

AUP MAGAZINE

SPRING 2019

A NEW ERA BEGINS



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OVER 10 FLOORS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

AUPMAGAZINE | SPRING 2019

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kilian Ordelheide

WRITER & COPY EDITOR

Joseph Pearson

CONTRIBUTOR

Hannah Meltzer

PROOFREADER

Amanda Murphy

IMAGERY

Peregrine Olander

DESIGN

Leland Co.

Dear AUP Worldwide Community,

As this issue of the *AUP Magazine* goes to press, we have just opened our new Student Life and Learning Commons, a large orchestral work that involved many members of our community, past and present, who put their collective shoulder to the flywheel and produced this marvel. I wish I could thank all of them here. To come into the building on the morning after its public opening and see students - at the early hour of 9am - already staking out their territory to study, was to experience one of the happiest moments of my long tenure at AUP. This purpose-built campus, as beautiful as it is functional, was designed not only to meet AUP's needs in the present, but also to house the University's future as an eminently global liberal arts institution providing the finest American pedagogies in Europe, and as a major research and professional-development institute in the style of France's *grandes écoles*.

This special issue of the magazine showcases all the ways in which AUP's Student Life and Learning Commons - the complex formed by the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons and the Combes Student Life Center - provides unprecedented opportunities for students and faculty to teach, learn, study, research, mentor and be mentored, collaborating in the service of solving the world's problems - which is, in a phrase, AUP's mission. At long last, the AUP Library, configured as a state-of-the-art facility that both provides information resources and teaches information literacy skills, takes its rightful place in the center of the campus, along with all the other learning services that students require. You'll find in these pages not only the cover article on the Quai itself but also an interview with the mayor of the 7th *arrondissement*, Rachida Dati, a loyal friend of the project from the outset, as well as a host of pieces covering the variety of activities already taking place in the building.

The Quai is also our new public face to the world. In it, we will receive visitors, scholars and researchers from all over the globe, in addition to our institutional partners and fellow citizens of Paris. Already, the Omid & Gisel Kordestani Rooftop Conference Center has hosted a group of 21 visionary presidents from liberal arts institutions worldwide, and it will be the site, in May of this year, of our historic international conference, co-hosted with the Belfer Center at Harvard Kennedy School, commemorating the centennial of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919.

The second half of the magazine is dedicated to our donors - board members, current students, alumni, parents and friends - who made possible both the renovation of the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons and other initiatives across AUP. By making everything from modest donations toward Annual Giving to landmark gifts destined for named spaces in the Quai, each of our donors

helps us take AUP ever higher. In these pages you will learn more about the O Hill Family Global Explorer Compass, the Chartouni Family Lobby, and the Decade Fundraising Challenges (the Founding Classes Classroom, the '70s Vertical Garden, the AMEX Café reincarnation in Combes funded by the classes of the '80s, and the upcoming '90s challenge to fund a classroom in The Monttessuy Center for the Arts). You will also meet three alumnae, Darcee Caron G'13, Kristina Keenan '08 and Peregrine Olander '06 and G'08, who not only donate to the University financially, but are also powerfully contributing AUP staff members.

The Quai was to have been the final crowning project of the Campus Renovation Plan, which was undertaken five years ago and now amounts to five separate renovations. But another opportunity beckoned, and we will soon break ground on The Monttessuy Center for the Arts in

the space formerly taken up by the library - now moved to the Quai - which we have been renting from the American Library in Paris since the early '70s. Please read the interview with Jonathan Shimony, Coordinator for Fine Arts and curator of the AUP Fine Arts Gallery, for a sense of how fine arts and art history are blooming at AUP and a vivid portrait of what the new center will accomplish for current and future students.

May our worldwide alumni community think of the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons as its home in Paris and Iodestar, and come to visit - and support - our new campus on the Seine.

Dr Celeste Schenck, President



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AUP HIGHLIGHTS

All the latest news from AUP's campus, including a historic conference, the rundown of awards and honorary degrees at this year's commencement ceremony, and an exclusive interview with the mayor of Paris's 7th *arrondissement*.



THE QUARTIER OF OUR FOUNDING

The purchase of a ten-story building in the heart of the 7th *arrondissement* allowed The American University of Paris to secure the site of its long-proposed learning commons, while also reinforcing its commitment to staying in the *quartier* of its founding. Providing a new vantage point on the banks of the Seine, the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons is an important reaffirmation of AUP's dedication to its integrated urban campus. It means that the University can continue offering unique opportunities for cultural immersion and experiential learning to students and faculty alike.

Rachida Dati was first elected mayor of the 7th in 2008 and has since overseen an *arrondissement* in constant transformation: "Ours is a vibrant and lively neighborhood that showcases France's history, traditions and values through multiple historical monuments - including the famous Eiffel Tower - as well as many important institutions of the French Republic." She believes

that the area's dense array of small businesses, from gourmet grocery stores to internationally recognized restaurants, also plays a vital role in community life.

By integrating its buildings seamlessly into the urban environment, instead of sequestering itself on a more traditional campus outside of the city, AUP provides a unique opportunity for students to experience Parisian life, even when moving between buildings on campus. "The *arrondissement* offers students a unique quality of life and, in return, they contribute to the vibrancy and attractiveness of the neighborhood," says Dati. "They also benefit from the diverse social and cultural activities organized by the *arrondissement*." The dynamic local culture is boosted by the presence of prestigious museums and cultural centers, which provide ample

opportunities for students to extend their education beyond the classroom with experiential learning initiatives.

As one of a host of international institutions that call the 7th home, AUP is representative of both the area's international outlook and its reputation for housing exceptional universities - Sciences Po is also located nearby. "AUP's presence confirms the pivotal role that our *arrondissement* plays as a center of higher education excellence in Paris," says Dati. She believes the University is symbolic of a culture of high expectations and an openness to international collaboration; both traits are evident in other institutions headquartered in the

area, including multiple embassies, UNESCO and the offices of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons is the biggest example to date of AUP's rising profile as a global institution. Designed to guide new arrivals right from the start of their academic journeys, the Quai caters to a student body that includes over a hundred nationalities. Great care was taken to ensure the development stayed true to the spirit of the *arrondissement*, which Dati notes includes its long history of attracting international interest from both visiting tourists and long-term expats. "It's a common occurrence when strolling around the 7th to hear different languages being spoken," she continues. "It's an unquestionable asset."

Dati supported the Quai project from the outset. "I am very active in ensuring that each new project aligns with both the history of the area and residents' expectations as to the evolution of their neighborhood," she explains. "These changes keep the area attractive for both families and large companies." During the design process, much care was taken to ensure the building integrated into the architecture of its surroundings; a 1930s theme,

symbolic of a period of accelerated renovation in the area, also permeates the interior architecture. The construction includes several environmental elements; like its neighbor the Musée du Quai Branly, AUP's learning commons includes a green wall. This Vertical Garden, representing the land to which the Quai flagship is moored, is characteristic of many green spaces and public squares that exist across the *arrondissement* such as the Champ de Mars and the Esplanade des Invalides.

