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

I wish first of all to express my most sincere condolences to and solidarity for the victims of the bomb attacks in Boston. To the citizens of that city and to all our American friends, please know that France stands beside you.

April has been a typically active month in French-American relations, with leaders from our two countries criss-crossing the Atlantic to drive productive cooperation in a variety of fields.

On April 4, I helped welcome Benjamin Mouton, Chief Architect of Historic Monuments of France, to the National Building Museum, where he gave a lecture called “Notre Dame: The 21st Century Restoration of an Architectural Icon.” As head architect tasked with restoring some of France’s most prized architectural gems, Mr. Mouton and his work remind us of France’s rich history and its deep commitment to creativity and innovation.

In an event which I had the honor of attending alongside French and U.S. officials from public, diplomatic, and military spheres, the French multi-mission frigate Aquitaine dropped anchor in Norfolk, Va., on April 5. The ship’s arrival was a great occasion, demonstrating the extensive partnership between French and American forces.

French Minister of Economy and Finance Pierre Moscovici welcomed the newly appointed U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Jack Lew, to Paris on April 9. The two held a joint press conference at the Embassy of the United States, where they discussed a number of issues of common concern to our two countries, such as proposed plans for a free-trade agreement between the European Union and the United States.

On April 18, Minister Moscovici and Deputy Minister for Development Pascal Canfin traveled to Washington to meet with economic officials, development advocates and other civil society representatives during a four-day visit as part of the Spring Meetings at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Finally, I made a three-city trip through Florida on April 25 and 26. In Jacksonville I was able to support local investments by two great French businesses, Saft and the Buffet Group. I later traveled to the state house in Tallahassee to celebrate the launch of the Floridian French Caucus. There I also bestowed the Legion of Honor on six American veterans of World War II. In Gainesville the following day, I had the great pleasure of speaking at the University of Florida’s commencement ceremony for doctoral graduates.

From cooperation in economic to military spheres, for achievements in culture and society, France remains more committed than ever to strengthening its relations with its American partners in the months and years to come.
Airbus Breaks Ground for $600 Million Plant in Mobile, Ala.

In a groundbreaking ceremony on April 8, executives, dignitaries, and community leaders gathered to mark the start of construction on the Airbus aerospace company's new $600 million manufacturing plant in Mobile, Ala.

Named the A320 Family Assembly Line, the plant, set to open for production in 2015, will build the company's flagship A320 airplane and similar models. The new site will expand Mobile's Brookley Aeroplex, a hub for the aviation industry. The site will act as the company's first U.S.-based production facility.

During a speech made on the new factory's grounds, Airbus President and CEO Fabrice Brégier elaborated on the reasons for his company's expansion. “Our customers need more aircraft that cut fuel burn, emissions, and operating costs. With this assembly line we will be able to meet our customers’ needs as well as worldwide demand for these efficient aircraft,” he said.

Mr. Brégier also touched on the unique opportunities that having a North American factory will offer. “When this assembly line opens, we will be the only [company] to assemble aircraft in Asia, the Americas and Europe.”

The plant will reach full productivity in 2016 when it will produce four aircraft per month. Some 1,000 jobs will be created directly through the site, and that capital will boost the local economy indirectly. The new plans will enhance Airbus’ existing presence at the hub, where its Engineering Center now employs a staff of 200.

In addition to its presence in Alabama, Airbus Americas operates in Florida, Kansas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Its headquarters are located in Herndon, Va.

With a current U.S. workforce of over 1,000 employees, the Alabama production center will effectively double the company’s American jobs.

France, Louisiana Focus on Community in French Week

In a celebration of French, Cajun, and Créole cultures, La Semaine Française d’Arnaudville, or the Arnaudville French Week, brought individuals and organizations to Louisiana from around the world.

Held in Arnaudville, La., from April 19 to 24, La Semaine Française emphasized the idea of “creative placemaking,” or shaping a region and its economy by means of culture and creativity. The week’s events focused on creative placemaking not only in Arnaudville and its French partner city, Redon, but also around the world, through speeches, panel discussions, workshops, and cultural activities.

