



2007: Class Notes Archives



TOP: Luisa Conlon ('07);
BOTTOM: Alessandra Bonetti ('07)

----- From July 2007 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Maya Catherine Popa** (*LSY: 4eme in 2003*) wrote and told us that her "collection of poems *The Bees Have Been Canceled* was named a "Summer Choice" by the Poetry Book Society, established by T.S. Eliot in 1953. She teaches English Literature at the Nightingale-Bamford school where she oversees the Christine Schutt Creative Writing Program. She also serves on the Board of the Bella Abzug Leadership institute and teaches writing privately throughout NYC."

Editor's note: Maya "graduated Summa Cum Laude from Barnard College, Columbia University, in 2011. She received an MSt from Oxford University under a Clarendon Scholarship and an MFA from NYU, where she co-taught a workshop for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. Her work appears in *The Kenyon Review*, *Fence*, *Narrative*, *FIELD*, *Colorado Review*, *Poetry London*, *PN Review*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere."

(http://www.munsterlit.ie/Southword/Issues/25A/popa_mayacatherine.html)

(To read her poem --'The Bees Have Been Cancelled'-- click [HERE](#))

● **Julia Hechler** (*LSY: 4eme in 2003*) shared this with us : "I'm a filmmaker and I directed a short documentary that has been making its way to various film festivals. The movie takes place in France, so my French education definitely came in handy! It's called "[Les Cloÿs](#)" and it's about four young men in Paris who speak their own version of French that brings them closer together, even as they sometimes feel separated from the rest of Parisian society. You can find out more on the Facebook page: [facebook.com/lescloys](https://www.facebook.com/lescloys). Here is a small interview with me about making the movie: <http://awfj.org/female-gaze/2017/05/05/awfj-eda-award-doxa-2017-filmmaker-interview-julia-hechler-on-les-cloys/>. We're expecting to release the short film online



TOP: Robert Sobel ('07);
BOTTOM: Isabelle McNally ('07)

sometime in 2018, so be sure to look out for it!" (Click [HERE](#) to read the interview)

● **Alban Bressand** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) wrote: "I was happy to see some fellow LFNY alumni at the 10 year reunion for the LFCDG in London a few weeks ago. After 6 years in renewable energies I am now working for an incubator within one of Europe's largest utilities, Innogy, to help the most disruptive startups to scale up. The Innogy innovation hub (<https://innovationhub.innogy.com>) provides expertise, access to 23m customers across 11 countries, and seed / VC funding as required. If you have built or are in the late stages of building a startup with a scalable business model (eg. Digital platform) that contributes to the energy transition, and are looking for strong partners in Europe or the US, feel free to drop me a line at alban@ukinnovationhub.com."

● **Luisa Conlon** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) "is a documentary filmmaker and multimedia producer. Her work has appeared in The Atlantic, PBS NewsHour, NPR, StoryCorps, the San Francisco Chronicle, and U.S. News & World Report. Her short documentary *Leaving Iraq for a Life in America* (co-directed with Hanna Miller and Lacy Jane Roberts) was featured as an Editors' Pick for The Atlantic. The film chronicles the life of a young Iraqi man who was shot and paralyzed by an American sniper. The film received the 2016 Robert Whittington Award for Exceptional Reporting from UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. In 2013, she served as Associate Producer on Gillian Robespierre's feature film *Obvious Child*.....She went on to produce Keith Miller's feature film *Five Star*, which premiered at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival and the 71st Venice Film Festival. Luisa is currently a masters candidate at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. She holds a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Art. She is a recipient of the Jerry Jensen Overall Graduate Scholarship Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Northern California Branch." (<https://luisaconlon.com/about/>) (Click [HERE](#) to view her short documentary --What It's Like to Leave Iraq for a Life in America)

● **Alessandra Bonetti** (*LSY: 3eme in 2004*): "Born and raised in New York City, I began taking acting classes at the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute when I was 12, spending my Saturdays until I was 18 in their acting studio. There I was trained in film and TV, theatre, improvisation and Shakespeare. After being accepted into the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree program at the University of Southern California, I moved to Los Angeles to complete the conservatory-style 4-year acting curriculum. There I worked with Gates McFadden, Andrei Belgrader, Brent Blair, Vicki Lewis, and Joseph Hacker among many others, studying everything from film and TV, Shakespeare and scene study, to clowning, voice-over and singing. Since graduating in 2011, I've appeared in theatre around Los Angeles, including at Boston Court, the Asylum Lab, and the Lonny Chapman Theatre. I've also worked in independent film, several SAG-AFTRA webseries, as well as in voice-over.....I'm also working on a production of



