



News From France

Vol. 13.08
October 2013

A free monthly review of French news & trends

French and U.S. Legislators Gather in D.C., Seeking Common Policy Solutions



The Congressional French Caucus met on September 19. L-R: Robert Latta, Amb. François Delattre, Dana Titus, John Larson, Sylvie Goy-Chavent, Catherine Troendlé, Roland du Luart, Adam Schiff, Philippe Kaltenbach, John Boozman, Jean Bizet, Joseph Wilson, Michael Michaud, and John Campbell. For full story, please see p. 2

From the Ambassador's Desk: A Monthly Message From François Delattre

▲ The United States and France are at the forefront of international efforts to bring a swift halt to the bloodshed in Syria and to promote a political transition in this country. The threat of the use of force following the horrific chemical gas attacks of August 21 led to a UN Security Council resolution on chemical weapons in Syria and has encouraged a political solution through the "Geneva II" conference planned in the Swiss city for mid-November. Cooperation between French President François Hollande and U.S. President Barack Obama, as well as that between French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, has been especially close in recent weeks, as shown during the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Our two countries are likewise working closely on the Iranian nuclear issue.

On the cultural front, Minister Fabius took advantage of his time in New York to award the Legion of Honor to the American novelist Philip Roth. Mr. Fabius also officiated at the groundbreaking for a future French-language bookstore, located on Fifth Avenue, and spoke at a conference on Europe at Columbia University. He also paid a visit to the Taste of France Show, the world's largest convention dedicated to French life, culture and business. On September 28 and 29, the program took over New York City's Bryant Park to celebrate French indus-



try, technology, innovation, food, culture and more. Tens of thousands of New Yorkers enjoyed it!

The area of space research saw a busy September as well. Jean-Yves Le Gall, President of France's Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), traveled to California on September 13 to meet with Charles Elachi, who heads NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Mr. Le Gall also visited the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) to mark the launch of a graduate degree program with France's Ecole Polytechnique earlier this year.

Likewise in energy, the embassy organized a meeting of the Nuclear Infrastructure Council on September 27. The conference gathered officials from the French and American nuclear sectors to help foster industrial cooperation, develop innovative nuclear services and products, and exchange best practices for each stage of production.

Finally, I would be remiss not to mention France's continued solidarity with the American people on the anniversary of September 11. As we reflect on the 12 years that have passed since the tragic attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, we at the embassy expressed our sympathies by posting original artwork inspired by the event on our Website. Along with our American friends, France pays tribute to the victims and honors the memory of those who perished.

inside

- Current Events** 2
Chamber of Commerce Talks Etiquette
- Interview with the Expert** 3
Aymeric Chuzeville, Political Counselor
- Special Report: French life** 4
A Taste of France in New York City
- Business & Technology** 6
Women Entrepreneurs Encouraged
- Culture & Society** 7
Deauville Film Fest Draws U.S. Stars
- France & America** 8
Culturethèque USA Now Online



News From France

A free monthly review of French news & trends

NFF is also available online at:
www.ambafrance-us.org
www.facebook.com/FranceInTheUS
[@franceintheus](https://twitter.com/franceintheus)

Jessie Owens, Olympic Legend, Honored in Paris

A ceremony was held in honor of the memory of U.S. Olympic legend Jessie Owens in Paris on September 12, the 100th anniversary of the athlete's birth.

That date also marked the start of filming the movie *+Race+*, a French biopic which examines the successes and setbacks of the American runner's life.

Mr. Owens is perhaps best known for winning four gold medals at the 1936 Summer Olympics. Adolf Hitler, the leader of Germany at the time, broke custom by refusing to recognize the American's victories publicly.

The ceremony was attended by Bernard Amsalem, President of the French Track and Field Federation, the film's producers Luc Dayan and Jean-Charles Lévy, as well as two of Mr. Owens's three daughters.

"He lived through periods that marked world history," said Mr. Amsalem, referring to U.S. segregation and World War II. "He kept his values [throughout]... That makes him more than a legend, a moral reference," Mr. Amsalem said.

