First and foremost, I am pleased to announce that, at the invitation of U.S. President Barack Obama, French President François Hollande will be making a state visit to the U.S. on February 11. The last such visit occurred in 1996, when Jacques Chirac met with Bill Clinton. The upcoming event promises to be a great moment in French-American relations.

This news follows a busy negotiations process in Geneva, Switzerland, where French, American and international diplomats came to an interim agreement with Iran over its nuclear activity. The accord represents a new step toward ending Iran's military nuclear program and toward normalizing our relations with Iran.

On the economic front, Production Recovery Minister Arnaud Montebourg visited Boston on November 17 and 18. Speaking at MIT on the second day, he described his 34 sector-based initiatives, which will maximize capacities of innovative French industries.

France and the U.S. also joined forces in stopping tax crimes this month. France's Minister of Finance and the Economy, Pierre Moscovici, and U.S. Ambassador to France, Charles Rivkin, signed an agreement in Paris on November 14 toward a data-sharing framework. The measure will strengthen efforts to curb illegal cross-border tax evasion and fraud.

In a continuing tradition between France and exceptional Americans, I had the privilege of decorating 35 U.S. veterans with the Legion of Honor—France's highest award—on November 11. The ceremony, held at the Lycée Français in New York City, marked Veterans Day by honoring some of the brave men who helped liberate France during World War II. Similar occasions were held in Houston and Miami.

I likewise officiated at a Legion of Honor ceremony on November 6 for Samuel Palmisano, previously Chairman and CEO of IBM. IBM has helped develop France's innovation clusters, and Mr. Palmisano's leadership in global technology reflects France's priorities in innovation.

I gave the same award to Francine LeFrak on November 26 in New York, in recognition of her work as a documentary filmmaker and philanthropist.

French culture was likewise on grand display in Washington, where on November 13 the French-American Cultural Foundation (FACF) held its annual gala. I was glad to support the FACF's mission of fostering French-American cultural exchange, in particular through its quarterly publication, France Magazine.

On all these issues and events, France takes pride in working with the United States. I'm confident the coming months will be as productive as November.
en bref

Visit Brings French, U.S. Dignitaries to Miami

From October 31 through November 1, Hélène Conway-Mouret, Minister for French Nationals Abroad, made an official visit to “French Weeks Miami.” She was accompanied by Ambassador François Delattre, French Consul General in Miami Philippe Létrilliart, and Florida Governor Rick Scott. Her visit reflected the economic focus of activities planned as part of the series.

After a conference on transatlantic economic relations for Florida International University’s students, Mrs. Conway-Mouret addressed the French and American local business community at the annual luncheon hosted by the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Miami.

Only a few months before its official inauguration, Mrs. Conway-Mouret visited what is to become the tunnel leading to the Port of Miami, an enormous building project led by the French group Bouygues.

Houston Decorates U.S. Vets with Legion of Honor

On November 11, the Consulate of France in Houston awarded nine U.S. veterans of World War II the French Legion of Honor, France’s highest decoration.

These veterans, eight present and one who recently passed away, received the tribute for their bravery on Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, and other battle sites in 1944. Nearly 70 years after their service, the men joined 200 of their friends, family, and admirers to commemorate their sacrifices for both France and the United States.


Mr. Denson, who passed away a few weeks before the ceremony, received the award through his son, Richard. All veterans are from or currently live in Texas.

The event took place at Houston’s Minute Maid Park, which also hosted a larger Veteran’s Day celebration on the same day. Notable attendees included Houston Mayor Annise Parker and U.S. Senator John Cornyn (Texas).

“I feel wonderful,” said Mr. Hatch. “It really was a surprise. But I’m overwhelmed. I never went through anything like this.”

Embassy Hosts Galas for French Culture, Defense Attachés

On November 13, the French-American Cultural Foundation (FACF) hosted the “Celebrating Cultural Icons” Gala at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C.