Anne Gadwa Nicodemus, principal at Metris Arts Consulting and co-author of the Creative Placemaking Report, introduced the idea of creative placemaking during a presentation in which she also explored several related projects taking place around the United States.

Among the week’s many activities were a speech at the state house in Baton Rouge, La., given by Louisiana Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, where he discussed his Culture Connection initiative; volunteer projects with local high schools; and participation in Arts Advocacy Day, an annual function of the Louisiana Citizens for the Arts organization. The conference also hosted a Soirée Bretonne, a dinner event featuring music and dance from the French region of Brittany, as well as Cajun and Créole parties.

Throughout the week, participants also had the opportunity to attend sessions of French-language conversation. Each group had a facilitator, who led discussions on a variety of topics such as medicinal plants native to Arnaudville, Cajun Mardi Gras traditions in Louisiana, and the history of the region’s breweries.

The conference was sponsored by the Consulate General of France in New Orleans; the NUNU Arts and Culture Collective in Arnaudville; and Les Articuleurs, a company based in Redon, promoting cultural and economic development.
What is your role as head of the Allied Command Transformation, or ACT, of NATO?

My role is to prepare the future of NATO with the 28 member countries and to determine what might be tomorrow's challenges, in order to adapt the alliance to this new environment. There are many different challenges in terms of military capabilities, as well as maintaining credibility and a coherent alliance of NATO military forces. Another aim is to increase interoperability between the different forces, as demonstrated in the crises in Libya and Afghanistan, or at sea around the Horn of Africa and in the Mediterranean.

Tell us more about these challenges.

There are three main challenges as I see them: The first is the rapid evolution of the environment with many risks and threats. But there are a lot of opportunities to work together to find more multinational and innovative solutions, which we call "smart defense."

Another challenge is the reduction of NATO's defense budget, which pushes us to cooperate more and more and to be even more efficient than we are today. We need to share the responsibility on both sides of the Atlantic, and maintain a coherent alliance.

The third challenge is the question of interoperability: how do we keep our forces working together and performing our best? We are fostering collective training and exercises, for which my command is primarily responsible. We are also putting together a new training concept, which will take into account the lessons learned from different countries and the future environment. Likewise, we are planning a major development in 2015 to show the commitment of the member countries to continue building credible military capabilities together.

How have the ACT and NATO responded to recent budget cuts, whether in relation to the sequester in Washington, or in Europe?

We must face reality. As we work to build solid military capabilities, we have to take into account the financial environment and constraints. It's a difficult time. So, we're focusing on how to find the most efficient and most productive projects. We also need to know our limits. If the budget constraints are such that we cannot meet our capability goals, we will need to have major discussions with the politicians. We are responsible for the future of the Alliance, after all.

Does France have a greater involvement in NATO today than in the past?

France has been part of NATO since its founding in 1949. What was at stake in 2009 was the full reintegration of France into the military command structure. France has always been part of the political arena, but since the 1960s, it was not integrated in the military structure. In 2009, France decided to rejoin the full military structure, and, in my perspective, did very well. It was thus decided that the first ACT non-U.S. commander would be a French general. It was my friend, General Stéphane Abrial.

I've now held the position for six months. It is a very good opportunity to show the clear interaction and balance between both sides of the Atlantic, with a U.S. general in charge of operations, and a European general in charge of the transformation of the Alliance. This is what I would call the future of a balanced alliance. What I see in my command is that the French officers and personnel are fully integrated and doing a great job alongside their colleagues. They bring new ideas and perceptions, as well as a deep operational experience, including the recent experience in Mali.

How would you describe your first six months here in the United States—the American way of life?