There are no plans to halt the neighborhood's ongoing evolution. "My priority is to preserve the area's quality of life," says Dati. "It is also important to promote large-scale urban projects that, as well as showcasing our cultural heritage, benefit local families." As a next step, she hopes to expand the number of cultural events and sports facilities on offer in the area, something that will further improve local opportunities for everyone in the *arrondissement* - including AUP's students. The long road to opening the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, an idea first broached over 15 years ago, has resulted in AUP cementing its position on an urban campus in the heart of the City of Light. We are immensely proud to call such an international neighborhood home. ■



The Eiffel Tower in the heart of the 7th *arrondissement*



Rachida Dati, mayor of the 7th *arrondissement*

THE CENTENNIAL CONFERENCES

An important element of the University's five-year strategic plan, AUP Ascending, has been to raise its profile as a global institution engaged in rigorous academic work across the liberal arts. A prime example of this is the upcoming Paris Centennial Conference, one of a pair of events being held to mark 100 years since the Paris Peace Conference that led to the Treaty of Versailles. Co-hosted by AUP's Center for Critical Democracy Studies and the Belfer Center at Harvard Kennedy School, the conference brings together world-renowned experts on the First World War along with diplomatic dignitaries and conference Patrons to assess the legacy of the Paris peace talks and to discuss its relevance today.

Raymond F Henze III is Chairman of AUP's Board of Trustees. He explains how the University's strategic plan aims to build a strong community for global explorers, to create pathways for students into international careers and, most relevant in the case of the Centennial Conferences, to enhance the University's global reach. "We want to show people who may not know AUP, or who only have an impression of us from the past, who we are today," says Henze.

It was the former US Ambassador to France Craig R Stapleton, a dedicated AUP trustee, who originated the idea for the conference. Stapleton saw the potential for AUP to create the pre-eminent centennial conference: "I envisioned it as an event with global significance and a natural way of putting AUP front and center." The proposal was then discussed with Nicholas Burns, an American diplomat and the founder and Faculty Chair of Harvard's Future of Diplomacy Project, who is also an AUP parent. Burns suggested the initiative be co-hosted by his own institution to integrate the work of historians and diplomats.

AUP professors Stephen Sawyer and Albert Wu are co-chairing the Paris conference, and preparations have involved administrative departments across the University. "I do think what's exciting is that we have a broad range of people working on the conference. It brings together so much of the community at AUP," says Henze. Prestigious locations have been secured for the occasion, including Le Cercle de l'Union Interalliée, founded following the United States' entry into the First World War; the 18th-century Hôtel de Talleyrand, the former home of statesman Talleyrand-Périgord that also served as the headquarters for the development of the Marshall Plan; and the new Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons at AUP.

"There's no question about it, in Paris the Quai d'Orsay is such a meaningful address," says Henze. "It's emblematic of where AUP is as an institution." The new building is down the street from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where, in 1919, world leaders gathered for the Paris Peace Conference. The Quai also offers an expanded events space; the Omid & Gisel Kordestani Rooftop Conference Center seats

80 attendees and is complete with views over the Invalides and the Grand Palais. Visitors to the building are exposed to the full extent of the work that goes into fostering student success at AUP. Whether practicing their interview skills in a career counseling session or perusing the artwork in the Fine Arts Gallery, students use the learning commons to engage with faculty and one another.

The Quai will host the conference's opening reception, introducing a four-day schedule that sees speakers share perspectives on the legacy of the Paris Peace Conference with respect to global diplomatic relations. Among the high-profile speakers is noted Oxford scholar Margaret MacMillan - one of the University's 2019 honorary degree recipients - whose book, *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*, was a principal inspiration for the initial conference proposal. MacMillan and Burns will provide the closing keynote addresses.

"We've not only attracted some of the leading scholars of the period, but we've also made a point to reach out to younger historians," says Professor Stephen Sawyer. "It's a special opportunity to include high-level diplomats, people who have worked directly with

presidents and premiers at the highest levels." Diplomatic attendees will be able to engage with historians both formally and informally. The same is true for the conference's Grand Patrons and Patrons, financial supporters without whom the events could not take place, who will provide their own unique perspectives on the relevance of the peace talks today.

"From a purely liberal arts intellectual standpoint, it's fascinating to see how, 100 years later, we reimagine what took place in 1919 with more information," says Henze. He notes how recent scholarship has extended beyond Eurocentric approaches to include the impact of the Paris Peace Conference on Asia and the Middle East. The themes explored by the Centennial Conferences are particularly

relevant for liberal arts students seeking international careers. "Intellectually it plays into what's taking place in the world," says Henze. Such global perspectives befit AUP's unique profile as an international institution providing competitive American-style pedagogies in a Parisian context. Graduating global explorers often work in a language that is not their mother tongue; this was true of 60% of graduates last year, while 86% of alumni have an international element to their careers. "For students who want to work in foreign relations and diplomacy, it's a great framework." ■



HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS 2019

This year, as every year, AUP is awarding honorary degrees to academics, artists or public figures whose achievements embody the University's ethos and mission. Given out during the commencement ceremony in May, these degrees recognize vital work within liberal arts disciplines that promotes international cooperation and diverse perspectives.



Margaret MacMillan

Margaret MacMillan is a Professor of History at the University of Toronto and the former

Warden of St Antony's College, Oxford. Her bestselling books include *Women of the Raj* (1988, 2007); *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World* (2001), for which she was the first woman to win the Samuel Johnson Prize; *Nixon and Mao: the Week that Changed the World* (2007); and *Extraordinary Canadians: Stephen Leacock* (2009). Her most recent books are *The War that Ended Peace: the Road to 1914* (2013) and *History's People: Personalities and the Past* (2015). She is also a regular media commentator, often on the subject of the First World War.

Professor MacMillan is a trustee of the Central European University in Budapest and the Imperial War Museum and sits on the editorial boards of two journals, *International History* and *First World War Studies*. She is also a Companion of the Order of Canada and a Companion of Honour (UK).

She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature as well as an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, University of Toronto; Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford; and St Hilda's College, University of Oxford. In

May 2019, Professor MacMillan will deliver the keynote address at the Paris Centennial Conference, an event being hosted by AUP to mark the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.



Marian Goodman

Known for her taste, high standards and loyalty to her artists, Marian Goodman is one of the most respected gallerists active today, with over 50 years' experience working in the art world. The Marian Goodman Gallery in New York City, which she founded in late 1977, has helped introduce numerous European artists to American audiences. Her work through the gallery contributes to fostering much-needed interactions between international art institutions and artists working around the world.

Since originally opening, the gallery has expanded to include exhibition spaces in Paris (since 1995) and London (since 2014). In 2015, Goodman's longtime dream of opening a bookstore came to fruition. Located near the gallery's Paris location in the 3rd *arrondissement*, the Librairie Marian Goodman also houses additional exhibition space.