The event took place at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

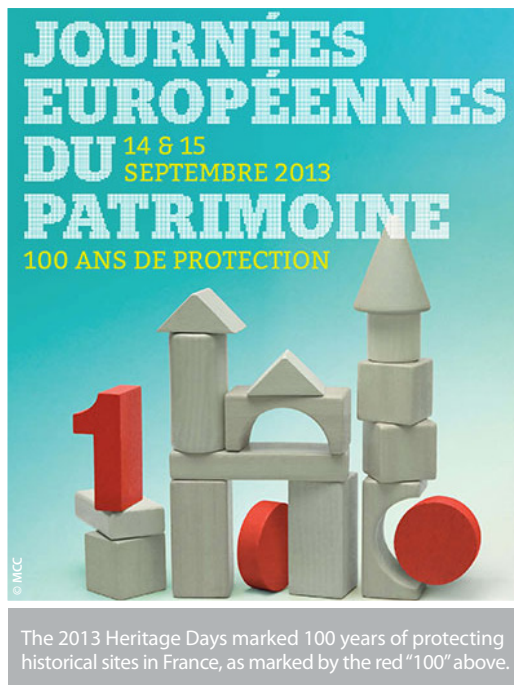
Impressionism Exhibit Ends World Tour in Chicago

The *Impressionism, Fashion, and Modernity* art exhibition ended its world tour at the Art Institute of Chicago in late September, following on the great success it had encountered in Paris and New York. The internationally acclaimed exhibition explored the relationship of art and fashion in late 19th century Paris, then the emerging style capital of the world.

The exhibition presented 75 paintings by celebrated artists including Gustave Caillebotte, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet, Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Georges-Pierre Seurat.

Coupled with the works of art were displays of day dresses, men's suits, ball gowns, and the rich accessories that were *à la mode* during the time of the Impressionists. Important quotations from prominent French authors such as Charles Baudelaire, Stéphane Mallarmé, and Émile Zola were also featured throughout the exhibition, providing a complete image of Paris at the turn of the twentieth century.

French Cultural Center of Boston Celebrates Heritage Days



The 2013 Heritage Days marked 100 years of protecting historical sites in France, as marked by the red "100" above.

▲ On September 14, the French Cultural Center of Boston opened its doors to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Heritage Days.

Heritage Days in France and other Francophone regions around the world provide the opportunity for citizens to visit protected historical sites typically unavailable to the public. The third weekend of September each year marks the opening of monuments, government buildings, and privately owned sites in order to fully appreciate the nation's architecture and history. Some stops include Le Palais du Luxembourg (Luxembourg Palace), or the seat of the French Senate and Le Château de Maintenon (Maintenon Castle), the former residence of Louis XIV's wife, Madame de Maintenon.

The French Cultural Center of Boston invited Bostonians to celebrate Heritage Days as if they were in France. A screening of the documentary *Versailles: The Visit* offered spectators a chance to explore the historic palace without leaving the Cultural Center's ballroom.

The tradition of Heritage Days was started in France by the Ministry of Culture in 1983. The visits are often accompanied by exhibitions, concerts, guided tours, and other special events. The tradition became so popular that all 50 states of the European Cultural Convention now participate in the annual affair, which is known collectively as European Heritage Days.

French Senators, Ambassador Visit Pennsylvania, Congress

▲ (From page 1) François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, joined a visiting delegation of French Senators during a visit to the United States Congress on September 18.

Members of the French Senate met with a bipartisan group of U.S. Members of Congress in the Capitol building, where they compared French and American policy approaches to energy, including hydraulic fracturing, the transatlantic free trade agreement, and immigration.

The event marked the latest activity of the Congressional French Caucus, a congressional member organization founded in 2003 as a bicameral, bipartisan group dedicated to promoting partnership and cooperation. The Congressional French Caucus currently

has 101 Members in the House and Senate.

Amb. Delattre provided opening remarks for the session, saying that it "could not have come at a better time" to highlight the positive state of French-American relations. He mentioned the countries' bilateral efforts in Mali and the leadership France and the U.S. have shown on the crisis in Syria.

Among the French Senators present was Roland du Luart, the President of the French-American Friendship Group within the French Senate. He described the group's visit to the northeastern United States called the Marcellus Formation. On a more personal note, Mr. du Luart shared the fact that his family roots include notable Americans such as statesman Gouverneur Morris, one of the Founding Fathers.

French-American Chamber Explains Business Etiquette

▲ On September 12, the French-American Chamber of Commerce (FACC) in collaboration with Georgetown University began creating an opportunity to rid the business world of cultural misunderstandings.