TOP: Melissa Las Fargeas ('07); BOTTOM: Maya Catherine Popa ('07)



TOP: Emmanuelle Saliba ('07); BOTTOM: Nicolas Martin ('07)



TOP: Julia Hechler ('07);
BOTTOM: Alban Bressand ('07)

the play, "Commencing" set to go up in October 2016 in North Hollywood. I am constantly training, whether it be in a scene study class with Doug Tompos, or an improv class..... I also actively strive to build professional industry relationships, taking workshops whenever I can with people I'd love to meet, and keeping in touch with those professionals on a regular basis. Though this industry can be a challenge at times, I embrace that challenge, and am excited to build healthy, long-lasting relationships, which can, in turn, help me build a healthy, long-lasting career."

(<http://alessandrabonetti.com/bio/>)

- **Isabelle McNally** (*LSY: CPE/11eme in 1990*) "is an American actress who portrays Madeleine Loomis in the final season of *Bates Motel*. She was born in New York to London-born restaurateur Keith McNally and American-born Lynn Wagenknecht. She attended the Lycée Français de New York as a child and is a fluent French speaker. She is best known for her appearances in the films *Frances Ha*, *Before I Disappear* and *The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby: Him*. In 2014, she appeared in the second season of Netflix show *House of Cards*." (http://batesmotel.wikia.com/wiki/Isabelle_McNally)

- **Robert Sobel** (*LSY: GSC/12eme in 1995*) "holds a B.F.A. in Film Studies from Chapman University and an M.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College. He is currently at The Masters Program (at Santa Fe Community College), teaching World History. Robert has taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at Santa Fe University of Art and Design and also at Nanjing Arts University, in China. Most recently, in Lima, Peru, he taught in Santa Fe University's English Immersion program -- teaching a class of fifteen University Directors at Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas (UPC)." (<http://tmpsantafe.org/staff/>) Robert was also a writer for the Santa Fe reporter, and his articles can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

- **Emmanuelle Saliba** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) "is a Senior Editor of the social news-gathering team at NBC News. She is also famous for co-founding Ignite the Sound. Saliba started her professional career working at Billboard. Starting in May 2011, she covered the business side of the entertainment industry. She emphasized on EDM and Brazilian music during the later part of her stint there. Saliba grew up with an English and French background. She went to the Lycée Français de New York.....She studied abroad in 2010 at Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, a university in Florianópolis, Brazil, where she learned to speak Portuguese. Saliba now speaks four languages: English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish."

(<https://www.everipedia.com/emmanuelle-saliba/>)

(Emmanuelle's reports at NBC can be seen by clicking [HERE](#))

- **Nicolas Martin** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) obtained a B.Arch. at Cornell in 2012 and will be



TOP: Antoine Lefebvre ('07);
BOTTOM: Alice Chauvel ('07)

starting an MBA at INSEAD in August, 2017. He "is the Founding Principal of The Art of Habitat, a creative group that pursues sustainable design innovation, balancing traditional local sensitivity with advanced technology. [He] is also a designer at Plan A, where he has worked since the firm's inception in 2015. Previously, Martin worked at Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates in New York City; at Perkins Eastman in Mumbai; and at La Oficina del Historiador in Havana. He has worked on a variety of projects in North America, Europe, and Asia, ranging from a \$3B/1,000-acre master plan development for a new government sponsored education hub in Bhutan, to a 600-foot headquarter tower in Shenzhen, China, to a LEED Gold new business school in Arizona that won the AZRE magazine RED Award: Best Public Project."

(<http://www.theartofhabitat.com/about/>)



● **Amital Isaac** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) was featured in the November 2016 issue of the LFNY's online blog *LFNYLIFE* in an article entitled "Amital Isaac '07, le journalisme dans la peau." (Click [HERE](#) to access the article)

● **Melissa Las Fargeas** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) is an Associate Teacher at LREI (a progressive independent school in New York City for boys and girls in preschool, elementary, middle, and high school). "She was previously an assistant teacher at Grace Church School, Peartree Preschool, and John Winthrop School for Young Children. She has a B.S. in Psychology from Northeastern University."

