A Student’s Path to AGS in Paris

An AGS student from Pennsylvania told her classmate Rachel Brophy about the international experiences she had prior to coming to AGS: how these shaped her academic interests and pursuits, and what impact they have had on her time at AGS. For privacy reasons she asks not to be named.

What international experiences did you have prior to coming to AGS?

At the age of 23 I went to Pemba Island, Tanzania to research the effects of tourism on coastal communities and report on the benefits of sustainable tourism as opposed to mass tourism. I spent most of my time there in the villages learning the local language and establishing familial relationships with the people there. Back in the U.S., I worked as a research assistant for the International Ecotourism Society which is in Washington, D.C. This was a learning experience that confirmed my interest in ecotourism—thus, I went back to Pemba Island the following year and implemented the initial stages of a sustainable ecotourism project based on dolphin-watch operations.

When I returned once more to the U.S., I founded The Pemba Now Project (www.pembanow.org), which was to establish a primary school education as well as to introduce an environmental program. To raise funds for this project I moved to South Korea to teach English for a year—that one year turned into four. The project for Pemba is unfortunately on hiatus because of a dispute between the professor I was working with and the owner of the lodge where our research station was based. I have regrets about the suspension of this project and I continue to hope that it will be re-initiated.

When I wasn’t teaching English in South Korea I traveled throughout Asia learning about different cultures and really getting into “it”—meaning not going to many tourist destinations, rather going to places that weren’t in the travel guide books. Before I left Asia I went to Indonesia and worked for the Friends of the National Park Foundation (www.fnpf.org), which restores habitat, protects wildlife, and improves the well-being of local communities in Tanjung Puting National Park in Borneo as well as a site on an island south of Bali.
How did those experiences lead you to pursue a degree in International Relations?

I became interested in international relations primarily because of my traveling and working outside of the United States. The idea of working in different countries on various development projects appealed to me as a young adult and I knew that I could make it happen with a degree in I.R. But it was while I was in Southeast Asia that I realized the time had come to go to graduate school. There are two particular things that come to mind when people ask me what my inspiration was for pursuing a degree in I.R. The first came up when I was helping to build a playground for Burmese children at a refugee camp at a border town in Thailand. The stories I heard of what the families had gone through in Burma, or when they were fleeing Burma, and what they had to endure in the refugee camp, were overwhelming. The strength and spirit of these people trying to create a new life while carrying such traumatic scars from their past was immeasurable. The second was while working for the NGO in Indonesia, when I realized the amount of environmental injustices being perpetuated in Borneo and how unfairly the people are treated by the government and corporations competing with one another for the island’s natural resources. These two experiences, which happened one right after the other, were a driving force for me to begin my application process for graduate school.

Why did you choose AGS?

For a couple of reasons: I contacted Dr. Ruchi Anand because I was really interested in her work regarding environmental justice, which is how I found AGS. Our friendly email exchange as well as the graduate program itself prompted me to apply to this school. And, of course, it would be remiss of me if I didn’t say that living in Paris and learning French were pretty big incentives as well!

How have you adapted to living in Europe after spending so much time in Asia and Africa?

The first six months of living in Paris were quite an adjustment. Let’s be honest, it was arduous and it certainly tested my coping skills for change and adaptability because I felt completely separate from what I had known and who I had become through my experiences abroad in other places. In South Korea I was surrounded by a solid group of friends, traveling and working on humanitarian and environmental projects. Then suddenly I found myself in Paris, a city that I had never visited—a concrete jungle where I knew no one, attending graduate school, studying a field in which I had minimal textbook background. So yes, it was an adjustment, but the transition period is over and I’m quite happy with my life now.

AGS News

Passing of AGS Co-founder

We were saddened to learn of the death of Arthur S. Hoffman, co-founder of AGS, on March 3, 2011, at his home in Los Angeles.

Two of the founders of AGS Dr. Arthur Hoffman (on right) with Dr. John Lee

Dr. Arthur Hoffman was born in Camden, New Jersey, USA on June 22, 1926. He was valedictorian of the 1943 graduating class of Camden High School and in his senior year won the state oratorical contest sponsored by the American Legion continuing on as far as the national semifinals. He also played on the high school tennis team, and continued his passion for the game throughout his life.

