



News From France



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Working together for international security: a busy month for France and the U.S.



Above: Presidents François Hollande and Barack Obama discuss foreign policy at the NATO summit in Wales on September 4 and 5. Throughout the month of September, France and the United States joined forces to respond to numerous crises, notably those in Iraq and Syria (see page 2).

From the Ambassador's Desk: A welcome message from Mr. Gérard Araud

Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the new French Ambassador to the United States. Having just completed five years as the French Representative to the United Nations in New York, I am honored to have the privilege of serving France in Washington, D.C. This is not my first time at the Embassy, as I was an advisor on Middle East issues from 1987-1991. While the challenges we face nearly 25 years later are certainly different, I am thrilled to return to the American capital for what is sure to be a rewarding experience.

While there is much to be accomplished between France and the United States, our mission extends well beyond our two countries. The international community faces security threats that concern a large number of countries throughout the world: notably the barbaric acts against civilians by the Islamic State [IS], or Daesh, in Iraq and Syria, a crisis for which Presidents Barack Obama and François Hollande came together to fight following their meeting at the NATO summit on September 4, and for which a conference for peace and security was held in Paris on September 15, attended by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. As we continue to watch the worsening Ebola epidemic in West Africa, and the disputes of territorial integrity of Ukraine, it is imperative that we look beyond our own borders and work to-

gether to ameliorate these situations.

Beyond these growing security threats, I count high among my priorities the growth of Franco-American partnerships in several fields, including education, innovation, and technology, as well as cultural and economic diplomacy. French consulates and organizations throughout the country consistently seek new ways in which to strengthen the historically positive relationship between our two countries. Just in the month of September, we saw a successful trial run of an exact replica of *l'Hermione*, the ship that brought Marquis de Lafayette to America, the awarding of the prestigious Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award to French neuroscientist Alim-Louis Benabid, and the commencement of a year-long partnership among contemporary artists and curators in France and in Chicago. These efforts seek to engage French and American students, educators, innovators, and thinkers in cross-cultural dialogue.

Finally, it is no secret that I am extremely interested in digital diplomacy and the ways in which technology and social media are changing traditional communication in the international community. I hope you will have the occasion to follow me on Twitter @GerardAraud for frequent updates on the French perspective from Washington, D.C.



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Three new Consul Generals begin their mission in the U.S.

Early September marked the arrival of three new Consul Generals of France in the United States.

Pauline Carmona is the first female Consul General of France in San Francisco, and the only female Consul General currently serving in the United States. Her previous positions include Deputy Consul General in Hong Kong and political advisor at the French Embassy in Tokyo. Ms. Carmona officially replaced former Consul General Romain Serman on September 2. She aims to reinforce Franco-American relations in a dynamic region, focusing on the strengths that France can bring to the United States, including entrepreneurship and the development of partnerships in culture, education and economy, with a particular focus on innovation.

Formerly Deputy Spokesperson at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development in Paris, Vincent Floreani started as the new Consul General of France in Chicago in late August. Mr. Floreani brings a wealth of diplomatic experience, as he was previously Deputy Chief of Mission at the French Embassy in the United Arab Emirates, Spokesperson at the French Embassy in London, and Advisor at the French Mission to the UN. At the Consulate of France in Chicago, which covers 13 states in the Midwest, he plans to further strengthen France's relationship with its American partners. He counts high among his priorities the economy, investment in France, tourism, expansion of cultural and scientific opportunities, the promotion of Francophone studies and cooperation among universities in the two countries.

Gregor Trumel, new Consul General of France in New Orleans, officially began his role in August. He was previously Deputy Chief of Mission at the French Embassy in Denmark. During his time in New Orleans, he will devote himself to supporting a dynamic French community, which grew by 17% over the past year. He will look to a long history of Franco-American relations in the region to strengthen the presence of Francophonie, and reinforce cooperation among secondary and university-level schools in France and Louisiana. He aims to promote French business in a state that is economically promising and proud of its French heritage.

France and America take action in response to growing security threats



Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius meets with Secretary of State John Kerry at the International Conference for Peace and Security in Iraq, which took place on September 15 in Paris.

Over the past month, the international community has called upon both the United States and France to respond to growing security threats abroad. Both countries have risen to the occasion, taking action to provide support to the populations affected by these threats, most notably in Iraq and Syria.