In 1965, Goodman co-founded Multiples, Inc., a company dedicated to publishing prints, multiples and books by well-known American artists, including John Baldessari, Dan Graham, Sol LeWitt, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. The company later worked with European artists and between the years of 1968 and 1975 introduced American audiences to works by, among others, Joseph Beuys, Marcel Broodthaers and Gerhard Richter.

Since then, Goodman, herself a New Yorker, has used her gallery to present artists who are leaders of their generation. More recent exhibits at her New York gallery have included works by visual artist and filmmaker Steve McQueen, sculptor Richard Deacon, and painter and sculptor Anselm Kiefer. She is renowned for her longstanding relationships with her artists.



Ali Rahnema

Ali Rahnema has been a professor at The American University of Paris since 1984. An economist and historian, he holds a BA in Economics from Lewis and Clark College, an MA and an MALD from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a *Doctorat* in the economics and sociology of development from Université de Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne.

Professor Rahnema has led AUP's Department of Economics as both Co-Chair (1996-2006) and Chair (since 2015) and is largely credited with elevating the profile and academic rigor of the department while increasing its emphasis on

interdisciplinary and international perspectives. He was also director of the University's MA in Middle East and Islamic Studies from 2007 to 2015. In addition, he has served on several committees, most recently as Chair of the Faculty Senate (2010-12).

A prolific researcher and writer, his publications include *Shi'i Reformation in Iran: The Life and Theology of Shari'at Sangelaji* (2018); *Behind the 1953 Coup in Iran: Thugs, Turncoats, Soldiers, and Spooks* (2015); *Superstition as Ideology in Iranian Politics* (2011); *An Islamic Utopian: A Political Biography of Ali Shari'ati* (1998); and *Islamic Economic Systems* (1994), which he co-authored with Professor Farhad Nomani of AUP.

Much lauded by the AUP community, he is a three-time recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award conferred by the Board of Trustees, and twice received the Faculty Student Service Award from the Student Government Association. ■

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
MAY 2019



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD:

Amy Sarr Fall '06 and G'07

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes the outstanding work that global explorers go on to accomplish in their international careers. This year's recipient is Amy Sarr Fall, whose promotion of female leadership and youth education is creating sustainable change in Senegal.

Amy Sarr Fall '06 and G'07 is an activist, communications professional, community leader and motivational speaker whose work has taken her across the world: to France, the United States and most recently her home country of Senegal. She is fluent in four languages (French, Wolof, English and Spanish)

Amy Sarr Fall

Photo by Richard Mane

and her international career and global outlook make her an inspirational example for our current global explorers. She herself is a two-time graduate of The American University of Paris, receiving a BA in International Business Administration and International Corporate Communications and an MA in Global Communications. "My time at AUP allowed me to feel at home in any part of the world," says Fall. "It inspired me to dare to dream bigger and to take my projects anywhere. I deeply feel like a citizen of the world."

Over the course of her career she has met with numerous world leaders, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama; Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General of the United Nations from 1992 to 1996; former French President François Hollande; and former US President Barack Obama, whose speeches inspired Fall to believe that change needs to come from the bottom up. "When I came to AUP I was the only Senegalese student in the freshman year," she explains. "I felt I had the responsibility to make sure my country would become better known and appreciated." She has since committed much of her career to

projects aimed at helping Senegalese citizens lift themselves out of poverty.

Fall is the Founder and CEO of *Intelligences Magazine*. Launched in 2010 with the aim of providing a non-partisan perspective on Senegalese politics, the magazine styles itself as a platform for dialogue. "The best way to inspire people to be active agents of change is to speak to them and I didn't see a better way of doing that than through media," says Fall. She was the first woman in Senegal to own a political magazine. Following this vital work, she established an annual initiative involving around a hundred educational institutions across Senegal to bring together more than 1,800 young people for the *Grande Rentrée Citoyenne*, a citizens' forum empowering Senegalese youth to promote values of citizenship and excellence. The President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall, spoke at the fifth edition of the conference, addressing motivated young people from across the country. Its sixth edition took place in 2018.

She also organized the GE7 Global Education Initiative conference in 2018, with the aim of imagining and articulating a new vision for

education. The event, held in the French capital at The Westin Paris - Vendôme, brought together a committee of experts in the field of education - including President Celeste Schenck of AUP - to propose actionable solutions to education issues for current and future generations. "A special thank you to President Schenk who is such an inspiration!" says Fall. "She is always there for her former students and I appreciate her support."

Fall is a strong advocate of the power of active citizenship and has translated this passion through her work as a motivational speaker for women and young people, giving talks in higher education establishments across Senegal and beyond, including conferences at Harvard University, George Washington University and Sciences Po Paris. She was recently named one of the ten most influential women in Senegal and was chosen as Woman of the Year at the Calebasse Awards in 2016. In February 2018, *New African Magazine* recognized her as part of their list of 100 Africans of the Year. ■

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THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS AT AUP

The Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons offers new ways for students to engage in creative pursuits at the University and beyond. This resurgence of artistic life at AUP continues thanks to the next exciting redevelopment project: The Monttessuy Center for the Arts.

The American University of Paris has a long and rich history of artistic endeavor centered on its Department of Art History and Fine Arts. Art history has been taught at AUP, or at what was known at the time as the American College in Paris, since the 1960s, though recently the department has lacked a proper home on campus. Thankfully this situation is changing, in part due to the library's move from the Monttessuy building to the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons. The library's former home will become the next step in AUP's campus redevelopment plan, leading to the creation of The Monttessuy Center for the Arts.

It's hard to miss the impact of artistic pursuits on AUP life; classrooms and office spaces are

filled with students' work. Professor Jonathan Shimony, who joined the University in 2007, curates these pieces as AUP's Coordinator for Fine Arts. His work unites students, faculty and staff via multiple creative projects: "I wear a lot of hats," he admits. As well as managing a collection of over 500 original works, Shimony teaches fine arts, helps run a university-wide art club - open to all students - and curates AUP's Fine Arts Gallery. Thanks to the new Quai building, the gallery now extends from the Combes Student Life Center all the way along the glass atrium of the Student Life and Learning Commons. It allows students, no matter their major, to engage with fine arts as part of a global liberal arts education.

An exhibition in the extended Fine Arts Gallery of the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons

The gallery's central position - perfectly placed to capture passing foot traffic - ensures that artistic opportunities on campus involve everyone at the University. Students, faculty and staff regularly attend *vernissages* in the space; these private viewings offer unprecedented access to professional artists, though the gallery also exhibits students' classwork. "The point of the gallery is to get our community interested in art, to keep our community looking at fresh, interesting works," explains Shimony, who also hopes to include permanent sculpture exhibits in the newly developed space. The glass roof of the atrium fills the gallery with natural light and provides views of the Vertical Garden, making it the perfect place to stop and peruse the latest collection.