Dr. Hoffman enrolled in Oberlin College, Ohio, in 1943, but then left after his freshman year to enlist in the U.S. Army. After basic training, he was selected for a program in Japanese studies and language at the University of Minnesota. In 1946, he was assigned as an interpreter in postwar Japan. When his Army duty ended, he returned to Oberlin, and received his baccalaureate in political science in 1947. He then enrolled in the master's program in international relations at the (soon to become Johns Hopkins) School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C., where he graduated in 1948.

Dr. Hoffman went on to the University of Geneva, where he was awarded a Doctorat és Sciences Politiques in 1951. His dissertation on the Marshall Plan in France, focusing on statism, gigantism and monopoly tendencies, was written under the faculty supervision of Professor Wilhelm Roepke, an advisor to Ludwig Erhard on German postwar economic reform policy. By age 25, he was fluent in Japanese, German and French.

In the course of his doctoral research, he met his wife, Roberte Anne Piot de Casse, in Paris. They enjoyed 60 years of marriage and had four children: Richard, Alan, and Sidney Hoffman, and Elisabeth Jamieson. Richard and Alan, as well
as Arthur’s younger brother David and son-in-law Neil Jamieson, all attended SAIS in Washington, Bologna or both.

Dr. Hoffman worked from 1950 to 1984 with the postwar High Commission for Germany (HICOG), the U.S. State Department, and primarily the United States Information Agency (USIA). The USIA Directors he worked under included Edward R. Murrow, Carl Rowan and John Chancellor. His assignments included Fukuoka, Prague, Bordeaux, Ankara, Saigon, Paris and Brussels. In most of these postings, he served as Cultural Affairs Officer (or a similar title) for an area of the host country, or Cultural Attaché at an American Embassy. By his last Washington assignment in the 1970s, he had reached the highest career position in USIA, Associate Director for Policy and Plans. He retired in 1984 with the rank of Minister-Counselor.

During his career and after his retirement, he always found time for academic pursuits and achievements. In 1965 to 66, Dr. Hoffman was given a one-year assignment to found the Edward R. Murrow School of Public Diplomacy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts. He created the curriculum, administered a budget, hired faculty and staff, and taught a course. He was a Fellow at the Battelle Research Center in Seattle, and a guest lecturer at many other universities in the U.S., Europe, Africa and elsewhere. Between 1988 and 1996, he was Adjunct Professor in the M.A. programs at the American University of Paris and Schiller International University, also in Paris.

From 1994 through 2000, he was a professor at the American Graduate School of International Relations and Diplomacy, now the American Graduate in Paris, which he co-founded along with Professors John Lee and Joseph Tomchak. In Fall 1999, Dr. Hoffman took part in a teacher exchange between the University of Miami, Coral Gables and AGS when he spent a semester teaching a survey course on world political history and philosophy.

Dr. Arthur Hoffman published numerous articles and wrote or edited several books, including International Communication and the New Diplomacy (Indiana University Press, 1968) and Europe in Transition: Managing Security

Jeff Schuhke (Clark University): Radical Risk Reduction and Revolutionary Adaptation: Climate Disasters, Agriculture, and Capitalist Modernity

Sylvia Corona-Palacios (UK New Citizen): Emergency Politics: Environmental Disasters as Political Events and the Reconstruction of the Political System in Humanitarian Relief Operations

Panel II: External Influences and Challenges

Moderator: Evan Musolino (AGS, Class of 2012)
Lisa Albright (AGS): Population Growth and Overpopulation in Central America
Stephen Goss (AGS): Nuclear Power and Austrian Energy Policy
Kelly Archambeault (AGS): The Role of Nuclear Safety in International Law

Panel III: International Intervention
Moderator: AJ Morgen (AGS, Class of 2012)
Silver Wang (Syracuse University): Mekong River Conflict: Analysis and Intervention Strategies
Saira Orakzai (University of New England): The Role of Non-state Actors in Earthquake and Flood Relief Work in Pakistan for Regaining Ground in the War Against Terror
John Kreienkamp & Christopher Boylan (Trinity College): Donor Regime Type and Disaster Aid Donation: Evidence from the 2010 Haiti Earthquake

AGS Students Attend Conferences

Christopher Manning presented his research on “The Role of Islamophobia in Homegrown Islamic Radicalization” on April 7th of this year at the 2nd International Conference on Hate Studies sponsored by Gonzaga University in Spoken, Washington. The presentation examined how anti-Muslim rhetoric and behaviors in the United States and United Kingdom have the effect of isolating the Muslim populations in those countries.