(<https://www.lrei.org/Page/our-community/faculty--staff?letter=L>)

----- From December 2015 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Andre Thunot** (*LSY: 9eme/CE2 in 1998*) "is an Electrical & Electronic Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Cambridge. He graduated from the College International de Valbonne (France) in 2007 and obtained the French Baccalaureate in Science with Honours. Following this, he enrolled into the University of Warwick and completed a Master of Engineering in Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Communication Systems. Throughout his study in Warwick, Mr. Thunot was presented with the Dean's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement on three separate occasions.....His current research interests include hybrid propulsion systems for aerospace applications, Lithium-ion and lithium-polymer simulation & modelling, and other battery related testing & applications. Other interests include developing and designing personal websites" (<https://uk.linkedin.com/pub/andr -thunot/89/83a/46a>)

● **Julia Hechler** (*LSY: 4eme in 2003*) "is an independent filmmaker based in Seattle. She has produced and directed documentaries and has experience working in many other roles in filmmaking. Her past projects include producing/directing a short documentary with Washington Filmworks entitled "A Gift." It was an interstitial for the films in the Fly Filmmaking



**TOP: Sophie Aziakou ('07);
BOTTOM: Charles Saksik ('07)**



**TOP: Andre Thunot ('07);
BOTTOM: Julia Hechler ('07)**

Challenge and was shown at the Seattle International Film Festival 2013. She is currently in post-production on a documentary she directed in Paris with a Fulbright grant. The documentary is about a form of language that thousands of youths in France speak, many of whom are of immigrant descent. She has worked for Screaming Flea Productions and Loaded Pictures, and has interned for KIRO 7 TV. Julia graduated from Seattle Central Community College's Film & Video program in 2013. She received a BA from Macalester College in 2011 with a French & Francophone Studies major and English minor." <http://www.juliahechler.com/>



● **Antoine Lefebvre** (*LSY: 1ere in 2006*): « Je travaille pour Starboard en Thaïlande depuis un peu plus de 3 ans. Je suis un passionné de windsurf, surf et standup paddle depuis très jeune. J'ai un profil plutôt international car j'ai grandi entre les USA et l'Espagne et j'ai également beaucoup voyagé [.....] J'ai commencé à travailler pour Starboard à travers un stage de fin d'études. Après quelques mails et coups de téléphone, j'ai décroché un stage de 6 mois en Thaïlande pour Starboard SUP. [.....] A la fin de mon stage, on m'a offert un autre stage de 6 mois dans le département Windsurf. Et de là, on m'a offert un job en tant que Project Manager chez Starboard Windsurfing et j'ai décidé de m'installer en Thaïlande [.....] » <http://www.hardloop.fr/article/0245-paddle-entretien-avec-antoine-lefebvre-de-starboard>



● **Alice Chauvel** (*LSY: 2nde in 2005*) : "A Third Culture Kid raised mostly in the Americas, Alice originally hails from France. After an MA in Global Media and Communications from the University of Warwick where she specialised in online communities, Alice joined Skimlinks as an intern with the Approvals Team, becoming the first point of contact for many of our publishers. Thanks to her obsession with the internet, she successfully managed to wheedle herself into the marketing team and now dabbles in everything from social media to content marketing, event organising, and PR. In her spare time, Alice can be found pursuing her love of culture by learning new languages (currently Japanese) travelling to places near and far, and indulging in global popular culture forms – from London exhibitions to American TV shows and Korean pop music." <https://skimlinks.com/company/team>

TOP: Andre Le Brocquy ('07);
BOTTOM: Amital Isaac ('07)

● **Andre Le Brocquy** (*LSY: 4eme in 2003*) "is a diverse and talented actor, having trained in the UK and in the US. His experience ranges from roles in the theater to commercials, voice overs, TV and film work. Andre was brought up between Dublin, New York, London and Paris. He is fluent in French and Italian, and is now based in Central London." <https://vimeo.com/user34006293>

● **Amital Isaac** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) is a 2012 graduate of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism (M.A., Broadcast Journalism, Health & Science Reporting) and is a Digital Journalist and Producer at ABC News in Washington currently on assignment at Good Morning America.