On September 4 and 5, Presidents Barack Obama and François Hollande participated in the 2014 NATO summit in Wales. The situation in Iraq and Syria was a pressing topic of interest at the conference, and both Presidents had the opportunity to discuss their respective decisions to provide support to the Kurdish people of Iraq and all parties at risk of attack by the terrorist group Daesh (ISIS). Following the executions of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff, as well as British aid worker David Haines, it became clear that these acts of senseless violence were a threat to the entire international community. President Hollande affirmed that France was allied with the United

States in the coalition to fight Daesh, noting that, "a global threat calls for a global response." Since the conference, the countries have continued to provide humanitarian and financial assistance to the affected populations.

French and American leaders convened again for an international conference on peace and security in Iraq, held in Paris on September 15. At the conference, hosted by President Hollande and President Fuad Masum of Iraq, representatives from nearly 30 nations pledged their support for a new Iraqi government and condemned the barbaric acts committed against civilians by Daesh. International partners said they would provide resources to Iraq in order to combat Daesh in the region. Secretary of State John Kerry was among the international leaders in attendance, as well as Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius. The conversation about Daesh continued at the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York the following week.

Ambassador Gérard Araud presents his credentials to President Obama



President Barack Obama and Ambassador Gérard Araud following Mr. Araud's presentation of his credentials.

sent his credentials to President Barack Obama at the White House. In the diplomatic world, credentials, or letters of credence, are presented to the host country's Head of State in order to confirm that an ambassador is authorized to represent his or her country in this position.

This ceremony marked the formal acceptance of Mr. Araud's appointment by President Obama. The ceremony took place at a critical time for the two countries, when a partnership between France and the United States is vital both domestically and internationally.

A native of Marseille, Mr. Araud worked at the same Embassy in Washington, D.C. 25 years ago as an advisor on Middle East Affairs, and spent the past five years as France's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York City. He said that he was proud and moved by the event.

On Thursday, September 18, new Ambassador of France to the United States Mr. Gérard Araud pre-

Mark Sherringham, Head of French Schools Department

▲ With the 2014-2015 school year underway in both France and the United States, students are getting back into a routine of class, after-school activities, and in some cases, the mastery of multiple languages. Head of French Schools Department Mark Sherringham oversees the vast network of French accredited schools in the United States and Canada. He spoke with *News From France* about his work at the Embassy.

What is your role in the Embassy of France?

Under the authority of the Ambassador and the Cultural Counselor, and in close relationship with the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE) in Paris, my role is to supervise the network of all the French Schools in the United States and Canada that are accredited by the French Ministry of Education. In Canada, I work under the authority of two Cultural Counselors respectively based in Ottawa and in Quebec City. A French accredited school is a school which teaches the French curriculum, conforms to the pedagogical organization required by the French national education system and recruits a majority of teachers coming from the French Ministry of Education. In North America, there are 53 accredited schools, 46 in the United States and 7 in Canada, enrolling almost 25,000 students, and employing approximately a thousand teachers.

The two main missions of the French Schools Department are organizing the continuing education for the teachers and staff of the French accredited schools, and managing the administrative careers of more than 750 teachers coming from the French Ministry of Education. Another major responsibility is to make sure that the French schools in North America keep in touch with the most recent evolutions and priorities of the French Ministry of Education. My role is really to help these schools maintain their French identity in North America while at the same time adapting to a very competitive environment. One of our priorities in North America is to help promote the French baccalaureate as an efficient means of gaining admission into the best universities in France, North America and the rest of the world.

What differences and similarities do you find between the French education system and that of the United States?

The main difference is that the French education system is a centralized system directly managed by the French Ministry of Education with a national curriculum, national recruitment procedures for the teachers and national administrative rules and pedagogical principles. By contrast, the American system is completely decentralized with direct authority being held by the school districts and the States. Having said that, both systems are now moving away from their original positions: the French system towards more autonomy for the districts and the schools, and the American system towards a national common core curriculum and financial incentives for the schools from the Federal Government. It is fascinating to see that these contrasting changes are thus making the two systems more and more similar! I think that both the French and the Americans have a lot to learn from each other in the field of education, all the more because they are now facing the same kinds of issues related to the democratization of education and the management of teachers. A visit of the French Minister of Education to the United States or of the Secretary of Education to France could be very productive for both sides, especially in the domains of curriculum construction, student grading, teacher evaluation



and ways to cope with social and ethnic discrimination.