Chris explains, “The most exciting aspect for me was getting to discuss the topic with an audience which included an FBI counterterrorism agent and a representative of the United Kingdom’s Crown Prosecutor.”

The research is being considered for publication in the Journal of Hate Studies.
Miriam Cochran went to Turkey to participate in the Central and East European International Studies Association (CEEISA) conference on “Whither the ‘Post-Westphalian’ World? Inequalities, Conflicts and Solidarity in the Twenty-First Century” from June 15th to 17th in Istanbul. Her paper highlights the decline of the role of the state (and therefore the importance of Realism), while noting that it’s not yet obsolete.

A.J. Morgen writes: “I have been accepted to present a paper at the ‘Governing Migration’ conference hosted by the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration from July 3rd to 6th, 2011 in Kampala, Uganda. In front of a group of my respected peers, I will argue that the banishment of Congolese females from their homes and/or communities after they have been sexually assaulted is a form of forced displacement and should be considered so by transitional justice mechanisms.”

AGS Students Volunteer

With the Académie Diplomatique Internationale (ADI). Founded in 1926, ADI is devoted to global affairs and promoting diplomacy through trainings and occasional forums. Some of the forums for which AGS students volunteered featured guest speakers Antonio Guterres (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), Salam Fayyad (Prime Minister, Palestinian National Authority) and Christine Lagarde (Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry, France). The discussions were titled “North Africa at a Crossroads: Europe’s Choice Between Fear and Vision”; “Building the state of Palestine: perspectives and perils”; and “Overcoming Crisis and Instability: the G20 agenda.” Volunteering students were able to interact with guests and become familiar with profiles of the Parisian diplomatic corps.

With the Editing team of AGS publication. Four students worked with AGS professor Dr. David Wingate Pike, editor of Crimes Against Women (Nova Science Pub, 2010), the first publication of the AGS Research Center on International Crime / Conflict and Governmental Response.

Dr. Pike is seen here with students who worked with him in summer 2010 as he prepared the book for publication. From left to right: Dr. Pike, Paula Prince, Adam Kegley, Uche Okonkwo and Ashley Stepanek.

With Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (Libraries Without Borders). In February AGS students and alumni gathered to help sort books in support of the “Books for Haiti” initiative, conducted in partnership with the Biblion Project. They sorted and prepared approximately 2,000 books to send to Haiti, half to go to Haiti State University, and half to the Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for further distribution to public libraries.

The NGO, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières, was founded in 2007 to foster access to knowledge and culture through reading in developing countries. The association, Biblion Project, was founded by AGS students Brandon Roddey and Joseph Mangarella along with other international students in Paris. The Biblion Project’s mission is to support humanitarian initiatives in the domains of education and culture.

“By helping Bibliothèques Sans Frontières and Biblion Project to provide books to Haitian libraries, all of the volunteers who joined that day contributed to the long-term goal of enabling individuals not only to take charge of their communities, but to set out on their own paths of intellectual and social development.” says Brandon Roddey, president of Biblion Project.

AGS Students Raise Money

Adriana Barillas and Rachel Minor organized two bake sales to raise funds for the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation (CNCF), a humanitarian non-profit organization dedicated to children in need. The sales, held in the AGS library, were a huge success. The proceeds were donated to the CNCF for its programs in Vietnam and Mongolia—enough was raised to support six Vietnamese families for a month.

The Christina Noble Children’s Foundation seeks to protect young ones from economic or sexual exploitation and gives them access to basic rights such as a shelter, food, education and healthcare. The organization was started in 1990 by Irishwoman Christina Noble and today it has offices in 16 countries.

Rachel interned with the CNCF as part of her master’s program with AGS.

She says, “Interning with this foundation inspired me, not only to wish to help this organization, but to resolve to do more in the future to serve those in need. Even though the bake sales at AGS are just one small piece of the larger purpose, we were happy to contribute.”
AGS Students Have Talent

Students Etienne Rosas (founding member and lead singer of The Reves) and Morgan Burnash played a pre-

Easter concert at O’Sullivans Rebel Bar in Paris, on the 21st of April, 2011. The Spectacle Extraordinaire/ Soirée de la Musique featured songs from all ends of the spectrum—from Bob Marley to AC/DC—and some originals from The Reves’ first album titled ‘The Reves’. This was one of several concerts they gave around Paris this year.

