



1985 Class Notes Archives

----- From December 2012 AALFNY Newsletter -----



TOP: Anne-Sophie Pastel ('85);
BOTTOM: Melissa Unger ('85)

- "Née à Paris, **Anne-Sophie Pastel** a fondé et dirige avec son mari Marc-Antoine Dubanton le site **Auféminin.com**. [Elle] est loin de représenter les start-upper type de la fin des années 90 qui pensaient faire fortune en quelques mois avec un projet loufoque. [Elle] est une X (Ecole Polytechnique), qu'elle a obtenu en 1991. Sa formation se poursuit à l'Ecole des Ponts et Chaussées où elle est diplômée en 1993. Sa carrière professionnelle commence au sein du groupe Carnaudmetalbox en tant que responsable marketing opérationnel..... En 1997, elle découvre Internet. Une étape clé dans la vie de cette femme qui deviendra quelques années plus tard la présidente d'Auféminin.com. L'idée d'Auféminin.com est née en même temps que sa fille, Fanny. Le manque de sites sur les jeunes mamans pousse Anne-Sophie Pastel à créer un site dédié aux femmes. Introduit en bourse le 20 juillet 2000, Auféminin.com est l'une des rares start-ups encore en activité. Auféminin.com se décline désormais à l'international avec notamment sofeminine.com. Le groupe est finalement cédé en 2007 à Axel Springer....." (<http://www.edubourse.com/biographie/anne-sophie-pastel.php>)
"aufeminin.com is a French Internet portal dedicated to women's content. Founded in 1999 by **Anne-Sophie Pastel**, it is now one of the leading websites in its field. According to comScore data, it is one of the 25 most popular websites in France and rivals American women-focused web portals like iVillage.com and SheKnows.com." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aufeminin.com>)

- Our "poet in residence" **Gabin Langue Tsoigny**, sent us another of his poems -- *Success or Failure*. (Go to [Alumni Creative](#) section of this newsletter)

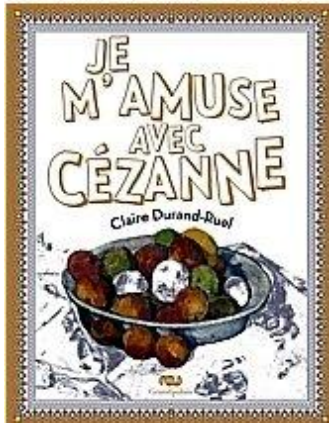
- **Melissa Unger** wrote: "I have founded a non-profit initiative called Seymour (in memory of my father). This is the website with all the associated information: <http://seymourprojects.com/> . Seymour's mission is to help individuals cultivate authentic creative self-expression by encouraging them to nurture their imagination and explore their subconscious mind. We're just getting started and will be seeking funding & partners for our



TOP: Philip Plottel ('85);
BOTTOM: Stéphane Dehais ('85)

efforts in 2013.

Other than that, I still live in Paris and continue to provide consulting services to individuals, arts-related organizations, as well as consumer brands seeking insights into the arts and international creative culture: www.melissa-unger.com. Here is a recent article from the Huffington Post about what I am up to: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nicole-garton/melissa-unger_b_1943636.html" (Or, click on link below)



Claire (Durand Ruel) Snollaerts ('85) and one of her books

● **James Lasry** wrote: "James Lasry has been in Gibraltar for the past 13 years. He is a partner at Hassans International Law Firm, where he heads their Funds Department. Recently, James was re-elected as chairman of the Gibraltar Funds and Investments Association. He recently organised an event showcasing Gibraltar's investment funds regime in London at Merchant Taylors Hall which featured Gibraltar's Chief Minister, the Hon. Fabian Picardo MP."

● **Philip Plottel** "is founder and chief executive officer of Telshire LLC, a boutique consulting firm with a mission to help companies and institutions understand, strategize, and implement their life science, real estate, and facility needs. Plottel has over 20 years of domestic and international management and consulting experience.....Prior to starting Telshire, [he] was global head for design and engineering and head of Cambridge real estate, engineering, and construction for the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research In addition, [he] spent a year as a program executive for Novartis' Shanghai Campus; authored guidelines for the "laboratory of the future"; and implemented energy conservation measures.....Before his tenure at Novartis, Plottel was a principal consultant at Price Waterhouse Coopers..... Plottel earned his BS in civil engineering and engineering mechanics from Columbia University. He also holds an MS in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, an MBA from Yale University School of Management, and is a licensed professional engineer in New York state." (<http://engineering.columbia.edu/philip-plottel-bs88>)

● **Stephane Dehais** has worked in the Advertising and Communications Industry for 25 years, as an Art Director, Photo Retoucher and Motion Graphics Artist. Today, he offers his Motion Design services to 110RPM's clients. Using industry standard tools such as After Effects, Cinema 4D and Final Cut Pro, Stephane is able to design and produce 2D and 3D animation for broadcast and web media.....When he's not creating high-end Motion Graphics, Stephane can be found enjoying the great Northern Virginia outdoors with his wife and two sons." (http://www.110rpm.com/meet-the-experts/steph_dehais/)

