



## Bringing together students and alumni from across the Channel

### Note from the Editor:

Brexit and the changes in the political landscapes of both the United Kingdom and France have inevitably cast a shadow of uncertainty in Franco-British relations. As such, most of our initiatives this year have touched upon how to redefine a close relationship in the post-Brexit era. The alumni and students of the Franco-British Connections team have aimed at keeping the Franco-British relations at heart by focusing on areas of mutual concern for both countries and exploring opportunities for synergy amongst younger generations. Both countries remain important partners interested in continuing to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas across all sectors of our societies and economies inclusive of intelligence-sharing and innovation, defence cooperation and promoting a more sustainable and competitive economic model for Europe. This third edition of the Franco-British Connections newsletter presents the highlights of this period.

Eugenia Esteva Vegas, Editor-In-Chief of the Franco-British Connections



Picture taken from: @Le Figaro 2018

### In this issue:

- FBSA Annual Conference 2018 -  
Shaping the Future of Europe post-Brexit
- Franco-British Artificial Intelligence Conference -  
The Challenges of AI
- Franco-British Young Leaders Programme
- Portraits
- Franco Débats UK
- The Spark! Contest
- Publications

## FBSA Annual Conference 2018 - Shaping the future of Europe post-Brexit

**The Franco-British Student Alliance (FBSA) Annual Conference brought 150 students from the United Kingdom and France to reflect on how students can work together to promote a close relationship amongst younger generations in the context of Brexit.**

The two-day student conference involved workshops with experts in the fields of education, law and rights, innovation, community, science and cooperation; a pitch project competition with a 'Les Voisins Pitch Prize' awarded to the best project, to seed implementation, by H.E. Lord Ed Llewelyn (UK Ambassador to France) at the Ambassador's Residence; a start-up masterclass provided by three start-ups (Estimeo, Scientia Education and Wavely) at the French Ministry of Finance; a visit to the French National Assembly; a debate coaching at the Sorbonne provided by Débattre en Sorbonne and a parliamentary style debate.



**2000 participants** for Freedom of Press, Defence, Innovation, Research communication, Energy supply, Cultural differences, Finance, New order of the Old Continent, Future of the EU, Democracy and Liberty, Higher Education, (D)écrire le monde, Mooc and Digital Education, Brexit and Independence Referendum



Olivier Cadic, Axelle Lemaire, Cédric Villani, Lord Winston, Howard Davies, Lord Grenfell, General Maire, Laurent Burin des Roziers, Bernard Emié, Sylvie Bermann, Yann Moix, Sir Michael Edwards, Dominic Grieve, Lord Sumption, Sir Michael Tugendhat, Simon Donaldson, Anthony Giddens, Michael Butcher, Lord Oxburgh, Dominique Hernandez, Lord Ricketts, Sir Peter Westmacott, David Valls-Gabaud, Stephen Clarke and many more

## Franco-British Young Leaders Programme

Incubated by the Franco-British Connections, the Franco-British Young Leaders programme aims to deepen understanding and collaboration between France and the UK at the highest level through the involvement of its most talented young leaders.

**Its objective is to build a generation of 21st century leaders who will keep the Franco-British relations at heart, with a back/give forward ethos at its core.**

Alongside the Young Leaders community, the Franco-British Council piloted an initiative dedicated to supporting the social mobility for young people "Local Leaders" coming from disadvantaged backgrounds in both countries. 57 Young Leaders (25 from the promotion 2018 and 32 from the promotion 2017) and 21 Local Leaders (8 from the promotion 2018 and 13 from the promotion 2017) are now part of the community.

## Franco-British Artificial Intelligence Conference - The Challenges of AI

The Franco-British Connections and Association France-Grande Bretagne invited Professor Stuart J. Russell for a conference at the British Ambassador's Residence in Paris on The Challenges of Artificial Intelligence. The conference was presided by H.E. Lord Ed Llewelyn and moderated by Alexander Lake.



FBSA Annual Conference 2018

"Organising the 2018 Franco-British Student Conference was a great experience. It was very challenging, and it taught me a lot about working in a team. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet inspiring people from the Franco-British network."

Lise Péron - 2018 (Sciences Po)

## Portraits

**The Portrait Gallery aims to present the career and views of Franco-British personalities from different areas of society.** Recent interviews:

-- Mr Paul Docherty (Director British Council France) -- Ms. Hermione Gough (Minister Counsellor in the British Embassy in Paris) -- Sir Edward Leigh (British Conservative Party politician and Member of Parliament) -- Cam. Patrick Chevallereau (France's Defence Attaché in the UK) -- and many others.

Click [here](#) to access our Portrait Gallery.

## Franco Débats UK

Franco-British Connections founded the Inter-University Francophone Parliamentary Debate Tournament in the United Kingdom in 2012, with the involvement of 5 London universities: UCL, QMUL, LSE, King's and Imperial. Since this year, the baton has been passed to the Franco Débats UK association, which is now the body responsible for the organization of these tournaments. FDUK works under the auspices of Franco-British Connections as well as the Institut Français, and in partnership with the French Societies of UK universities.