Why do you believe that there continues to be an interest in French education for young students in the United States?

The French accredited schools in the United States welcome approximately 45% of French or bi-national students, 45% of American students and 10% of international students. The 46 French schools in the United States are located mostly on the East Coast, from Maine to Florida, on the West Coast, from Seattle to San Diego, around the Great Lakes, in Louisiana and in Texas. There are almost no French schools in the central parts of the United States. It is clear from this geography of the French schools in the United States that the interest for French curriculum education is closely linked to the needs of the French or international communities, living in the United States, who want their children to remain in the French school system because they might not stay permanently in the United States. But there are also more and more American parents who want to give to their children an international education and who are impressed by the rigorous and coherent curriculum offered by the French schools, especially at the primary and middle school levels. Our main objective is to convince the American parents to keep their children in the French schools at the high school level by showing them that the French baccalaureate is fully recognized by the best universities in the United States and the rest of the world.

What value does a French-American education hold in today's society?

A French-American education is today one of the best opportunities students can get to become true "citizens of the world" through the mastery of two universal cultures and languages. The French curriculum is a global and coherent curriculum which values general knowledge in the sciences and the humanities, exactness in reasoning, critical thinking and a spirit of responsibility. The American side brings to the French schools a special interest in experimental sciences, a greater emphasis in sports and the arts, the promotion of creativity, the sense of community service and a confidence-building attitude towards the students. A French-American education offers the best of two worlds and is highly valued today by parents who are looking for a truly international education for their children. 🇫🇷

France remains the most visited country in the world

84.7 million: this is the number of foreign tourists that visited France in 2013, a 2% increase from 2012, according to a study conducted by the World Tourism Organization in July of 2014. Additionally, the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies found that the number of foreign tourists who stayed overnight increased by 4.6%, and the length of time spent by tourists in France has increased.

The increase in foreign visitors travelling to France is part of a five percent growth overall in tourist arrivals in Europe between 2012 and 2013. The number of Asian tourists in France increased significantly, rising by 12.9% in this period of time.

France has plans to expand its tourism sector even further in order to reach its goal of welcoming 100 million foreign tourists by 2030. The country will continue to work towards becoming the world leader in tourism, a goal set at the National Conference of Tourism in Paris on June 19, 2014.

URI Hosts its First French Immersion Workshop

Professors representing schools ranging from elementary to university level came out for the "Université d'été du Rhode Island," which took place on July 28. This program was the University of Rhode Island's first-ever French Immersion workshop. The event was sponsored by the French Embassy, the Consulate of France in Boston and URI's French Department, and worked to advance the teaching of French in Rhode Island and throughout New England.

The workshop allowed 43 professors to brainstorm strategies to enhance their teaching within the classroom, as well as practice their own conversation skills. Many participants learned from the shared experiences of French educators, and considered how these ideas could be implemented to improve their own curriculum or teaching style. Most importantly, the event helped current French teachers improve their grasp on the language through immersive practice. The faculty who attended all agreed that the event was a huge success. Lars Erickson, director of the French Engineering Program at URI, raved about the program, saying, "All the feedback I've received from the participants has been positive. I hope we can work with the French Embassy and Consulate to host the Université d'été again."

in depth: World Equestrian Games

2014 World Equestrian Games showcase remarkable talent in Normandy



French and American athletes were all smiling faces for the closing ceremony of the World Equestrian Games, which ended on September 7. Eight official disciplines were featured in this year's games, four of which are part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Normandy: a region renowned for its natural beauty, unique gastronomical traditions, and as of this past month, its status as one of the most significant equestrian areas of France. From August 23 to September 7, the World Equestrian Games took place in Caen, Normandy, bringing together top competitors from 76 nations to compete in equestrian events including Jumping, Dressage, and Eventing, all of which are featured in the Olympic Games. The events showcased strong French and American participation in a region with a rich history of equestrian sports.

The choice of Normandy

Since 1990, the World Equestrian Games have been held every four years in accordance with the cycle of the Olympic Games. When it came time to select a city for this year's Equestrian Games, Normandy emerged as a strong choice—not only is the region a top destination for tourists, but it is also one that is historically significant, both from an equestrian and international perspective.

With commemoration ceremonies taking place in June honoring the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, Caen was the ideal city in which to celebrate international cooperation

among nations in a variety of areas extending well beyond sports.