AGS Students Marry

On May 12, of this year student Amber Christino had the pleasure of witnessing the marriage of AJ Jackson and Taylor Morgen in Fabbrica, Italy. She writes: “It was an intimate ceremony of friends and family, the two exchanged their own vows on a beautiful terrace overlooking the breathtaking hills of Tuscany. The only way that I can describe the evening is that it was magical; it was a scene from a fairytale. The love that was expressed so clearly and powerfully between the two of them is unrivaled. AJ was the most beautiful bride I have ever seen, with orchids in her hair and barefoot in her floor-length gown. The look on Taylor’s face as he watched AJ approach him during the ceremony was enough to make each of our hearts completely melt. It was a powerful moment, the clearest and most profound expression of love and commitment that I have ever seen.”

Shortly thereafter, AJ and Taylor were married in a civil ceremony back in Paris; many AGS students, faculty and staff attended to support them on their special day! The ceremony took place in the Mairie du 9ème arrondissement, followed by a picnic lunch in the Tuileries gardens. We all wish AJ and Taylor endless amounts of happiness as they embark on this next chapter of their lives together. Thank you for letting us take part in such an important and special day!

Jokes and Quotes

Ashley Stepanek reports on how AGS professors “keep it light” in their classes:

“I will be talking about the anti-globalization movement today, so maybe we could start by throwing the furniture through the window.”—Professor McGiffen in Current Issues.

“It’s a sad story, like the Coen brothers, or UNESCO.”—Professor Koslov in Postmodernism.

“There’s nothing like a Marxist with a sense of humor.”—Professor Harwich.

“If you’ve got something to say, say it. Otherwise... hit me with the bullshit.”—Professor Stewart in his economics class, referring to students’ term papers.

“Kissinger is Kissinger, isn’t he?”—Dr. Servidio in the Criminal Law section of the International Public Law.

“Another answer to unemployment would be to just kill a lot of people, but I don’t think that would be very popular either.”—Professor McGiffen in Current Issues.

“French people can’t organize a damn thing ... unless it’s a vacation. Then it’s like they are Germans.”—Professor Clairzier to undergrads.

“In the olden days they read fables. Nowadays we can just turn on the news. Or listen to Bush’s foreign policies.”—This one’s from the vault, featuring Professor Yates commenting to methodology students about how things sometimes come full circle.

First Impressions

Ana-Trecia Bantigue is a first semester student, from the Philippines. She thinks she has finally gotten into the Parisian groove!

“When I first set foot in Paris the temperature was zero degrees Celsius, — having come from a tropical country it was absolutely new for me. I have been in the mountains and highlands in the Philippines but the temperature was never as cold! The first tourist spot I visited was the Eiffel Tower and I found its beauty very fascinating. The next, most captivating sight for me was the huge variety of flowers in Parisian gardens. The most frustrating thing for me at first? —I had not yet
learned to speak or understand French.

Moving forward, my first day at AGS was sort of awkward: I was tongue-tied and forgot my English for a little while. All of a sudden I was afraid to speak English and so chose to be alone. Adjusting to this new environment was a bit hard, but, despite my keeping aloof everyone at AGS remained friendly and nice.

The coursework is totally new to me but my knowledge of world affairs is growing and I am getting a clearer perspective of world politics. I hope this newfound groove will stay with me until the end; I’m just warming up and know I have a long way to go!”

Faculty News

**Dr. Douglas Yates** gave a lecture on the ongoing crisis in the Ivory Coast to students at Arcadia University’s Nyerere Peace and Conflict Resolution Center in Arusha, Tanzania at on 12 April 2011.

On 28 May 2011 he presented a paper on “Reform of Higher Education in France” at a conference on Global Advancement of Private Universities and Colleges (GAPUC). The conference took place at Xi’an University in China in affiliation with Beijing University and Arcadia University.


This year he also finished the manuscript for his latest book, *The Scramble for African Oil*, which will be published with Pluto Press (London) in January, 2012.


Also featured are articles on lobbying in Brussels, Poland’s transitional economy and E.U.-U.S. defense relations, as well as photographs on the topical subject of migrants attempting to enter the E.U. by Dutch photographer Piet den Blanken. The quarterly, which is the journal of the Research Group on Socialism and Democracy, is published by Routledge, Taylor, Francis. Full access is only for subscribers, but you can read a selection from past editions at http://sdonline.org

**Professor David Wingeate Pike’s** new book, *France Divided*, is now in production at Sussex Academic Press. His screenplay “The Eyes of Mauthausen,” under contract to the KanZaman film company in Madrid, has finally found the film director it has been seeking for two years. In Cannes on May 12th, by pre-arrangement, the KanZaman producers met the German director Joseph Vilsmaier (of *Stalingrad* fame). It was agreed that the film would be made in German, shortened to under two hours, and shot in Munich and the Czech Republic. All the roles will go to German actors and actresses, with the exception of two parts to be played by Spaniards.