In a speech, Ambassador of France to the United States, François Delattre, cited the “good will and generosity” of the FACF’s leaders and staff. Leonard Silverstein, President of the French-American Cultural Foundation, likewise shared that “one of our goals is to embellish French-American events, [and] this evening did just that.”

The FACF’s stated mission is to “foster cultural and educational exchanges between France and the United States.” The group produces France Magazine, a quarterly publication showcasing French culture, travel, and art de vivre. The evening also included live and silent auctions. Air France and Baccarat were among the leading sponsors.

On the evening of November 15, the Embassy of France hosted military officers from around the world during the annual Defense Attachés Association gala.

The event gathered the military officers assigned to represent their countries’ defense interests in the United States. The black-tie occasion featured dinner, speeches, and ballroom dancing to live music.

Brigadier General Bruno Cautucoli, a French Air Force officer who heads France’s military representation at the Embassy, lauded the organizers’ efforts. In an interview just before taking the stage to welcome the Embassy’s guests, he said, “This event could not take place at a better moment when you look at France’s role in military operations and cooperation at large with its American allies.”

Ambassador Awarded Centennial Medal at Columbia U.

(From page 1) On November 7, Ambassador François Delattre accepted the “Columbia University Maison Française Centennial Medal” in New York City.

“France, its language and culture would simply not be the same without your support, your passion, your joie de vivre. I believe that France is part of your DNA and that you are part of ours,” said Amb. Delattre during his acceptance speech.

The Maison Française is Columbia University’s French cultural hub, offering an array of programs that not only involve France, but all of the French speaking world. Events at the Maison include French film screenings, book clubs, lectures, and round-table discussions. The Maison is also known to have organized one of the nation’s first study abroad programs, sending faculty and students to tour Paris and other French regions.

Amb. Delattre expressed his deep gratitude for the 100-year-old partnership between Columbia University and France. He ended his speech with an enthusiastic, “Vivent les Etats-Unis! Vive la France! Vive la Maison Française de Columbia!”

© Maison Française de Columbia
In the U.S. since November 2012, Claire Aubin heads the Embassy’s work across the gamut of social affairs. From healthcare and labor to employment and public welfare, she leads France’s discussions with American counterparts all over Washington. Her previous position within the Inspection General of Social Affairs makes Mrs. Aubin an expert in France’s social policies. She spoke with News From France about her work, its challenges, and her reflections after a year in the U.S.

In just a few words, what is your role at the French Embassy?

I would describe my role as someone who builds bridges between France and the U.S. as far as social issues and policies are concerned. I have three main roles as the Counselor.

First, I report on policies and issues in the fields of health, labor, employment, and social welfare in the U.S. and make these issues understandable for my constituency in the French government.

Second, I inform an American audience about the issues and the developments of social policy in France.

Third, I encourage and develop exchanges among people who work on these issues in both France and the United States.

How do the U.S. and France work together on these issues?

France and the U.S. organize events and visits between people who work on these issues, whether they are ministers who meet on a specific subject, or academics who work together on comparative studies. We also work together in multilateral forums such as the World Health Organization, the International Labor Bureau, and the World Fund for AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. France and the U.S. are among the top donors of this fund, so they work together closely.

With whom do you work in Washington and across the U.S.?

I meet all kinds of people, and that’s what makes this job fascinating. Officials from the Department of Health, the Department of Labor, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. I also have very regular contact with academics and representatives of NGOs and trade unions. I am a member of the D.C. Labor Relations Association.

I also work with people of different social standings. For instance, I recently visited a shelter for victims of violence, and I often meet people in hospitals. This gives me the opportunity to have exchanges with physicians, nurses, and social workers. I find that this is a very effective way to learn about the United States and its social issues.

How does the U.S. healthcare system compare with the French system?

The French and American systems are very different, but there are several similarities as well. The main difference between the systems is that France provides universal coverage to its citizens. Health insurance in the U.S. is provided by private insurance companies who compete on the market, while in France, there exists “single-payer” national health insurance, which negotiates the prices of medicines and health insurance provider fees. In this way, everyone in France pays the same prices for medicine.