Four highly respected experts engaged in a roundtable discussion focused on the cultural differences that hinder bilateral trade, investment, and general business relationships for France and the United States. President of Intercultural Alliances Julia Gaspar-Bates joined business advisor Marc Jungerman, President of Global Life Coaching Pascale Brady, and multicultural consultant Susan Hess to discuss topics such as stereotypes and conflict management. Employment issues, the role of money, and the role of the state were also added to the mix in hopes of stimulating bilateral business.

The four experts plus moderator Jean-Marc Gaultier discussed the concern of "ever feeling awkward with transatlantic colleagues," and feeling the need to "fine-

tune behavior in order to fit in." This event and the FACC attempt to eliminate these difficulties in contemporary business environments.

For years, the French-American Chamber of Commerce has strived to support information sharing, cooperation, networking, and access to resources for French and American businesses. The FACC works with NGOs, trade associations, and various government bodies to advance business cooperation and organize events for its members. Other events nationwide range from Euro-seminars and book presentations to golf challenges.

France currently stands as one of the top five foreign investors in the United States, and the nation employs the third largest number of Americans in the world. With 4,000 members and 19 regional chapters, the FACC creates a valuable medium through which American companies can continue to successfully establish ties "across the Pond," and vice versa.

Aymeric Chuzeville, Political Counselor

▲ Understanding American domestic policy is a key priority for the Embassy of France in the U.S. Serving as the chief liaison between the French foreign service and Washington is **Aymeric Chuzeville**, a diplomat and expert on contemporary American politics.

As the Political Counselor, Mr. Chuzeville follows the American political process and its relationship with France. With experience as a Transatlantic Diplomatic Fellow at the U.S. Department of State, he is exceptionally well-qualified for his current position.

News From France sat down with Mr. Chuzeville to find out more.



Describe your job at the embassy in a few words.

The job of the Political Counselor at the French embassy is to get the best understanding possible of the political landscape of the United States and the political dynamics in D.C., and then to explain that in the clearest way possible to the French government. I have the opportunity to visit a lot of different issues: elections (presidential, midterm, local elections), dynamics within the parties, and also any policy issues like immigration reform, gun control, or budget, where we need a political understanding of what is going on with these particular policies and the decision making processes between the White House and Congress.

How would you describe the current political landscape in the U.S.? Has anything surprised you about it since you've been in this position?

What's very surprising, especially from a French perspective, and given the 24-hour media coverage, is how fast and how quickly the debates are changing. Take the U.S. election cycle. In France, we have an election cycle that runs between five and six years, and here, congressmen are elected for two years, the president for four years.

What really surprised me is that as soon as they get elected, they start to think about their reelection two years ahead. And this is the same at the state and local levels. This is a very different feature that you have to keep in mind when you are dealing with American politics vis-à-vis French or European politics.

What are the main differences between the French and American political systems?

The American political system features a system of checks and balances, but what it really needs to work is compromise. This means that the President, if he doesn't have a majority in the House of Representatives, needs to compromise to pass bills. This is something that makes the American system different from the French system, where the executive branch—the French president—has much more power in the sense that if he has a full majority, which is usually the case because parliamentary elections run right after presidential elections. And with a full majority, he can pass and promote laws much more easily than the American president.

Another difference is that in France the national state plays a large role in economic policy, in social policy, in a lot of policy, whereas in the U.S. there is much more reliance on either the state and local governments, or the private sector. I keep this in mind

whenever I try to analyze how American politics and policies work together at each of these levels.

Why is the French government interested in the political dynamics and the debates specific to the United States?

It's very important for the French government to know what the political dynamics are whenever the American government makes a decision. Law makers and the administration don't make a decision without taking into account the political dynamics: their party, the opposition, public opinion. So the French government has a better understanding of U.S. government decisions if it gets to know the political rationale behind it.

You could ask me why the French government doesn't just rely on the media and the press when there's so much American and European media coverage, but this is a distinction between what a journalist does and what a diplomat does.

In my role, I don't write for public opinion. Whatever I say to my government is my own analysis, based on a variety of sources in Washington and within the country. I try to gather that information and make an independent judgment, knowing what interests my government.

How would you describe the current state of the political relationship between France and the U.S.?

The current relationship is excellent. We've seen this through the debate on Syria, but also earlier this year with the French intervention in Mali and many other issues of foreign policy.

There's a strong demand from both sides of the Atlantic to have in-depth discussions about current issues on foreign policy, but also on economic policy, decisions made by the G-20, and on purely economic relationships such as American companies investing in France and vice-versa.