**Dr. Arun Kapil** was an invited speaker at the Forum International de la revue Réalités in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, 27th to 29th April 2011. The theme of the Forum was “The Tunisian Revolution: the Democratic Transition, What is at Stake, and the Role of Civil Society.” Kapil has also been appointed Associate Editor / Book Review Editor of *The Journal of North African Studies*.

**Dr. Ruchi Anand** has been invited to do the Stanford University session of the Junior Statemen of America’s summer program this year (www.jsa.org). She will teach international relations.

Anand is a regular guest professor with this program having taught it once at Georgetown (2001) and eight times at Princeton (2003 to 2010).

**Dr. Alan Kahan** recently talked about Tocqueville and Islam at the Menton campus of Sciences Po and will be lecturing next at Tocqueville and liberalism at the European College of Liberal Arts in Berlin. He explains, “In September I will be presenting a paper on Tocqueville and Religion at a conference sponsored by the Political Science department at Notre Dame (the American university by that name in Indiana) and presenting a paper on Intellectuals and Capitalism in October at a conference at Wellesley College in
Losing your Cool: the Precarious Nature of the Iranian Presidency

By Dena S. Behi (Class of 2003)

Admittedly, I couldn’t resist the urge to chuckle when I heard that Iran’s President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, refused to attend meetings of the Majlis (the Iranian parliament) in April of this year. This 10-day temper tantrum was in direct response to the Supreme Leader’s veto of the President’s dismissal of the Intelligence Minister, Heydar Moslehi, earlier that month, not to mention a few, albeit major, hiccups since the disputed presidential election in 2009. Ahmadinejad has an uncanny ability to laugh off critical attacks from the international community regarding human rights, nuclear power and oil prices. So why, now that all eyes are on the Middle East, has Ahmadinejad decided to lose his cool?

The man: One could argue that Ahmadinejad aims to take his place among our notoriously rebellious modern-day politicians—Castro’s historically long speeches to the UN General Assembly and Gaddafi’s tent-setting in Central Park come to mind—with his shocking comments about the Holocaust and flagrant accusations against western nations. Ironically, his election as President in 2005 was considered a victory for the Iranian masses, not necessarily the choice between two evils as many analysts tend to reflect in hindsight. It was Ahmadinejad’s fearless nature that encouraged the masses before the election and made them cringe afterwards.

The presidency: The President of Iran is second to the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, who, as his title suggests, has the majority say in the affairs of the country and will remain Supreme Leader until his death or incapacity to rule. Presidential elections have been a means to appease the public after the fervor of the 1979 Revolution died down. The election of Mohammad Khatami as President in 1997 was a celebrated event that quickly led to disappointment following his inability to maintain the relatively liberal rule he had promised. The 2005 election between Ahmadinejad and Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani reassured the people that Islamic government could support the rule of a non-clerical figure. The result of this election led to further isolation of Iran from the West and a violent rise in human rights violations in the country. Finally, the riots that ensued after the 2009 election speak for themselves.

The role of an elected president in Iran has little practical value, yet represents legitimacy of the current government in the eyes of the Iranian people and neighboring governments. The necessity of a leading elected official will remain undisputed regardless of Khamenei’s frequent interjections vis-à-vis the President’s decisions. To abate this, Khamenei has openly declared his support for the President. This, however, is coupled with strong warnings against the Ahmadinejad’s further abuse of power and his eligibility for the 2013 election.

So why now? Khamenei’s expression of support suggests that the Islamic Republic is attempting to hold itself together—a pillar, so to speak—in the crumbling structure of today’s Middle East. The Islamic government has attempted to stay clear of the domino effect that has led to regional instability by taking a strategic approach, most notably in Bahrain. The need to convey strength and coherence is what will ensure the survival of the regime as it is today: under the rule of the Supreme Leader.

