



Winter 2010

World Wide ASPECT

"KEEPING OUR ALUMNI CONNECTED"

www.asparis.org

DIGITAL MASTER RETURNS

Tristan T. des Prés '69 speaks with ASP students about his career in digital music and sound design

Here at ASP we are always happy when alumni return to campus to visit their alma mater. We were particularly delighted when ASP graduate Tristan T. des Prés, Class of 1969 came to campus to not only reminisce about his days as an ASP élève but also spend an afternoon speaking with our Middle School and Upper School students.

Tristan has spent the past two decades working as a successful sound designer and composer for some of the world's most well-known videogame manufacturers, including Nintendo, Sega and Sony PlayStation, and has been running his own recording studio, AVP

Productions, since 1998. During a recent interview with Tristan, he reflected on his ASP experience and defined it as "a real turning point" for him that was marked by an active involvement in music. While Tristan spoke to our digital music students, he revealed how he transformed a personal love for composing and playing music into a career which went beyond simply "performing gigs". Tristan was one of the pioneers working in the field of digital music and sound design and he has remained at the forefront of the industry working alongside individuals such as Randy Thom - sound designer behind films like Forest Gump,

Titanic, and recent box office sensation, Avatar.

Tristan's visit was a unique opportunity for the entire digital music class, but it was particularly special for one ASP senior, Mara Heussaff, who had the opportunity to present some of her musical compositions to Tristan. This has led to a collaborative student/alumnus project where Tristan has offered to arrange one of Mara's songs in his private recording studio in California. Mara comments, "Not only is this collaboration a great opportunity for me, but his presentation is also an experience that I know I won't forget."



To read the full story on
Tristan T. des Prés '69 and
his recent visit to campus
go to pages 14-15.

WATER IS LIFE!

In response to the feature which appeared in the last edition of the World Wide ASPect, ASP Alumna Ariane Alzhara Kirtley was invited to ASP to talk to students about her quest to bring water and life to some of the most impoverished people in the world.

And her inspirational visit has mobilized students from all three divisions to help change the lives of children in a remote, drought-ridden and forgotten corner of Africa.

ASP graduate Ariane is the founder and director of the NGO Amman Imman: Water is Life, whose mission is to bring water to the people of the Azawak area in Niger where every year hundreds of people die of thirst and disease. Since 2005 she has dedicated her time to raising the funds required, not for shallow wells which dry up too quickly, but for bore holes accessing water hundreds of meters deep which will last for decades. In November, she spent a full day presenting to captive audiences in the Lower, Middle and Upper School about her work and how empowered children can be to help other children.

And this month we share her latest good news – A second bore hole has now been drilled 250 meters deep in Kijigari and will be equipped with a pump and engine, water tower, troughs, and faucets all by the end of March providing water for the village and a nomadic



community of thousands. However, soaring prices for steel have taken its toll on the project's funds and fundraising has become

crucial to finish the project. At ASP she described how children can travel 30 kilometers a day in temperatures as high as 125F searching for water and return with just cups of mud – even in the rainy season. And explained the difference her projects can make: "Water allows you to grow your own food, build an adobe home and allows a family to stay clean and avoid disease. It also means children can spend their day at school rather than skimming through muddy marshes and the presence of water attracts other NGOs to invest in the region – to build schools and health centers, set-up food relief programs, and combat the environmental degradation of the region." At the end of her day at ASP, Ariane said: "I had a fabulous time presenting to all the students, seeing my old teachers, and meeting new teachers. Presenting to students is what I love doing the most. Just seeing the light in those kids' eyes when they learn they can help my friends in the Azawak makes me want to cry!" Find out more about Ariane's work and make a donation:

<http://www.waterishope.org/> ■

ASP CHAMPIONS!

The Fall Season finished in tremendous style at the International Schools Sports Tournaments with ASP champions in two out of the three sports!

Our athletes returned home with a great clutch of personal medals from the Cross Country ISST in Vienna, including a 7th grade Junior Varsity champion.

But the top result was from our Girls Varsity Volleyball team who brought home the Division One Champion's Trophy! Athletic Director Han Hoegen said: "I am

extremely proud of all our athletes, not just their obvious medal accomplishments, but the way in which they represent ASP at these international competitions."

The Girls Varsity Volleyball team had a great season, going undefeated into the tournament at the Zurich International School in Switzerland.

The team played seven schools from Athens, Tel Aviv, Vienna, London, Munich



and Zurich to become ISST Champions 09-10.

The team that brought back the trophy and gold medals were Rachel Surprenant, Hope Jones, Kara McClain, Jules Healey, Nicole Pick, Brooke Hoddenfield, Kaitlin Cunningham, Kendall Reinhart, Kandi Pendleton, and Liz Surprenant.

The team was coached by Ginny Stead and her assistant Charles Beacham.



SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE

More alumni are supporting ASP than ever before through our new fundraising campaign – The Excellence Fund.

ASP is delighted by the response from its worldwide community of alumni and past families who in just a few short weeks have generously given and pledged multi-year support totaling \$54,565.

Their support is part of a campaign which also includes current parents, trustees, faculty, and staff who altogether have given this year alone more than 100,000^{1/4} and pledged a further 112,000^{1/4} support in future years.

The support for this new initiative has been overwhelming – THANK YOU!

All gifts to The Excellence Fund will be dedicated to initiatives that directly enhance the quality of the ASP educational programs and student experience.