It's a wonderful place to live, and it's a new world for my family and me. We feel at home already. The community in Hampton Roads, Va., and especially in Norfolk, is extremely supportive. The local community is very aware of the presence of NATO and its 28 member countries. I hope we continue to promote NATO's work all over the U.S. together.

en bref

Georgetown French Market Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Washington, D.C., got a taste of France last month, when the Alliance Française and the Georgetown Business Improvement District hosted the 10th annual Georgetown French Market. Held in the capital's Georgetown neighborhood on April 19-20, the outdoor market experience celebrated French culture with food, music, and shopping. Mimes, stilts walkers, and unicyclists performed on the streets of Georgetown, where the Alliance Française hosted craft tables, providing fun for all ages.

Entertainment also included a live art demonstration by Art Soirée, a company promoting emerging artistic talent, and musical performances by New Orleans jazz quartet Laissez Foure and Martinique-born pop artist Jeremy the Musicador.

Some 35 Georgetown businesses participated in the event, featuring French items and offering discounts on their products. Additionally, many restaurants offered a taste of dishes that made French cuisine famous. Guests enjoyed French pastries, crêpes, and croissant sandwiches, among other delights.

Museum, Alliance Française Co-Host Lecture in Mississippi

In a display of French music, art, and culture, "A View of France: Looking Into the French Landscape" offered Mississippians a new perspective on some of France's finest works of art on April 16.

Hosted by the Alliance Française in Jackson, Miss., and the Mississippi Museum of Art, the event consisted of a musical performance and a lecture on the museum's current exhibit spanning three centuries of French painting, called "Old Masters to Monet: Three Centuries of French Painting."

Featuring more than 50 works from the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Conn., the exhibit includes paintings by some of France's greatest artists, including Edgar Degas, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, and Claude Monet.

Mississippi College professor Stephen D. Cook gave the lecture, drawing on pieces in the exhibit to discuss the relationship between landscape and French art and how they have influenced each other. Musician and French teacher Max Garriott delighted the crowd with his performance of French music from the 17th to 20th centuries.
Bilingual Education: A French Tide Rises in the U.S.

Everyone has heard of French class, but what exactly is “bilingual education”? The idea of continuous instruction in two languages—as opposed to a once-a-day foreign language course—is gaining traction among a growing number of education experts. The term “immersion” is often used to describe the same idea of an intensive, dual-language learning environment.

French is a natural choice for many Americans, who want their children to benefit from a global language in addition to English. Here’s a look at how French-and-English bilingual education is growing in the United States.

Bilingual Benefits

According to France’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some two million students in 53 countries are educated in French bilingual instruction. A priority for France and the growing number of foreign partners with whom the country organizes programs, bilingual education offers significant socio-economic opportunities for students in developing countries, whose native language may not be spoken elsewhere in the world.

Another advantage of French-language education comes in the form of “non-linguistic disciplines,” meaning that learners can absorb subjects like math, science, and the arts—all in French. A student who understands a discipline in French can then go on to study at the university level or beyond, and will have the language training needed to succeed in his or her chosen track.

Several U.S.-based associations have created opportunities to bring the benefits of bilingual education stateside. The French Heritage Language Program, part of the French-American Cultural Exchange (FACE), works to help “hundreds of young Americans and new immigrants make the most of their French” in the U.S., according to its coordinator, Benoît Le Devedec.

And it’s not focused exclusively on France and French culture, but a global palette of French-speaking societies. Newcomers to the U.S. from Haiti, West Africa, Canada and elsewhere have rallied in support of the program, which allows them to learn and share with other students in a culturally rich environment that serves the students, schools, and communities involved.

Likewise, the Louisiana-based CODOFL program, or the Conseil pour le Développement du Français en Louisiane, seeks to celebrate and promote the legacy of the French language in its state. In particular, its Visiting Teachers program recruits educators from France to live and work in Louisiana for between two and three years. Their placements include 30 schools and reach some 4,000 students statewide. Students gain language skills while learning about the unique French heritage of Louisiana.

This past March, CODOFL announced its forthcoming support toward hiring teachers at the Lycée Français charter school in New Orleans.