Shimony is the University's second Coordinator for Fine Arts, following on from his predecessor and founder of the Fine Arts Gallery, Professor Emeritus Ralph Petty. "He wanted to show artists whose work was good but for whatever reason was not being exhibited in commercial galleries or museums," explains Shimony, noting that there was also an element of social conscience to the choice of exhibits. He has continued in Petty's tradition through his own curation; recently, the gallery highlighted the work of Syrian artists with refugee status in France.

In addition to its own shows, AUP provides unparalleled access to museums, churches and other architectural wonders thanks to its Paris location. Students in the Department of Art History and Fine Arts receive a free pass to the city's exhibitions and cultural monuments, and professors strive to provide innovative ways to experience art both in and beyond the City of Light. "I'm sure you'll agree that people don't just come to Paris for the baguettes, they come for the art," says Shimony. The Cultural Program pushes this approach even further, allowing students to take in the stained glass at Chartres or the stucco work at Fontainebleau, with study trips extending as far afield as Naples and Berlin. "Paris is perfectly placed to see the splendors of Europe."

The arts at AUP represent a University in constant evolution, mirroring wider campus development by striving to improve available learning opportunities. This is reflected in the growth of the department's two majors, art history and fine arts, which have seen a collective 270% increase in interest over the last five years. The time has come, therefore, for a development initiative that will allow the arts at AUP to complete their renaissance. If the Quai is the flagship, Monttessuy will be the figurehead, pointing the University proudly toward the future. The building is situated

right next to the Eiffel Tower and the Champ de Mars, which Shimony notes offers unique opportunities for painters and sketchers.

Though the city itself is often a classroom, on-campus facilities are just as integral to maintaining a healthy artistic culture at the University; students need well-equipped work spaces to properly put theory into practice. The Monttessuy Center for the Arts will offer two purpose-built classrooms, allowing sculptors, painters and printmakers to work independently and keep their materials separate. New courses, such as Advanced Painting, will only be possible in this expanded space. AUP's first auditorium will offer increased scope for visual media performances, plays and concerts on site, widening artistic life yet further. To make this vision a reality, the University is launching a campaign for alumni support. Shimony believes that the whole community - including alumni - will be able to benefit from an expanded cultural events program: "I really hope that it will become a center for AUP where everyone will want to come over and participate." ■

Guests browsing artwork during the opening celebrations in March 2019





A LIBRARY FOR THE MODERN LEARNER

Though information is more readily accessible than ever before, strong analytical skills are increasingly necessary when navigating online media environments. The all-new AUP Library, spread over four floors of the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, equips students with the tools they need to sort fact from fiction.

Students today graduate into an information-rich society. More so than ever, the amount of content available online requires careful navigation to avoid falling victim to misleading or ideologically biased reporting. As a society, we have greater access to information than in the past thanks to innovations in internet and mobile technology, but with this comes the renewed requirement for engaged global citizens to be able to identify reliable sources and practice rigorous fact-checking. The American University of Paris provides a liberal arts education that includes the critical thinking skills necessary to prosper in heavily mediated environments. At the core of this aim is the AUP Library, which, thanks to its new home in the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, now

offers its services in close proximity to student study spaces and academic advising.

"Working critically with information is a hallmark of a liberal arts education, and some have called information literacy itself a liberal art," says Jeff Gima, who works as a Faculty Librarian and Director of the AMICAL Consortium. AMICAL brings together American international liberal arts institutions to work toward shared goals relating to libraries, technology and learning. As the founding institution and host of the consortium, AUP needs its library to set an example by promoting a critical, reflective approach to information literacy that fits in naturally with a liberal arts education. "It allows students to

Students studying in the glass atrium that connects the two buildings, which will be named in honor of President Schenck

apply those digital literacies to a wide range of scholarly and practical contexts," says Gima.

The role of the library has always been to add value to a student's educational experience both inside and outside of the classroom. Information literacy is key to these aims and a recurring topic in current academic discussion. The term "fake news" dominates the media landscape, used both to refer to the recent rise in organized misinformation campaigns and, by some, to

The library provides training sessions - an average of 50 each semester - that help students engage with media critically. Workshops also encourage awareness of the need for sensitivity and care when posting content online. "Students learn that their online life has value - economic, political and otherwise - that is traded upon by various parties," explains Gima. Yes, there are exciting opportunities that are specific to digital environments, but students need to be aware

parent organization, the way the material shows up and is reused across the internet - "as well as traditional markers like authorship and citations, in order to read, reuse and interact with such information critically," says Gima.

This shift in emphasis toward skills provision alongside traditional knowledge transfer means that libraries today are less like "temples of wisdom" - Sosa's words - and more community centers, bringing people together to collaborate toward shared learning goals. Moving the AUP Library into the Quai simplifies this task, as these conversations will now be integrated into the work of other services in the building. The library's former home was tucked away across campus; now it is located where students need it most. Tutoring sessions and study groups take place in and among the collection itself, while academic advisors can draw directly on librarians' expertise to provide relevant samples of course material for inquiring students.

Access to such resources is vital to succeeding in the liberal arts. Gone are the days when checking out books would be the go-to method for students researching a paper; the majority of the library's resources are now online - more than 545,000 digital volumes. This allows students to draw on a wider range

of perspectives, broadening representation in the academic work they produce. "The library has transformed itself to better serve the learning needs of AUP students," Sosa says. To aid researchers, advancements to the library's IT system - including a more robust search engine and a cloud-based

connection. The library collection spills into the glass-roofed atrium, a perfect meeting space for the AUP community, providing a convivial atmosphere within which to work. "It is more the human interaction between students and the staff and the faculty-librarians that has an impact," explains Sosa.

they consume. The kinds of critical thinking skills that the library fosters are therefore more valuable than ever. "We continue to change and adapt our content according to our evolving awareness of the cycles of fake news, real news and peer-reviewed journals that might cohabitate in the same

"Working critically with information is a hallmark of a liberal arts education, and some have called information literacy itself a liberal art."

- Jeff Gima

stoke uncertainty and discredit reporting that doesn't align with a preferred political slant. Shifts in technology have combined with populist politics to amplify formerly marginal discourses. The issue is no longer related to access to information, it's more about having too much of it. "Today we are charged with a mission to assist students in this information overload," says Jorge Sosa, AUP's University Librarian. The idea is to help students distinguish the accurate from the fake while nurturing their ethical and civic responsibilities as students and scholars.

of their new responsibilities, too. "They learn to be self-aware actors in the sharing of their work, through licensing, open access, digital preservation and so on."

Another important skill for today's graduates is the ability to manage one's engagement with online spaces safely and effectively, being aware of privacy policies and the credibility of journalistic publications. "Libraries can help students to look at structural and contextual elements of a website" - the domain, the



A large part of the library's collection is located in the glass atrium

management system - were implemented in preparation for the relocation to the Quai. Self-service checkouts provide added convenience, though the Navigation Desk is also permanently staffed for a human

In the rapidly changing world of the 24-hour news cycle, emphasizing human interactions allows for students to draw on the expertise of staff, faculty and each other when assessing the validity of the content

realm," says Sosa. To keep on top of these rapid changes, the library needs modern resources and to be accessible to the wider AUP community - and that's exactly what its new location provides. ■

HOW PEER TUTORING FOSTERS STUDENT SUCCESS

Centralizing all the University's student services in the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons provides new opportunities for students to engage directly with both faculty and one another. The Academic Resource Center, or ARC, is a prime example of how peer-to-peer interactions help students maximize their academic potential.