In short, I would just quote U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who recently said that "France is the oldest ally of the US." We couldn't have said it better. 🇫🇷

New Orleans Consulate Honors Eight U.S. Veterans

Known for its French heritage and cultural connections, the city of New Orleans awarded the French Legion of Honor to eight U.S. veterans of World War II on September 11.

One of the soldiers fought for months behind enemy lines in Normandy while another in the "Ghost Army" impersonated United States Army units to deceive the Germans.

Consul Jean-Claude Brunet awarded the medals to Frank J. Peragine, Al Goudeau, Ervin Aden, Albert L. Lasseigne, Joseph C. Latiolais, Anderson B. Wilson and John T. Remel. Some medals were presented posthumously, such as for Joseph Reich, whose family accepted the honor in his place. All recipients live in the New Orleans area.

The French Legion of Honor dates back to the late 18th century following the French Revolution. Napoléon Bonaparte created the Honor in 1802 to commend civilians and soldiers through the award's six categories. It is the highest honor given by France.

Princeton French Theater Festival Returns

During the last week of September, Princeton University brought French theater to the U.S. in its second production of *Seuls en Scène* French Theater Festival.

The Festival marked the launch of the 13th season of the student French theater workshop, *L'Avant-Scène*. Florent Masse, *L'Avant-Scène* director and Princeton professor, organized the event. Jointly presented by the University's Lewis Center for the Arts, the Department of French and Italian, and *L'Avant-Scène*, the Festival featured a diverse line-up.

This year's *Seuls en Scène* included a rich offering of classic French plays, from Molière to Marguerite Duras. In addition, the series showcased the rich evolution of French theater with original works by rising directors and playwrights, as well as texts by Valère Novarina and Jean Vilar.

The Festival welcomed current and past members of the *Comédie-Française* as well as French actors and directors who have triumphed at recent theater festivals in Avignon. Throughout the Festival, the visiting artists also offered master classes and coaching for Princeton students. *Seuls en Scène* delighted an audience of Francophiles and theater lovers alike.

Taste of France: Innovation and Tradition in New York



Nearly 100,000 people gathered in New York City's Bryant Park on September 28 and 29 to get a "Taste of France," as the convention was called. Billed as the world's largest event dedicated to France, it gathered French leaders and representatives to offer an image of France that is steeped in tradition and thoroughly innovative at the same time.

No less than nine French sectors were represented: lifestyle, technology, beauty, cuisine, wine and spirits, tourism, culture, children, and one called simply "fun." Each area was fully described on the event's website, www.tasteoffrance.com.

The event took place under the patronage of French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Junior Minister for the Food Industry Guillaume Garot, both of whom attended the weekend's festivities in person.

Traditions in Gastronomy

Thirty acclaimed French chefs from around the world attended the festival, creating his or her most celebrated dishes for demonstrations and tastings. The chefs, belonging to the prestigious French culinary organizations *Maitre Cuisiniers de France* and *L'Academie Culinaire de France*, worked together on dishes native to their home regions. The exhibit also included presentations on the Lacanche stove, a 200-year-old invention from France's Burgundy region.

Taste of France provided an array of wine tasting events as well. The Grand Wine Tasting offered a *dégustation* of over 100 wines and champagnes from 10 different French regions.

The largest-ever French picnic in the United States also took place, involving blue, white and red tablecloths and picnic baskets filled with French delicacies. To purchase the baskets or any products at the show, visitors exchanged U.S. dollars for "Mariannes," a play currency named after France's national symbol.

Tomorrow's Technology

The exhibitions also offered a view into French technology and heavy industry. Both the Safran and Dassault Falcon aircraft and rocket engineering companies made a strong showing, including a demo of an actual airplane engine. Dassault also held a small rendition of its interactive video on the history of Paris, which was part of a larger September 2012 production at the foot of the city's *Hôtel de Ville*.

The original showing utilized 10 computer screens and covered almost 500 square meters of space, serving as a visual crash course on 5,000 years of Parisian history. Other technological contributions to Taste of France included the display of helicopter models from Eurocopter. Founded in 1992 through a merger between the helicopter divisions of France's *Aérospatiale-Matra* and Germany's *DaimlerChrysler Aerospace*, the company is now owned by the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) and is one of the three largest aerospace organizations in the world.