● **Claire (Durand-Ruel) Snollaerts** is "an art historian and a direct descendant of the famous art dealer Paul Durand-Ruel. [She] has devoted the past ten years to researching and writing the Pissarro critical catalogue at the Wildenstein Institute." (<http://www.rizzoliusa.com/book.php?isbn=9788876245251>)

● **Maud Leclair**: "Co-fondatrice de la SOFICA EDCA et de la société Roscoff (société de conseil spécialisée dans



TOP: Maud Leclair ('85);
BOTTOM: James Lasry (left) ('85) at Merchant Taylors Hall with Gibraltar's Chief Minister, the Hon. Fabian Picardo MP

les industries culturelles), Maud Leclair travaille depuis 20 ans dans le financement du cinéma et la gestion de SOFICA. Elle a notamment construit son expérience du crédit et du financement de la production audiovisuelle chez Cofiloisirs entre 1991 et 2006, tout en gérant les SOFICA Sofinergie.....et a participé en 2004 au lancement de Soficinema avec BNP Paribas. En Septembre 2006, Maud Leclair a également contribué à la création de Fortis Mediacom Finance, filiale de la Banque Fortis spécialisée dans le financement en trésorerie du cinéma." (hausmann-patrimoine.fr)



- "Operation HOPE is pleased to announce that **Zouera Youssoufou**, Country Manager for the World Bank covering Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, is confirmed to speak at the HOPE Global Financial Dignity Summit on November 14th-15th, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia."

(http://www.johnhopebryant.com/john_hope_bryant_/2012/08/zouera-youssoufou-country-manager-for-gabon-and-equatorial-guinea-at-the-world-bank-to-speak-at-the-.html)

- **Laurence Abensour** is the co-owner of Purple Cactus Studios, "which specializes in high-end custom faux finishes, murals, and stenciling." (<http://www.purplecactusstudios.com/>)

----- From December 2011 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Irène Remi-Lekun Ogouma** wrote that she "is a Project Manager specialized in Peace and Security Community Development/Community Empowerment, Training and Capacity Building, Child Protection Issues and Gender initiatives in a post-conflict rehabilitation context. Her major interest is to deepen the linkages and dialogue between Field workers, Institutions (Universities and Educational organizations) and key Stakeholders toward community initiatives for a sustainable peace and development around the world. Born on the 4th July 1966 in the Republic of Benin, a French speaking country in the west coast of Africa, Remi moved to the USA (Riverdale, New-York) the first time in July 1983 when her father served as the first Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations until (1982-1987). During that period she attended the Lycee Français de New York....." She also wrote: "I would very much like to touch base with my former colleagues and possibly exchange with those who are interested in the area of Peace and Security." (To read Irene's full biography, [click here](#))

- **Pierre Oury** wrote: "I was promoted to Colonel in the USAF in May and am now the Chief of Current Operations & Training for 89 Wings across the Air National Guard. I am stationed at Andrews AFB, and still live in Washington DC with my wife Jennifer and daughter Jacqueline (five years old)."

- **Zouera (Youssoufou) Keita** shared this with us: "My husband Moise Keita and I have finally fulfilled a long lasting dream: to return to Africa and bring our modest contribution to its development, and also to expose our two kids, Modibo (12) and Kaliyah (9) to our continent. So, since July, we have moved to Gabon, where I am the Country Manager for the World Bank. I also cover Equatorial Guinea. Moise is running his drilling



TOP: Laurence (Hessler) Girard ('85); BOTTOM: James Lasry ('85)

TOP: Zouera Youssoufou ('85); BOTTOM: Laurence Abensour ('85)

company, which is drilling for both minerals and water wells. A truly challenging and exciting adventure begins! Wish us luck :-)"

• Our "poet in residence" **Gabin Langue Tsobgny**, sent us another of his poems -- *Sur le chemin de l'école*. (Go to [Alumni Creative](#) section of this newsletter)



• **James Lasry** wrote: "Hello to all my former classmates! After I left the LFNy in '79, I went to the Browning School and Shaarei Torah where I finished high school. Then off to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and finally Bar Ilan University Faculty of Law. I took a one year position in a law firm in Gibraltar where my mother is from. It's now over 13 years since then and I have been a partner at that firm (Hassans International Law Firm-www.gibraltarlaw.com) for the last 6 years. I practice trust law and I set up investment funds. I have been very active in the local funds industry - including drafting local legislation and advising the government on fund law. I am also involved with the Gibraltar Philharmonic Society (www.philharmonic.gi) so I get to play some music from time to time. I have a son, 23 who is studying engineering and I am married to Lianne, a midwife from South Africa with whom I have two daughters of 3 and 7 years. I would love to hear from any LFNy alumni who come to Gibraltar or the Costa del Sol!"