TOP: Cyrgue Dessauce ('07);
BOTTOM: Melhia Kyra Piot ('07)



TOP: Randa Medina ('07);
BOTTOM: Abdoulaye Maiga ('07)

● **Sophie Aziakou** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) "currently works as the public relations coordinator at the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Previously, Sophie managed communications, events and the philanthropic arm of a New York based design firm, and oversaw sales in Quebec and in the Caribbean for an international record label. She is of Franco-American of West African and Chinese descent. Passionate about human rights and social justice, Sophie serves on the board of the Thorn Tree Project, a nonprofit that funds educational programs in Kenya. She has also volunteered and completed internships at Human Rights First, where she helped asylum-seeking refugees find pro bono legal representation, MADRE - an international women's human rights organization, and the Food Bank for NYC. Sophie received her Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, where she studied social and economic development and human rights in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Fluent in French, she speaks conversational Spanish, Portuguese and Mandarin, and basic Swahili." (<http://www.consultcatalina.com/sophie-aziakou-1/>)

● **Charles Saksik** (*LSY: Terminale in 2007*) is currently pursuing an MBA (2016) at Columbia University where he is a member of the Student Leadership and Ethics Board. He "is a French citizen with a background in financial management consulting and business controlling. Prior to Columbia, he was working as a consultant for KPMG in Paris where he mostly participated in refinancing projects for industrial companies as well as performance improvement projects. He has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Duke University with a concentration on Personality and Social Behavior....." (<https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/leadership/about/sleb>)

● **Randa Medina** (*LSY: 7eme/CM2 in 2000*) is a 2013 Communications graduate of Saint Louis University (Madrid Campus) and a 2015 graduate of Universidad del País Vasco/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (Masters in Multimedia Journalism). She is currently a journalist for EL CORREO in Spain. (<https://es.linkedin.com/in/randamedina>)

● **Abdoulaye Maiga** (*LSY: 2nde in 2005*) is a 2013 graduate of Ecole Centrale de Paris (Master's in Engineering) and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Computer Science at Keio University in Tokyo. (<https://fr.linkedin.com/in/abdoulaye-maiga-99410522/en>)

Videos of LFNY alumni on the internet:

- [Amital Isaac's](#) on YouTube

----- From December 2014 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Adrian Landon** wrote: "Hey LFNY, I am still full on in metal sculpture, busier than ever trying to finish my newest and most awesome piece yet, a life-size, stainless-steel, suspended, mechanical galloping horse. Days, weeks and months are going into it and I'm almost done hopefully. Earlier this year in July, I installed my two Dung Beetle sculptures in the beautiful



TOP: Maya Catherine Popa ('07);
BOTTOM: Charlotte Henley ('07)

scenic sculpture park of Salem Art Works, Salem, NY, which can be seen on my website:www.adrianlandon.com. [\[Click here\]](#) My metal shop is in Gowanus, Brooklyn. My message to the kids is: Hold onto your dreams, as wild as they may be, for they are the most precious things you have. Don't let anyone take them away from you. One of your greatest missions on this earth is to fulfill them."



TOP: Alessandra Bonetti;
BOTTOM: Amedeo Fasanella
d'Amore ('07)

- **Vanessa Bamba** is "an actor and model based in East Sussex, United Kingdom."

- **Simon Van Zuylen Wood** is a staff writer at Philadelphia Magazine, and a contributing writer at National Journal.

- **Maya Catherine Popa** "is a writer, reviewer, and teacher. Her poems appear or are forthcoming from FIELD, Colorado Review, Kenyon Review, ASH, Oxford Poetry, Poetry London, Southword, Locuspoint, and elsewhere. She was a 2013 finalist for the Rona Jaffe Award and winner of the Oxford Poetry Society Martin Starkie Prize."
(www.linkedin.com/pub/maya-catherine-popa/40/97a/878)

