



FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION—United States
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES January 2011–June 2012



Dear Friends,

The French-American Foundation plays an important role in a world where all societies confront significant economic, social, and political challenges. Our mission is to strengthen relations between France and the United States, particularly in the context of the transatlantic partnership. To do this, we also engage with leaders and experts in Europe, and around the world, to address collective challenges.

The French-American Foundation's current programs—on such critical subjects as migration, media, equal opportunity, sustainable urban development, infrastructure rebuilding, and cyber security—respond to this pressing need for international dialogue. They also provide a forum for sharing best practices, and for creating ongoing, cooperative, working relationships that lead to innovative solutions.

In 2011, our Young Leaders Program celebrated its 30th anniversary in a most successful series of events organized by our sister foundation in Paris. This flagship annual program brings together exceptional French and American individuals from diverse backgrounds and fields, and promotes long-lasting relationships that allow both countries to contribute to the common (global) good. This program also provides the Foundation with experts to help launch important new initiatives. For example, in 2012, the Foundation implemented a program for economically disadvantaged, exceptional high school students from both sides of the Atlantic to meet one another, and learn to better understand those who will be their future partners. We also launched our immigration journalism fellowship and awards program to support independent and responsible reporting on immigration and integration issues.

We count on your support in order to produce work of this caliber, and thank you for your continuing generosity.

With renewed thanks and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Antoine Treuille". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a trailing flourish.

Antoine Treuille
President



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YOUNG LEADERS



Since its first meeting in 1981, the Young Leaders Program has become one of the most well-regarded efforts to create international links among young men and women holding leadership positions. As the French-American Foundation's flagship program, it continues to be central to the Foundation's success in deepening understanding between France and the United States. Alternating each year between France and the US, the two-year program brings together leaders from government, business, media, the military, and the non-profit sector. Young Leaders spend five days discussing issues of common concern, and sharing experiences in a relaxed environment. The off-the-record atmosphere fosters candid discussions about policy and social issues. Past and current Young Leaders also meet throughout the year at gatherings organized by the Foundation.



The 2011 Young Leaders meeting convened 40 Young Leaders in San Diego, California, in early October. The program included meetings at cultural institutions, as well as with energy, environment and immigration experts, and military leaders. Young Leaders discussed the world's energy needs, the importance of protecting its oceans, and immigration issues in France, the United States, and specifically, along the US-Mexican border. Our Young Leaders were privileged to visit not only a naval ship, but also the Navy SEALs training compound, where they spoke with a member of the SEAL team to better understand the preparation necessary to serve as well as the responsibilities once in the field.





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Engaging both formally and informally with French and American counterparts, this program provided the basis for friendships that will last for years to come. The next meeting takes place in October 2012, in Paris and Le Havre.

This latest meeting was part of a program that has been very successful in developing and maintaining a dynamic network of more than 370 transatlantic leaders, among them presidents and statesmen, ministers, cabinet secretaries, and military leaders; CEOs of global corporations and financial institutions; prominent journalists and editors; award-winning writers, composers and choreographers; and directors of public agencies, think tanks, and research centers.



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MEET TWO OF OUR 2012 YOUNG LEADERS!



Devin Holmes is the CEO of Warrior Gateway, and is dedicated to connecting returning veterans and their families with their local communities as they transition to civilian life. An avid triathlete, Devin is also a six-time "Escape from Alcatraz" triathlon finisher.



Joanne Smith founded Girls for Gender Equity in 2001 with the support of the Open Society Foundation in order to end gender-based violence, and promote gender, race and class equality. She has also co-authored her first book published by Feminist Press in 2011, *Hey Shorty: A Guide to Combating Sexual Harassment and Violence in Public Schools and on the Streets*.

1. Nick Lane, Jane Kang, and a representative from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography 2. Young Leaders at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve 3. The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego 4. Laphonza Butler and Jeff Chu 5. (From left to right): Joy Frye (Scripps Institution of Oceanography), Yann Le Goff, Nicolas Macquin, Dalton Conley, Bradley Schneider, Valérie Rouxel-Laxton, and Walt Cooper 6. At the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

YOUNG LEADERS IN THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT



The Foundation is honored by the election of the first Young Leader alumnus as president of the French Republic and the selection of six alumni of the Foundation's flagship program to cabinet positions:

François Hollande (1996) President of the French Republic

David Kessler (1999) Cultural & Communications Advisor to the Elysée

Arnaud Montebourg (2000) Minister of Industrial Renewal

Aquilino Morelle (1998) Political Advisor to the Elysée

Pierre Moscovici (1996) Minister of Economy and Finance

Marisol Touraine (1998) Minister of Health and Social Affairs

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem (2006) Minister of Women's Rights and Government Spokesperson



*Charlotte Dennery, Sophie L'Hélias-Delattre,
and Floriane de Saint-Pierre*



*Opening remarks by Young Leader
Valérie Pécresse, then Minister of the Budget,
Public Funds and State Reform*



Meghan O'Sullivan and Nicolas Macquin



*Young Leaders alumni at the Bibliothèque
de l'Assemblée nationale*

The French–American Foundation celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Young Leaders program in Paris on November 18 and 19. More than half of our Young Leaders community in France, the United States, and further abroad joined the Foundation for a weekend of meetings, receptions, and discussions. The Young Leaders were welcomed by the American Ambassador to France, the Honorable Charles H. Rivkin, and his wife, Susan Tolson. The group held discussions with prominent diplomats before attending the French–American Foundation—France’s gala dinner in Paris, held in their honor. The next day, the Young Leaders participated in a private guided visit to the Palace of Versailles, and attended a luncheon with Christophe de Margerie, president and CEO of Total, at the Trianon Palace. Following the panel discussions on topics of interest, Young Leaders returned to Paris having reconnected with old friends and made new ones.



James G. Lowenstein welcomes the Young Leader alumni



*Pierre Kosciusko-Morizet and
Amélie Oudéa-Castéra*



*Floriane de Saint-Pierre, Former Ambassador of France to the
United States François Bujon de L'Estang, French–American
Foundation Chairmen Allan M. Chapin, and Jean-Luc Allavena*



*Stéphane Fouks, Christine Okrent, David Mercer,
and Ezra Suleiman*