What has surprised you about working on these issues here?

One of the things that surprised me the most was to see the role of the states versus the role of the U.S. federal government. I was surprised to see how much social policy can vary from state to state in the U.S. In France, we have a very centralized social policy that creates a very homogeneous way of dealing with these issues. Because we tend to see France as a homogeneous country, it is perhaps more relevant to compare the U.S. in the social field to the European Union. In the E.U., the main directives and orientation of social policy are adopted at the European level and then implemented at the level of the member countries.

Both countries are confronted with the issue of an aging population and the high cost of healthcare. France and the U.S. are each faced with the issues of possible shortages in the number of physicians, and the optimal coordination of healthcare—especially among people with chronic illnesses. Both have developed something called patient-centered medical homes, although they did not collaborate at all on the subject.

How have you assisted in French ministers’ visits to the U.S.?

Recently, the Minister for Women’s rights visited Columbia University to discuss with [American policy maker] Anne-Marie Slaughter the roles of women and men in France and in the U.S., how to reconcile family and work, and how to break the glass ceiling that prevents women from coming to positions of power. The Chief Executive Officer of the French National Health Insurance also recently visited. He and his team had very positive conversations with insurers in the U.S. on how to develop more cost-efficient approaches to health care. It is clear that both sides have a lot to learn and can benefit a great deal from these kinds of exchanges.

France Elected to UN Human Rights Council

On November 13, France was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The three-year term will allow France to defend human rights in close cooperation with international partners.

As part of its mandate, France will act within the UNHRC to protect all human rights, with several priorities in relation to current global events. In Syria, where a civil war has claimed over 100,000 lives and is stretching into its third year, France will work to bring a halt to the bloodshed as soon as possible. In Mali and the Central African Republic, France will do its part to provide assistance to each country’s respective government as they handle periods of crisis and transition.

France will likewise seek to work toward the universal abolition of the death penalty and to combat forced disappearances throughout the world. It is also committed to playing a key role in the fight against all forms of discrimination, particularly against women and LGBTI persons.

Toward these goals, Minister of Foreign Affairs Laurent Fabius met with Navanethem Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, on November 14, just one day following France’s UNHRC election.

France, U.S. Sign Accord on Tax Evasion and Fraud

On November 14, French Minister for the Economy and Finance, Pierre Moscovici, and Ambassador of the United States to France, Charles Rivkin, signed a framework agreement for bilateral cooperation and data-sharing in each government’s fight against international tax fraud and evasion.

Called the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, or FATCA, the accord will allow France and the United States to establish a system for sharing automatically the data of financial transactions of individuals or groups suspected of fiscal non-compliance across international borders.

In a speech during the signing, Mr. Moscovici described the measure and its future impact. It will foster “the development of an automatic exchange of information as the new world standard of cooperation, with unprecedented efficiency in the fight against tax fraud,” he said.

The FATCA agreement is set to take effect in 2015.
France was at the center of three festivals in November, which covered a broad range of industries and interests. In everything from music and culture to heavy industry and innovation, French stakeholders engaged with current and future American partners.

The Kids Euro Festival, held annually in Washington, D.C., attracted young and young at heart for a month of programming. The “France-Atlanta: Together Towards Innovation” series joined business and technology leaders on both sides of the Atlantic. And French Weeks Miami celebrated bilateral ties between the U.S. city and France.

**News From France** took a closer look at the events and personalities that made each festival a success.

### Kids Euro Festival

The sixth edition of the Kids Euro Festival was held in Washington, D.C., from October 16 through November 13. As the largest annual children’s festival in the United States, the series features more than 200 free activities designed for kids between two and 12 years old and their families.