“French Revolution”

If the U.S. has any single center of Francophone cultural life in the U.S., New York City is arguably it. With over 31,000 French citizens registered at the French Consulate and more than 120,000 French speakers from the world at large according to the American Community Survey, the Big Apple has seen its Francophone community blossom through a new crop of associations, interest groups, and, of course, schools.

The rise of bilingual education is a phenomenon seen by some experts as the new normal for language instruction. Fabrice Jaumont, education attaché of the French embassy, calls the idea a “French bilingual revolution” and is convinced that the practice of bilingual teaching will become increasingly widespread in coming years.

Mr. Jaumont joined a panel discussion on the same theme on April 13, called “Living with Two Languages: The Advantages of Being Bilingual.” Held at the Lycée Français of New York, bilingual education advocates from fields as diverse as psychology and nutrition spoke to the mental and cultural doors opened to students who can benefit from a native and learned language.

In a video shown at the conference, a six-year-old student is interviewed in French about his experience at the school. His French is halting and at times accidentally endearing, such as when he explains how the dual-language curriculum is conducted day-to-day.

“Co-teaching, or binôme, is when we have two teachers, one American and one French, and... we do something with them. When we talk with the French teacher, we speak French, and when we speak English, we speak to the English teacher. We can tell stories and do other things, alternating French and English.”

In addition to its educational benefits, the combination of two languages generates an “ability to empathize, to put yourself in someone else’s shoes,” said Marie Bouteillon, an educator and founder of the French-and-English program at PS58 The Carroll School in Brooklyn, NY. The same school was visited on March 22 by Minister Delegate for French Abroad, Hélène Conway-Mouret.

Nor is a dual-language curriculum just about the language itself. “It’s the culture, it’s the literature... It’s about how I act with the students, she said. In other words, bilingual instruction promises a language, yet delivers a world of cultural enrichment.

Mr. Jaumont agrees. “Bilingualism... touches on a person’s emotions, a person’s brain, [...] a person’s creativity... I think this has an impact on the overall achievement” in a student’s life, he said, in an April interview with the News From France.

A Community Effort

Though the benefits of French-and-English learning are clear to those familiar with programs already in place, getting such a program off the ground can be a different challenge entirely. Several families, some French, others American, have pushed successfully to establish French offerings as part of their local public schools. French dad Virginie de Voldère helped organize a bilingual program at the public school PS 84 in Manhattan’s Upper West Side.

After endless phone calls and the help of Education Francaise de New York (EFNY), a civic organization founded in 2005, the three involved parents were able to make French instruction part of their local school’s offerings.

Short of trying to launch a full-blown program, some recommend starting small, as Jean-Claude Delaloye did. The Swiss expat began an after-school program at PS 133, in Brooklyn, NY, in 2011. Rather than starting the class for the French-speaking families in the neighborhood, Mr. Delaloye focused on building involvement from the school’s American families.

“You can’t segregate yourself from the rest of the school,” he said, in an interview with the community magazine France-Amérique. “The success of the bilingual course also depends on the support of the parent representatives” of a given school, he said.

The will to develop French-language teaching extends far beyond New York City. Communities in places like California, Colorado, Georgia, and Utah have taken steps to found bilingual classes where they live.

Utah has shown particular interest, says Jean-Claude Duthion, Attaché for Educational Cooperation at the French embassy. Among Utah’s 10 French-and-English programs, offerings at the elementary-school level will extend to middle school in 2014, while high school students previously left without options will, in coming years, enjoy greater availability of college-level French courses they can take before graduating from high school.

“You can’t segregate yourself from the rest of the school,” he said, in an interview with the News From France.

The new programs join the ranks of others firmly in place already. The first such program began in southern Maryland, with another soon following in northern Virginia. Similar programs exist in Boston and Minneapolis. The longer the programs continue, it seems, the more popular they become. Several of the longtime French immersion programs have had to turn away interested families for lack of space.