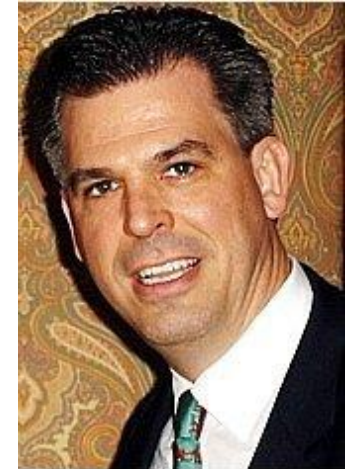
• **Regine Day** wrote: " Coucou Marie-No...!! Bisous de Montreal...xoxox"

----- From November 2010 AALFNy Newsletter -----

• **Melissa Unger** shared a touching tribute to her father Sy Unger on the 10th Anniversary of his passing. (See [Alumni Creative](#) section of this newsletter, or click on link below.)

• **Michelle Adrienne (Lappas) Kotara** wrote: "Michelle left for Kent boarding school and then graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1989 with an M.A. in International Relations and French Literature. After receiving a Dutch Language Degree from Leiden Universiteit in 1991, she pursued marketing and graphic design at Shell Oil in The Hague, The Netherlands. Upon her return she settled in North Carolina where she opened her own graphic design agency Better by Design, LLC. In 2004, she transitioned into full time parenthood and co-established Kotara Studio, LLC with her husband Kenn Kotara, a full time visual artist. (www.kotarastudio.com) Michelle, Kenn and their six year old son Julian Alexander live in Asheville, North Carolina."

• **Nicolas Manset** shared this with us: "I have been living in Hong Kong since August 2009 with my wife Marianne - who is a dentist, a peridontist specialized in implantology and gum grafts- and our two children Arthur ,aged 12 and Zoe ,aged 10. The Lycée Francais International in HK, where they both go is good but I still have a special spot for the LFNy! I am a partner with Russell Reynolds Associates, an executive search and assessment firm , where I have worked for 16 years and where I run a part of our AsiaPacific business. I am still in touch with some of my Class of 1985 friends (too few) but would love to hear from those I have



TOP: Daniel Bénéat ('85);
BOTTOM: Marianne (Foeillet) Pujol ('85)



TOP: Irène Remi-Lekun Ogouma ('85); BOTTOM: Pierre Oury ('85 --right) and outgoing Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mu

not heard from in a while. I travel very regularly throughout Asia (in particular Singapore, Shanghai, Beijing and Tokyo) as well as Paris , where I still have a home, and New-York. Breakfast, coffee, lunch or dinner with former friends from LFNy would be great!"



TOP to BOTTOM: Lynn Beauregard ('85); Fabrice Griffoulière Frere ('85); Laurent Pieters ('85)

Videos of LFNy alumni on the internet:

- [Matthew Caws](#) of Nada Surf plays an acoustic version of *Blonde on Blonde*
- [Daniel \(Prieto Castro\) Lorca](#) performs "La Pour Ca" from Nada Surf's *Let Go* album
- [Gabriel Sylla](#) interviews one of the clients of Sylla-Fitness

----- From December 2009 AALFNy Newsletter -----

- **Georges de Laire** wrote that he is "a priest in the Catholic Church, [and that this year he] has been assigned by the Church to pursue three years of post-graduate studies in Canon Law (church law.) He is doing so in Rome, Italy, at the Pontifical Gregorian University. This is in anticipation of becoming the Judicial Vicar of his Diocese in New Hampshire, where he will be responsible for all aspects of ecclesiastic laws and the Church Tribunal.

Depuis cette année Georges de Laire, promo 1985, en tant que prêtre catholique a été mute a Rome pour entreprendre des études de droit canon. Il poursuit ses trois ans d'études a l'Université Pontificale Grégorienne afin de revenir dans son diocèse du New Hampshire pour y devenir Vicaire Judiciaire et gérer le tribunal ecclésiastique."

- "Born in Manhattan 42 years ago, **Valerie Gross** shares her time between her beloved native city and the wilds of the New Jersey suburbs to which love has lured her. After obtaining her baccalauréat from the Lycée Français de New York and her Masters in Media Studies from the New School, she held a number of jobs that allowed her to live and write. Seven years ago, she left a lucrative but mind-numbing job on Wall Street to reinvent herself as a full-time writer and editor. In that time, in addition to the completing the research and writing of *Magdala*, she has finished an unpublished novel, *Our Lady of Everything*, which is being optioned for a screenplay, and edited many works of scholarship, memoir and fiction. Since finishing *Magdala*, she has begun work on a culinary memoir about her mother as well as a new historical fiction about three sisters who seek refuge from the Holy Inquisition in the safety of a lovely New England town called Salem....." (valerie-gross.com)

" Valerie Gross's book, 7 years in the making, explores the life, lineage and history of Mary Magdalene, and her relationship with the warrior-king Jesus. In this carefully researched debut work of historical fiction, "Magdala" explores Mary's path from a healer and dutiful priestess to the Mary central and essential to the New Testament stories."