These donations will provide flexible resources to maintain and support three key areas that are at the heart of the American School of Paris educational experience:

- **Academic Excellence** – by enhancing our curriculum that educates the “whole child” through a combination of strong core academic subjects along with fine arts, theater, music, and sports.

- **The Student Experience** – by providing once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunities for ASP students in and beyond the classroom walls.

- **Faculty Investment** – by attracting, developing, and retaining the best teachers. The Excellence Fund was



Hal Judis attending an ASP alumni reunion in New York last year.

developed in consultation with current and past parents, faculty, trustees, and alumni. Their input identified the characteristics of an ASP education that are important to uphold and advance, and their response to a new type of annual giving was overwhelming. Shifting the role of annual fundraising is part of long-term strategic plans to ensure ASP's financial stability and advance school

programs.
To find out more about how your gift will impact the educational experience of ASP's students both today and tomorrow, please visit: www.asparis.org/excellencefund. Thank you for your continued support!

And Upper School Social Studies teacher Hal Judis shared with the ASPECT why he and his wife Florence have made a multi-year



pledge to The Excellence Fund. Their two children, Bill and Berangere are ASP students in grades 9 and 7.

“As an ASP teacher for the past 23 years and an ASP parent of two children since 2001, I have come to know the school in a way few others have. The superb academic program and the varied and excellent extra-

curricular offerings in sports, theater, art and service combine to make ASP an international school without peer. By making a long-term contribution to The Excellence Fund, Florence and I are reinforcing our commitment to the future and continued excellence of this wonderful school.

It is my hope that coming generations of students will be as fortunate as my son and daughter have been; a contribution to The Excellence Fund will help in sustaining and assuring the long-term viability of ASP and bring this hope to fruition.” ■





GROWING GREEN!

ASP is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and continually strives to do more on campus, through the curriculum and within the community. In this special report discover how ASP has evolved since its Year of Science and Environment with the commitment and hard work of students and teachers alike.

Eco-curriculum

There have been radical changes to the science curriculum across all three divisions and in Upper and Middle School this curriculum revision has been supported by a one million euro investment in refurbishing the science labs.

In Lower School a new Outdoor Science Lab was built in April last year – made possible by gifts to the Annual Fund. It has now evolved into a fledgling wildlife habitat and supports the daily study of science for students from Kindergarten through Grade 5.

To study birds there are student made feeders, birdbaths and nest boxes equipped with cameras. For students studying insects there are log piles housing mini-beasts and compost bins to monitor energy and decomposition. The planting of the area has been designed to support the 4th Grade plants module and the pond gives fifth graders a chance to discover hands-on the dynamics of a wetland ecosystem.

An enthusiastic gardening club has formed and the area is surrounded by panels so passing students can spot what

is new in the area each month.

In Middle School the entire curriculum has changed focus and now integrates the three traditional areas of scientific study with ecological and environmental issues.

New science courses

The program is designed to give students a background in the traditional areas of study, then give them experience in gathering data in field settings as well as in laboratories. Finally, these experiences are applied to examine common environmental problems with the students offering potential solutions to the problems studied.

The goal is to develop scientifically literate students who have both the background necessary for understanding environmental concerns in our technological society and the foundational tools for further study in science.

In Upper School an Environmental Science course has been added to the curriculum providing students with a coherent perspective on the environment:

one that enables them to adopt an informed and responsible stance on the wide range of environmental issues they will inevitably come to face.

It is intended that students develop, in addition to an appreciation of environmental issues, an understanding rooted in the underlying principles of science. Students' attention is drawn to their own relationship with their environment and the significance of choices and decisions they make in their own lives. In a recent project they carried out a school wide taste-test of water, exploding the myth that bottled tastes better – 55% of students chose ASP tap water as their preferred water!

In addition an ecology unit has been added to Biology with students studying the remarkable variety of trees on campus, preparing a species map and factsheet for each.

Finally gifts from the Annual Fund have established a new extended field trip for AP and IB Science Students – the Advanced Environmental Research Project.

The students are expected to devise and conduct original experiments in the coastal area of the Baie de Somme during a three day trip, gathering data and presenting conclusions.

Eco-campus

Central to the Green Action Team's activity is to examine and advise the way in which ASP can invest in reducing its carbon footprint. And automatic sensor lighting, paper towel dispensers, double glazing and new condensing boilers is just the start according to Facilities Manager Mike Breen. He said: "Clearly we are always looking at ways of improving ASP's facilities and little by little we are getting there as fast as we can, investing as many resources as we can." And Mike is currently in the research phases of two major green initiatives. He said: "We have a study ongoing currently looking at ways in which we can collect, store and use rainwater on campus. In addition we are looking to 'green' providers as we undertake routine and new refurbishments for items such as carpets."



Eco-campaign

The Green Action Team was established last year to coordinate schoolwide eco-efforts and is comprised of members of the administration, faculty, parents and students.

This year the team launched its first Environmental Campaign focusing on electricity.

Upper School teacher and Green Action Team leader, Anne Bayley said: "Our aim? Simple! To reduce ASP's electricity consumption month-on-month, year-on-year. Not quite as simple as it might seem given the additional computers, monitors and an air conditioning system that was installed since last year."

The choice was made to focus on a single goal after research by the Green Action Team showed that all school support for environmental issues in general, can be more effectively built through a single, clearly stated campaign with clear goals and clear progress markers.