This year, performances, concerts, workshops, movies, storytelling, puppetry, dance, and magic shows were hosted by the embassies of the 28 Member States of the European Union and more than 30 cultural institutions. Diplomatic personnel from the country of Croatia, which was admitted to the European Union on July 1 of this year, participated for the first time.

Free public performances took place in venues including the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian, Library of Congress, and the French Embassy’s Maison Française, among others. The festival also worked closely with the D.C. Public Library system; workshops were held at all 25 of the D.C. library branches.

The program’s highlights included French percussion group Le Quatuor Beat. Their concert, Drumblebee, combines percussion and theatrical performance. For the duration of the festival, The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library exhibited the work of 11 Lithuanian children’s book illustrators. And on October 19, the House of Sweden hosted Family Day, which featured crafts and musical workshops.

Traditionally, the nation holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union plays an important leadership role in the Kids Euro Festival. The seat is currently occupied by Lithuania, and Lithuanian Ambassador Zygmantas Pavilonis shared warm words about the festival.

“It is the best memories of our childhood that give shape to a better world—unconditional love, boundless curiosity, freedom of spirit,” he said. “With this year’s festival, we offer an opportunity to remind our grown-up selves of what is most important in life, as well as nurture these precious seeds of brilliance in our children.”

The Embassy of France provided key support in the planning and organizing of the annual series.

### France, Atlanta Innovate

From October 23 through November 9, the French Consulate in Atlanta in partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology hosted the fourth annual “France-Atlanta: Together Towards Innovation” program. This year’s installment offered 20 events separated into four categories: Scientific Symposia, Business Workshops, Cultural Expressions, and Humanitarian Events.

The first event on October 24 was a workshop called, “Technology as a Driver of Economic Development.” Located at the Georgia Tech Global Learning Center, this seminar allowed French and American economic experts to share ideas and promote partnerships between each country’s leaders in business and industry.

Other locations for the events included the Rialto Center for the Arts and the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).

Eric Tardieu, Chief Executive Officer of the city of Toulouse’s economic development agency, attended the France-Atlanta conferences to speak at an aerospace engineering and life science workshop. During an October 28 interview he expressed his enthusiasm about the Atlanta-Toulouse sister-city relationship.

Toulouse has welcomed 74 U.S. companies, which have created 2,000 jobs in the past 15 years. Mr. Tardieu conveyed his appreciation for the France-Atlanta program, saying he looked forward to more business ventures between the two cities.

One humanitarian event called, “Raising Awareness Among Local Students About NGO Work” asked the question, “What does an NGO do and how can I orient my studies to make a difference in the world?” Representatives from the Peace Corps and the Carter Center spoke about their field experience with participating high schools and universities from the Atlanta area.

The France-Atlanta program reinforces the already strong relationship between the France and the United States in the fields of science, business, industry, and social affairs.

### French Weeks Miami

From October 24 through November 15, Florida honored French culture in their sixth annual event, “French Weeks Miami.” Launched by the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida and organized in partnership with the Consulate General of France in Miami, the month-long festival was a celebration of French culture in the U.S. The 2013 edition highlighted the particularly vibrant partnership between the cities of Nice and Miami.

French Weeks Miami featured various opportunities to engage in la vie française, including cultural programs, networking, and economic roundtables.

French food, cinema, and music took over Miami during the program. As part of “French Spice,” some of the best French restaurants in South Florida offered a fixed-price menu to showcase the finest of French cuisine.

In addition, the Miami Beach Cinémathèque launched “A Very French Month,” which included retrospectives of French films from filmmakers such as Chris Marker and Bruno Dumont. Several Florida universities also offered public screenings of French films to immerse viewers in France’s movie culture.

Another major element of this year’s French
Organizes Trio of Festivals in the United States

Weeks Miami was the Miami-Nice Jazz Festival, which featured a diverse lineup of French and American jazz artists who performed a mix of traditional and contemporary jazz. The festival has grown as an extension of the internationally celebrated Nice Jazz Festival.