----- From January 2009 AALFNy Newsletter -----



Anne-Sophie Pastel ('85) & Georges de Laire ('85)

● **Sabrina (Ray) Valli** wrote: "We are still in Central Asia, but in a different country. All is well, kids are growing, and I am becoming a better person for it all. Best wishes to all of you!"

● **Catherine (Smith) Seutin** nous écrit: "Bonjour à tous. Quel plaisir plus de 20 ans après avoir quitté le lycée de trouver des nouvelles de copains et copines et de pouvoir se rappeler de bons souvenirs. Après avoir enseigné le droit international public à Lyon, je vis maintenant en Provence (Montélimar) avec mon mari et mes 3 enfants (12, 11 et 7 ans). Une pensée particulière pour les copains de seconde (Daniel, Fabrice et Marc et d'autres ...)"

● "**James Lasry** is a highly regarded practitioner who has been instrumental in setting up the majority of Gibraltar's funds, including the first Experienced Investor Fund and the first Protected Cell Company Fund. Prior to joining Hassans in 1999, James was at the Ministry of Industry and Trade where he gave legal opinions on international trade and consumer protection, as well as advice on international research and development contracts to the Chief Scientist.

James also served as counsel to the Israeli delegation in trade accord negotiations with the Czech and Slovak republics. Since joining Hassans, James has focused his expertise on funds, trusts, corporate law and financial services, advising the Government of Gibraltar on the regulatory and the tax treatment of investment funds....A member of the Society of Trust Practitioners, James advised on a substantial trust in a case involving litigation in Paris, New York and Buenos Aires that also featured in reports in the New Yorker magazine, the New York Law Journal and on CBS News. A graduate of John Hopkins and Bar-Ilan universities, James is a member of the Law Society of England & Wales, the Israel Bar Association and the Gibraltar Bar." (*Hassans International Law Firm, gibraltarlaw.com*)

----- From July 2008 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Lt. Jeannot Smith** "is assistant branch chief of environmental protection for the U.S. Coast Guard for the Port of New York and serves in the U.S. Coast Guard while stationed in Staten Island." In the picture above, he "describes the anatomy of a scallop to [a student] from Astoria Queens, during a Sea Partners event aboard the Peking Seaport Museum in New York City Aug. 19, 2000."

● "**Yael Melamede** (Producer) made a career shift from architecture to film in 1996 and since then, has worked in many capacities within the New York independent film community. Melamede was the Post Production Supervisor on Wayne Wang's THE CENTER OF THE WORLD, Paul Schrader's FOREVER MINE, and Paul Auster's LULU ON THE BRIDGE, bringing her into close working relationships with extraordinary creative talent and with a wide range of production, distribution and foreign sales companies. At the end of 2000, Melamede joined Madstone Films as the company's Production Supervisor. In that capacity, Melamede worked on the development, budgeting and scheduling of Madstone's feature film projects. Melamede also co-produced the feature documentary MY ARCHITECT, directed by Nathaniel Kahn, about the prominent



TOP: Melissa Unger ('85);
BOTTOM (left to right):
Stéphane Bailby ('85),
Melissa Unger, Gabriel Sylla
('85) (Paris, 2010)



TOP: Claire Durand-Ruel
Snollaerts ('85); BOTTOM:
Stéphane Dehais ('85)

architect Louis I. Kahn. MY ARCHITECT, which was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2003, was released by New Yorker Films in the fall of 2003. Melamede holds a B.A. and M.Arch. from Yale University." (Evergreen, evergreenthemovie.com/)

- **Christina Hour** now runs a bilingual *Montessori/Bank Street* pre-school called [Le Petit Paradis](#) in NYC.
- A poem by **Gabin Langu** Tsobgny -- '[Hope at Dawn](#)'

----- From December 2007 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Pierre Oury** nous écrit: "Je vous soumetts les nouvelles suivantes:
- Naissance de notre premier enfant en Nov 06, Jacqueline OURY (photo ci-jointe).
- Comme Lieutenant Colonel dans la USAF, j'ai complété une année d'études au Collège Interaméricain de Défense, institution sous l'Organisation des Etats Américains (OEA), à Washington DC. Cette école a comme anciens élèves plusieurs chefs d'état d'Amérique Latine, dont Michelle Bachelet, Présidente du Chili."

- **James Lasry** wrote: "I live in Gibraltar where I work as a lawyer setting up hedge funds and trusts. I am married with two children. I would be happy to receive any contact from LFNY alumni who are travelling to Gibraltar or the south of Spain."

- **Nicolas Manset** wrote: "Bumped into the website on a rainy Parisian afternoon in December 2007! I live in Paris with my wife of 11 years, Marianne, who has her own dental practice in Paris, and our two children, Arthur born in 1998 and Zoé born in 2000. I run the french office of Russell Reynolds Associates, a global executive search and assessment firm, where I have been a partner for some years now. It would be great to hear from old friends. I was particularly happy to see that **Gaby Sylla, Ahpaly Coradin, Stephane Bailby** and **Isa Schnieders (all '85)** are doing well. If any of you are in Paris some time, drop an email or call!"