The campaign has been a great success with the year-on-year electricity consumption DOWN for four consecutive months! And since October, the global

consumption on site has been down every month on the previous month. (see the results table below)

Anne Bayley described how Upper School has kept the momentum going since September: "The Green Team gives monthly updates in morning assembly, awards best (and worst!) classroom certificates based on who turns their lights out, and even showed a very motivating campaign horror movie by senior Jacqueline McKendry called Turn out the lights... or they will get you."

And the eco-class of the year will get a dramatic make-over during the summer vacation. Facilities Manager Mike Breen

said: "This is a way to both recognize the efforts of the students and teachers and will draw attention to our eco policies." In Lower School a new Green Team has formed and is working with the Student Council and the Garden Club to promote the electricity campaign with student-made signs for each light switch, to step up recycling and promote composting in the Outdoor Science Lab. You can find out more about the Green Action Team and keep track of the campaign's progress on the ASP website (www.asparis.org/greenaction), where you can also make your own suggestions or ask questions on the Green Team blog.

Electricity consumption campaign results

MONTH	KWH 08	KWH 09	CHANGE
September	83,155 kWh	80,347 kWh	DOWN 3%
October	92,512 kWh	83,222 kWh	DOWN 10%
November	87,418 kWh	81,758 kWh	DOWN 6.5%
December	86,330 kWh	81,296 kWh	DOWN 6%

ASP alumni, families, and friends have joined together for a number of events across the USA and in France. Mark your calendars for two upcoming reunions in Beverly Hills and NYC and check out the photos from our Austin and Paris reunions!

"LET'S GET TOGETHER"

Upcoming Events...

ASP Alumni Wine tasting – California Takes on France!

Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 6:30pm - 8:00pm
Sundaram Tagore Art Gallery - 9606 South Santa Monica Boulevard Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Cost: \$15 per person (\$25 at door)
RSVP: www.asparis.org/reunions

Come join ASP alumni, families, and friends for a special wine tasting evening at the Sundaram Tagore Art Gallery in Beverly Hills. Meet others who have lived in Paris and attended ASP and share your experiences from the City of Lights to the City of Angels. Cost includes extensive wine tasting, appetizers, wine education, and art exhibit.

By registering in advance through the ASP website, you will take advantage of the early bird rate of \$15 per person. Guests are welcome to come without registering in advance but will be charged \$25 per person.

Please visit www.asparis.org/reunions for more details and online registration.



4th Annual International Schools Reunion, New York City

Thursday, May 6, 2010 from 6pm – 9pm
The Havana Room - 306 East 76th Street (between 1st and 2nd Avenues), NYC
RSVP Requested (see below for more details)

ASP is delighted to take part in the 4th Annual International Schools Reunion in NYC on May 6, 2010. Alumni, former parents, former faculty and staff from eight international schools are coming together for this unique event.

Joining ASP this year is Copenhagen International School, International School of Brussels, American School in London, International School of Geneva, Zurich International School, International School of Zug and Luzern, and Benjamin Franklin International School (Barcelona).

Register online and your first drink is on us! An assortment of appetizers will also be served throughout the evening. RSVP online through the Copenhagen International School website at [www.cis-edu.dk/page.cfm?p=1016](http://cis-edu.dk/page.cfm?p=1016). Register online before April 30, 2010!

Austin Reunion: Oct. 16-18, 2009

1970s Class Reunion in Austin, TX – October 16-18, 2009

"Austin was the place to be for a 1970s ASP class reunion. Alumni graduating from 1969 to 1980 showed up at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Austin from as far away as Massachusetts, Florida, California, Canada and Washington State. The reunion, organized by Jane Lucido (Haber) '76, Mike Barndt '76 and Kenneth Brock (Barndt) '79, was a resounding success. As alumni wandered in on Friday afternoon it was amazing to be able to recognize old friends without a nametag. On



Online Alumni Mentoring Program

In February 2010, the ASP Alumni Office launched its first Online Alumni Mentoring Program. Members of the ASP alumni community are a rich resource of information for current students and young alumni exploring future career paths. The idea for the program first came about after the organization of the first Upper School Career Day in January 2009. The goal was to set up an online networking site where current and former students could seek career advice from alumni working in a wide variety of career fields.

A number of alumni were eager to take part in the program and we currently have 60 mentors from 30 different professions online ready to connect and offer career advice.

The Online Alumni Mentor List is sorted by career field and includes the mentor's name, educational background, brief job description, and contact information. The site is password-protected in order to protect the personal contact information of our alumni mentors.

Alumni are welcome to consult the site or volunteer to be a mentor at anytime and we are confident the program will continue to grow over the next few months.

Visit the site at www.asparis.org/mentor and contact Amanda Nagele at anagele@asparis.fr to request the password.



Saturday some shopped, suntanned by the pool, and some played golf (where much rule 'interpretation' took place). We all had fun sampling the great live music available in the Austin area and also the great food. By Sunday it was like no time had passed at all even though it had been over 30 years for some. All agreed that the common bond we had in attending ASP was unique and something never to be forgotten. There are current plans to meet again in Austin next October! We'll keep you posted. Come see the bats...you'll just have to come to Austin to figure out what that one means!"