Whether it’s a fledgling after-school group or an established model promising “revolution” in the classroom, bilingual education offers new horizons. While some maintain ties to their heritage language, others develop new ones. Students enjoy learning new words and new cultures, while parents know that their children are benefitting from the best of two languages and the opportunities that come with them. French-language teaching is on the rise, and local schools and education boards are catching on.
Middle row: Antonin Baudry, Cultural Counselor for France in the United States, speaks at the “Living with Two Languages” forum at New York’s Lycée Français on April 13. Top and bottom: Children in French-and-English school programs gain a global perspective while learning about the French language—and the world.
Conference Draws Lessons From French, U.S. Businesses

For the third year in a row, the New England branch of the French-American Chamber of Commerce organized a business forum allowing participants to sharpen their business acumen through a series of panels and networking events.

This year’s forum, held in Boston on April 4, featured case studies of local New England firms that had successfully managed to expand their business as well as discussions about the challenges companies often face in promoting innovation.

Among the event’s many prominent speakers and panelists were Marc Esteva, CFO of the biotechnology company Genzyme, a subsidiary of the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi; Lynne Wilson, CEO of the 3DVIA brand of the software company Dassault Systèmes; and Paresh Kitchloo, senior scientist at Gentex Optics, a subsidiary of France’s Essilor International, the world’s largest producer of eyeglass lenses.

Tasked with promoting economic and commercial relations between France and the U.S., the branches of the French-American Chamber of Commerce regularly organize events aimed at developing the skills of business professionals and creating trans-Atlantic commercial ties.

In Chicago, Wine Convention Links Europe, North America

From April 20 through 22, the city of Chicago welcomed wine producers and merchants from around the world for the sixth edition of the annual “World Wine Meetings America” convention.

The event, which aims to create business connections in the wine industry, featured a wide range of North American distributors as well as sales representatives from over 100 European wineries.

Over the course of the three-day convention, buyers were able to meet one-on-one with wine producers from France, Italy, and Spain to individually sample wines for sale and discuss potential business opportunities.

In addition to the many tasting exhibitions, this year’s edition also featured a dinner cruise on Lake Michigan followed by wine and live jazz music.

The event was organized by the Adhesion Group, one of Europe’s leading organizers of trade fairs, as well as by Ubifrance, France’s trade commission.

World-Renowned Mathematician Speaks at Georgia Tech

French mathematician Cédric Villani traveled to the Georgia Institute of Technology on April 19 through 22 as the honored guest speaker of the university’s annual Stelson Lecture. First established in 1988 by Thomas E. Stelson, then the Vice President for Research at Georgia Tech, the lecture series has since welcomed an influential thinker from the mathematical world to campus each year.

During his visit, Dr. Cédric Villani gave two lectures on April 19 and April 22. The first talk, aimed at math experts, examined the unexpected results that solving an optimization problem has had for the field of Riemannian geometry, named after Bernhard Riemann, a German mathematician known for his work in complex and real analysis, number theory, and differential geometry.

Known for his passion for sharing mathematics with the public at large, Dr. Villani gave a second talk intended for a more general audience called “Riemann, Boltzmann, and Kantorovich Go to a Party.” Dr. Villani described a hypothetical meeting among three scientific fields normally thought to be distinct: non-Euclidean geometry, gas dynamics, and economics.

Known for his passion for sharing mathematics with the public at large, Dr. Villani gave a second talk intended for a more general audience called “Riemann, Boltzmann, and Kantorovich Go to a Party.” Dr. Villani described a hypothetical meeting among three scientific fields normally thought to be distinct: non-Euclidean geometry, gas dynamics, and economics.

Dr. Villani was the 2010 recipient of the Fields Medal, nicknamed the “Nobel Prize of Mathematics” in recognition of the award’s global clout. Currently, he teaches math at France’s Université de Lyon and is the director of Paris’s Institut Henri Poincaré, and his extensive work has influenced research in plasma physics and fusion power.
Notre Dame Celebrates 850th Birthday in D.C. Lecture

A lecture series in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, New York, and Newport, R.I., led U.S. audiences on a journey spanning nine centuries as architect Benjamin Mouton discussed the architectural history of Paris’s famed Notre Dame Cathedral, now celebrating its 850th year of existence.