- Nathalie (Pochat) Richard ('88) nous écrit que "son frere, **Thierry Pochat** habite à New York et est Policier avec le NYPD."

- **Fabrice Griffoulière-Frere** wrote: "Bonjour tout le monde! I've been following the LFNY newsletter for some time now, and have really enjoyed keeping-up with my old school buddies throughout the years. As for myself, I stayed in New York after the Lycée graduation, finding it quasi impossible to leave this insane city. I've been working in publishing for about 15 years now. In the last 8 years I was able to launch and develop a national magazine called "CITY", published out of NYC. It's a lifestyle Luxury magazine with a focus on Design, food, fashion and travel. If you haven't seen it, please visit our website at <http://www.city-magazine.com>. Recently, I stumbled on a small film reel that I had shot at the Lycée back in 1983 or 1984. I couldn't resist transferring it to video so that I could share it with some of you. It certainly won't win any oscar or film awards, but it may take you down memory lane.



TOP: Marie-Noelle (Colas) Pierce ('85); MIDDLE: Tamsir Abdourahmane Gaye ('85); BOTTOM: Matthew Caws ('85)



TOP: Paolo Camerini ('85); BOTTOM: Amelie Porcher ('85)

In it, you might recognize **Jonathan Littel ('85)** hanging from a tree and who just last year won the "Grand Prix de L'académie Francaise" for his book titled "Les Bienveillantes". You might also recognize **Daniel Prieto-Castro ('85)**, AKA Daniel Lorca, and fellow band member **Matthew Caws ('85)** from the band Nada Surf. They released a new album last year called "the weight is a gift", which I highly recommend. Some of you might recall a band in the Lycée days called "The Cost of Living", our first foray into the music scene, with classmate **Stéphane Dehais ('85)** and our English teacher **Patrick Thouron**. It's really great to see that Daniel and Matthew kept their music ambitions going through the years, and that they have had such great success with it. On a similar music note, you might also recognize **Alain (Nkossi) Konda ('86)**, who also followed the music trail, and also met great success worldwide.

There are more quick glimpses at our friends from back then in the video. My best wishes to all of you, et bonne continuation! The video clip can be viewed on my site (which is undergoing a major revamp) at:

http://www.planetfab.com/pages_video/Lyceee.html

----- From June 2007 AALFNY Newsletter -----

WEDDINGS/MARIAGES:

- From [Gabriel Sylla](#): "Le 23 décembre nous avons célébré notre mariage civil au Palais de justice de Montréal! Pour celles et ceux qui connaissent la complexité de notre histoire, vous savez à quel point cet événement longuement espéré, est essentiel pour la suite de notre vie en commun au Canada. A force de rêves, de patience et de détermination, de nouveaux horizons s'ouvrent enfin à nous, nous dévoilant la possibilité d'un futur à deux, ICI, au cœur de ce Nouveau Monde que nous apprécions tant."

BIRTHS/NAISSANCES:

- From **Ahpaly Coradin**: "On October 25, 2006, my wife Sae gave birth to our third child. His name is Sakima Motonari Coradin. The name "Sakima" means "Chief" or "King" in the Lenape tribe of Delaware."
- From **Jean-Edouard Courcier**: "Big news is that Diane was born 3 weeks ago, on 18th May. That makes 3 beautiful daughters, Léonore (2002), Célia (2004) and Diane (2007). Girls, that's what I make! No wonder, I've always seen and positioned myself as a specialist."
- A poem by **Gabin Langue Tsobgny** -- ['Reussir'](#)
- **Ahpaly Coradin** also wrote: "Last year, I returned to the practice of law, this time as principal of my own law firm, Ahpaly Coradin P.A. We are a boutique corporate, commercial and real estate practice serving clients nationally and internationally. If you or anyone you know has need of legal advice for a business or an investment, we would like to hear from you or them."
- **Isabelle (Schnieders) Cota** is the admissions and student affairs director at HEC Paris. [Click here](#) to read her interview with Business Week.

- On March 12, 2007 the *International Herald Tribune* reported: "The American novelist **Jonathan Littell**, whose best-selling, 900-page World War II opus was written in French, has been granted French nationality. Because he does not live in France, two applications by Littell were rejected before *Les Bienveillantes*, or *The Kindly Ones*, was published last August and went on to win the Goncourt Prize, the most prestigious French literary award. But after Littell met with Prime Minister **Dominique de Villepin** ['71], the authorities used an article of the nationality code allowing them to grant citizenship to French speakers whose 'meritorious actions contribute to the glory of France.' "

- **Jean-Edouard Courcier** also wrote: "My wife Astrid and I are living in Zürich (the best city in the world as far as quality of life is concerned, according to Mercer Consulting). I work for FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association), and Astrid works for Rolex."

