Where there is No Road

By Paula Prince (Class of 2010)

This week I hiked two hours into the mountains around a town in Southern Haiti called Aquin. The path was steep and the temperature was an intense 90 degrees, making for a very challenging hike. As I trudged up the mountain sweating profusely and daydreaming of jumping into a body of cool water, a woman passed by carrying a large basket of goods on her head and her sick baby in her arms. Rather than dwelling on my own discomfort, I was reminded that many people make this hike on a daily basis. It is part of their daily routine, although many of them are without shoes and certainly without a backpack full of water and snacks.

As Program Manager for the Education Programs at Hope for Haiti, part of my responsibilities include conducting site visits to all of the 40 schools that Hope for Haiti supports. Many of the 40 schools are difficult to reach. Most are located down rocky dirt roads and are inaccessible after it rains. Likewise, several of the schools are located deep in the mountains and are only accessible on foot or on the back of a donkey or mule.

On this particular day I was visiting a school in a small mountain community called Marre à Coiflé. The school, which holds most of its classes in the local church, has 115 students and a dedicated and motivated teaching staff. It also suffers from various problems such as lack of access to clean water, virtually no educational materials and a single latrine that is in very poor condition. When school Director, Zephyr Arris, rang the bell signaling an end to the morning recess, numerous students emerged from behind the bushes, having chosen to relieve themselves outside rather than using the dark and dirty latrine.
Marre à Coiffe’s ultra-rural location means that the nearest clinic and secondary school are both located two hours down the mountain. When discussing the school’s needs, Zephyr detailed the problem of having to carry cholera patients down the mountain on one’s head. Benito, one of the school’s teachers, spoke of his daughter who is in the 8th grade and has to hike two hours down the mountain and two hours back up the mountain everyday just to receive a basic education.

Working for an NGO in Haiti has exposed me to many new, exciting, and sometimes eye-opening experiences. The terms that I studied at the American Graduate School in Paris such as development, poverty and dependency, are coming to life. Now these terms are no longer terms but have faces, names and stories.

For more information on Hope for Haiti’s programs please visit www.hopeforhaiti.com

“I mostly remember his really welcoming laugh (which does so much to help you feel at home in a new city surrounded only by foreign languages).” Christiane Peuker (2008)

“I was trying to find a more detailed story buried somewhere deep in my memory, but it was more the day-to-day knowing that I could walk into your office and get a good story and a good laugh. I started laughing just now even thinking about walking into that office! Thanks for keeping things light and enjoyable, especially on those cold, rainy days in Paris, Jean-Pierre. Good luck and all the best!” Karina Kloos (2006)

**Visit by Arcadia University President**

At the beginning of December the recently appointed president of Arcadia University, Dr. Carl (“Tobey”) Oxholm and his wife, Kimberly, spent a few days in Paris visiting AGS. They met faculty, administration and students. They met alumni too during a Wine and Cheese evening being held with Paris alumni. Throughout their visit ideas were exchanged about enhancing and developing the relationship between AGS and Arcadia University.

**Jean-Pierre Lachenal Retires**

Jean-Pierre Lachenal, our Financial Officer for seven years has just retired. Every student who passed through AGS since 2004 got to know Jean-Pierre well. Life with him was never dull. He was a wealth of knowledge on almost anything from mushrooms to politics to history to French Cheese—as well as finance, of course.

He delighted students by taking some of them to his favorite cheese shop to select cheeses for the regular Wine and Cheese evenings at AGS. He instructed us on the etiquette of eating French cheese: which cheeses to eat first, how to cut them, and do we eat the rind and so on. Luckily for us, Jean-Pierre has agreed to return to AGS for our Wine and Cheese evenings and will continue to take the next generation of students to his cheese shop with him.

“I will always remember Jean-Pierre for his love of laughter. Whether he is in the room with you or not, you can always tell he is around when you hear that loud, distinctive laugh. His expertise on the finer things in life, notably fine wines and finer cheeses, will surely be missed. With his retirement, his vacation home in Corsica will certainly be less lonely.” Brandon Roddey (2011)

**Student News**

**Attending a Conference**

Earlier this fall M.A. student Amber Christina attended the annual conference of the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France (ASMCF). This year, the three-day conference was held in Scotland at the University of Stirling from September 1-3. The ASMCF conference provides a forum for those involved in teaching and researching modern France and the Francophone world.