The way students learn is changing dramatically. Traditional one-way knowledge transfer – an “I speak, you listen” approach – no longer captures the nuanced ways in which diverse individuals learn successfully. The modern world is collaborative, connected and driven by networks. That’s why, at AUP, students don’t just learn from faculty, they also learn from one another. We call the student-to-student exchange that takes place in the AUP classroom “lateral learning.” The same principle governs our peer tutoring program.

“From tutoring peers, I’ve gained a deeper understanding of how professors teach and

how students learn,” says Isabella Rao ’18. During her time at AUP, Isabella worked as a peer tutor in the Academic Resource Center (ARC), which helps students manage their assignments through peer-tutoring programs. By promoting student interaction and group work in an academic context, the ARC aims to foster in global explorers the skills necessary for lifelong learning – a task made easier by its newfound proximity to other student services in the Quai d’Orsay Learning Commons.

Isabella worked in the Writing Lab, an ARC peer-tutoring initiative directed by Assistant Professor Ann Mott that focuses on improving

students’ writing skills. Isabella fit right in with the ARC’s community of “grammar-lovers, note-takers, organized schedule-makers and research pioneers,” though she is aware that not everybody approaches writing in the same way. “When we ask students to read their writing aloud, we are asking them to be vulnerable in front of a peer,” she explains. Navigating this requires more than literacy knowledge; tutors also need to know how to mentor sensitively and with patience.

“What happens is kind of magic,” says Ann Borel, who works as ARC Director as well as being a trained faculty librarian and academic

technologist. She stresses the importance of students being able to engage with peer mentors as well as faculty. “Our focus is student success,” she explains. The peer-tutoring approach centers on developing the tutee’s unique style and voice. This gives students the confidence they need to continue improving their writing in the future.

The ARC originally opened in the 2002-03 academic year, at a time when faculty were experimenting with moving beyond lecture-centric approaches in order to open up new possibilities for technology-assisted learning. “The original ARC was organically grown in-house,” explains Borel. “Everything we do is based on expressed need, either on the part of the faculty or the students.” Alongside the well-established Writing Lab and a new drop-in Math Clinic, the center also recruits ARC-Link tutors – faculty-selected students who excel in a particular field – to run subject-specific sessions on particularly challenging courses, covering a broad range of liberal arts disciplines.

ARC-Link tutors have already succeeded in the courses that they cover; those in the Writing Lab engage in a semester of training sessions with Mott before leading their first session. The instructional approach includes observation of advanced tutors, role-play and the review of different style guides

such as MLA and APA. “That first semester was spent taking mock appointments and talking through hypothetical situations,” remembers Isabella. Typical sessions consist of a few key questions surrounding the assignment before moving on to brainstorming ideas, talking through concepts and structuring pieces of writing – though it’s important that tutors never complete the assignments for students. Resources are on hand to stimulate the discussion; textbooks, writing samples and online materials are all accessible on site.

The ARC space is deliberately warm and open, with the kettle always boiling and a steady supply of snacks. Tutors’ photographs adorn the walls, so friendly faces can be easily identified. Every effort is made to ensure a welcoming environment that promotes community learning. The collaborative style of interactions in the ARC breaks with the traditional tutor-student relationship; both parties can just as easily find themselves learning from the other. As a writing tutor, Isabella engaged with students across AUP’s disciplines. “I often found that politics, business and history students were tutoring me, or allowing me to learn and tutor simultaneously,” she says.

“What the tutors take away from this are critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze situations in ways that help other students,” explains Borel.

She goes on to highlight the importance of maintaining a drop-in mentality and encouraging tutors to work in shared study spaces, which maximizes the power of overheard conversations. The ARC’s new location on the 4th floor of the Quai will promote these exchanges even further. Nearby student services, such as the library and the Center for Academic, Career and Experiential Advising, will allow peer tutors to take advantage of faculty and staff expertise. The building’s research center also offers unprecedented faculty access, providing ways for students to put theory into practice. Proximity is at the heart of what makes the Quai powerful, bringing students and faculty together in an environment that fosters student success. “It provides a golden opportunity for serendipitous exchanges,” says Borel.

“Spending time in the Writing Lab changed my perspective for the better,” argues Isabella. The devotion and support of her peers in the ARC gave her a sense of community and improved her academic rigor. By emphasizing timeless skills such as collaboration and openness alongside numeracy and writing, the ARC helps build a future-proof skill set fit for the global explorer: a flexible toolkit that can be adapted to each individual’s style, allowing students to succeed in all walks of life. “Every student is different,” concludes Isabella, “and that’s what makes the job so exciting.” ■



Professor Schiff at the launch of his book *A New Narrative for Psychology*

FACULTY IN THE QUAI: PROFESSOR BRIAN SCHIFF

Professor Brian Schiff is the director of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention. Here, he discusses the Center's new home in the Quai and the potential it holds for students and faculty to work more closely together.

Collaboration is central to a well-functioning university. Though many of the services in the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons revolve around students' needs, much care has been taken to ensure the building provides for the whole AUP community. In particular, the Quai presents an opportunity to engage students and faculty through the work of the University's research centers. The building's 7th floor is now home to the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention.

Professor Brian Schiff has been at AUP for almost 12 years and has been the director of the Center since it was established in 2015. It was his

interest in the social memory of the Shoah and his work with testimonials of survivors of atrocity that led to him being asked to help write the proposal for the creation of the Center. "I'm interested in how people understand their lives and how social context, what some call social memory, becomes part of how people think about themselves," he explains.

The Center's work encompasses a wide range of research initiatives, including student and faculty fellowships, and grants for current students to attend study trips as part of AUP's Cultural Program. In addition, public events - ranging from multiday conferences to seminars and workshops - focus on questions

relating to the conditions that precede mass violence, such as: How does such violence come about? What causes people to become involved in perpetuating these acts? How do these trends evolve over time? "We're trying to think of creative strategies for undoing

ways to promote the Center's visibility and to further engage the AUP community in its work. "The overarching goal of the Center is to bring the University - both faculty and students - into a larger discussion about issues of mass violence and social violence,"

the archive helps highlight how such atrocities are remembered over time, and how those memories are later used. "We're always trying to integrate the VHA into the public space of what we're doing," he explains. He notes that the Center's new proximity to group study spaces and the relocated library provides additional opportunities for students, faculty and even those beyond the University to engage directly with this valuable resource.