Bill Talley '76, 1970s Reunion Organizer



Paris Reunion: January 5, 2010

9th Annual ASP Alcazar Reunion in Paris – January 5, 2010

ASP Alumni from 1964 to 2009, former parents, teachers, and trustees joined together to celebrate the New Year at our 9th Annual Alcazar Reunion in Paris' Latin Quarter. Alumni from the early 70s were the most represented with 9 alumni from the classes 1973-1975, including: Matt DuAime '73, Sam Russell '73, Sylvia Majani '74, Marc Jobert '75, Christine Jodet (Burrous) '75, Kristin McKirdy '75, Stephen Mueller '75, Brooke Pietsch '75, and Jean-Michel Thordinet '75. Special recognition was given to ASP's former French teacher, Anne-Marie Calvet – she has yet to miss an ASP Alcazar Reunion and the gang from the 1970s sure appreciated seeing her again. Be sure to mark your calendars for Alcazar's 10th anniversary celebration on Tuesday, January 4, 2011!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAMUN!

In December the 10th Paris Model United Nations conference was held with record attendance and record success.

More than 900 participants from 65 schools, 25 countries and 4 continents, converged at ASP's invitation to the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The topic chosen for this year's conference was, A World in Crisis, and all committees had at least one burning issue on their agenda.

Some of the highlights included a special conference aiming to review the Kyoto Protocol, as a preview of the Copenhagen conference and a renegotiation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, one of the proposals which contributed to President Obama being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

All committees were also challenged with a spot-crisis, such as a declaration of independence of Palestine and its application to join the UN, or a discovery of petrol in the Antarctic region.

The keynote speaker at the Opening Ceremony was Albina du Boisrouvray – the parent of ASP alum Francois Xavier.

In 1989, after the untimely tragic death of her son, Albina du

Boisrouvray, along with family and friends, founded the Association FXB International, an international non-governmental organization to pursue, in the field of development, the rescue missions that he led, and to perpetuate the values of generosity and



compassion that guided Francois-Xavier's life, focusing on AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. Today, FXB leads over 100 programs in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and has a staff of close to 400 and many

volunteers. PAMUN is a THIMUN (The Hague International Model UN) affiliated conference. This affiliation is a "quality stamp" much sought after but rarely given. This year, five years since the original affiliation was obtained, PAMUN came up for reassessment. A member of the THIMUN Board therefore observed the conference and he submitted a very favorable report. "PAMUN is a

stellar and outstanding conference by any standards", he wrote in his conclusions. A fitting 10 year anniversary gift!

www.aspatis.org/pamun ■
(See also p.16 for more news of FXB)



Model Middle Schoolers



The Middle School Model United Nations club has grown to be a force to be reckoned with on the international stage. This winter alone the team have attended conferences in Norway and Switzerland and come home with outstanding accomplishments and nearly half the trophies – despite being amongst the youngest delegates!



HOT CLUB OF DETROIT

Paul Brady '01 reflects on his time at ASP and how it inspired his career in jazz

It was during Paul Brady's senior year at ASP that he became exposed to jazz music. What was originally an extra-curricular activity would soon come to shape his entire academic and professional career. Paul tells us about his time at ASP and how it led him to join the jazz group - Hot Club of Detroit - a group that will be releasing its third record this year.

"I attended ASP for my senior year during 2000-2001. It was then that I became exposed to jazz, which has since entirely shaped my life. And I can honestly say I would not be where I am today without ASP.

Told by my parents I should do something extra-curricular, I went to Neal Yocom, the ASP band director, and asked if they needed a bassist for the jazz band. (I had played bass in bands in Michigan before moving to Paris). It turned out they already had a bassist but needed a guitarist. I didn't have a guitar or know how to play jazz guitar. Dr. Yocom said I could temporarily borrow one from the school and that I should take lessons with James Wilson who then was teaching guitar privately at ASP.

James and I got along incredibly well. We remain good friends and I was even able to visit him in Paris last summer. He remains



a huge inspiration for me, especially now that I am a teacher myself.

But the most life-changing discovery for me while living in Paris was the music of Django Reinhardt, the Belgian-born jazz guitarist. I came across a Django cd in my family's already furnished Parisian home. It was his virtuosity that struck me first, but also the amazing feelings that consumed me whenever I would hear his music. I began practicing to sound exactly like him and that was how I landed a job with the Hot Club of Detroit.

Inspired by Django's swing-era group the Hot Club of France, the Hot Club of Detroit is about to release its third record on the Mack Avenue label. In 2005, when I had finished my music studies at DePaul University in Chicago, I was asked by the group's leader Evan Perri to perform with the group at the Detroit Jazz Festival. Soon after, I became a permanent member. Through the Hot Club of Detroit, I have had some incredible experiences performing with world famous jazz musicians like saxophonists James Carter, Joel Frahm, and Anat Cohen; violinist Zach Brock; and guitarists Stephane Wrembel, Frank Vignola and Howard Alden. Alden's work for the Woody Allen film, Sweet and Lowdown, had a big influence on me. The film, which is about a fictional jazz guitarist who worshiped Django Reinhardt, is largely responsible for the world's renewed interest in Reinhardt's life and music. Howard and I remain friends and I was even asked to



accompany him on rhythm guitar for his concert at the 2009 Northwest Django Reinhardt Festival in Washington state. These days I am living in New York City and finishing my masters degree and teaching music history part-time at Rutgers University. Writing music criticism, continuing to play with the Hot Club of Detroit, and free lanceing as a jazz guitarist and producer keep me busy outside of school.

When I look back at my one year at ASP it almost feels as if it were a dream. It seems hard to believe that something so fantastic as a year in Paris at 17 – a year that unquestionably changed my life - actually happened." ■





ASP has a long standing reputation of excellence in the Arts which continues with a dynamic program combining curriculum, clubs and visiting artists to inspire and nurture the budding ASP talents

ARTS AT ASP

The Cube Displays

Thanks to the class gifts of students graduating in 2007 and 2008, ASP has a wonderful exhibition space in the heart of the Upper School which alternates professional visiting artists work with home grown talent.