Amber sent us this account: “At the conference, I presented a paper addressing the question: ‘In what way is President Sarkozy changing Charles de Gaulle’s policies relating to France’s former African colonies?’ I asserted that upon the examination of Sarkozy’s ‘Discours de Dakar’ in 2007, it becomes apparent that his message greatly differs from the foreign policy strategy set forth by de Gaulle, and illustrates France’s decreasing interest in its former African colonies. However, in the years since his 2007 speech, it can be argued that Sarkozy has failed to end the intimate post-colonial relationships created under de Gaulle between France and various less-than-savory African leaders. Sarkozy’s often conflicting foreign policy strategy has rendered France’s position with its former colonies rather ambiguous and unclear. In my presentation, I addressed both leaders’ involvement with NATO, their views on France’s role as a world leader, France’s involvement in the Libyan invasion, and the implications that Sarkozy’s actions may have on the future of French-African relations.”
“Presenting research was a very empowering experience and my paper seemed to be well-received. The ASMCF conference was the perfect opportunity to make contacts with others in my field who share very similar research interests as me. Without the help of the AGS Conference Scholarship, I would not have had the resources to attend this conference; I am extremely grateful to AGS for the opportunity and would highly encourage others to apply in the future.”

The Dutch Offer Much

Each year the Graduate Student Association (GSA) organizes a class trip during the fall break. The trip allows new students to meet returning students and for all students to experience Europe’s many cultural offerings. This year, the GSA organized a three-day, two-night trip to Amsterdam.

Students departed from Gare du Nord for the just over three-hour train ride to Amsterdam early on November 1. The students stayed at the comfortable Hostel Van Gogh during their brief stay in the Venice of the North. During their time there, students walked through the city’s labyrinth of canals, visited the Van Gogh Museum and Rijksmuseum, and indulged in some local beer tastings at Brouwerij’t J. Additionally, the coffee was reportedly superb.

Due in large part to the efforts of the GSA, all who attended the trip had a blast. In addition to having good times, the trip helped forge strong student bonds and release built-up, thesis tension. Many of the students enjoyed the Dutch experience so much that several were overheard joking about transferring to the University of Amsterdam. Notwithstanding, all students returned to classes reenergized and in excellent spirits.

Class of 2013 in City of Light

A Survey by Richard Heater (Class of 2013)

AGS welcomed fifteen new students this fall semester. The new class consists of thirteen students in the M.A. program and two in the Ph.D. program.

The diversity of AGS remains alive and well with the newcomers who hail from North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Languages spoken by the new class vary from English, Spanish, and French to Indonesian, Basque, and Arabic. Some of the students received their Bachelor’s degree a year or two ago while others received theirs over a decade ago. The new class includes students who have worked in finance, law, and non-governmental organizations and served in the armed forces. Some students came to AGS without knowing anyone, while others brought spouses and children with them. This wealth of experiences creates lively discussions in the classroom.

A survey was given to all fifteen of the new students and eight were filled out and returned. (Dr. Yates has assured me that this is a very good rate of return for survey research.) In the survey students offered some interesting insights into Paris and the graduate experience. While all of the students like the wine, cheese, bread, and desserts here, they are undecided about which is Paris’ best offering. Most students felt that the Pixar film Ratatouille and the Woody Allen directed film Midnight in Paris are the two best Paris-based films. Students are most excited at the prospect of exploring Europe, with a contingent concentrating on figuring out what their thesis topic will be and looking forward to graduating.

As AGS has a great interest in international relations, it was fascinating to learn from the survey that the new students nearly unanimously agree that the greatest issue facing the world is the depletion of natural resources. When asked what member of the original Jackson 5 students would choose to be, no surprises were found, with a young Michael proving to be the overwhelming favorite and a little love for Tito on the side. Finally, students were divided on what they missed most about home. While several cited family and friends, others reminisced about bathrooms that were fit for standard-sized adults, which are seemingly nonexistent in Paris.