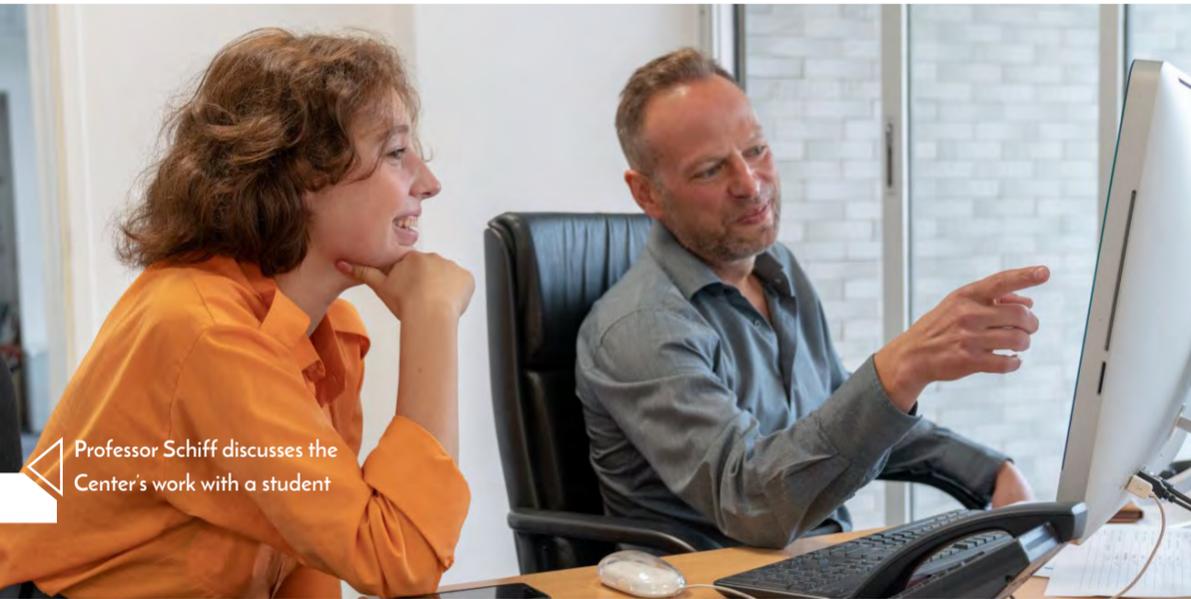
The rising profile of AUP's research centers will be further aided by the Quai's expanded conference facilities. The Omid & Gisel Kordestani Rooftop Conference Center - on the top floor of the building, providing spectacular views over the Invalides and the Grand Palais - offers a new space for events that stretch beyond the AUP community to include participants from other institutions. "It really facilitates the ease of organizing events and showcasing the work that is going on at the Center, while providing easier opportunities for students and faculty to interact with our work," Schiff notes.

A recent example of how successful these public events can be is the Words That Kill conference, which brought together scholars researching various acts of mass violence to discuss concepts such as genocide,

antisemitism and denial - in the case of the latter concept, the Shoah and the Armenian genocide stand out as examples. "It showed to those outside the University that we were doing interesting work in relation to thinking through broader issues of what leads to

The Center's public-facing projects are set to continue reframing the conversation surrounding mass violence and genocide, both on AUP's campus and beyond. Upcoming events include a two-day conference centering on the notion of "comparative lenses," which will consider

of two AUP parents: George and Irina Schaeffer. "They were particularly interested in the resurgence of antisemitism both in France and in general," Schiff notes. "None of this work could happen without the funding that we receive from them. It really is all



Professor Schiff discusses the Center's work with a student

the threads that lead to social violence," says Schiff. "We're also interested in the aftermath and how social groups document and make sense of violence."

Schiff believes that the relocation to the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons will provide new

he explains. One of the keys to achieving this goal is the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive (VHA). The Center is one of the first institutions in France to host the entire collection, which contains over 54,000 video testimonies of survivors of genocide from around the world. Schiff says



The Center's new conference room on the 7th floor of the Quai

mass violence," says Schiff. Speakers from institutions including Yale University and Université Paris Diderot, as well as AUP's own faculty, provided thought-provoking talks that sparked discussions about how toxic discourses are currently being mobilized for political gain.

how to use video testimony of survivors and eyewitnesses, such as those in the VHA, to understand genocide.

This continuing research - and indeed the very creation of the Center - would not have been made possible without the generosity

linked to their generosity." Their support for these research initiatives is particularly vital at a point in history where new discourses of hatred are on the rise. "It really provided the opportunity to have these conversations on campus, when they are so timely right this second," says Schiff. ■

FEATURE

29 A New Era for AUP

A NEW ERA FOR AUP

The Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons marks an important new chapter in AUP's history. The building is a hub of academic services created to respond to students' evolving needs. It provides a multipurpose space that encourages meaningful collaboration across the whole AUP community.

The Omid & Gisel Kordestani Rooftop Conference Center on the 8th floor of the Quai

The American University of Paris has at the core of its mission the commitment to providing a student-centered, transformative and career-enabling education. The new Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons - situated at the heart of the 7th *arrondissement* on the banks of the Seine - deliberately embodies this philosophy. As the University's flagship building, it showcases the full breadth of opportunity available to AUP's students. The culmination of more than three years of

work - and the pinnacle of AUP's five-year campus redevelopment plan - the Quai brings together academic services in an entirely new and integrated way, permitting students to easily access the resources they need to succeed throughout their time at the University and beyond.

President Celeste Schenck has served AUP in various roles for over 30 years, the last ten of which have been spent in the University's



The conference center's setup can be adapted for different events



The Michael Dickey Morgan Classroom on the 6th floor

highest office. "One of the things I've always yearned for is a centralized learning and living space for students," she says. "It's been my dream for 15 years." When the University first opened as the American College in Paris back in 1962, classes were held in the basement of the American Church at 65, quai d'Orsay. Now six decades later, the new learning commons is just two doors down from the church at number 69. The building is the result of tireless work on the part of Valérie Fodé, AUP's Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, on the long negotiations necessary to make the purchase from the French state, and on the part of several successive provosts who envisioned new ways for staff to work together as an integrated team. "The fact that we could stay in the *quartier* of our founding and have this prestigious address on the Seine is very important to the AUP story," says Schenck. "Along with all the other 'risings up' that have characterized our strategic plan, AUP Ascending - such as our heightened academic profile and the quality and reach of faculty research - this appearance of our *grande école* on the banks of the river is deeply symbolic."

Key to the transformative effect of this new learning commons is its connection to the existing Combes Student Life Center. The Quai also allows easy access to those services that revolve

around students' day-to-day experiences. The combined Student Life and Learning Commons directly responds to the widest possible range of needs that students might have, whether they are just starting out on their academic journeys or are already considering their next steps into the working world. This ensures that they will be able to access the kind of support they need to maximize their potential and achieve success. "It's going to change the way students experience the campus," says Schenck, "as well as the way in which the University is viewed by the world."