In line with Mr. Mouton’s conservation work as one of the 44 Architects en Chef des Monuments Historiques de France, the lectures put particular focus on the cathedral’s long history of restorations, as well as current efforts to preserve the iconic structure using state-of-the-art technologies. Ambassador François Delattre, who attended the lecture in Washington, emphasized in a speech the significance of recent restorations, saying, “Tonight we embrace this vision of France: one that respects a long and rich history while consistently looking toward the future and embracing creativity and innovation.”

Throughout his career, Mr. Mouton has overseen restoration work on some of the most prestigious landmarks of the Parisian skyline, including the 12th-century Basilique de Saint-Denis, the resting place of many of France’s former kings, as well as the Hôtel des Invalides, conceived and built under the reign of Louis XIV for the purpose of accommodating disabled war veterans.

As part of the 850th anniversary celebrations in France, the cathedral had fine-tuning done on some of its key internal structures, including the installation of new bells in the North Tower, the renovation of its internal lighting, and the restoration of its famed grand orgue, or full organ.

An iconic symbol of France that attracts an average of 14 million visitors annually, the Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris dates back to 1163, when Pope Alexander III laid the first foundational stone in the presence of King Louis VII.

![Image of Notre Dame Cathedral](image1.jpg)

An architecture lecture series toured the U.S. this spring; honoring Notre Dame Cathedral’s nine-century history.

DJ Collective Takes a Spin Through Chicago & California

Chicago’s Metro music club got a first-time taste of the French DJ group C2C, when the electronic music collective played on April 9.

Made up of four DJs—or “turntablists,” as they call themselves—the group spun vinyl records and created huge soundscapes that spanned the genres of funk, hip-hop, and multiple sub-categories of European dance music. The show was the second of a 15-date spring tour, six of which are set for the U.S., to promote their new album, TETRA, released last year.

Though each member of the DJ quartet can boast an impressive career, C2C’s synergy may stem from its team spirit. The group prefers its collective moniker rather than individual identities. They go by their stage names only: 205yl, Atom, Pfel, and Greem. 205yl and Greem founded Hocus Pocus, a national hip-hop presence in France, with an album released on the legendary American label Motown Records and over 500,000 copies sold. Atom and Pfel are the duo behind Beat Torrent, an act widely popular throughout Europe. All members are based in the western town of Nantes, France.

The group is fresh off of a victory at the European Border Breakers Awards (EBBA), a four-day showcase in January that was organized by European Union institutions to celebrate new acts that have succeeded in “highlight Europe’s great musical diversity,” according to the EBBA official website. The program is now in its 10th year.

![Image of DJ Collective](image2.jpg)

Comprised of four DJs, C2C came to the U.S. in April to promote a new album and play to audiences nationwide.

Memorial to French Victim of Holocaust Opens in S.C.

In conjunction with national observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 8, a traveling exhibit honoring French Holocaust victim and diarist Hélène Berr made its way to South Carolina earlier this month.

The exhibition, titled “A Stolen Life: Hélène Berr,” centers on the journals that Ms. Berr kept as a young, Jewish woman living in Paris under Nazi occupation. At the age of 21, she began writing a poetic testimony, oscillating between hope and despair, and continued doing so until her eventual arrest and deportation to Auschwitz in 1944.

Working through the framework of Ms. Berr’s journal, the exhibition also more broadly examines persecution of Jews in France through a series of films, photographs, maps, and archives.

The poignant tribute was created and circulated by Paris’s Shoah Memorial, the French term used to signify the Holocaust. The center houses Europe’s foremost collection of archives related to the period.

The South Carolina exhibit runs through May 13.