----- From December 2006 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Pierre Oury** wrote: " I'm a Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF still flying F-16s in Washington DC (I'm on a leave of absence from United Airlines). I deployed to the Middle East for Iraqi Freedom in '03 and worked a staff job at the Pentagon in International Affairs in '05 (thanks to language skills learned at LFNY!). The USAF is sending me to get a Master's in International Affairs at American University later this year. My wife Jennifer and I would love to get in touch with any LFNY classmates in the DC area!"

- From **Christina Hour** : "After many years of soul searching, and traveling around, I have finally found my purpose. I am opening a Bilingual French Preschool next year starting July. The name is *Le Petit Paradis*. Look for the website to be up and running in February. It will be in New York city. If anyone is interested in putting their child in a Montessori French environment, please write me an email. I would love to hear from anyone in my class of 85. My email address is *[available upon request from AALFNY]*"

- **Jonathan Littell** was awarded the prestigious 2006 'Prix Goncourt' for his novel, *Les Bienveillantes*. (For more details and a review of Jonathan's book, please go to the [Spotlight](#) section of this newsletter)

- See [Alumni Creative](#) section of this newsletter for a poem, L'Histoire, by **Gabin Langue Tsobgny**

----- From February 2006 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- *Avis de Décès*: [Sappho Garelli](#)

- **BIRTHS/NAISSANCES**: **Valerie Davin** : ""Je vous annonce la naissance de Jessica Davin-Armstrong. Elle est néé le 29/04/05 en Angleterre où nous vivons. Elle ressemble à son papa et fait notre bonheur.""

● **Matthew Caws** wrote: "All these winters and summers later and I'm still playing in a band that can trace its roots back to Seconde at the Lycee. We've been called Nada Surf for eleven years. **Daniel Prieto-Castro**, now Lorca, is playing bass and singing and I'm still singing and playing guitar. Our fourth album, *The Weight is a Gift*, came out in September. If you live in a major city, chances are we'll be playing there this year. Our tour schedule is usually posted a couple of months ahead of time on nadasurf.com and/or you can always email me at [email address available upon request from AALFNY] to say hi. = "

● **Geraldine Haizet** nous écrit: "J'habite dans la région Parisienne avec mes deux enfants Jules et Sixtine nés le 20 Octobre 1999. En effet se sont des jumeaux! Je suis restée en contact avec **Valérie Davin** et c'est grâce à elle que j'ai eu l'adresse e-mail du site."

----- **From June 2005 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

● **WEDDINGS/MARIAGES: Gabriel Sylla** ('85) wrote: "I just got married (21 avril) to Emilie Desmond from France and who is living with me in Montreal. **Ahpaly Coradin** ('85) made the trip from Miami to Montreal; it was a 20 year reunion."

● **Sabrina Ray** wrote: "Having narrowly (and jealously) missed the Ukrainian Revolution, we were yards away from the Whitehouse storming in Bishkek. I must say, I don't know if you ever get over watching a Whitehouse being stormed, much less the disintegration (before your eyes) of a 15 year hold on power. The sea of people was tremendous, and the days were truly something to live through. Thankfully, all seems to be moving along in a peaceful and stable direction. I'm happy we no longer live in Kazakhstan, because that may be the next expected Revolution, and one possibly best to miss. But, that may be another issue altogether! Best wishes to everyone, may you all be safe and well."

● **Ahpaly Coradin** nous écrit: "Depuis ma dernière note de classe, mon épouse Sae et moi avons eu le bonheur de l'arrivée de notre fille Kayana, née le 25-10-04. Notre fils Akira a 3 ans. En Mars 05, j'ai mis fin à ma carrière d'avocat de 13 ans et j'ai lancé une entreprise de promotion d'immobilier à Miami, Coradin Developments. Le 30 Avril, j'ai assisté au mariage de Gabriel Sylla à Montréal, une soirée merveilleuse tant par la noce que par la réunion de deux amis. Je suis aussi en contacte avec Stéphane Bailby à Nice et Alain Konda en Allemagne."

----- **From November 2004 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

● **Jean-Edouard Courcier** wrote: "My wife, Astrid Macintosh Carver, and I are living in Zürich, Switzerland. We have two daughters, Léonore (2002) and Célia (2004). Astrid works for a video software company (Artsum) and I work at the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)."

● **Sabrina Ray** wrote: "I'm in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, now (Kazakhstan and Ukraine before). My Italian husband Emilio attended the Lycee Francais Chateaubriand, Rome, and works for the EU. Based in Brussels, Rome & Croatia, we live in the former Soviet Union. I'm raising 2 beautiful kids (nearly 8 & 10!) and working here and there in project development while not doing homework or in the bazaar scoping out tonight's treat. Life is a trip and a half!"

● **Pierre Oury** wrote: "I was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF. I am serving with the DC Air National Guard at Andrews AFB as an F-16 pilot and was sent to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom in Mar-Apr 2003. I am also a pilot for United Airlines currently living in Washington DC with my wife Jennifer."