Throughout the Quai, various student-facing departments - such as the AUP Library and the Center for Academic, Career and Experiential Advising - are complemented by study rooms, conference spaces and IT and multimedia support. Higher up in the building, faculty-centric facilities such as the Teaching and Learning Center widen the appeal beyond the student body. "We're envisaging it as not just a hub of student services but also as a place that will help create community," says Schenck. By placing students and faculty in closer proximity in an environment in which they are encouraged to look for solutions to intellectual, cultural or global social problems, the University hopes to foster a deep-seated spirit of collaboration within the building.

A LEARNING COMMONS FOR THE GLOBAL EXPLORER

To make such a central space successful, it needs to be tailored to the needs and aspirations of the kind of globally minded student that AUP exists to educate. Our diverse student body includes people from over a hundred countries, though they tend to be united by certain characteristics that help them thrive in a liberal arts environment and make them well suited for an international career. That's why we call our students global explorers. Relentlessly curious and eager to learn, global explorers are driven by a desire to engage directly with the international community - whether they arrive at AUP having traveled the world or having never owned a passport. "They're students that have had a taste of the wider world and who feel they belong to something larger than a nation-state," says Schenck. They exhibit a higher level of tolerance and openness to difference than a typical college-going student, and a passionate desire to build bridges between diverse communities. They are adventurous, unafraid of trying new things, of changing their life paths or of leaving their home countries to study abroad.

The Quai was envisioned as the building where the global explorer's story begins; where students start to feel their way through the

curriculum, while also realizing the benefits of broadening their experiences beyond the classroom. The building aligns academic services with those focusing on co-curricular initiatives, such as support for the Global Professional Skills (GPS) Program. Beginning in a student's freshman year and continuing right up to graduation, the four-year GPS Program helps students design a personal narrative that ties together their academic, co-curricular and extracurricular pursuits. The aim of this alignment is to promote a holistic approach to learning - one that provides students with a range of skills that can be adapted to the multiple career paths they will inevitably follow in the future.

To achieve this flexibility, students need resources to be available as and when they need them. This logic underpins the placement of services in the Quai. The library was formerly a 15-minute walk from other buildings on campus; now it is integrated with other services across four floors of the learning commons. "The heart of the building for me is the library," says Lia Kiladis, the Greek-American architect who took the lead on the interior architectural elements and furniture choices for the Quai development. Students arriving in the building will be encouraged, via the integrated library, to move fluidly between floors to discover other services.

The unique profile of a global explorer inspires many elements of the building's interior design. The Mary Jo and Hank Kreuzman Navigation Desk - named by the former Interim Provost Dr Hank Kreuzman and his wife in support of the Quai redevelopment - welcomes students on the ground floor, guiding them through the building as they set off on their academic journeys. The glass atrium acts as a bridge between the Quai and Combes sides of the learning commons, connecting the co-curricular and the curricular - the "life" and the "learning" parts of a student's experience. Following a leadership gift from AUP graduate and trustee Christina de Labouchere '86, the atrium will be named in honor of President Schenck, one of the chief architects of the global explorer narrative and the driving force behind the ongoing campus renovations, which have transformed our integrated urban campus over the last five years. Accessibility is also a key aspect of spaces in the building. The architects worked hard to ensure this feeling of openness wasn't lost due to the space constraints of Parisian architecture. "There are some basic physical things we did to encourage movement and fluidity," explains Kiladis. Most floors are deliberately open, and the recurrence of glass throughout the building further emphasizes this transparency. "There's this idea of seeing through from one space to the next and being led from one floor to the next, of being curious about

what's going on, instead of having lots of closed doors." People are working together in a common and flowing space, rather than in cubicles.

That curiosity links the Quai to the student experience. "We came up with the idea that the building is like a 1930s cruise ship that's anchored in this part of Paris at the moment," says Kiladis. "Students are starting on this journey to go out and explore the world." This sentiment is most keenly expressed by the compass mosaic that adorns the lobby. Made possible thanks to a generous gift from an AUP parent, the O Hill Family Global Explorer Compass symbolizes the way in which the building offers the tools that global explorers need to thrive. The Quai has become our flagship building that helps students get where they need to go. "The combined talents of everyone who worked on the building have allowed us to achieve something much bolder, more original and more compelling than we ever imagined," says President Schenck.

CREATING INTERACTION, RESPONDING TO NEED

A strong sense of community is key to the idea of a learning commons. Diverse interactions broaden students' own perspectives, and this potential for collaboration is evident in

FINE ARTS GALLERY



"We put the student at the center of our educational experience, our pedagogies, and now our architecture."

- President Celeste Schenck

how departments are arranged in the Quai. "The openness of each floor is one of the key things about this," notes Dr William Fisher, AUP's Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. When he joined the University in 2018 - taking over from Dr Hank Kreuzman - Fisher quickly recognized the Quai development as more than just a physical move. "It's a huge transition in the way that our offices interact with one another. It provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff to interact in a new and more dynamic way." That dynamism is fueled by proximity; removing the physical boundaries between departments offers a more holistic delivery of services to students.

"It's not quite one-stop shopping," explains Fisher, "but it is being able to access the resources that are central to student success in one place." To ensure that varied perspectives were represented, the building also had to respond to the needs of faculty. Fisher notes that the library plays an important role here, as do the Teaching and Learning Center and the building's research center: the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention. New classrooms foster faculty-student interaction yet further, while the Omid & Gisel Kordestani Rooftop Conference Center, complete with breathtaking views of the Invalides and the

Grand Palais, will host public events allowing faculty to collaborate beyond AUP's campus.

"It's about building a community that has a deliberate purpose and approaches that purpose in new, innovative and collaborative ways," says Fisher. The 5th floor, for example, is home to both AUP Student Media, which produces journalistic output via its online, print and digital platforms, and the faculty-led Civic Media Lab, an informal hub encouraging researchers of diverse backgrounds and ideas to engage in civic projects. One floor down, students arriving to work in a study space may overhear a tutoring session in the Academic Resource Center and then ask for ways to get involved themselves. The newfound proximity of these services draws on visitors' curiosity to foster spontaneous interactions in a fluid way. "It's effectively about building a new culture on campus that uses the openness of this central space to highlight and facilitate more student-faculty-staff interactions," says Fisher.

Alongside the notion of collaboration, needs-based language permeates the Quai's organizational structure. Signage in the building doesn't simply list the departments on each floor; it uses active verbs to help visitors think about the space as responding to specific requirements. The ground floor directory offers



“The combined talents of everyone who worked on the building have allowed us to achieve something much bolder, more original and more compelling than we ever imagined.”