AGS has managed to bring together a global collection of students to a world city in the pursuit of studying international relations. Although they come from different parts of the world, it is clear that, wherever they are from, they love the cultural offerings of Paris, Michael Jackson, and large bathrooms. It is also clear that students have much to offer AGS and one another during the next few years.

Recent Theses

Students at AGS research, write and defend a substantial thesis of 25,000 words on a topic that reflects their interest. Here is a sampling of theses that were defended in 2010-2011.

- Rural Renewable Energy in the Developing World; Top-down Development Models Barrier to Development (IEA Model for Implementation Programs).
- CASCON Analysis of the Niger Delta Conflict in Nigeria.
- From Buffer State to Bandwagon? What Consequences Will the Rising Power of China have on Mongolian Security? (Neorealism)
• Iran—New Technologies of Press; Between Paradox—Citizens Moving to Be Democratic, State is still very Authoritarian

• What are the Implications of the Schengen Zone Regarding the Rise and Fall of Human Trafficking in Member States? More Specifically is There a Causal Line between the Characteristics that Define the Schengen Zone and HT? Comparative—Austria, Luxembourg, Poland, Bulgaria

• Neoliberalism Versus Food Sovereignty: An Analysis of Agricultural Policies and Programs Affecting Food Security in Mali

• Peace Building or State Building? Post-Conflict Success in Northern Ireland

• The “New Anti-Semitism”: the Blurring Between Anti-Israelism and Anti-Semitism in Western Media; French and British Media Coverage

• Is the Detention of Children in Guantanamo Bay a Violation of International Law?

• International Queer Dilemmas: Identity, Citizenship, and Recognition

• The Normative Dimension of the European Union's External Economic Policies—a Critique of Ian Manner's ‘Normative Power Europe’ Framework—Critique—EU Focused on Own Material Interests

• “Cooperation” in the Western Balkans? A Façade of Liberal Institutionalism? A Theoretical Perspective, with a Deeper and Special Focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina

• Radicalization, Islam, and Web 2.0: The Role of Online Social Networks in the Radicalization of Disaffected Muslims in the United States and United Kingdom

• Have a Modem? Become a Mommy: Commodification and the Rise of Online Marketing of Children for Adoption via Internet Advertisements and Photo Listings (Ph.D. Dissertation)

• In Regards to Mexico, How Does an Increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Influence a Change in a Country's Factor Endowments Within the Structure of Comparative Advantage?

• The Role of Religion in Violent Ethnic Conflict: A Case Study of Jos, Nigeria


• Women's Labor in the Global South - WTO, South Africa and Sri Lanka; Transnational Feminism Theory

• Using Public-Choice and Neoliberal Institutionalism to Understand IMF Conditional Lending

• To Divide or Unite? Palestine/Israel—One-State or Two-State, Order vs. Justice.

---

**Faculty News**

**Dr. Nikita Harwich** had the great honor, in October 2011, of being invited to become a member of the Academia Europaea, a European, non-governmental association which acts as an Academy.

The Academia Europaea, which is based in London, was founded in 1988 to promote learning, education and research, through workshops, conferences, meetings and the writing of special reports. Its members include leading experts, from the physical sciences and technology, biological sciences and medicine, mathematics, the letters and humanities, social and cognitive sciences, economics and law. Amongst them are thirty-eight Nobel Prize Laureates, several of whom were elected to the Academia before they received the prize. Dr. Harwich has been assigned to the “History and Archaeology Section” to join historian colleagues such as Maurice Agulhon, Jean Delumeau, Emmanuel Leroy-Ladurie, Carlo Ginzburg, Sir John Elliott, Theodore Zeldin and Wolfgang Mommsen.

In June 2011 Dr. Harwich was elected Co-director for the period 2011–2015 of the Grand Laboratoire “Mondes Américains, Sociétés, Circulations, Pouvoirs (XVe - XXIème siècle)” MASICPO – Unité Mixte de Recherche 8168 which brings together scholars from the French National Center for Scientific Research, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, the Université Sorbonne (Paris 1) and the University of Paris West-Nanterre. It is the largest and one of the most highly regarded research centers in France concerning the history and anthropology of the Americas (both North and South).