----- **From Winter 2003-2004 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

● **Matthew Caws** writes: "Thank you Stephane Bailby for sending in some news about us last time, that was very nice. Yes, indeed, Daniel Lorca [Prieto-Castro] and I are in a group called Nada Surf (which, contrary to first appearances, is not a surfing reference, it means being lost in your imagination). We've just released our third album, Let Go. We've had some ups and downs in our career, but everything's going very well right now and we'll be touring most of the year. As if by coincidence, we play the most concerts in France. If anyone's in New York on February 17th, we'll be at the Bowery Ballroom. As for Paris, I think we'll be at the Olympia in June, but I don't have the exact date yet. Our email addresses are very simple-[email address available upon request from AALFNY] -and it would be great to hear from old classmates. And absolutely, do go to www.nadasurf.com and look at tour dates, in case we're playing near you and you have a free evening."

● **Daniel Bénéat** writes: "I recently started an investment company called Globaleye Capital, Inc. I graduated with a B.S. in Int'l Bus. & Marketing from NYU in 1988 and graduated with an M.B.A. in Int'l Bus. & Finance from NYU in 1992."

● **Régine (Le Navenec) Schultheiss** writes: "[I] quit my job to stay at home and raise my two children: Roland Alexandre (age 4) and Martine Alix (age 2)"

● **Odile Rougé** nous écrit qu'elle est en cours de mutation professionnelle.

● De la part de **Gabriel Sylla** : «Grâce à votre site j'ai retrouvé beaucoup d'anciens camarades de classe 15-16-17 ANS après notre graduation. Ce site est précieux et très important. Je tiens à laisser des traces pour ceux qui aimeraient avoir de mes nouvelles. Je vie à Montréal au Québec (Canada.) J'ai fait mes études en administration des affaires (HEC-Montréal) et en économie. En suite j'ai décidé de suivre ma passion: le karaté. C'est au Lycée que j'ai découvert que j'avais des aptitudes pour le sport. J'y ai passé six années et chaque fin d'année je récoltais le premier prix d'éducation physique au grand regret de mes parents qui auraient préféré le prix de mathématiques par exemple. Aujourd'hui en 2003 je suis, à 38 ans l'athlète le plus

âgé à monter sur le podium au championnat Canadien de karaté. Je suis dans un sport de combat où la plus part des combattants prennent leur retraite à 28, 29 ou 30 ans. Je suis fier d'être toujours en forme et de niveau pour rivaliser avec des jeunes fougueux qui ont par fois 20 ans de moins que moi. Je vais bientôt terminer ma carrière avec les prochains championnats du monde de karaté Shotokan.»

- From **Régine Day**: "What wonderful memories after so many years! Thank you for the website! Je tiens à saluer TOUS les copains et copines de la 2nde en 1982-83. Des années super-cool ! De temps en temps, je visionne les photos prises lors de notre picnic à Central Parc le dernier jour de classe en Juin 1983. Vous y êtes pratiquement TOUS, figés à l'age de 16 et 17 ans sur papiers glacés dans mes archives!! Grosses bises à Ahpaly, Gabriel (Bilou) mon voisin citadin, Zouera, Marie-Noelle, Lyne et al.! Gros bonjour aux cinq folles Isabelle, Patricia, Claire, Amélie, et sa soeurette, Hortense, qui sont venues me rendre visite par la suite en Haiti. Cheers to all!!"

----- From Winter 2002/2003 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Ahpaly Coradin** writes: "I have been living in Miami for almost 3 years now, after having spent 3 years in Tokyo. My practice is in corporate law and corporate finance, with a focus on Asia and Latin America. I have been married almost 2 years to my wife Sae Iguchi Coradin. Our son Akira was born Feb 3, 2002. I would love to hear from you."

- **Pascale Maré** writes: "I am still living in New York City. I've been in the Home Furnishing industry for the past 12 years and am now working for one of the top 5 five businesses in the nation. I would love to get back in touch with '85 classmates and compare decades! I am most interested in participating (or even creating) an '85 class reunion. It will 20 years (gulp!!) in a few years, and I would love to see as many of us as possible attend.....On a personal note, I have stayed here in New York since graduating, and even though this city is not my place of birth, at this point in my life, I consider myself a native New Yorker. I had many friends working in the Towers, and I thank God on many occasions that every single one of them made it out alive. I still have not made it down to Ground Zero. It's such a terrible reminder to me of what we have lost. But as I was reading Pierre Oury ('85)'s class notes, I thought perhaps he was flying over New York yesterday, July 4th 2002, and felt reassurance that someone I had shared memories with so many years ago was taking care of us. Perhaps I will make it down to Ground Zero this weekend, a most special weekend for this country."

- **Pierre Oury** writes: "My wife Jennifer and I have moved from Burlington, VT to Washington DC. I am an Airbus A320 first officer based in DC with United Airlines. I am also an Air Force Major and just transferred from the Vermont Air Nat'l Guard to the DC Air National Guard at Andrews AFB, MD flying the F16. I am originally from DC and just moved back into the neighborhood I grew up in before attending the LFNy."