French Comedian Regales Audiences During U.S. Tour

Audiences around the U.S. were bursting with excitement this past month after French comedian Jamel Debbouze announced five performances in the U.S. as part of his recent international tour. French speakers in Boston, New York, Miami, San Francisco, and Los Angeles were able to attend the rib-splitting comedy shows, which were Mr. Debbouze’s first in the U.S.

Jamel Debbouze was born in Paris to parents of Moroccan origin and began his career in an award-winning improv group after a teacher and member of the local theater scene was struck by the high school student’s talent. Since then, Mr. Debbouze’s career has really taken off. He has both acted in television series and starred in short and feature-length films to wide popular acclaim. Among his best-known roles is that of Lucien, the timid and charming grocer of the 2001 romantic comedy and international box-office hit Amélie.

He also played a switchboard operator in the French sitcom H, which took place in a hospital. The show ran for four seasons and was widely popular in France.

In line with Mr. Mouton’s conservation work as one of the 44 Architects en Chef des Monuments Historiques de France, the lectures put particular focus on the cathedral’s long history of restorations, as well as current efforts to preserve the iconic structure using state-of-the-art technologies. Ambassador François Delattre, who attended the lecture in Washington, emphasized in a speech the significance of recent restorations, saying, “Tonight we embrace this vision of France: one that respects a long and rich history while consistently looking toward the future and embracing creativity and innovation.”

Throughout his career, Mr. Mouton has overseen restoration work on some of the most prestigious landmarks of the Parisian skyline, including the 12th-century Basilique de Saint-Denis, the resting place of many of France’s former kings, as well as the Hôtel des Invalides, conceived and built under the reign of Louis XIV for the purpose of accommodating disabled war veterans.

As part of the 850th anniversary celebrations in France, the cathedral had fine-tuning done on some of its key internal structures, including the installation of new bells in the North Tower, the renovation of its internal lighting, and the restoration of its famed grand orgue, or full organ.

An iconic symbol of France that attracts an average of 14 million visitors annually, the Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris dates back to 1163, when Pope Alexander III laid the first foundational stone in the presence of King Louis VII.

![Image of Notre Dame Cathedral](image1.jpg)

An architecture lecture series toured the U.S. this spring; honoring Notre Dame Cathedral’s nine-century history.

Chicago’s Metro music club got a first-time taste of the French DJ group C2C, when the electronic music collective played on April 9.

Made up of four DJs—or “turntablists,” as they call themselves—the group spun vinyl records and created huge soundscapes that spanned the genres of funk, hip-hop, and multiple sub-categories of European dance music. The show was the second of a 15-date spring tour, six of which are set for the U.S., to promote their new album, TETRA, released last year.

Though each member of the DJ quartet can boast an impressive career, C2C’s synergy may stem from its team spirit. The group prefers its collective moniker rather than individual identities. They go by their stage names only: 205yl, Atom, Pfel, and Greem. 205yl and Greem founded Hocus Pocus, a national hip-hop presence in France, with an album released on the legendary American label Motown Records and over 500,000 copies sold. Atom and Pfel are the duo behind Beat Torrent, an act widely popular throughout Europe. All members are based in the western town of Nantes, France.

The group is fresh off of a victory at the European Border Breakers Awards (EBBA), a four-day showcase in January that was organized by European Union institutions to celebrate new acts that have succeeded in “highlight Europe’s great musical diversity,” according to the EBBA official website. The program is now in its 10th year.

![Image of DJ Collective](image2.jpg)

Comprised of four DJs, C2C came to the U.S. in April to promote a new album and play to audiences nationwide.

In conjunction with national observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 8, a traveling exhibit honoring French Holocaust victim and diarist Hélène Berr made its way to South Carolina earlier this month.

The exhibition, titled “A Stolen Life: Hélène Berr,” centers on the journals that Ms. Berr kept as a young, Jewish woman living in Paris under Nazi occupation. At the age of 21, she began writing a poetic testimony, oscillating between hope and despair, and continued doing so until her eventual arrest and deportation to Auschwitz in 1944.