Ministerial visits added to the diplomatic nature of French Weeks Miami, with visits from the Minister Delegate for French Nationals Abroad, Hélène Conway-Mouret who was accompanied by the Ambassador of France to the United States, François Delattre.

After a conference on transatlantic economic relations, Mrs. Conway-Mouret addressed the French and American local business community at the annual luncheon hosted by the French-American Chamber of Commerce of Miami (FACC-Miami) to highlight French strengths and talents.

The busy two-day visit also included a meeting with Florida Governor Rick Scott, a visit to G.W. Carver Middle School, and a tour of the tunnel leading to the Port of Miami, a huge work underway by the French construction group Bouygues.

All in all, the three festivals that wrapped up in November allowed France to continue and enhance its numerous partnerships with the United States. The Kids Euro Festival gathered children and adults to explore European culture of all kinds. France-Atlanta offered a glimpse into the many technological and business partnerships maintained between France and its American counterparts in those sectors. French Weeks Miami saw a blend of cultural and economic leaders convene to celebrate the many links between the Miami region and France, with a special focus this year on the southern French city of Nice.

Here’s to looking forward to more rich cooperation between French and American leaders, both through these annual festivities and beyond.

France Talks Big Data at Stanford U.’s CaFFEET

On November 21 and 22, the California-France Forum on Energy Efficiency Technologies (CaFFEET) took place at Stanford University. This year’s third-annual forum asked, “How Can Big Data Boost Society’s Resilience?”

The term “big data” was coined to describe techniques aimed at analyzing large data sets with almost no limit on their volume, type, or rate of creation, in order to create new services. French and American leaders in business and technology presented a variety of ways that big data can be used in the future.

Highlights of the conference included panel discussions with leading figures. On the first day, operators of infrastructures such as electricity, gas, water, and transportation gathered to learn how big data solutions could increase infrastructure resilience. The second day featured a session in which government leaders met to explore possibilities of using big data to boost safety in their districts.

Held on Stanford’s campus in Palo Alto, Calif., the annual CaFFEET event was first put on in 2011 by Électricité de France (EDF) and the Consulate General of France in San Francisco. Its aim is to promote collaborations on energy efficiency between French and Californian technology professionals.

Ambassador Speaks at Cancer Research Gala in D.C.

François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, joined the medical community on October 29 to honor women in science at the third annual Marie Curie Gala in Washington, D.C.

The gala was hosted by the Institut Curie, a French organization whose name recognizes Marie Curie, one of the most prominent women in 20th-century science. The group celebrated this year’s launching of the Marie Curie Grant, which will be awarded annually to U.S. citizens hoping to pursue doctoral research at the Institut Curie in Paris. The award also serves to partner talent from France and the United States.

During his speech at the event, Amb. Delattre praised the group’s strong leadership in medicine and medical research. “Friendship with America was an important part of Marie Curie’s personal life,” he said. “Our ambition is to bring this partnership to a new level and to open together a new chapter in the fight against cancer.”

French Firm Critéo Launches IPO on NASDAQ

On October 30, Paris-based advertising technology company Critéo launched an Initial Public Offering (IPO) on American stock exchange NASDAQ.

Founded in 2005, Critéo is a global leader in personalized retargeting solutions. Using algorithms and professional insight to predict buying patterns, it provides services for e-commerce companies to effectively utilize real-time data to connect with consumers. Critéo’s primary asset is Critéo Engine, a system that processes data on a large scale and deliver up to 25,000 advertisements per second. In 2012, the company reported revenues of $368 million.

On November 4, Paris’s Globe Newswire announced that Critéo closed its initial public offering of 8,082,580 American Depository Shares. Deutsche Bank Securities and J.P. Morgan Securities served as joint-book running managers. The public will now be able to purchase stocks and invest in this international company quoted as CRTO on NASDAQ, the second largest stock exchange in the world behind the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

Critéo sold 8.08 million American Depository Shares (ADS) at the IPO price of $31 per ADS, thus raising net proceeds of $228.8 million that will be used to fund marketing initiatives, research and development, and capital expenditure.