Dr. Harwich also had an article published in the prestigious art magazine Artes de México, n° 103 (Mexico, October 2011), p. 47–53. The title of the article is “Comercio del cacao desde los Mèxicas a la Nueva España”

---

**Dr. Steve McGiffen**, who works as a consultant and translator for the Socialist Party of the Netherlands, attended a gathering of ‘Modern Left Parties’ in Amsterdam 19-20 August. The small, informal meeting was called to discuss alternative approaches to overcoming the crisis, as the parties involved find the austerity imposed by the EU neither effective nor humane. Professor McGiffen spoke on the links between the crisis and the recent riots in London and other English cities.

The conference guests were Members of Parliament and senior party figures from the Netherlands, Cyprus, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Portugal and Germany. Speakers included Finland’s Minister of Culture and Gender Affairs, Paavo Erkki Ahrinmaki and the Icelandic Minister of Finance, Steingrimmur J. Sigfusson, who outlined his proposed route out of the chaos which followed the financial collapse of 2008.
Dr. McGiffen also attended a conference on climate change organized by the United Left Group/Nordic Green Left European Parliamentary Group (GUE/NGL) in the run-up to the Conference of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol held in Durban, South Africa in December, 2011. The conference, entitled “A Social Green Revolution; Towards and After COP 17” was addressed by French philosopher Michael Löwy, and European Commissioner László Andor, among others. Professor McGiffen, until 2005 an environmental policy advisor to the GUE/NGL, was there as a guest of Kartika Liotard, MEP, with whom he recently co-authored a book on EU water policy, Poisoned Spring: The EU & Water Privatisation (London: Pluto Press, 2009). Also in attendance was AGS alumna and Academic Coordinator Sarah Pedersen (Class of 2007), who is about to start a Ph.D. on a closely related subject.

Dr. Douglas Yates has written an entry for Oxford University Press on “Democracy and Authoritarianism in Africa” for the new Oxford Bibliographies Online, a long annotated bibliographical essay which cites 150 scholarly sources in two dozen categories and provides annotations for each, as well as synthetic introductions to subsections.

Professor Yates has also completed final editing of the galley proofs for his latest book, The Scramble for African Oil (London: Pluto Press, 2012) which comes out in January, and has already received favorable reviews from both Michael Watts and Michael Klare (available in blurb form on the publisher's website, as well as on Amazon).

Yates was also invited by the British think-tank Chatham House to participate in a one-day conference on “Oil Politics in Africa”, which was held at St. Mary's Guild Hall at Coventry University on 16 November, and featured some of the most celebrated authors on the subject, including Nicholas Shaxson, Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, Ian Gary, as well as keynote speaker, former British development minister Clare Short. This policy-oriented conference examined current government, NGO and academic thinking on oil and gas and how oil companies, governments and NGOs can use Africa's oil riches to enhance development and reduce poverty.

Dr. Anton Koslov recently participated in the International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA), which was organized in the context of the Istanbul 2011 Biennale. Dr. Koslov, together with a Berlin-based curator I-Wei Li presented a paper on "Critical Perspectives on Economics of Art Today, Exploring the Dialectical Relation between Artistic Creation and the Capitalist Market for Art." Speaking briefly on the project to student Amy Pope, Dr. Koslov reflected upon the subjectivity of value in art, questioning how artistic value is determined and where it resides. Dr. Koslov described art today as morphologically undefined, adding that art demands a social, cultural or political context and is subject to the interpretation of artist and viewers. "Beauty is not a tool with which we can measure its value."

Dr. Regis Bismuth’s doctoral dissertation has been published in French by Belgian publisher Bruylant. It is entitled La Coopération Internationale des Autorités de Régulation du Secteur Financier et le Droit International Public (International Cooperation Between Financial Regulatory Authorities and International Public Law) (Brussels: Bruylant 2011) and is part of the publisher's series on Globalization and International Law.

Dr. Manlio Graziano presented his latest book, The Failure of Italian Nationhood (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010) at the Italian Cultural Institute in New York City on September 13, in front of an audience of around fifty journalists, university professors, and other public interested in Italian culture and politics. His book seeks to explain the political instability of Italy and the reasons why the Italian State has never really unified as a nation. This book was written originally in French under the title L'Italie, un Etat Sans Nation? (Toulouse: Eres, 2007), then translated into Italian (Italia Senza Nazione? Rome: Donzelli, 2007), and finally into English.