- **Luisa Conlon** "is an independent filmmaker and producer sharing her time between Los Angeles and New York. She is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts. She has produced video content for a varied roster of clients including Interscope Records and EMI, and has worked under renown filmmakers including Kenneth Branagh, Joe Berlinger and Samuel Pollard. Luisa served as Associate Producer on Gillian Robespierre's forthcoming feature comedy *Obvious Child*, produced by Elisabeth Holm and starring Jenny Slate. She most recently co-produced *Five Star*, directed by Keith Miller (*Welcome to Pine Hill*)."
(<http://www.luisaconlon.com/about/>)

- **Charlotte Henley's** "path began to flourish between France and India. Through fusing both worlds, the jeweler commenced her journey on the route of adornments. Once her passion revealed, she spent much time in Italy learning the arts of the craft. Now a Jewelry Designer, and founder of her jewelry line, she travels with her ideas, from the colorful saris of India to the incredible sights of France. The jewels narrate her stories, depicting the world's melting pot of beauty and energy, through gemstones her passion she draws her inspirations."
(fr.linkedin.com/pub/charlotte-henley/38/6ab/58b)

- **Alessandra Bonetti**: "I am an actress living in Los Feliz, Los Angeles, CA with four other college friends, and a chameleon. I practice Yoga, and pursue my acting career on a consistent basis. I am hungry for compelling stories, and strive to tell them with as much truth as possible. I received my BFA in Acting from the School of Dramatic Arts at the University of Southern



TOP: Gwen Madeline ('07);
BOTTOM: Margaux Michel ('07)

California." (<https://plus.google.com/103470341978839954137/about>)

● **Amedeo Fasanella d'Amore** is Marketing and Product Manager at Hot Topics. "I'm an American, Italian, and German citizen with a strong cross-cultural sensitivity and a passion for making people aware about the amazing products and services that innovative companies create along with a track record of successfully driving engagement online. In addition to an MSc of Management, Organisations, and Governance from the LSE, I have experience working in marketing within both the non-for-profit and for-profit sectors, within developed (UK & USA) and developing (India) economies, and within established companies and fast growing startups." (uk.linkedin.com/in/amedeodamore)

● **Cyrque Dessauce** is a graduate student at University of Paris I: Panthéon-Sorbonne (Master's degree, Philosophy, expected 2016)

Videos of LFNY alumni on the internet (Click on links below):

- [Vanessa Bamba's](#) showreel
- [Alessandra Bonnetti](#) in an audition
- [Melhia Kyra Piot](#) auditioning for *Rent: the Musical*

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

In Memoriam:

- **Patrick Karorero** († July 3, 2008)

(See *In memoriam* section of this newsletter for further details, or [click here](#))

● **Adrian Landon** wrote to us after the hurricane: "I have recently been unable to sculpt in my metal shop due to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. My shop, right off the Gowanus Canal, got 4 feet of water during the storm, and the power has yet to be restored. Luckily I am on the second floor and my equipment was untouched, but I was just in the middle of making a new horse sculpture for an upcoming event in Palm Beach, Florida, The Winter Equestrian festival, where I will be exhibiting 4 life-size horse sculptures for several months."

● "New York City singer/songwriter **Tora Fisher** found her voice – and salvation – through heartache and loss. After all, it's not many people who like Tora, walk away as the sole survivor of a tragic plane crash. In her debut CD, *SPILLING OVER*, a passionate ode to these very themes, Tora explores these feelings track by track and word by word, having written or co-written all the songs on the album, and delivering something that is nothing short of highly personal and intensely moving.....With a powerful voice and edgy, eclectic style (not to mention those



TOP: Vanessa Bamba ('07);
BOTTOM: Simon van Zuylen
Wood ('07)



TOP: Olivia Pei ('07); BOTTOM:
Andre Lorraineau ('07)



TOP: Tora Fisher ('07) sings at the Citi Military Appreciation Day event to honor U.S. veterans and current service members in Bryant Park (NYC) on November 11, 2011; BOTTOM: Guillaume Lavin ('07)