A historically important sport

The tradition of equestrian sport is one that dates back to Ancient Greece. The sport's predecessor, chariot racing, was featured in the 680 B.C. Ancient Olympic Games, but modern equestrian events as we know them today didn't appear in the Olympics until the early 20th century, with Jumping and Dressage events first included in the 1900 Paris Olympic Games. Dressage, described by the Olympic Games as "the groundwork for all other disciplines" is an event in which the horse and rider perform predetermined movements from memory. Jumping developed well after Dressage as a means to train foxhunters in England, while Eventing formed through the integration of these two disciplines.

While the formerly mentioned three disciplines are featured in the Olympic Games, the World Equestrian Games include a wider breadth of equine activities, featuring eight of the official disciplines of the *Fédération Equestre Internationale*, an international governing organization of equestrian sports. The games have evolved over

the centuries, as some of the disciplines featured in this year's Equestrian Games would be hardly recognizable to pioneers of the sport. Vaulting, for example, incorporates gymnastic and dance disciplines on horseback, with competitors performing acrobatic routines all the while dressed in colorful garb of the sort one would see Olympic ice dancers wear.

Medals for France and the U.S.

Dubbed "the most important equestrian area of France" by the World Equestrian Games, Normandy is a region in which the breeding and training of competition horses and highly ranked riders allows for the sport to thrive. This year, France excelled in Vaulting, as Jacques Ferrari earned the highest score in the competition and claimed his place as the new World Champion of the freestyle equestrian discipline. Both humbled and proud in his victory, Ferrari said, "This is the crowning of a long process of many years, not just for myself but my family, friends and teammates, and the culmination of the development of a style I have tried to design." Fellow Frenchman Nicolas Andreani took home the silver medal for the same discipline, as his freestyle performance helped him earn the sec-



Clockwise from top left: Jacques Ferrari after winning the gold medal in Vaulting for France; a French athlete competes in Eventing, which integrates Jumping and Dressage; American Chester Weber competes in Individual Driving, for which he won a gold medal this year; Jessica Michel competes in Dressage, representing France.

ond highest spot in the competition.

Following these individual medals, the French Vaulting team La Cigogne Stables secured the World Team Championship bronze medal, marking the first year that a French team received a medal at the Games. Another French victory included that of the Horseball team in their match against Spain, which took place in Saint-Lô, west of Caen. In the finals, the French women's team beat Spain 7-0, and the mixed team also secured a victory against Spain, with a final score of 8-7 following a sudden-death round.

While France boasted particularly strong performances in Vaulting and Horseball, the United States excelled in both Reigning and Dressage. In the Individual Reigning Final Competition, the United States thrived. The discipline is one that is rooted in the traditions of the American West, as the showmanship of ranch horses is tested in front of a large audience. Shawn Flarida and Andrea Fappani took home gold and silver, respectively. Fellow American Mandy McCutcheon took home the bronze medal, becoming the first female individual to receive this honor. McCutcheon spoke with enthusiasm of her place among superb athletes, saying, "I couldn't be happier, my horse stepped up for me tonight and when they do that,

they are great horses. To be behind two such great athletes as Shawn and Andrea is just an amazing feeling." American Chester Weber was a standout competitor as well, earning 1st place overall in the Individual Driving competition, in which drivers lead horses pulling a carriage through a number of trials which include Dressage, marathon, and Obstacle driving.

Alltech music festival

Held in conjunction with the World Equestrian games, natural health and science company Alltech sponsored a music festival which drew thousands of spectators seeking entertainment from international and regional talent. Throughout the duration of the Games, there were eight concerts, or 30 hours of live music. The Music Festival was free to all visitors of the World Equestrian Games Village.

With genres including electronic, rock, rap, and even bluegrass, the concert series featured something for every attendee. Themes touched upon musical traditions of a multitude of styles and regions, such as Irish, Québécois, and country. The program featured several popular French and American artists, including names like Kool and

the Gang, Aloe Blacc, Misteur Valaire, and Joyce Jonathon.

A bond among sportsmen

The World Equestrian Games is meant to give visitors a unique look into the world of equine sports. The Normandy 2014 Organizing Committee sought to make both Norman culture and the events of the Games accessible to all who attended by utilizing four core values: achievement, openness, respect, and transmission.