And this winter there was an exceptional display from three different ASP student groups.

Monochromatic Paintings

in Acrylic were created by three studio art classes in the Upper School. In these paintings, various darker shades and tints of the hue or main color created the art student's palette. This not only leads a painting to depict a certain mood according to the chosen color scheme, but also allows the art student to deepen their understanding of color, all the while



working to represent a detail of a 3-dimensional subject. Self-Portraits in Oils was the final project of the semester Studio Art course. Using small mirrors, students briefly sketched their facial features and after choosing a color palette of their choice, painted themselves in their own image. The only color requisite was that they do their best to find their proper skin color via color mixing.

However, the likenesses to 'selfs' that the art students acquired when they inadvertently 'let go' of their inhibitions and simply painted...brought a smile to the lips of many.

Large Silver Figures were the work of last semester's sculpture course and since their time in the Cube, they have now become a permanent exhibition in the



school's main reception area. Attention here was focused on aiming to keep the illusion of reality while knowingly not including the human additions of face and hands. One student sculptor said: "I learned that it is absolutely necessary to exercise the artistic part of the brain. I loved it and needed it. In addition, there is an accomplished feeling when you finish a big project that had begun in your head as a single idea. That's where the true appreciation is." ■

Burp!

At the end of January the Lower School were delighted to welcome the storytelling and singing talents of Courtney Campbell to ASP.

Thanks to the Friends of Libraries, this award winning presenter spent a very full morning entertaining children and teachers from all grades.



The early years classes were glued to her every word as she told the story of Burp's first day at school and sang funny songs which they could all join in. (*Pictured left*)

For more information about Courtney please visit: www.courtneycampbell.com



Wish upon a star but do your homework!

Award winning artist and author Kadir Nelson inspired students from all three divisions at ASP with his very personal presentation this month.

He told Upper Schoolers about his creativity as a teenager and showed a work he had created at 15 during a very hot summer when he decided to channel his anger and bad mood into a piece of art (above, right).

He illustrated his artistic development and showed the progression in his work through to the work he did for Steven Spielberg when he worked as a creative concept artist for the Dreamworks films Armistad and the animated film, Spirit and then onto his own authorial work.

Working for films was the realization of a long-held ambition that his parents had both encouraged him to follow and a



poster in his trigonometry teacher's class had motivated him to achieve that dream. The poster said: "Wish upon a star but do your homework", and he explained how this had been a guiding principle for his success ever since.

Thanks to the PFA's Friends of Libraries who sponsored the visit by Kadir Nelson. For more information: <http://www.kadirnelson.com/>

Treading the boards!

For many alumni, the annual stage productions at ASP are some of the most vivid memories they have.

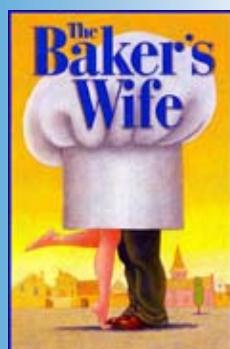
This year's Upper School Musical was The Baker's Wife, a rom-com set in France in the 1930s.

The wonderful production played to packed audience for three performances in February with the Performing Arts Center transformed into a provincial French village by the cast and stage crew of Upper School students.

This light hearted love comedy was in stark contrast to the Fall Production of Arthur Miller's The Crucible.

The drama chronicling the Salem Witch Trials, which was written as commentary on the McCarthy years and the work of the House Un-American Activities Committee, was played out by our talented thespians including Middle School students.

If you have memories of your time at ASP, don't hesitate to get in touch with Amanda Nagele: anagele@asparis.fr



Art in words

This month The Cube hosts an exceptional exhibition of the works of Abdollah Kiaie who also met with students and parents.

Abdollah Kiaie was born in Tehran, Iran. From the age of five, he began studying calligraphy in a family environment and then continued his studies under Master Amirkhani.

When he moved to France in 1987, he carried on the calligraphic work and teaching that he had pursued in Iran and helped to found the Parisian associations, Ductus and Calligraphis, while regularly exhibiting in France and abroad.

Abdollah Kiaie also serves as a consultant to communication agencies, museums, the French National Education system and the National Library of France. His work encourages the viewer to detach from the literal meaning of words. Instead, he adheres to the form, movement, space and rhythm of letters. He employs these letters, or calligraphic 'elements' which conform to the rules of the art of Persian calligraphy, for their aesthetic and graphic value, creating a visual language as well as an abstract mode of expression.

For more information: <http://abdollahkiaie.calligraphie.com>





THE MUSIC WITHIN THE

Following Tristan T. des Prés' recent visit with the students in James Wilson's digital music class, Alumni Office's Amanda Nagele had an opportunity to sit down with Tristan to learn more about his time at ASP in 68-69, his career as a professional sound designer, and his personal impressions of ASP today.

Tristan, where are you from originally? Did you move around a lot as a child?

I was born in New York City in 1951 to a Haitian father and a French mother. My father left Haiti at the age of sixteen by joining the US Navy. He later pursued his studies in America and received his Ph.D. in languages. My father could speak eight different languages and my parents were extremely disciplined with me and my brother as children to ensure we were bilingual in French and in English. I lived in New York City till 1958 where I attended the Lycée Français. In 1959, my parents decided to move to the French Riviera which is the region my mother's family was from. I am not quite sure why my parents decided to leave the United States but that move was such an incredible experience for me – being a young child able to explore a new country and culture.