Within an hour of going public, CRTO shares increased by 33 percent to $41, valuing the company at $2.26 billion.

French Industrial Minister Pays Visit to Boston’s MIT

Arnaud Montebourg, France’s Minister for Production Recovery, made an official visit to Boston on November 17 and 18. On his first day, he visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and gave a speech on “The New Industrial Policy in France.”

In his speech, Mr. Montebourg discussed France’s strategy proposal for recovering from the economic recessions of both 2008 and 2012-2013, which is rooted in industry. He cited the success of the United States, saying “We have in mind the example of your great nation,” he said, “For President Obama, who is a great source of inspiration for my own policies, industry is a strategic priority for the U.S. economy.”

Mr. Montebourg shared his belief that an industry’s strength is rooted in its government’s industrial policies. His “New Industrial France” will be a collaboration of the private sector and the government across 34 projects, which he has designated as priority growth sectors.

Mr. Montebourg’s $6 billion plan will be carried out by inventors, entrepreneurs, and researchers in France’s private sector. The designated markets include high-speed rail, electric planes, and environmentally friendly ships.
Denver Art Museum Offers “Passport to Paris”

From October 22 through February 9 of next year, the Denver Art Museum will host the “Passport to Paris” art exhibition. The collection of paintings showcases French and other masters from the late 1600s to the early 1900s, including Paul Cézanne, Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, and Henri Toulouse-Lautrec.

“Passport to Paris” will also serve as a rare opportunity to see 11 Claude Monet paintings in one place. The exhibit consists of three collections: Court to Café, Nature as Muse, and Drawing Room. The trio displays how art mirrors society, and how both society and art have evolved from the monarchy of Louis XIV to turn of the 20th century.

The 50-piece Court to Café boasts pieces from Renoir, Cézanne, Van Gogh, and others thanks to the Wadsworth Atheneaum, the oldest public art museum in the United States. Nature as Muse includes 36 landscape paintings from Alfred Sisley, Berthe Morisot, and Camille Pissarro to name a few. Lastly, Drawing Room displays 39 works from famed artists such as Jacques-Louis David, Théodore Géricault, and Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres.

The exhibit is unique in that the paintings and the interior design both reflect French style. The curators teamed up with graphic designers, transforming the show into a creative narrative. For paintings from 17th-century France under King Louis XIII and his son Louis XIV, the walls surrounding were inspired by the Throne Room at the Palace of Versailles.

“Passport to Paris” is also partnering with the Colorado Symphony to enhance the exhibition’s overall artistic experience, including a soundtrack of French composers for the Court to Café audio tour.

French Photo Exhibit Shown From NY Review of Books


Mrs. Nabokov, a French photographer, has spent over three decades working for The New York Review of Books. Since its founding in 1963, the publication has become one of the most respected sources of in-depth essays on arts, literature, politics, science, and history.

Since starting her career there in 1980, Mrs. Nabokov’s photographs have helped bring the magazine to life. Featuring approximately 50 of her black-and-white pictures from 1980 to 2009, the documentary-like exhibition captures the spirit of the Review and the varied personalities of its past and present editors, contributors, and supporters.

The busy artist divides her time between France and the U.S., focusing her art on portrait photography and photojournalism. Mrs. Nabokov is well-known for her popular “living room” books that reveal the glamorous metropolitan interiors of New York and Paris apartments. The scenes, like her portraits, are meant to portray unedited images of the personal lives of the intellectuals and celebrities of the two cities.

She is currently at work on a third edition that will feature Berlin apartments. Mrs. Nabokov’s celebrated work has appeared all over the world in publications such as The New Yorker, Vogue, Vanity Fair, Condé Nast Traveler, Le Monde, and Le Nouvel Observateur.