The legacy of the Games was perhaps best illustrated by writer Jean-Louis Gouraud's project, "Around the world with 80 horses," commissioned specifically for the event. The project featured eighty stories on topics which traced the history of "the incredible bond that has always linked Man and Horse." Covering topics ranging from notable horses in film to female cavaliers in the Amazon, the stories celebrated a universal appreciation of equestrian sports, which have entertained and challenged adventure-seekers for centuries. A commitment to the rich history and tradition of this pastime with an eye on progress brought Normandy deserved recognition and prestige as the latest host of this exciting event. 🇫🇷

Representatives from Paris and Atlanta participate in airport seminar

In an effort to identify market opportunities for French companies within airports and to strengthen the relationship between Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport and that of Greater Atlanta, a French delegation travelled to Georgia for the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) international airport trade show and the Sustainable Airport Area Seminar 2014 from September 7-12.

The Sustainable Airport Area Seminar 2014 gathered experts from major airports in Europe, North America, and Asia to discuss the regional and local impact of modern-day airports. Workshops focusing on the challenges and opportunities surrounding airport areas and seminars addressing ongoing collaboration in economic development, urban planning, job growth strategies and sustainability were included in the event.

The French delegation also toured Atlanta's airport area in an effort to better understand its urban and economic development efforts, and met with Consul General Denis Barbet during an event hosted by the French Residence and the French-American Chamber of Commerce-Atlanta.

France among world leaders in video game production

Assassin's Creed, *Raving Rabbids*, *Just Dance* and *Game of Thrones* are well known adventure games which all happen to have been created in France, which comes in close second to the United States for the production of video games. From 2011 to 2015, sales are expected to reach record highs of 41.9 billion to 75 billion euros. According to data from SELL, the French Union of entertainment software producers, France has 31 million players, well above all other European countries. In 2013, approximately 8 in 10 French people had played a video game at least once in the last 12 months.

The industry is thriving, with more than 150 new jobs created each month in fields including management, design, imagery, technology and support services.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs is part of "French Tech" initiative which looks to enhance France's influence in start-ups and high technology, as well as incentivize innovators to invest in France. For all of the above reasons, games which are "Made in France" have garnered much international success.

Artur Ávila receives the Fields Medal for mathematics

French-Brazilian Artur Ávila, director of Research at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), was recently awarded the Fields Medal. He became the twelfth French recipient out of 55 total winners. Officially known as the International Medal for Outstanding Discoveries in Mathematics, the award is considered to be the highest recognition a mathematician under 40 years old can receive—its prestige is matched with that of the Nobel Prize.

Ávila received the medal for his work on dynamical systems theory—that is, systems which evolve over time, such as the movement of planets, climate models or population dynamics. Along with fellow mathematician Marcelo Viana, he proved a theory that predicts the behavior of billiard balls; specifically, which side of the table a ball will hit even after one million bounces.

At just 35, Ávila is the recipient of many other honors, including both the CNRS Bronze Medal and the Salem Prize in 2006. Both awards are given to young outstanding researchers. Born in Brazil, Ávila studied at the Brazilian National Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA) in Rio de Janeiro while finishing secondary school at the same time.

Ávila came to the Collège de France in 2001 for postdoctoral work, and was recruited two years later by CNRS, eventually becoming a dual citizen. In 2006 he won a three-year fellowship from the Clay Math-



Ávila is the twelfth French recipient of the prestigious award, given for outstanding discoveries in mathematics.

ematics Institute, allowing him to work at any laboratory in the world. He chose to work part-time at the CNRS-IMPA international joint laboratory in Brazil and at the Institute of Mathematics, a CNRS-Université Pierre et Marie Curie mixed laboratory. Ávila's achievements, both in France and Brazil, showcase the cooperation between the two countries as well as France's success in attracting the brightest minds in the fields of science and math. Following Ávila's achievement, France is second behind the United States as the countries with the highest number of Fields Medal winners.

Lasker-DeBakey award goes to accomplished French scientist



Professor Benabid was honored for his contributions to the advancement of treatments for Parkinson's disease.

On September 8, 2014, Professor Alim-Louis Benabid, Chairman of the Board of French bio-medical research center CLINATEC in Grenoble, France, was announced as the 2014 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award recipient for his work with a surgical technique that will help people with advanced Parkinson's disease.

The Lasker Foundation has recognized major scientific work in the field of basic and clinical medical research since 1946. A major accomplishment, the Lasker award is considered to be a step towards the Nobel Prize in Medicine. The last French recipient of this award was Alain Carpentier in 2007.