What grades did you attend ASP? What kind of student were you?

I attended ASP for one year, my senior year. I graduated with the class of 1969. I have to say that I was a pretty poor student academically, but my year at ASP was a real personal turning point because of my involvement with music. It was such an exciting time to be in Paris – you felt a real sense of revolution. I remember ASP student music groups like Les Irresistibles and The Daisies. I played in a band called Fire & Ice with a couple of my ASP classmates, David Kalisher '70 and Don & Doug Taylor '70. David Kalisher's father was the head of CBS news at the time and we were able to rehearse in their studios. We used to play at private parties in Paris and also at school dances at ASP.

During this time, I had to hide my music activity from my father because he did not appreciate at all rock music. He wanted me to be a classical musician but all I was interested in was playing Jimi Hendrix and The Beatles. Music had caused a real clash between me and my father – but later on



Tristan with Randy Thom.

in life he came around realizing the artistic value and creativity that is found in this musical style.

Where did you go after ASP?

After graduation from ASP, my parents sent me to a Jesuit boarding school in the Périgord Noir (outside of Bordeaux) so that I could earn my French Baccalaureate. After that I then attended the American College of Paris for one year and studied French literature. Then one day I was in the student lounge at ACP playing the piano and a girl came up to me and said, "You should really make a career in music." I was a bit surprised by her reaction because I honestly had never thought about it before. This was the first time the idea of pursuing a musical profession came to mind.

I then returned to the United States to study music. I attended the Berklee College of Music and The Juilliard School for a short period and then studied at the New England Conservatory on and off for 6 years. My studies were largely influenced by my father's constant desire that I become a classical musician. But what I truly aspired to play was jazz.

As a music student what type of job did you envision yourself having?

I honestly had no idea. It was the mid-80s and I was playing with my fusion band, World Affair. I remember one day driving in

my car and thinking – Wouldn't it be nice if I found a job where people paid me to make music. Then in 1987, out of the blue, I received a phone call from a company called Park Place Productions asking if I would be interested in writing music for video games. It was something that I knew very little about, but I quickly accepted knowing there was a pay check attached. It was then that I first became exposed to writing music in lines of code. I had to write the note name and number, the duration of the rests, as well as "note on and note off" commands. In the beginning, on a good day, I could complete one bar of music in one day. I was bit reluctant about the job after seeing how I had to write my music but it was an interesting opportunity for me - I was starting to get tired of having to live from gig to gig. Unfortunately, after one year, the company went out of business, but soon after that I received a phone call from a recruiter for Sega.

I remember at the job interview asking how they expected me to compose my music and when they answered - "straight to CD" - it was a dream come true. Sega hired me as their Music Director and during that time I had the opportunity to write music for Eternal Champions – one of the first "big hits" I was associated with - along with 25 other video games. I later became the Audio Director of the subsidiary SegaSoft.

Since 1990, I have produced music and sound effects for over 100 games, both "in-game" sound effects as well as movie content. Along with Sega I have also worked with Nintendo and Sony PlayStation. Some of the more well-known games I have produced music for, include: ATV Off Road Fury Series, Twisted Metal Series, The Mark of Kri, SOCOM Series, Syphon Filter Series, and all 989 Sports Games.

After working for many years with Sega and Sony, I was able to establish a solid professional reputation which led me to create my own recording studio, AVP

WORLD OF VIDEO GAMING

"I've always been interested in the music industry, but I'm still learning about the endless amount of possibility that the industry holds; discovering jobs that no one really thinks about, but that make such a big difference in the world of music, TV, video games, etc. is always an interesting experience. For this reason, I found Tristan T. des Prés' visit to be both extremely entertaining and inspiring. I'd never really thought about all the people behind the music and sound effects in video games or movies; his presentation displayed the creative and technical sides to what he does, both of which seemed challenging in the best ways possible. Hearing him speak not only raised my level of curiosity regarding potential job opportunities in the music industry but also made the possibility of having one of these interesting and satisfying jobs seem much more plausible, especially because he is an alumnus of ASP; since I'm graduating this year, seeing someone so successful coming from the same high school makes the future I want seem much more realistic. Tristan T. des Prés has also taken interest in my own musical compositions, and offered to work with me and arrange some of my songs back at his post production studio in southern California. Not only is this collaboration a great opportunity for me, but his presentation is also an experience that I know I won't forget as it has exposed me to a whole different side of the music industry."

Mara Heussaff, Class of 2010



Productions, and I have been working as a freelance sound designer since 2007.

What do you enjoy most in this field of work?

I have come to realize that I enjoy producing sound effects much more than music. On a personal level, I am a very non-violent person but it is true that a majority of the sound effects I create, especially for video games, revolve around violence. It wouldn't be strange for a producer to come up to me and ask, "Now what can you do to make this sound more wet?" It seems funny but that is what sound effects are all about - often referred to as, "realistic, but over the top, larger than life."

I still write music but I do it now more for personal pleasure. I continue to produce music with my fusion band and I am always interested in doing collaborative work with other artists, for example, violinist Jerry Goodman. I also enjoy producing artists, giving them a sound and arrangement they would have never thought of by incorporating today's modern sounds and production.

Is it challenging to keep up with the constant change in technology?