wordsmith prowesses).....twenty-two year old Tora Fisher is a musical force to be reckoned with. As the daughter of Broadway producers, Fisher spent her early years surrounded by music and the arts, her days filled with singing and dance lessons.....Life took an unexpected and cruel turn when Tora was in an accident at thirteen years of age. A plane carrying Tora, her father, stepmother and four others crashed into the back of a sheet metal factory building Tora was the only survivor. Miraculously she walked herself out of the plane, and when Rescue arrived they found her standing in the snow nearly unscratched.....To avoid being surrounded by the life she once shared with those she had lost, Tora left New York for Connecticut, where she began studying at the illustrious Choate Rosemary Hall college-preparatory school[and] graduate with Cum Laude Society Honors. After graduation.....Tora enrolled in Columbia University. Feeling artistically constricted, she took a leave from studies to focus on her music career. Within two short years she was signed with Chris Keaton Presents and began working on her new album. She has since performed aboard the USS Intrepid, had shows in New York and released her first single, *Man of Steel*, proceeds of which benefit veterans and their families (philanthropy being another of Tora's passions)." (*officialtora.com*)

● **Andre Lorenceau** is a student at the University of Texas at Austin, and expects to graduate in 2013 with a BBA in Finance.

● **Guillaume Lavin** est Officier Élève à l'École Navale de Brest.

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

● "Hello, **Adrian Landon** the artist metal sculptor here. I brought two life-size horse sculptures to France this summer: One to St. Tropez, the other to Deauville." ([Click here](#) to access Adrian's website)

----- From November 2010 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Alban Bressand** wrote: "I seize this opportunity to say hi and let everyone know, for what it's worth, that I am currently doing an exchange in Buenos Aires for the semester, and will keep helping **Jessica Schinazi** and the new vice-president of our association -the FAA(French-American Alliance)- which will strive to receive this year other interesting guests and promote the French culture through various themed events around Columbia campus. Students who live or work in NY and are interested to join should contact Jessica or Alienor ."

Videos of LFNY alumni on the internet:

● **Tora Fisher** performed at her first live gig at Don Hills, Sept. 3, 2010 ([Click here](#) for another video of Tora performing)



TOP: Amedeo d'Amore ('07) & Eleonora d'Amore ('09);
BOTTOM: Jessica Schinazi ('07)

----- From December 2009 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Adrian Landon** wrote: "I am having a piece of my art in an exhibition at the Art Student League, opening on the 4th of December."



TOP: Mathieu Chamlou-Foroughi ('07); BOTTOM: Carlotta Morteo ('07)

● **Alban Bressand** wrote: "Here is some information about the association I created a year ago and have been running jointly with **Jessica Schinazi ('07)** since then, called the French-American Alliance. I am a junior at Columbia College majoring in Philosophy and Economics. Jessica is also a junior at CC and is majoring in Economics and Hispanic studies.

About a year ago, a friend came to me with the idea of organizing in the Columbia University setting a student association where students from both the French community and those with an interest in the broader French-American community would be able to meet each other and discuss contemporary issues in a comfortable environment. Our main objective was to welcome world class guest-speakers from a variety of domains each semester who would discuss and share with us the lessons they learned during their international careers. Outlining the challenges of what intellectually crossing borders represents, our guests help us better comprehend diverging views on a given subject and distill the essential compromises that can exist beyond these often cultural differences. Events take place with a limited number of people and with a strong interactive component so as to establish an informal, privileged relationship between our guests and our members.

We decided not to be directly affiliated with Columbia (though we now organize our speaker events at the Maison Française of Columbia) and we also organize social events that are aimed at having fun and exchanging ideas in a setting where French culture is most manifest in the form of good wine and cheese. Although we pride ourselves in having a growing number of members who were alumni of the LFNY, our appeal is not limited to the Columbia community, and motivated students and young professionals who live in the NY area in general are actively present at our events....."

----- From January 2009 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Guillaume Pfistner** wrote: "I pushed back my graduation a year (to 2011) in order to pursue a double major in Accounting and Finance and I started giving tutoring lessons in accounting. I was also invited into the Golden Key International Honour Society and am working on volunteering at a local school."