Professor Benabid has received this prestigious award

for his contributions towards the treatment of Parkinson's disease. He developed a deep brain stimulation technique that may reduce tremors and restore motor function in patients with advanced Parkinson's disease. This surgical technique offers an effective option for a non-drug treatment of this disease.

Professor Benabid received the award along with Mahlon R. DeLong, a professor of neurology at the Emory School of Medicine. Together, the two accomplished scientists have provided effective treatment to more than 100,000 individuals worldwide that suffer from side effects of treatment for Parkinson's Disease.

Benabid's work on improving treatment for Parkinson's disease began in 1987, when he found that increasing the frequency of deep brain stimulation was a more effective method of alleviating patients' tremors. He has since devoted his career to this particular field of study, making significant progress for his patients.

Following the announcement of the prize winners, President François Hollande offered his sincerest congratulations to Professor Benabid. "In developing brain stimulation techniques," Hollande stated, "Professor Benabid has transformed the treatment of neurological diseases. This prize recognizes the exceptional quality of work performed by Professor Benabid and honors French medical research."

Benabid serves as Professor Emeritus of biophysics at Université Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, and is a member of the French Academy of Sciences. Benabid helped found CLINATEC in 2009, a multidisciplinary biomedical research center which is located at the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) in Grenoble. This year has proved particularly rewarding for Benabid, as he will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the North American Neuromodulation Society at their annual conference in December.

Seuls en Scène festival brings French theater to Princeton



From left: a scene from "Projet Luciole," a philosophical theater piece focusing on critical thought; a shot from "Faim (Hunger)," a monologue which follows the descent of a man who wanders the streets. Both pieces were performed in French.

Princeton University is currently presenting its third annual *Seuls en Scène* French theater festival in partnership with the Lewis Center for the Arts, the student theater workshop *L'Avant Scène* and the Department of French and Italian. The festival began on September 15 and will run through October 11.

Seuls en Scène hopes to introduce audiences to French theater through the texts of writers and philosophers such as Alain Badiou and Jacques Rancière. More than 20 prominent actors and theater directors will make appearances this year, including French actors Nicolas Bouchaud and Judith Henry. *Seuls en Scène* curator Florent Masse hopes that the festival will give student audiences the opportunity to experience French culture and linguistics while refining their own acting skills and knowledge of French theater. He also sees the festival as an opportunity to cultivate new talent—in an interview with the Cultural Services Department of the Embassy, Mr. Masse said, "I am interested in discovering new talents and bringing them to Princeton while also focusing on prominent artists of the current generation

of actors and directors in their late thirties or early forties."

Many of the productions in *Seuls en Scène* were originally meant to be monologues. However, the festival has expanded to incorporate plays for multiple actors, such as "Projet Luciole," a hit at the Avignon Theater Festival in 2013. The philosophical piece is based on reflections of texts by different writers, including George Orwell and Jaime Semprun, with a focus on the liveliness of critical thinking.

Seuls en Scène keeps a constant eye on up-and-coming shows in order to foster the growth of French theater in America, and will be previewing "Le Voyage en Uruguay," a show that will not open in France until November 2014. The festival also seeks to create and nurture partnerships with artists over time. With support from dedicated artists and a forward-thinking initiative to bring young talent to Princeton, there is no doubt that *Seuls en Scène* will further deepen artistic partnerships between playwrights, producers, and students in the two countries.

Films on the Green makes its Washington, D.C. debut



Céline Sciamma's *Tomboy* touched on issues of gender identity, and was shown on the second night of the *Films on the Green* festival at American University.

The outdoor French film festival *Films on the Green* was presented in Washington, D.C. on September 4 and 5, hosted by American University in partnership with the Cultural Services of the Embassy of France. The festival has previously been held seven times in New York City and twice in Boston. The year 2014 marks the inaugural appearance of the festival in the District of Columbia. Taking place at the Woods-Brown Amphitheater on the American University Campus, the films were shown free of charge and featured as a back-to-school event.

The Cultural Services department of the Embassy

hoped to attract a young audience to this particular festival. The theme was "Finding Your Identity," and proved highly relevant to a college-aged community while provoking interest from viewers of all ages. The two movies were chosen for their representation of the theme and their depiction of the lives of French youth.