Taste of France also exhibited French innovation on a smaller scale through demonstrations of metal workers and craftsman of artisanal French products. Metallurgists in France hone their unique skill of *repoussage*, or the art of pressing thin sheets of

metal to create beautiful engravings. The finished works were all for sale at a French Market set up on the festival's grounds.

Culture for All Ages

And on the cultural front, what's more fun than live music, a picnic, and kid's activities? The French and American national anthems were each performed by French-American soprano Sandra Hamaoui. Both nights featured concerts from Francophone singers and artists performing classical and contemporary French music. The show even invited patrons to sign up for a music contest on their Facebook page and compete for a spot on the Taste of France stage. The glamour continued at stands, where attendants offered hair and beauty sessions, as well as perfume and lavender demonstrations.

The Taste of France Show accommodated New York City's children as well. The kid's section included a *Ratatouille*-themed treasure hunt, ballet classes, and a giant wall designated for painting. Several French-American schools attended, among them the *Ecole Internationale de New York* and the *Lycée Français de New York*.

For those attendees inspired to visit France in person, the festival included a detailed tourism section. Eighty-two million foreigners visit France each year, making it the world's number-one tourist destination in 2012.

Overall, the Taste of France Show embodied all aspects of France's inspired culture, history, cuisine, and lifestyle. Organizers hope to run an even larger event next year, celebrating France's *art de vivre* in the Big Apple and beyond.



© Consulate of France in New York



© Consulate of France in New York



© Consulate of France in New York



© Consulate of France in New York



© Consulate of France in New York

Clockwise from opp. page: Amb. François Delattre (far right) joins delegation led by Ministers Laurent Fabius and Guillaume Garot; the Taste of France hot-air balloon; Taste of France organizer Paul Bensabat and Mr. Fabius; an airplane turbine shows French industrial excellence; Atout France at the Tourism section; a free make-up consultation.

FEI Reports Solid First Year Promoting French Expertise

In a summary released late this summer, France Expertise Internationale (FEI) reported solid growth for 2012, its first full year in operation. The public organization serves to promote French skills and capacity abroad, with projects ranging from stability and governance to economic development and management.

FEI awarded nearly \$28 million last year to over 60 projects, while almost 180 projects are awaiting a final decision from the authority. Sixty partner countries received aid in 2012. The group posted a 30-percent increase in turnover for the year, a figure that will “likely double” in 2013, said Antoine Pouillieute, FEI’s Chairman of the Board.

The organization has also collaborated with American partners, notably during the 19th International AIDS Conference held in Washington this past July. FEI also represents France within EUNIDA, the European Network of Implementing Development Agencies, where it operates projects around the world with its partners in the European Union.

Launched through French legislation passed in 2010, FEI is a branch of France’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Twitter Executive Sets Up in the City of Light

Following subtle indications of a move to the Hexagon, one of the top executives at the tech company Twitter will be living in Paris to run part of the company’s operations outside the U.S.

Katie Jacobs Stanton, the firm’s Vice President for International Growth, is following a rapidly expanding market. The number of Twitter users in France has expanded 150 percent since January 2013, *Le Figaro* newspaper reported in August, with a 350-percent rise per day in messages, called “tweets,” over the same period. Over seven million people have opened Twitter accounts in France.

Mrs. Stanton’s varied career has taken her through the worlds of government and technology. She has worked at the U.S. State Department and the White House, as well as the U.S. tech companies Google and Yahoo.

Mrs. Stanton confirmed her move to Paris in August, announcing the news on her personal Twitter account. True to the platform’s original purpose, the executive interacts regularly with other users, including stakeholders in France’s media and business communities.

France Unveils Plan Promoting Women’s Entrepreneurship

▲ On August 27, the French government announced its plan to promote women’s entrepreneurship in an effort to encourage economic growth and promote gender equality within the country’s economic ranks.

The announcement was made by France’s Innovation Minister, Fleur Pellerin, before an audience of women entrepreneurs. To encourage more women to enter the business world, the French government has proposed a multifaceted approach, which includes the implementation of awareness campaigns in French middle and high schools that will present entrepreneurship as “a path that is open to women as much as it is to men.” A website that aims to simplify access to financial and educational information will be launched this October.