On September 22, Professor Graziano attended the Annual Conference of the Association of Modern History University Professors in Forlì, Italy. He participated in a panel on secularization and presented a paper on the theme: “Europe, Homeland of Secularization?”

Dr. Alan Kahan gave a paper on “Checks and Balances for the Democratic Soul” at the 2011 conference of the Tocqueville Center at Notre Dame University in the U.S., 29-30 Sept., and another on “Max Weber and Warren Buffett: Looking for Capitalism's Lost Charisma” at the conference on capitalism sponsored by Wellesley College and the Manhattan Institute on 3 October. He also spoke at King’s College, University of London, on 2 December, on “Tocqueville and Islam.” Last but not least, an interview about his book “Mind vs. Money: The War Between Intellectuals and Capitalism” appeared in the 15 October issue of Tages-Anzeiger (the Zurich newspaper).

Professor Joav Toker took part in a live debate between Washington/Paris/Beijing on French and Transatlantic policies on the “World Insight” show, Chinese National Television, (CCTV) in July and September. He participated in a conference held in the Mairie du 11ème arrondissement (City Hall, 11th district) of Paris on “L’Héritage Politique de Yitzhak Rabin” on 8 November. Then on 12 November he debated “International Stability & the “Arab Spring” on French TV News-channel 1-télé. Lastly, he participated in a lecture and panel discussion at the annual international
Ambassador Dominique Dryer gave a lecture on 9 November, 2011 entitled “Culture and Diplomacy” as part of a Master program entitled “Going East” organized by the “College of Humanities” of the Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne. The lecture focused on the importance of culture in diplomacy. He also gave a lecture on the 6 December on “China: History and Traditional Legal Concepts” to the students of the Master of Laws (LLM) in Cross-Cultural Business Practice of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

Alumna in the Spotlight

Nina Sajic (Class of 2004)

Nina Sajic is serving as Bosnia Herzegovinan Ambassador to Paris. Student Cherine Smith interviewed her.

It was an honour to interview Ambassador Nina Sajic. As I walked from the metro to meet with her in her office in the 17th district of Paris, I was quite trepid. “This is an ambassador,” I thought to myself, “maybe she’s stoic and stern.” She was neither of those things. As a matter of fact, she was quite the opposite. She greeted me with a smile and offered me some coffee. She was relaxed and very warm and welcoming.

Although she was appointed in March of 2011 as the Ambassador to the Bosnia Herzegovina Embassy in France; she only came to France to officially begin her work in August 2011. For Nina, returning to France was filled with nostalgia, but it was quite different, this time it was a j-o-b. She has quite a work load and she admits that she hasn’t really had a day off between resettling in Paris, hosting diplomatic meetings and organizing other embassy activities. Additionally because the Bosnia Herzegovina Embassy in France is small, both in terms of size and staff, the volume of “things to do” surpasses the capacity of the existing staff, consequently she is always busy. In her words, “life now is very hectic.” She admits however that despite that she loves what she is doing.

Q: You are now the Ambassador of Bosnia Herzegovina to France. Can you take me through the journey from AGS to this present time?
A: After AGS I returned home and worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Foreign Policy Officer for Canada and Cuba. One of the Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina then asked me to become his foreign policy advisor; I worked with him for five years. When he offered me the post of Ambassador to France, I accepted.

Q: Why did you choose this field?
A: I always loved cultures and languages. Diplomacy and IR gives you the world in one place. You don’t have to travel to every country when you can meet people from those countries on a daily basis. For me this is exciting. Additionally I wanted to be involved in creating a different image of my country, a better image. For so long my country has been associated with war and continues to be associated with it.

Q: Do you have any regrets about your choice of profession?
A: No, I don’t. But ever since I was seven or eight years old I wished to be a school teacher in Zimbabwe. I still want to work with children some day. But I have no regrets.

Q: What was life like before AGS? Were you involved in the field of politics?
A: Before AGS I did my undergraduate degree in English Language and Literature because there was no department of Politics in my home town. I worked with the UN Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and that is where I gained a wealth of experience, prior to AGS.