Ahmadinejad’s frequent outbursts (the most recent being his dismissal of the Minister of Oil to place himself as the chairman of the upcoming OPEC meeting), rash demeanor and dubious reactions to world events keep us entertained, to say the least. These are the characteristics that got him elected, and these are, equally, the characteristics that put the image of coherency within the Islamic government at risk. Ahmadinejad will only isolate the Executive office from the rule of the Supreme Leader in continuing to nurture this internal conflict. Could this put Ahmadinejad in a position to rally support from Iran’s looking for a change in government like their regional counterparts? In setting himself apart from the Supreme Leader and the Islamic ideals defined by the current Iranian regime, it’s possible that Ahmadinejad is seeking a new structure of power within the Islamic government.

What do you think? Is Ahmadinejad taking action or just acting out?

Alumni Notes

Amber French (2010) has been working as Consultant in International Migration at UNESCO since shortly before she graduated from AGS. Her work involves ensuring a gender perspective in UNESCO’s international migration policy guidance, as well as drafting, planning, and promoting her section’s publications on wide-ranging issues including human rights, human trafficking, global environmental change and migration.

She was recently Co-Guest Editor of an issue of Diversities, an academic and professional online journal published jointly by UNESCO and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. The issue is on “Female Migration Outcomes: Human Rights Perspectives” (Vol. 13, No. 2, 2011) and was published at the occasion of International Women’s Day (8 March). Inspired by her graduate research while at AGS, the issue focuses on how migrant women fare in terms of human rights, gender justice and gender empowerment in numerous geographical contexts, including on Hispaniola after the Haiti earthquake. The issue may be downloaded for free online at www.unesco.org/shs/diversities.
Annemie Breesch (2005) returned to her native Belgium to marry pilot, Tom Van Dingenen, on 29 January this year. Annemie works at the Royal Bank of Scotland as Business Manager for Contract Management in Edinburgh, Scotland.

“Our wedding theme was “Love is in the Air”. It was a fabulous day, the weather was great (ice cold, but dry and sunny), and we had lots of friends and family to celebrate with us. We even had a Scottish piper outside the church. We had nine flower girls dressed up as cabin crew and two page boys dressed as pilots.

Now we are looking forward to the end of June/beginning of July as Tom and I are expecting our first two babies. Yes,

Audrey Wang (2009) works as a Human Rights Specialist at the New York City Commission on Human Rights, a city agency that enforces the NYC Human Rights Law within its jurisdiction of the five boroughs. The law prohibits discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations based on sixteen protected statuses, and it is one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the country. See more information on the New York City Commission of Human Rights website (www.nyc.gov/chhr)

"As a part of a services-oriented agency, I interact daily with individuals and civil society at the grassroots level; my work is immediately applicable to the lives of New York residents and visitors." says Audrey Wang.

Janicke Stramer (2004) as been accepted to the Ph.D. program in Political Science at the University of Nevada, Reno, California, U.S.A. She has also been offered a full-time graduate assistantship as a Teaching Assistant and will be teaching core humanities at UNR this fall. She is very excited about this new adventure and is looking forward to immersing herself into her Ph.D. Studies. She will be taking a major in International Relations and a minor in Comparative Politics. Her focus will be the International Security and the Middle East. This past year Janicke went to six conferences all over the United States, in order to get her research out there and network with scholars from all over the world. She also attended the International Studies Association (ISA) 2011 Conference in Montreal, Canada, where she met up with Dr. Maass (formerly professor at AGS) who was also attending. At the ISA-West conference in L.A. this past September, she met with a publisher from New York who is interested in publishing her M.A. thesis from AGS, so she is currently under contract and working on getting the manuscript ready for submission.

Eric Miller (2009) has been appointed Acting Director of Save the Congo (www.savethecongo.co.uk) with the mandate to start up in Washington DC the first U.S. branch of this NGO, which is based in Great Britain.

Patrick Clairzier (2009) has been accepted into a Ph.D program at the School for African and Oriental Studies, London University.

Paula Prince (2010): moved to Les Cayes, Haiti at the end of May to join ‘Hope of Haiti’ as a program assistant.

Wren Sellers (2009) and Olivier Peyrard were married in a civil ceremony on June 11th in Epercieux-Saint-Paul, France. They are the first French-American couple to be married in this village. After the ceremony they celebrated their union with friends and family at a 13th century chateau in Chalmazel, France.

Wren graduated in June this year with an LLM degree from, AGS partner institution, the Law School of Université de Cergy-Pontoise. She is the first AGS student to enter this Master’s in Law program which requires one year’s further study after earning an M.A. at AGS.