As part of a push to facilitate access to start-up funds, Bpifrance Investissement, a French public investment bank, will provide “solutions-specific financing” for women who hope to start their own company. According to Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, the Minister of Women’s Rights, the “Guaranteed Funds for Women’s Initiative,” a project that

was created by the government in 1989 to improve women’s access to start-up loans, can anticipate an increase in resources of up to 25 percent in the near future. Likewise, an experimental fund will be established in partnership with private banks, a public long-term investor known as the Caisse des Dépôts group, Regional Councils, and other partners in three regions of France.

Aside from the initiatives specifically created for women, Ms. Pellerin has proposed a school of entrepreneurship that would train students on how to establish a start-up company in France. In a departure from tradition, the school would not consider educational background as part of its selection criteria. Rather, the strength of a candidate’s entrepreneurial potential would serve as a deciding factor for admission. Ms. Pellerin hopes that the school will encourage French people of all demographics to embrace the entrepreneurial spirit.

The government’s long-term goal is to increase the number of women entrepreneurs in France from 30 to 40 percent by 2017.



Entrepreneurship should be “a path that is open to women as much as it is to men,” says Innovation Minister Fleur Pellerin. The new project, unveiled on August 27, aims for a 10-percent jump in entrepreneurship by 2017.

The French Embassy Hosts Euro Night 2013 in Washington

▲ In an evening that welcomed over 1,500 guests from throughout the Washington area, the Embassy of France hosted the sixth edition of Euro Night on September 27. Twenty-eight European Union embassies participated in the event, each showcasing its respective culture, traditions, and culinary specialties.

Visitors had the opportunity to enjoy live music—from a traditional flute player to French electronic dance music—while taking a cultural tour around Europe. Each member country hosted a table at which visitors could feast on national dishes and discover European customs. From Finnish pastries and German pretzels to Cypriot cheese, visitors found all of these specialties while walking from country to country.

At the Embassy of France’s table, staff members wearing traditional red *foulard* scarves served guests a selection of red and white French wines, hot food, and delectable *macarons*. Another crowd favorite was the Spanish Embassy, which offered visitors a

taste of Spain’s famous tapas and sangria.

Beyond food and drink, many of the countries used Euro Night as an opportunity to inform visitors about their history and culture by showcasing their traditions throughout the evening. The Embassy of Poland donned their native costumes, while the Embassy of Ireland entertained guests with a lively performance by traditional Irish dancers.

Other countries talked with visitors about their roles in the EU, along with relevant historical, cultural, and tourist information. The Embassy of Croatia, the EU’s newest member as of July 1, spoke to guests about their membership process and goals now that the country is a fully fledged member of the regional bloc.

The sold-out event made for an evening of education and fun. Euro Night 2013 allowed Americans and Europeans alike to explore the diversity of European culture and engage with the EU’s diplomatic community in Washington.

Deauville American Film Festival Marks 39th Series

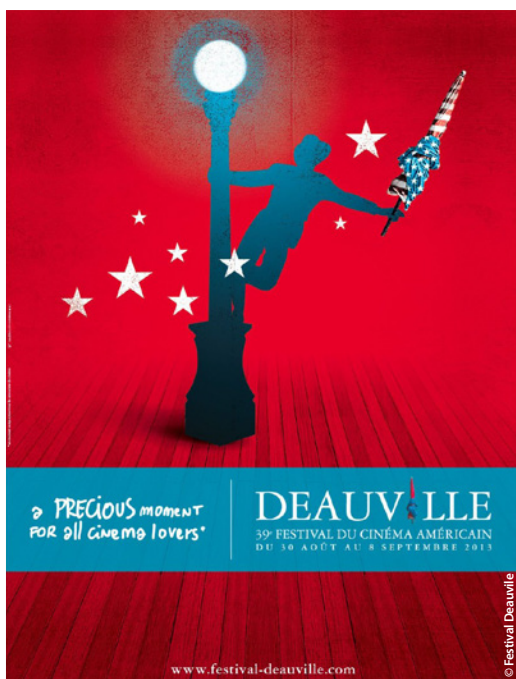
▲ This year marked the 39th annual Deauville American Film Festival, located in the small seaside town of the same name. This year's installment from August 30 through September 8 screened over 120 pictures from famed American directors such as Woody Allen, Ron Howard, as well as young and rising directors. The 2013 program combined the festival's many traditions with new ones, as seen through the added focus on social media. Deauville nonetheless remains the self-proclaimed "ephemeral site where young and rising American directors are discovered and acknowledged," according to the event's website.