Q: If not diplomacy, what else would you do?
A: (Laughs) I would be an actress. I love drama and the arts. I have already staged a play; I was an amateur actress for a few years. However, when you think about it, diplomacy is all about acting.

Q: Why did you choose AGS and how instrumental would you say it has been in your accomplishments to date?
A: Well I chose AGS because I wanted to study IR in English in a non-English speaking country. Additionally I wanted a school with small class sizes so that learning and relationships could be more meaningful. In terms of how instrumental AGS has been in my accomplishments to date, I would have to say that it has been a great reference point in terms of actually getting jobs and it also makes me more marketable as I did the dual degree at Université de Paris 11, at Sceaux.

Q: What is your best memory of AGS?
A: Everything, just everything. Definitely great friendships to date! We didn’t have as many organized activities as the current students have, I’m sometimes jealous! (laughs) But we travelled to Geneva, The Hague. We had good times. It was the best time of my life!

Q: Do you have any thesis advice for current students?
A: In terms of topic selection, brainstorm together in groups. Once you find a topic, twenty to thirty percent of your work is complete. It helps to have someone outside of your topic read the thesis drafts. The questions that an outsider asks can be very instrumental in the overall development of your thesis.

Along the lines of advice she stated that students must secure their future for themselves, no one will do it for them. She provided that attending conferences and networking is one key way to try to secure your future. She urged that current students stick together as a family and really enjoy all that Paris is, as, she proclaims, “You will fall in love with the city! There are so many things to see and do.”

Ambassador Sajic has a tremendous amount of love for AGS and sees AGS as family, and it was a pure joy conducting an interview with her.

After about an hour of speaking our interview had to come to an end, as all good things must come to an end. I asked two more questions to which she humorously responded.

First I asked her for a survival tip for living in Paris, she responded in laughter, “if you find it, you can let me know.”

Finally I asked her to finish this sentence: “You haven’t lived in France until __________.” She answered, “Until you try to open a bank account.”

On that note we laughed together and the interview ended. I am sure that just like me, all students can identify with Ambassador Sajic’s closing statement!

Alumni Notes

Dr. Harold Bashor (Class of 2002) is a professor at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio. He writes, “From the beginning of January 2012, I have been teaching in Poland. Franklin University has joined with the Wroclaw School of Banking to offer a dual degree program. The Franklin Vantage MBA Program is being offered to students at the Wroclaw School of Banking’s campus in Wroclaw, a major commercial and industrial city in southwest Poland. Later in the year I will also be teaching in Slovakia at the Bratislava University of Economics which has also initiated a dual program with Franklin University.”

Amber French (Class of 2010) continues her work as Consultant in International Migration and Urbanization at UNESCO (Paris) where she is mainly involved in project development, policy orientation, event coordination, and editing and publishing. She works primarily on issues relating to gender, international migration and human rights.

Her primary project in the past six months was linked to her position as Assistant Coordinator of the UNESCO Chairmanship of the Global Migration Group (GMG), an interagency group bringing together 14 UN agencies plus the World Bank and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to foster more coherent international responses to the challenges and opportunities linked to international migration. Her major accomplishment as Assistant Coordinator was contributing to the drafting, elaboration and adoption, on 15 November 2011, of the groundbreaking GMG Statement on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration, the first official statement on the issue to be adopted at the UN level. Having been displaced by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005, Amber is passionate about this subject matter.

In the new year, Amber will continue her third professional activity serving as Co-Editor and Publication Assistant for the Diversities Journal, an online professional and academic journal co-published by UNESCO and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. A new issue will be published this winter on “Language and Superdiversities.” (Vol. 13, No. 2, 2011)

Laura-Lee Smith (Class of 2009) has just finished 18 months in Berlin where she has been a visiting fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations, and an Alexander von Humboldt German Chancellor Fellow since 2010, researching German public opinion on the military engagement in Afghanistan. Her research has been published in the current edition of the academic journal Internationale Politik. Web link: https://ip-journal.dgap.org/en/ip-journal/topics/coming-clean

Jona Huffer (Class of 2008) has recently taken a permanent position with Vantiv, LLC as the Manager of Governance and Methodology in the Enterprise Project Management Office.