"*All is Forgiven (Tout est Pardonné)*" was screened on September 4. Directed by Mia Hansen-Love, the movie portrays the life of Victor, who lives with his wife and daughter in Vienna, Austria, and spends his time avoiding all responsibility. His family leaves him for France when he moves in with a drug addict. After 11 years, his now 17 year-old daughter Pamela realizes that Victor lives nearby, and she decides to see him again.

"*Tomboy*," directed by Céline Sciamma, was shown on September 5. It tells the story of Laure, a 10 year-old who decides to pass herself off as a boy named "Mikael" when her family relocates. She befriends a group of neighborhood kids and their leader, Lisa, who quickly falls in love. The film's protagonist must juggle two different identities and find resourceful ways to hide her true self, whatever self that may be.

Films on the Green was a success, with attendance by over 200 audience members on each night. Students and adults alike took advantage of the opportunity to discover excellent French cinema right on the university campus, and will surely return should *Films on the Green* be featured for a second year in D.C.

Charles Aznavour tours North America

Charles Aznavour, one of France's most celebrated entertainers, played three major shows in North America this past September. Best known for his love songs, as well as his appearance in films such as *Shoot the Piano Player* and *Candy*, Aznavour is one of the most celebrated music hall entertainers to emerge from France. He performed at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles on September 13, Montreal's Bell Centre on September 17, and New York's the Theatre at Madison Square Garden on September 20.

While Aznavour may be best known for music that made him immensely popular in France, he has always remained close to his Armenian roots. His father was a singer who greatly influenced Aznavour's childhood singing style, and who immigrated to France from Turkey along with Aznavour's mother. By age 9, Aznavour had made both his stage and screen debut, helping him develop a signature style of performing and acting at a young age. This expressive style, along with the universal themes of his music, has given him fans from all over the world.

MoMA celebrates work of Toulouse-Lautrec

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City is currently displaying over one hundred works of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec in an exhibition titled "The Paris of Toulouse-Lautrec." Toulouse-Lautrec is known for his avant-garde depictions of Parisian life in posters, illustrations and lithographs during the Belle Époque period. The collection marks the first time in 30 years that the MoMA has curated an exhibition devoted entirely to Toulouse-Lautrec.

Organized into five themes, the exhibition explores different facets of Parisian life during the Belle Époque. Toulouse-Lautrec took a keen interest in female subjects, and his muses included actresses, singers, and dancers whose vitality he captured in a new kind of portraiture. The exhibit also explores Toulouse-Lautrec's presence in the Parisian artistic community, showcasing his contributions to magazines and reviews as well as his popular designs for song sheets and programs for theatre productions.

The exhibition was curated by Sarah Suzuki, Assistant Curator for the Department of Drawings and Prints, and supported by the MoMA Annual Exhibition Fund. The display began on July 26, 2014, and will run through March 22, 2015.



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L'Hermione will set sail for America in 2015



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On September 7, *l'Hermione* left for sea trials, sailing south from Rochefort to Bordeaux among a fleet of other ships. Here, the ship arrives in l'Île-d'Aix, an island west of Rochefort.

▲ An exact replica of *L'Hermione*, the ship that carried Marquis de Lafayette to America in 1780, has captivated historians and marine enthusiasts alike over the past few months. Taking 16 years to complete, *l'Hermione* will set sail to America from France in April 2015. Travelling first to Yorktown, VA, the ship will move up the coast before sailing to Nova Scotia and then home to France.

The idea for the Hermione Project began in 1993 among a small cohort of *l'Hermione* enthusiasts. The construction of the ship has been fully financed through charitable donations. The remarkable ship was originally built in 1778 on the Charente River. On March 19, 1780, Marquis de Lafayette boarded *l'Hermione* and travelled to Yorktown to aid American insurgents in the fight

for independence. Strong French support contributed to an eventual U.S. victory in the Revolutionary War, and for this reason Lafayette is recognized as "the French Founding Father." The journey of the 21st century-era *l'Hermione* is a modern day gesture of this solid friendship that France and the United States proudly share.

On September 22, Ségolène Royal, head of the Poitou-Charentes region in which *l'Hermione* was constructed, met with supporters of the project at the French Consulate in New York City. An Inaugural Gala to celebrate the reconstruction of *l'Hermione* will be held in New York City on October 14, attended by former U.S. Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger and IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde. 🇫🇷

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