Adrian Landon wrote: "I graduated in '07. after that i went to africa for 2 months, doing volunteer work in the bush, then did a year of college in san francisco, had fun being creative



TOP: Daniel Noeltner ('07); BOTTOM: Nicole Pardo ('07)

and artistic (industrial design major) then i decided to take some time off from schooling

because i've already been in school for 14 years and i wanted to go out and really live and really learn things, things you can't learn in school. so i volunteered at a wolf preserve all summer, then worked with the southwest conservation corps in arizona, digging and maintaining trails in the mountains and working in national parks, and made my first couple 1000 bucks, 2 to be precise, then started to learn how to make a cello with my father who is a violin maker and then i went to mammoth mountain in california, a ski resort, where i am working now as a lift operator and snowboarding for free. it's kind of like a vacation, work is very very easy, one thing i don't like is that i'm not learning very much doing this job, but i'm getting very good at snowboarding.

i don't know if i'll ever go back to college, i know everyone thinks i should and if i have the opportunity and it might save my ass one day, why not. but there are some things i want to do in my life and i want to be satisfied with myself before i die and i know that making money isn't one of the things that's going to satisfy me.

one thing i realize now that i have so much more time to think, that my thoughts are so much clearer. and when i think about my time at the lycee, i realized really how much more i could've learned, because you really teach a lot. but there was somethign missing. or maybe it was all too soon and fast. i know that many kids struggle very much in that school, i know i did, and i know now that what was missing was motivation. and that can't come only from the student. i think kids need much more diversity in their weekly activities, and especially in school. in physics for example, it's true that there is a lot of money put into microscopes and all the equipment used to facilitate and expand the learnings, but you still haven't made many projects where most kids in the class actually reallllly want to do it. when i was in college i made a little robot with wheels, a motor and sensors so that it could roll around on the a table and not fall off the edge. the objective of this project was to make a robot that would push the opponent off the table. this was a lot of fun, fairly simple, and very motivating. we had to use a soldering iron to connect the motor, the battery, the capacitor, the sensors and the other electronic features. i learned a bit more about electricity and it was really fun.

it's just that it's asking a lot to sit in a class room for 2 hours and listen about philosophie. you know for a fact that have the students aren't listening and that most of the whole class cheats for tests, copies each other, uses sparknotes instead of reading the whole book. and you shouldn't try to catch these kids, or acquire better plagiarism detection software, but try to make class a little more enjoyable, motivate the kids. other than that i think i got a pretty good education."



Marcos Eliades, ('07) at the October 5, 2011 reunion in Paris, organized by the LFNy



Agathe Roncey ('07) & Vincent Yoshikawa ('07)

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



TOP: Alban Bressand ('07);
BOTTOM: Olivia Pei ('07)

● **Philippe Gregori** told us that he has been cited in the December 20, 2007 edition of *Le Monde*:

"La fin du blocage du centre parisien Censier a été votée, mardi 18 décembre. Des tensions persistaient à Amiens. Quatre étudiants sont en grève de la faim à Montpellier. Jusqu'où n'irait-on pas contre une « loi fasciste » ? C'est ainsi que Philippe, étudiant en première année de licence de physique à Montpellier-II, qualifié, mardi 18 décembre, la loi Péresse (loi LRU) sur l'autonomie des universités, dont il exige l'abrogation. Interrogé sur l'usage de ce terme, il persiste et signe, soulignant « le fait que ce gouvernement a commencé par attaquer les universités » et dénonçant « la désinformation des médias, tellement flagrante ». Philippe, qui, au téléphone, remercie *Le Monde* de faire écho à son action, n'est pas un plaisantin. Avec trois de ses camarades, Tristan, Lilian et Thomas, il est en grève de la faim depuis le 10 décembre. Installés à l'UFR de sciences, ils sont entourés par des étudiants qui, malgré l'arrêt du blocage depuis plus d'une semaine, restent mobilisés. Pourquoi en venir à cette extrémité ? « C'est un mode d'action non violent. Et radical. Là, au moins, on ne peut plus nous accuser de bloquer. Je vois que ça marche, car beaucoup de gens nous disent maintenant qu'ils ont du mal à dormir le soir », dit Philippe. Les grévistes de la faim de Montpellier s'attendent à être rejoints par d'autres, ailleurs. Philippe n'envisage pas une poursuite illimitée : « Nous avisons tous les deux ou trois jours. » Son objectif est à moyen terme : « Je suis sûr à 100 % qu'il y aura, après les vacances de Noël et après les partiels, une nouvelle étape du mouvement. Nous allons repartir sur de nouvelles bases. » " He is also cited in *Liberation.fr*. To read that full article, [click here](#).