“I determine and govern the best practices and methods the company uses to implement credit processing products for our clients in a manner that meets US Federal regulations while maintaining innovation.”

Website: www.vantiv.com.

Caroline Gosselin (Class of 2002) leads a very busy life as a realtor in Maplewood, NJ. This year she made “Circle of Excellence”— bronze level in the realtor industry for 15 units sold— for a total of $5,300,000 in sales in 2011! She also won the Maplewood Chamber of Commerce “Mover and Shaker award for 2011.”

Caroline is an active member of the Maplewood Rotary Club and serves on the Board of Directors of the local Chamber of Commerce.
Valerie Munro (Class of 2004) writes with news from Dubai. “I am now working with the Emirates Group as their Corporate Marketing Manager. It’s very interesting and rewarding to work with so many different nationalities. IR & Diplomacy definitely came in handy on this one. “I am also pregnant and we are expecting the little one in April. We are over the moon, and we can’t wait!”

Culver Van Der Jagt (Class of 2001): “All is going well for us here in Denver. Kelly and I have just had a son and our daughter is almost two now. My business is expanding rapidly (now eight attorneys) and requiring capital to facilitate the expansion, but we are getting to be very well known in Family Law and more recently in Taxation Law and Immigration. Our firm website is www.cololawyer.com.”

Omar Bandar (Class of 2004) and his wife, Elizabeth announce the arrival of their little one, Olivia Isabella Bandar. Omar sent this photo saying, “I just thought that in 22 years when she applies to AGS for grad school it would be neat to show her baby picture in the 2011 newsletter!” Omar is a Business Adviser and Project Manager for a real estate development company and an investment property holding firm in Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Peter Wolczik (Class of 2000)’s daughter Lou-Ann Marie Rita Wolczik was born June 13, 2011. He says, “She is beautiful, brilliant, and charming like her mom. She is sweet and calm. Mom and daughter are both perfect and we are feeling truly blessed.” Peter and his wife Ludevine live in Wenham, MA.

Arnold Obermayr (Class of 2001) has been back in Vienna since September, after almost eight years in Asia. “I am now Head of Unit of European Union Communication in the Press and Information Department of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. This new assignment allows me to travel mostly throughout Austria but also to Brussels every now and then. One of the main tasks is the initiative ‘Europe Starts on a Local Level.’ This initiative is aimed at establishing focal points for EU communication among elected representatives at local municipal level. The objective is to effectively close a gap in communicating in Europe and answering EU-related concerns and fears among citizens.”

Irene Gorelik (2002) posed with Former Commerce Secretary Locke, U.S. ambassador to China, in front of two of her photos selected for exhibition in the newly installed DOCarts gallery at the Department of Commerce to inspire/promote artistic endeavors of Commerce employees. Her images are two of her favorite travel photos (one from Dubrovnik and one from Venice. Irene is an international trade compliance analyst with the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration in Washington, D.C.

Malika Price (Class of 2011) when asked what she was doing now that she had graduated said, “Still in Paris. Still working. Still California dreaming, I guess...” In fact she is becoming known, under the name Queen, as a singer of rap music. Her third album ‘A Woman’s Life’ will be out in the coming weeks. In this as in her other albums she sings about the struggles and fight of the oppressed.

Sylvie Frisch (Bacquet) (Class of 2002) has been asked to review a new book called Law and Religion.

Raluca Negru (Class of 2002) married Mr. Doug MacDonald in July 2011.

Jeremy Cannada (Class of 2003) was ordained as a minister in August 2011. He is now pastor of the Amelia Presbyterian Church, Virginia.

Alan Seelinger (Class of 2009) writes, “Things have been a little busy lately on our end—two girls, Eloise 3 and Margot 1, with a third girl on the way due in February! We’re done after this—I’m way outnumbered! I’m also traveling to Mali soon as part of my work with CARE, so I’ve been busy in preparation for that too.”

Miriam Cochran (Class of 2011) says “I got PACSed (joined in civil union) in August to a wonderful Frenchman, and we’re getting married next year in July.”

**Upcoming Event**