I have found it relatively easy because I have always been able to remain at the forefront of the digital music industry. I have worked

several times on George Lucas's Skywalker Ranch with sound designers such as Randy Thom – the sound designer behind films like Forest Gump, Titanic, and Avatar. I have been following Randy for years. He has been a true mentor and a huge influence. In 2001, a major change happened in the field with the emergence of three-dimensional sound for surround sound systems. When you mix music or sound effects to create a 3D sound, you are attempting to throw different sounds in different directions from one speaker to the next.

What are some of your proudest professional accomplishments?

I would have to say my work with Sony PlayStation's Twisted Metal Series. I had the opportunity to work with the San Diego Symphony to produce the orchestral sections in the series. David Jaffe, the director/producer/game designer, always had big ideas and he certainly wasn't afraid to try anything. Fortunately, I was able to deliver what he desired, but I delivered it by the skin of my teeth!

What was it like returning to your alma mater after so many years?

This was my first time back in 40 years! I was quite impressed with ASP's Media Lab. The

equipment and technology that students have at their disposal today is outstanding. The school feels very different but in a very good way. If I were in France, I would - without any hesitation - send my children here.

It was really interesting being able to speak to the students about my work. As you can well imagine these students were very knowledgeable about video games so it was certainly interesting to have them as my audience. I am very impressed by the expansion of the school program and how students now have the opportunity to participate in a whole range of new courses, such as digital music and film. With the equipment available in the classroom and the guidance of a teacher like James Wilson, it is clearly a very impressive program. I wish I had that as a child!

You had an opportunity to listen to one of our student's digital music projects – first impressions?

Yes, I had the opportunity to listen to a couple of musical compositions by a student named Mara Heussaff. Her work is very impressive and I am excited to work with Mara to arrange one of her songs in my private studio. I am planning to have violinist Jerry Goodman record violin on her composition. I am really excited about the project and being able to collaborate with one of ASP's current students. It will be a fun venture for me – a joining of my ASP past with my ASP present! ■

ALUMNI VISITS

Karen McCormick (Skilling), class of 1955

ASP parent Joan Jones brought an old family friend to campus, Karen McCormick (Skilling) '55, to show her a bit of ASP today. Karen attended ASP (then called the American Community School) in 1950 for 7th grade. As a child, Karen attended several international schools as her father was in charge of setting up NBC offices in various cities across the globe. Karen currently works as a costume designer.



Janis Ogren, class of 1976 and Monica Lenci (Papendorp), class of 1977

Jan Ogren '76 and Monica Lenci (Papendorp) '77 visited campus in September 2009 with their spouses. Jan and Monica first became friends when they attended ASP and have always continued to stay in touch. Jan is a licensed psychotherapist with a private practice in Santa Rosa, CA and for the last ten years, she has also been a writer, public speaker, and photographer. Monica followed a career in art conservation and is now a practicing artist based out of Connecticut.

Michelle Sprang (Baillieu) '88

Michele Sprang (Baillieu) '88 visited ASP in September 2009. Michele attended ASP from 1980-84 for grades 4-7. Before moving to Paris, Michele lived in India, Greece, and Morocco. Michele currently lives in Sydney with her husband and two young children, Sienna and Henry.

Jackie Tyson (Baillargeon) '84

Jackie Tyson (Baillargeon) recently visited ASP with her mother in February 2010. Jackie attended ASP for four years and left just before graduation in 1983. During the school tour she ran into one of her former teachers, Ernesto Sardhinia. Thanks to Facebook Jackie is connected with more



than 200 ASP friends and is excited to help organize another early 80s reunion next year, following the success of

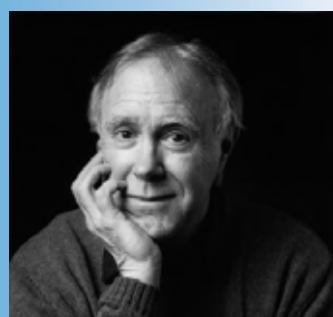
the Boston reunion in July 2009. Jackie lives in Minnesota with her husband and three boys and volunteers her free time to support the arts.

The Visiting Writer Program 09-10

One of the highlights of every year is the prestigious Visiting Writer Program in which ASP is fortunate enough to host some of the literary world's best known names thanks to the especially generous annual gift of ASP alumnus, Steven Barclay '77.

ASP is delighted to welcome US Poet Laureate, Robert Hass, as this year's visiting writer. A poet of great eloquence, clarity, and force, Hass has also brought much energy to his work as an essayist, translator, and activist on behalf of poetry, literacy, and the environment.

Hass will be at ASP on March 29, 2010 where he will hold a writers' workshop with students during the day. In the evening, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff are invited to the Official Residence of the US Ambassador to France for a special reception with the poet, including: a champagne cocktail, reading, and book-signing. For more information about this event, please visit: www.asparis.org/vistingwriter.



C CLASS NOTES HIGHLIGHTS

August 2009–February 2010



Class photo taken in 1947 on the stage at the American Community School located on Boulevard Raspail. If you recognize anyone in this photo, please contact the Alumni Office: anagele@asparis.fr (Photo provided by Charles van der Burgh '59)

ALUMNI NEWS

Caroline Maffry, class of 1995

As an Associate Producer for the Emmy Award-winning travel television series *Equitrekking*® on PBS, alumna Caroline Maffry '95 has joined the *Equitrekking* team, searching the globe for the best in equestrian travel, while exploring local history and culture. Caroline spent several years operating her own travel company with her late mother and is now using that experience producing episodes for *Equitrekking*. She is in charge of planning two episodes to film in France

in 2010, featuring several different regions of the country. The episodes will air around the world, including the United States and France on *Escapes TV*. As *Equitrekking* is broadcast on PBS, sponsors support the series. For information on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Caroline at caroline@equitrekking.com.