**The 'Débats Francophones' project is inspired from the British Parliament debate model and aims on initiating British and international students on this type of debates and public speaking in French.**

The 2017-2018 tournament final event was organized in partnership with the French Embassy in London at the Institut Français in London. The teams of the universities of Exeter and Warwick had a debate on fake news media and government regulation.

**Registration for the 2018-2019 annual edition of the tournament is now open.** [Click here for more information.](#)

"Organising the 2011 Franco-British Student Conference taught me a lot about myself and how to apply my own skills to achieve things I thought were impossible. The experience I gained and the contacts I found will always be useful in the future."

Nicolas Khadivi - 2011 (Imperial)



2017-2018 Spark! contest event

## Publications

# Les Echos

*Le Quotidien de l'Economie*

-- "Arrêtons de gâcher des talents: quelques enseignements venus d'Outre Manche". [Click here to read.](#)

-- "Business et culture: deux raisons de traverser le Rhin, mais aussi la Manche". [Click here to read.](#)

# l'Opinion

-- "Plus que jamais, jeunes Français et jeunes Britanniques doivent apprendre à se connaître". [Click here to read.](#)

## The Spark! Contest

**The Spark ! Contest is a two-round contest inviting current and former students of higher education in the UK and France to present innovative and novel thinking to contemporary energy challenges.**

The forthcoming fourth edition of Spark! (2018-2019) invites entrants to propose ideas on the theme of:

**'What would you launch?'**

**The next start-up to disrupt the Franco-British low-carbon energy economy**

[Click here to register.](#)

The 2017-2018 edition of Spark! explored the role of nuclear technology in a world of growing alternative power and digital innovation. The workshop event was returned to the British Ambassador's Residence in Paris once more, followed by a dining experience through the pathways of the Musée du Vin. On the second day, finalists took a look into the past, present and future of infrastructural and constructional engineering at the Bouygues Offices in Paris.



Lancaster House – Résidence de l'Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne—Collège Franco Britannique—King's College- British Council France—LSE—Institut français de Londres –ESSEC—Goodenough College—Sorbonne—Sciences Po – House of Lords –Assemblée nationale—Imperial College—IEP de Lille –E NS Lyon—ULIP—Senate House--SchoolLab



# THE TEAM



Left to right:

Jean-Pascal Sibiet

(Président-Chairman),

Florian Bercault,

David Wahl,

Nicholas Morris,

Francesco Donini Ferretti,

Marion Abecassis,

Nicolas Khadivi,

Olivier-Remy Bel,

Marie Péliissier Combescure,

Albertine Aquenin,

Fabien Aufrechter,

Louis Marty,

Maeva Guyot,

Shanica De Silva,

Lise Péron,

Harry Edwards,

Florian Mazella,

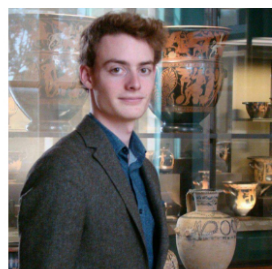
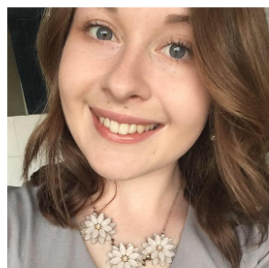
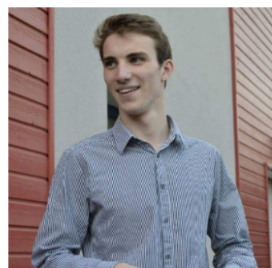
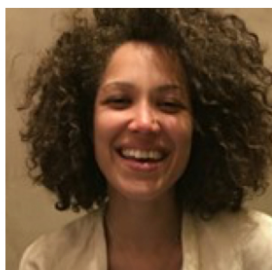
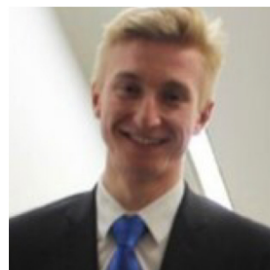
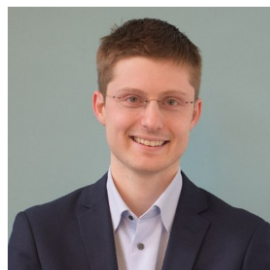
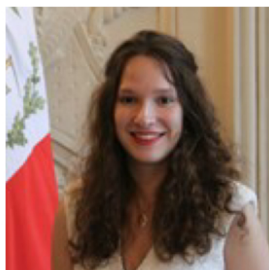
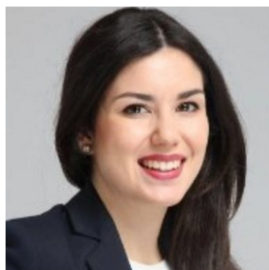
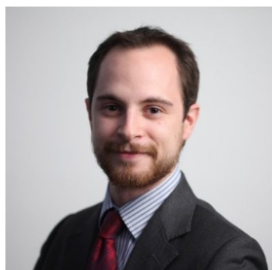
Stephanie Whitehead,

James Pearn,

Tom Fane,

Alexander Lake,

Eugenia Esteva Vegas.



If you have an idea but don't know how to get started, send us an email to:

[contact@fb-connections.org](mailto:contact@fb-connections.org)

We would be delighted to help you develop your own Cross-Channel initiative.