's website.

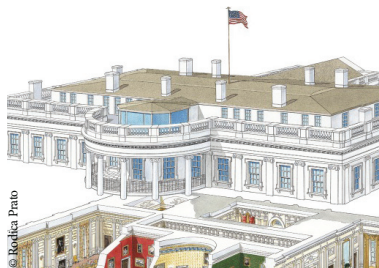
The festival featured jazz, rap, dance, and fusion performances, encompassing events all over the city. To promote public participation, *Les Détours* offered a downloadable iPhone app with a schedule of events, video clips of performances, and links for purchasing tickets. The 15-day itinerary included street performances, Sunday morning musical brunches, church organ tours, and a multimedia opera. The performances took place in a variety of venues, including museums, theaters, churches, and abbeys.

The inaugural edition of the festival was dedicated to the late francophone poet, essayist, and novelist Edouard Glissant (see NFF 11.02).



Les Détours de Babel featured a variety of musical genres, including jazz, rap, and fusion.

Commemorative White House Guide Debuts with a French Touch



Rodica Prato illustrated this view of the White House using pen and ink.

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the White House Historical Association has released a special edition of *The White House: An Historic Guide*, featuring new images by renowned French illustrator Rodica Prato. She is best known in America for her illustrations for Martha Stewart's and Garrison Keillor's books, and for features in *Vanity Fair*, *Reader's Digest* and *National Geographic*.

Prato's illustrations, created with pen and ink, depict the beautiful gardens and historic rooms of the White House. Traditionally used as a guidebook for visiting tourists, the new edition of the book conveys the rich history of the president's residence and shows its current appearance for those unable to visit. The guide also features a detailed section devoted to architecture, so that visitors who cannot enter the White House may still study its external features from the street.

The White House Historical Association was founded in 1961 on the initiative of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, who actively participated in the editing of the first edition of the guide. For half a century, each First Lady has continued a tradition of involvement with the association; the guide's 50th anniversary edition opens with a letter from First Lady Michelle Obama.

R.J. JOHNSON FINE ART EXHIBITS
FRENCH PRINTS



Head of Flora, by Bonnet, is an 18th-century French print in the collection.

Chicago-based art gallery R.S. Johnson Fine Art, which concentrates on French art from several time periods, is hosting a public exhibition of its rich collection of 18th-century French prints. In conjunction with the exhibit, owner R. Stanley Johnson has published a bound catalogue of the prints on display. The prints, ranging from 1715 to 1793, demonstrate the ornate, playful style of the Rococo era. The artistic technique and subject matter of the pieces give them great historic value—depictions of the French aristocracy just before the Revolution are particularly intriguing. One print on display features the young Duc de Chartres, who would later become King Louis XVIII. Established in 1955, R.S. Johnson Fine Art has been a family-run art gallery that focuses on art scholarship and collecting. Since 1968, the second generation of Johnsons, R. Stanley and his wife Ursula, have operated the dealership. The two spent nine years studying under André Chastel at the Institut d'Art et d'Archéologie at the Sorbonne, before returning to Chicago. The organization has published over 150 catalogues (of which the 18th-century French Prints is the most recent), and their pieces have been acquired by institutions all over the world, including the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. In 1983, R. Stanley Johnson was decorated as an Officier des Arts et des Lettres by French Minister of Culture Jack Lang.

For more information, please visit: www.rsjohnsonfineart.com.

Degas on Display at the Tampa Museum of Art

The Tampa Museum of Art is hosting an exhibit of the work of Impressionist contemporary Edgar Degas, titled “Degas: Form, Movement and the Antique.” The show includes a selection of Degas’s bronze sculptures, presented alongside some of his paintings and drawings, to highlight the connection between the artist’s two- and three-dimensional pieces. Many of the works are on loan from over 20 institutions across the United States, and are on display until June 19.

Todd Smith, director of the museum, calls the Degas exhibition “the largest undertaking in the museum’s history.” The exhibit is neither a travelling show nor the fruit of a partnership with another museum, but is



Dancer Looking at the Sole of Her Right Foot, conceived around 1890-1900, is on display at the Tampa Museum of Art.

curated in-house by Smith. International Arts organized and presented the show, which is the first in the Tampa Bay region to feature works solely by Degas.

The Tampa Museum of Art drew on the strength of its own antiquities collection by focusing the exhibit on, as the title suggests, “form, movement, and the antique.” “Degas was a radical, but he was still tied to an academic approach to art,” explained Smith. “We will use works from our collection that point to the inspiration he received from ancient Greece.” The figures of the artist’s dancers and bathers, both drawn and sculpted, are particularly rooted in the inspiration of antiquity.

For more information, please visit: www.tampamuseum.org/.

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Art Exhibit Features 18th-Century Parisian Pieces



La Toilette, by François Boucher, is one of the many 18th-century paintings on display at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

what the museum calls “the fashionable and cultural epicenter of Europe” at the time.

David Bomford, acting director of the J. Paul Getty Museum, explained the importance of experiencing material culture of bygone eras: “More than celebrating the period or

In its latest exhibit, titled “Paris: Life & Luxury,” the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles recreates the daily life of 18th-century Paris. Occurring from April 26 - August 7, the exhibition brings together approximately 160 objects and art pieces to evoke the quotidian experience of a Parisian in the 1700s, living in

perpetuating the mythology of its charm and gallantry, this exhibition re-imagines the varied and complex range of values and practices of the city’s elite within a rich material context.”

The exhibit is organized according to the activities pursued in the chronology of a single day. It opens with an installation of a rare canopy bed known as a *lit à la duchesse* (duchess-style bed), signifying the act of rising from bed in the morning. Another section of the exhibition focuses on the main meal customarily consumed at mid-day, featuring still-life paintings and sculptures of common meal ingredients, and tapestries illustrating a picnic. The final section examines evening entertainment such as playing cards and music-making, with an installation of a 1754 Parisian harpsichord, illuminated dimly to recall the candlelit nature of post-sunset activities.

The exhibit will travel to the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, where it will be on view from September 18 – December 10.

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