Working through the framework of Ms. Berr’s journal, the exhibition also more broadly examines persecution of Jews in France through a series of films, photographs, maps, and archives.

The poignant tribute was created and circulated by Paris’s Shoah Memorial, the French term used to signify the Holocaust. The center houses Europe’s foremost collection of archives related to the period.

In line with Mr. Mouton’s conservation work as one of the 44 Architects en Chef des Monuments Historiques de France, the lectures put particular focus on the cathedral’s long history of restorations, as well as current efforts to preserve the iconic structure using state-of-the-art technologies. Ambassador François Delattre, who attended the lecture in Washington, emphasized in a speech the significance of recent restorations, saying, “Tonight we embrace this vision of France: one that respects a long and rich history while consistently looking toward the future and embracing creativity and innovation.”

Throughout his career, Mr. Mouton has overseen restoration work on some of the most prestigious landmarks of the Parisian skyline, including the 12th-century Basilique de Saint-Denis, the resting place of many of France’s former kings, as well as the Hôtel des Invalides, conceived and built under the reign of Louis XIV for the purpose of accommodating disabled war veterans.

As part of the 850th anniversary celebrations in France, the cathedral had fine-tuning done on some of its key internal structures, including the installation of new bells in the North Tower, the renovation of its internal lighting, and the restoration of its famed grand orgue, or full organ.

An iconic symbol of France that attracts an average of 14 million visitors annually, the Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris dates back to 1163, when Pope Alexander III laid the first foundational stone in the presence of King Louis VII.

![Image of Notre Dame Cathedral](image1.jpg)

An architecture lecture series toured the U.S. this spring; honoring Notre Dame Cathedral’s nine-century history.

Chicago’s Metro music club got a first-time taste of the French DJ group C2C, when the electronic music collective played on April 9.

Made up of four DJs—or “turntablists,” as they call themselves—the group spun vinyl records and created huge soundscapes that spanned the genres of funk, hip-hop, and multiple sub-categories of European dance music. The show was the second of a 15-date spring tour, six of which are set for the U.S., to promote their new album, TETRA, released last year.

Though each member of the DJ quartet can boast an impressive career, C2C’s synergy may stem from its team spirit. The group prefers its collective moniker rather than individual identities. They go by their stage names only: 205yl, Atom, Pfel, and Greem. 205yl and Greem founded Hocus Pocus, a national hip-hop presence in France, with an album released on the legendary American label Motown Records and over 500,000 copies sold. Atom and Pfel are the duo behind Beat Torrent, an act widely popular throughout Europe. All members are based in the western town of Nantes, France.

The group is fresh off of a victory at the European Border Breakers Awards (EBBA), a four-day showcase in January that was organized by European Union institutions to celebrate new acts that have succeeded in “highlight Europe’s great musical diversity,” according to the EBBA official website. The program is now in its 10th year.
U.S. Justice Stephen Breyer Receives High Honor in Paris

In a unique ceremonial session held on April 8, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer was appointed as Foreign Associate Member to the Academy of Political and Moral Sciences. One of 12 Foreign Associate Members, Mr. Breyer was elected to the position during a voting session held at the Academy last June.

While in Paris to receive the prestigious honor, Justice Breyer gave a lecture in French at the Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris, a prominent university commonly known as Sciences Po, where he spoke about the role of the Supreme Court in American political life.

With his nomination to the Academy of Political and Moral Sciences, Justice Breyer will become part of one of France’s oldest and most prestigious public institutions, the Institut de France. Founded in 1795, the body is comprised of five academies whose members seek to advance knowledge of the arts and sciences through research, discussion, and correspondence with thought leaders worldwide.

Justice Breyer is the only American member of the Academy, following in the footsteps of prestigious thinkers and scholars such as Alexis de Tocqueville, Henri Bergson, Vaclav Havel, and René Cassin.