In addition to the TV Series, *Equitrekking* recently launched a new travel booking business called *Equitrekking Travel*. This is a full service travel agency specializing in equestrian travel. Riders may participate in unique adventures like riding with the Bedouin in the desert in Jordan, cattle round-ups at a working ranch in New Mexico, cross country training in Ireland, a pack trip in the Canadian Rockies or Alaska, natural horsemanship at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, trail riding America's National Parks in Utah and more. For more information, please visit www.equitrekkingtravel.com and www.equitrekking.com



70s

Robert C. Triulzi, class of 1970

I retired after thirty-one years with General Motors. I am currently doing two consulting jobs in Puerto Rico and China. Would love to hear from class of 1970!

**Jack Rapport, class of 1970**

I am still in the Big Apple running a boutique merchant bank. My oldest just turned 32 and youngest 22 ... wow, where's the time gone? Please update your profiles and class notes everyone!

Jan Ellen Smith (Steele), class of 1971

After leaving Paris in 1974, I married and moved to Mississippi and then to Lake Charles, LA where I was a volunteer coordinator and a realtor for a number of years. In 2002, I moved to Lago Vista, TX (Austin area) where I am now the Director of the Lago Vista Public Library. I am married and have two daughters and one granddaughter.

Beth Holtvedt (Howe), class of 1972

I left Paris and ASP in 1966 and have yet to go back. Great memories! Betty-Jo, Paige, Sheila, Mike...where are you? Lived on Maui for fourteen years working in the restaurant business and was a professional

scuba diver for seven years. I am now living in Texas just outside Austin on Lake Travis. I own my own business, Leaping for Life Fitness, and work as a personal trainer.



70s

**Sarah Popp (Kunze),
class of 1975**

Greetings from upstate New York! It was a wonderful feeling going back to Ville d'Avray a few years ago while we were in Paris visiting our daughter who was studying at the University Paris IV. We walked past our old apartment and reminisced about lots of good times.

**Monique Armstrong,
class of 1976**

I live in Florida and am married with two daughters. I travel to Europe and the Middle East on a regular basis, and hope to move back to Paris in four years. I am so curious to know where my classmates are in their lives! If you remember me, please be in touch!

80s

**Eric Wilhelm,
class of 1983**

Hey everyone! Hope you are all healthy and happy and hope to see you all again at a reunion in the near future. Take care.

90s

**Timothy Fuller,
class of 1991**

I am currently living in Phoenix, AZ with my beautiful wife and three daughters. Hope everyone is doing well. Any interest in setting up another Vegas reunion?

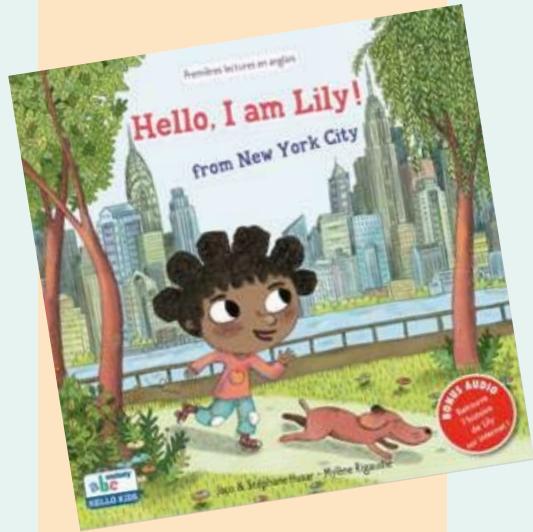
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**Chelsea Dressel,
class of 2008**

Chelsea is in her second year at Louisiana Tech University studying Biomedical Engineering and she was recently accepted in a position to assist with a research project working with prosthetics.

**Stacey Wilson-McMahon,
class of 1980**

I have just published my first children's book called *Hello I am Lily* from New York City (published by ABC Melody: www.abcmelody.com.



**Don't forget to update
your Class Notes online with
ASP's Alumniweb portal. For more
information contact Amanda Nagele:
anagele@aspars.fr**

ALUMNI NOTES

Steven Wyatt, class of 1982

"If you were at ASP in 1978-1979, this story may mean something to you. While working for a printing company in Massachusetts, I often did business with Harvard University School of Public Health. One day I was walking through the building's lobby on Huntington Avenue in Boston (as I have done a number of times before), but this one day, a picture in the lobby seemed to jump out at me. I am not sure how I missed it before because the photograph was illuminated for all to see. I recognized the person immediately.

Francois Xavier Bagnoud, class of 1979 standing next to a helicopter. I remembered him well; I used to help him with his computer work when I was a freshman at ASP.

Next to the photo was a plaque which stated that Francois passed away in a helicopter crash during a rescue mission in Mali in 1986. I later learned that his family established a foundation in his name, Association Francois-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB International), to support various public health projects, particularly to fight poverty



and AIDS and to support orphans left in the wake of the AIDS pandemic.

As I left the school building I called my dad to tell him this story since I knew he would remember Francois very well. As I was talking to him, I looked up at the building and there carved in the stone was his name: Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights.

Who would have known how far the experience of attending ASP would reach?" To learn more about FXB International, please visit: www.fxb.org