Since 1975, Deauville has celebrated American cinema by inviting hundreds of filmmakers to spotlight their work in France's Normandy region. The Deauville festival serves as a showcase for American films ranging from documentaries, tributes, and shorts to films for the general public. Several films held their premiers at Deauville as well, such as action-drama *White House Down* and Naomi Foner's *Very Good Girls*. The Deauville festival remains the only event worldwide that offers 24-hour screening.

Anne d'Ornano, the Mayor of Deauville, said in 1977 that through the city's vibrant festival, "Hollywood has found itself an orchard in Normandy." Steven Soderbergh's *Behind the Candelabra* opened the event, while the sci-fi thriller *Snowpiercer* finished off the week on September 7.

Michael Douglas, who plays Liberace in Mr. Soderbergh's latest work, expressed his appreciation for the festival's French-American collaboration: "A lot of people don't understand the connection that American and French cinema have. They were born almost literally in the same year. They came up together and grew up together. And that is why I like to come to Deauville, to be part of that fraternity." This year marked the fourth time Mr. Douglas attended the Deauville Film Festival.

Deauville became competitive only in 1995, first for feature films then for shorts in 1998. This year, Kelly Reichardt's *Night Moves* won the Grand Prize against 13 other contenders. The film, a drama starring Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning, and Peter Sarsgaard, tells the story an environmental plot in Oregon gone wrong. The film portrays the struggle between idealism and activism, attempting to reconcile the two through violent protest. Other notable nominees for the Grand Prize were David M. Rosenthal's *A Single Shot*, Jim Mickle's *We Are What We Are*, and David Lowery's *Ain't Them Bodies Saints*. Past winners include Benh Zeitlin's *Beasts of the Southern Wild* in 2012, and



Films such as *The Butler* and *Blue Jasmine* premiered in France with their showings at the 2013 Deauville festival.

Paul Haggis's *Crash* in 2005.

The jury prize was awarded to Sam Fleischner's *Stand Clear of the Closing Doors* and Jeffrey C. Chandor's *All Is Lost* starring Robert Redford. *Stand Clear of the Closing Doors* takes place in New York City during Hurricane Sandy, telling the tale of an autistic Mexican teenager who runs away from his parents for over 11 days on the subway. In *All Is Lost*, Mr. Redford plays a shipwrecked sailor facing death in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Although Ryan Coogler's *Fruitvale Station* lost to *Night Moves* for the top prize, the film still left with the "Most Promising Newcomer" award.

In 2011 the Deauville Festival began granting another type of award, the Carte Blanche, to French figures of major artistic importance. Carte Blanche allows the honoree(s) to create a selection of their own "personal America," or favorite films to share at the festival. This year, French electronic music group Justice received the honor. Some of Justice's choices included *Blade Runner*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and *Die Hard*. [See column on Carte Blanche, this page.] Other recent additions to the festival's repertoire include the introduction of American television series in 2010. For the 36th festival, Deauville "aimed principally at becoming a genuine professional platform for scriptwriting, a rendezvous for scriptwriters," thus celebrating a more diverse group of artists to the festival. Deauville began to allow free entry for avid fans to watch unpublished episodes and cult series during the weeklong exposition.

American celebrities such as John Travolta, Jamie Foxx, and Forest Whitaker also attended Deauville this year. Nicolas Cage received a career achievement award from the festival, as well as a standing ovation for his new film, *Joe*. Forrest Whitaker and director Lee Daniels were photographed together at the premier of their film, *The Butler*, on August 31. French attendees included actress Héléne Fillières, musician Woodkid, and politician Philippe Augier, among others.

The city of Deauville, a resort town made famous through its equestrian centers and by Coco Chanel long before the film festival's inception, now serves as a cultural hub and an important symbol of French-American partnerships. Normandy's beaches also represent one of the proudest examples of French-U.S. collaboration, as they witnessed the events of D-Day during World War II. Although Deauville is considered by some to be the Cannes Film Festival's American little brother, it continues to exceed expectations and provide an exclusive look into the best of American cinematography.

French Finance Schools Ranked Among World's Best

France is home to six of the top 10 graduate programs in finance, a report from *The Financial Times* newspaper said recently. The annual ranking lists the best business schools worldwide.

The list specified that the schools were judged as "pre-experience" institutions, a different system from some MBA programs, which often require from applicants several years of business-world work experience. The primary criterion was the average salary earned three years after graduation, meaning those who completed their degrees in 2010.