Through Mrs. Nabokov’s simple yet beautiful pictures, visitors can catch a glimpse of the world of The New York Review of Books, the timeless publication that has helped shape the ideas of the English-speaking world’s intellectual elite for decades. The exhibition, made possible by the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, runs through December 6.

Miami-Nice Jazz Festival Takes Center Stage in Fla.

From October 23 through November 10, Miami residents got their groove on in the second annual Miami Nice Jazz Festival. The musical festival headlined the sixth edition of “French Weeks,” a month-long series of cultural events organized by the French American Chamber of Commerce of Florida in partnership with the Consulate General of France in Miami.

A diverse lineup of jazz artists performed a mix of classic and contemporary jazz at the festival, which has grown as an extension of the internationally celebrated Nice Jazz Festival in France.

This year’s edition featured Jill Aigrot singing the songs of the legendary chanteuse Edith Piaf, along with Eliane Elias in a tribute to the extraordinary Chet Baker. Bikini Jazz, the Latin band that mixes jazz with salsa, bossa nova, and cumbia performed selections from their wide-ranging repertoire. In addition, artists including Gregory Porter and Stanley Clarke added to an exciting schedule of concerts and special events held at local venues.

The festival was a hit: the committee announced on November 20 that, due to popular demand, they will be hosting a monthly jazz event starting in January of 2014.

FBI Discusses Internet Safety at French Lycée in D.C.

On December 3, the students of Lycée Rochambeau, a French International School in the Washington suburb of Bethesda, Md., met with the FBI for a discussion on internet safety. The event was organized as part of the 12th annual National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM), an initiative of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This year was the first time that Lycée Rochambeau participated in the event, thanks to an initiative of the Service for Science and Technology at the French Embassy.

The meeting with the FBI was one of several events that the school hosted in honor of NCSAM. The meeting followed a full month of sensitivity training by Lycée Rochambeau staff, in order that the school’s students could acquire a full understanding of the risks associated with using the Internet.

On November 12, a conference was held for parents by Michel Cukier, the Director for Advanced Cybersecurity Experience for Students at the University of Maryland.
Amiens Film Festival Presents “Tulsa Oklahoma Cinema”

The city of Amiens celebrated its 33rd International Film Festival, an annual event focusing on the film productions of Europe, Africa, and the Americas. Running from November 8 through 16, this year’s lineup featured a special retrospective of film from Tulsa, Okla., called “Tulsa Oklahoma Cinema.” The retrospective formed part of a series of events throughout the year that highlight the Sister City relationship between Tulsa and Amiens, found in the northern French region of Picardy. Over 60,000 guests attended the event.

The festival is one of the most important events on Europe’s cinematic calendar and includes three main competitions: International, European, and National, as well as sections dedicated to Tributes, Retrospectives, and Overviews. The Grand-Prix of the Festival is the “Golden Unicorn,” or the “Licorne d’Or.” This year, the coveted prize went to the Kazakhstan film Harmony Lessons, a drama directed by Emir Baigazin.

Through 30 different films, the “Tulsa Oklahoma Cinema” program sketched a portrait of Tulsa, a city rich with culture, history, and the “American Dream.” Spectators watched a variety of movies with themes such as the state’s folklore, the Depression era, westerns, local culture, Native Americans, silent film, and lost youth. From cowboys to tornadoes, the festival captured the magic of Oklahoma’s cinematic history.

Famous guests including directors, actors, scriptwriters, authors, and photographers from Oklahoma were invited to attend the festival. The celebration also featured a special tribute to American filmmakers Larry Clark and Francis Ford Coppola, as well as live performances by singer-songwriter Susan Herndon, who performed tunes showcasing Oklahoma’s traditional folk music.

The festival provided a way to deepen and renew the special Sister City relationship between Tulsa and Amiens. The Tulsa Global Alliance, an organization dedicated to increasing global understanding by linking people and institutions worldwide, invited select members to travel to Amiens to attend the festival and explore the city.