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

● **Chase-Lyn Sage** wrote: "I will be graduating top of my class from the Swedish Institute on January 28th. I will also be passing the NY state boards on January 24th. That's it for now! :)"

● **Adrian Landon** wrote: "Hey everyone, it's Adrian from San Francisco. How are you? Hope all is going well, hope you had a nice Thanksgiving. I came back to New York for Thanksgiving for three days but unfortunately didn't get to see anyone; I just chilled with my mum, bro, girlfriend and dog. It was great, my mum cooked up a excellent feast and I ate enough chocolate to cover my face up in pimples for a week. :) hihihhi, silly me. And I'm not gay from living in San Francisco if that's what you're thinkin'.
College is fun -- I watch so many movies that I don't like them anymore, It's super noisy to live



TOP to BOTTOM: Guillaume Pfistner ('07); Melissa Las Fargeas ('07); Maëlle-Charlotte Charpié ('07)



**TOP: Carlotta Morteo ('07);
BOTTOM: Philippe Noeltner ('07)**

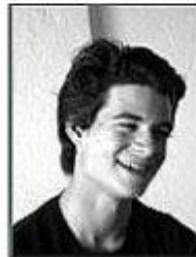
in a dorm, theres a really loud obnoxious f#*%^er who lives right across the hall from me, babbling all night. My neighbor smokes pot with a bunch of people in the little bathroom we share, lots of people smoke a lot of pot here, drink a lot, people just go on all night giggling and laughing, it makes me wonder. At night, when there are no cars, we ride down the hills on skateboards, risking our lives, awesomeness though, the speeeeeeeed, the sensation, the bus ride back up; the intense math I experienced at the Lycee is slowly fading away as I spend most of my time building things, making water pumps, ping pong ball launchers, balsa wood bridges (mine held 65 pounds). I'm layed back, in the Lycee I felt like I was smarter than most people. Here I know I am smarter than most people. Haha, cocky bastard. No, but seriously, this school only accepts those with the money, they do not check SAT scores at all, and lots of the kids here are just dumb. But that's not why I'm here though. The stuff is relatively easy, it's really fun sometimes, and I know for a fact that I am the one working the least out of everyone from the Lycee, but let me assure you that I didn't know about it, and that if I choose to continue this major, I might go to a more challenging and serious school. But I like San Fran. It's funny, I call the place I work in the 'testosterone factory', 'cause there are mostly guys and they're all here for the cars. It's fun though, it's chill. Learn the word 'hella', it's hella chill, nutella is hella good. New SAT word. I express my sophistication to the others in my dorm by drinking tea and listening to classical music, hahaha, and speaking French, cursing in French, and some of the ladies really love it.

Here are some pictures of me, the pirate was for halloween, my dad came and it was great; he dressed as a monk, the jack sparrow joker was this random night, ten other people went for the joker look, entering for a contest for the new batman movie. Best group picture wins. We didn't win, but we looked pretty bad ass. Here is my teapot project, I got a C- on it but I think it's cool. It all started with a couple of designs, then after selecting one, a foam model was constructed, a model split in half down the middle. then I cast a sheet of acrylic over each half to make a mold, a one use only mold though. After removing the foam model from the mold, which means destroying the foam model, I poured instant cast into the model, which is two materials that you mix together, very toxic, and that acts like a liquid clay thay dries in half an hour. So my teapot ended up like a big block of clay-like material. After glueing the two halves together, sanding it down, sharpening the edges, I had to paint it, color by color, with a spray gun. It turned out nice, I wanted it to look like a rock that burst out of the ground from an earthquake or something, and give it lava like colors, as if it was lava in the process of drying. I also added little chunks of silver paint to mimic metal or crystals.

I really miss all of you and hope to be able to see you during the Christmas break in New York, if you'll be there. I'm coming back on the 22nd of December for 5 weeks. Love, Adrian"



Adrian Landon ('07) and sample of his artwork (helmet is made of steel sheet metal, formed entirely with anvil and hammer.



**TOP: Irene Domenjoz ('07);
MIDDLE: Maximilien D'Andigne ('07);
BOTTOM: Alban Bressand ('07) & Jessica Schinazi ('07)**



**TOP, left to right: Jean Edouard
Ourceyre, Mohamed Hachani;
BOTTOM: Danielle Nickerson,
Melissa Bukuru**