Among the French schools in the top 10, HEC Paris came in at number one, with a salary of US\$93,316. The ESSEC Business School, which operates part of its program in the financial capital of Singapore, appeared at number two. EDHEC Business School, also in Paris, notched fourth place. The Grenoble Graduate School of Business, which also has a campus in Singapore as well as another in the UK, came in seventh. ESCP Europe, whose French site is one of five in Western Europe, earned the eighth spot, while Skema Business School made number 10, up two notches from 2012.

With "Carte Blanche," DJ Duo Praises U.S. Film

In its third installment at the annual Deauville American Film Festival, the French DJ duo Justice shared their selection of the nine U.S. movies that inspire them. Their menu of films was shown as this year's "Carte Blanche" program, in which a French artist or group from outside the film industry is invited to curate a program of American movies they consider significant.

"In music as in cinema, the Americans have a science of entertainment which we really love, both for its substance and its style," the group said in a statement on the festival's website. "We left at the chance to program this Carte Blanche to share our unabashed passion for the kind of cinema we grew up with, choosing examples of this entertainment form which forged our imaginations as children, then as teenagers in the 1980 [and] 1990s."

Justice's list of U.S. films includes several classics, including "Escape From Alcatraz" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." They also included a few surprises, like "Youth in Revolt," a 2009 teen film.

The former curators of the "Carte Blanche" series are fashion designers agnès b. (2012) and Jean-Charles De Castelbajac (2011).

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arnaud Guillois

EDITOR
Dana Purcarescu

MANAGING EDITOR
William C. Fleeson

PHOTO EDITOR
William C. Fleeson

FEATURE WRITER
Claire Morley

STAFF WRITERS
Sarah Christofides, Mary Devlin

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
William C. Fleeson

To change your address, subscribe (for free) or unsubscribe, please contact:

**NEWS FROM FRANCE
FRENCH EMBASSY
PRESS & COMMUNICATION SERVICE**
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182

Tel: (202) 944-6060
Fax: (202) 944-6040

www.franceintheus.org
info@ambafrance-us.org
www.facebook.com/FranceInTheUS
Twitter: @franceintheus

Alliance Française Presents 'Culturethèque USA'

▲ Late this summer, the Alliance Française launched Culturethèque USA, a new internet website that will provide members access to thousands of digital resources, such as magazines, books, comics, videos, and language manuals, all from the comfort of a laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

Developed by the Institut Français, Culturethèque USA is a resource portal designed to help increase and support the presence of French culture in the United States. Members of 19 Alliance Française sites across the country have the opportunity to immerse themselves in French culture by clicking through the website, culturetheque.com.

Culturethèque USA provides a wide selection of French magazines, including news, fashion, sports, technology, culture, and economics. Members have the opportunity to read their favorite magazine as soon as it is published.

In another section of the website, users can enter the world of French literature and peruse thousands of novels, plays, poetry, and reference collections.

A section of books that concern *la vie pratique* instructs visitors on the French way of living: on one page, the user can learn how to cook traditional French cuisine, and with another click, one can discover ways to plan a trip to the vineyards of Burgundy. Culturethèque provides a multitude of opportunities to embrace French culture and heritage.

Culturethèque also appeals to those who learn best by watching and listening. Visitors can take in concerts, informational videos, and French language instruction courses. For children and adults at all skill levels, Culturethèque makes resources available to improve French language skills.

Some of the latest additions to Culturethèque USA include *Le Combat Ordinaire*, a comic book about a boy who escapes the suburbs of Paris for the countryside, and a video of the Algerian-French Orchestra performing French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. For mystery lovers, the platform recently added *Les Âmes Grises*, or "Gray Souls," about a little girl who goes missing.



Culturethèque offers French-language learning tools as diverse as comic books and traditional food recipes.

The French edition of *Vogue* magazine is now available as well, adding fashion, beauty, and runway shows to Culturethèque USA's diverse repertoire.

The portal offers free, unlimited use to members of 19 Alliance Française sites across the country including TV5 Monde, La cité de la musique and Universcience-Webtv. For those who would like to experience Culturethèque USA but are not members of one of the 19 Alliance Française sites, the portal offers the option of free trial for a limited period of time to explore the site.

A free monthly review of French news & trends



Permit NO. 4620
Washington, DC
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
MAIL
FIRST CLASS
PRESORTED