- **Gabriel Sylla** nous écrit : « Je suis encore très nostalgique quand je pense à mes camarades de classe et aux

professeurs du Lycée. Je tiens à remercier l'association, car, grâce à vous j'ai pu retrouver beaucoup d'amis. Je suis encore un athlète de haut niveau au Canada, je viens de monter sur le podium à l'âge de 37 ans au niveau national (argent) et je vais représenter le Canada aux prochains championnats PanAméricains de karaté. Sinon, je me suis rendu en quart de final aux derniers championnats du monde de Shotokan au Japon. Pour ceux qui veulent en savoir plus je vous suggère de visiter mon site web:
http://gabman_1.tripod.com/gabkarate/ »

● **Stéphane Bailby** nous a envoyé des nouvelles sur deux camarades de classe : «Daniel Prieto Castro se nomme maintenant Daniel Lorca. Il est bassiste de 'Nada Surf' et pour ceux que cela intéresserait, il fait une tournée en Europe en octobre 2002. Je n'ai pas son email, mais toutes les infos et les dates de concerts sont sur www.nadasurf.com.... Le guitariste et chanteur du groupe est Matthew Caws. Voilà donc une formation musicale née sur les bancs du LFNY et qui tourne toujours.»

----- **From March/April 2002 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

● From **Georges de Laire**: "Upon graduating in '85, I attended St. Lawrence University in upstate NY. I earned a BA in history in '89. I then worked in NYC for a year before returning to St. Lawrence for an M.Ed. in Counseling and Human Development. I worked for St. Lawrence as a Residence Director during that time as well as at Clarkson University as a Counselor. I earned my M.Ed. in '92. I then entered St. John's Seminary in Boston, Mass. to start my studies and my discernment to become a Catholic Priest. I earned an M.Div. and an M.A. before being ordained in 1997. I have been working in different Parishes in New Hampshire since that time and became a Pastor or "Curé" in 2000 in the town of Pittsfield, NH outside Concord. I am still in touch with several Lycée friends, most of whom live in France: Isabelle (Schnieders) Cota is married to Philippe, and they have two children, Maxime and Zoe-Rose. I have also kept in touch with [Jean-Paul Knott '85](#) and Caroline (de Laage de Meux) de Nadaillac '85. In the States I am in touch with Lynne (Hawa) Thome '85 who lives in Houston TX with her husband, Alberto, and their triplets. I correspond with Colette Astorgue '85 and with Zouera (Youssoufou) Keita '85 and her husband, Moise Keita, who live in Atlanta, GA."

----- **From July/August 2001 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

● **Henri Mensah writes**: «It's great to (at last) have the opportunity to renew contact with the LFNY, which I left in '81. Back then, I was in 4è, with Bernard Doo Kinge, Marc Bonenberger, Nathalie Lajoie, Ingrid Stockner, Marie-Noëlle Colas, Delphine Lemaire ...I attended the Lycée with my brothers Alain '83, Francis '81 and with my sister '83. I am presently Director of the Burkina Faso office of groupe PRISM, a French advertising agency. I am married (no kids for the moment), my wife lives and works in the U.S. for Western Union, North America, as an international business development manager in the Washington DC area.... I regularly travel to see her, and visited the Lycée during summer vacation.I hope a get-together can be set up some time this year.»

● **Ahpaly Coradin** is an international corporate attorney at Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP. Ahpaly graduated from Harvard Law School in 1992, has clerked on the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, has advocated for human rights in Haiti, and has worked as a corporate lawyer in Japan. Ahpaly is married and currently lives in Miami, Florida, where he specializes in Latin American transactions.

● **Gabriel Sylla** writes: «Je suis au Canada où je suis champion de karaté après avoir fréquenté les HEC Montréal. J'ai retrouvé Ahpaly Coradin, avocat pour une grande firme New-Yorkaise; Abdalah Sarré est un grand homme d'affaire au Sénégal; Alain Konda '86 est une vedette de la chanson africaine et world beat.» Good luck to Gabriel, who is in training for the 9/01 World championship in karate in Japan, and the Jeux de la Francophonie this June.

● **Zouera (Youssoufou) Keita** writes: «In August of 1999, my husband Moise Keita and I had our first child, a baby boy named Modibo Joshua Keita.»

----- **From February/March 2001 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

● **Leila Abrous** is finishing a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently interviewing for a position in the pharmaceutical industry. She is hoping to end up within commuting distance of NYC.

----- **From November/December 2000 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

● **Fatoumata Cisse Ide** is married and lives in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso with her 4 children.

● **Samantha Ellenwood Lourie** was married last summer in New York, where she is a private chef and caterer. She graduated from the American University and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. She also trained at the Ecole de Gastronomie Française Ritz-Escoffier in Paris.

● **MARIAGES et FIANÇAILLES: Samantha Ellenwood Lourie** and Matthew Thayer Fremont-Smith were married last summer in New York at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Jean Baptiste.