- President Celeste Schenck



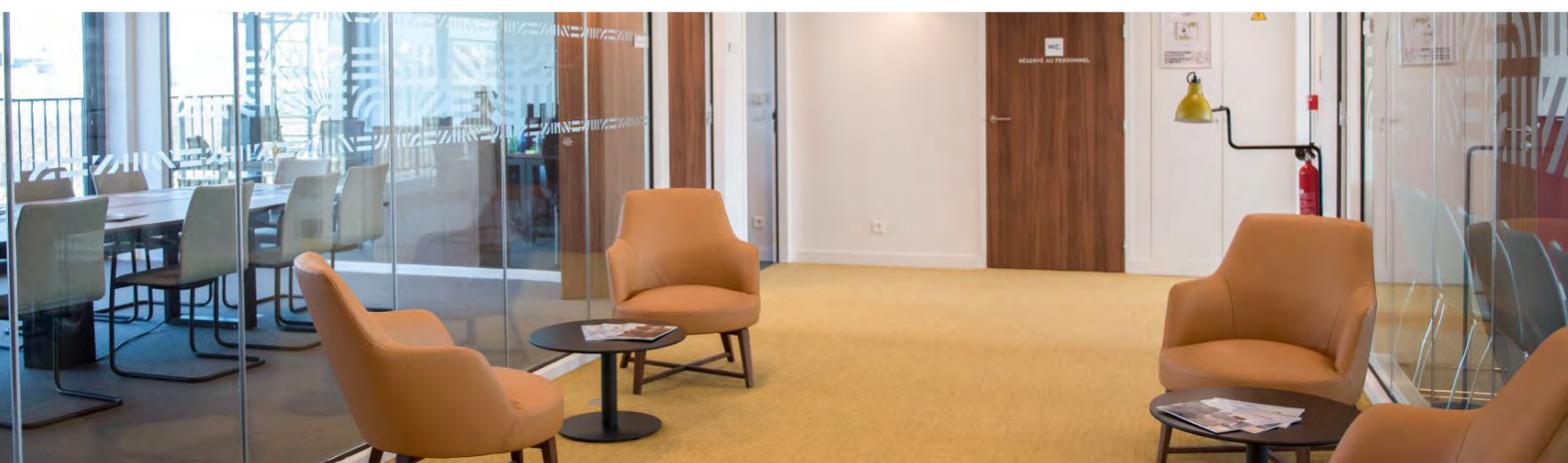
AUP Student Media has a dedicated space in the new building

The Quai features numerous open and closed group study spaces

an immediate indication of where to seek out a solution to your problem. Struggling with an essay? "Write" and "Improve" lead you straight to the 4th floor. Interested in getting involved in student media? Try "Create & Communicate" up on the 5th. "It's really brilliantly done," says Fisher. "The signage - created by André Lavergne, a graduate from AUP's MA in Global Communications - helps you to think about how you would interact with people in the building based on your specific needs."

DESIGNED TO FACILITATE LEARNING

While visitors' needs may vary, they nevertheless revolve around a central purpose: from freshmen on their first day to visiting academics attending a conference, everybody is here, in some way, to learn. People study in different ways, and the Quai is designed to be sensitive to various approaches to learning. "We wanted to create a panorama of spaces that would incorporate that panorama of work styles," says David Horn. As Director of Campus Planning and Facilities, Horn has much reflected on how best to respond to evolving student needs. Much of it revolves around access to resources. Technology is integrated throughout the space, not confined to specific computer labs. Study rooms, for example, are equipped with webcams that facilitate remote collaboration.



Expertise is another valuable resource made available in the Quai. "Offices are not distinct from the work spaces, they surround them," notes Horn. "They have glass walls, so staff are not confined to their rooms, they are immediately accessible." Classrooms are modular, allowing professors and students to use different furniture configurations to adapt the learning environment in a way that suits them. Modern trends in higher education are moving away from traditional lecture-based approaches. This allows students to draw on faculty expertise in a more personalized manner, while also, increasingly, learning from each other. "There are new ways of learning that are a lot more interactive than in the past," says Horn. "We know that people are not going to be sitting silently in a reading room working individually, they are going to want to collaborate."

A prime example of a multipurpose space is the glass atrium that connects the Quai side of the commons to the Combes Student Life Center. It was originally conceived as a reading room - the space contains a large portion of the library's physical collection. However, Horn explains, the concept evolved into more of a meeting place, taking advantage of passing foot traffic to draw students into fluid collaborations. "A lot of people now are happier studying in a co-working environment

and are not so worried about things going on around them," he notes. This atmosphere is bolstered by the atrium's proximity to the AMEX Café and by its innovative decorative elements: the extended Fine Arts Gallery is visible through the room's glass walls, and the roof offers a breathtaking view of the Vertical Garden. This green wall - made possible thanks to a fundraising drive by the classes of the 1970s - is visible from every floor of the Quai building and contributes an additional calming effect. It also represents the ground to which the Quai flagship is moored.

Many parts of the building are in some way hybrid spaces. These largely consist of open study areas that are adaptable according to students' needs. "It's not always these big open spaces, there are some smaller ones as well," says Kiladis. She singles out a niche between bookshelves on the 2nd floor as a favorite example. By providing furniture that's easy to rearrange, the University is encouraging students to make these spaces their own. Design-wise, the fixtures and fittings draw on a 1930s "streamlined" influence, in keeping with the age of the building and its surroundings. There's a focus on soft furnishings, clean lines and smooth curves, complemented by nods to AUP's unique personality as an American institution in Paris - dark wood (American walnut) is another recurring theme.

The colors are inspired by Parisian artists from the period, notably Sonia Delaunay's bold geometric shapes, and American painters like Edward Hopper, who, in keeping with the global explorer narrative, passed through Paris and imbued their artwork with their own unique take on the city. "There are a million pieces of furniture that you could potentially choose," says Kiladis, "so it's great to keep coming back to these themes as a guide."

ONWARD TO THE NEXT CHAPTER

Life in the Quai has well and truly begun. As students take advantage of the opportunities this provides, the University is also benefiting from the raised profile that such a facility affords. Public events are already underway, proudly presenting AUP's new building to the international academic community. Several high-profile event series are on the horizon - including a major conference in May to mark the centennial of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The calendar of monthly *vernissages* in the Fine Arts Gallery is already booked up until 2020.

As exciting as all of this is, there's time to take a breath and reflect on what the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons represents for the AUP community. "We put the student at

the center of our educational experience, our pedagogies and now our architecture," says President Schenck. "It's been a deliberate strategic choice on our part to organize everything around student life and learning." As time goes on and students and faculty adapt to new ways of working together, the long-term goal is to continue finding better ways to create linkages between units in Combes as well as the Quai. "The aim is

to bring our community together to learn together," Schenck explains.

Though the Quai was envisaged as the final step in the campus redevelopment plan, this work will now continue via the upcoming redevelopment of the former library building into The Monttessuy Center for the Arts. Providing a home on campus for the Department of Art History and Fine Arts, the project will offer further scope for raising

AUP's profile as a competitive international liberal arts institution. For the global explorers of today, regardless of their major, having the Student Life and Learning Commons means they can be reassured that they have the necessary resources at their fingertips to decide on their life path and succeed in following it. "It's going to change how students feel about their University," says Schenck, "and give all of us a great sense of pride in our institution." ■



40,000
BOOKS OVER 4 FLOORS

DONORS

- 41 A North Star for Our Global Explorers
- 43 A Warm Welcome from the Chartouni Family
- 45 The Decade Challenges



The O Hill Family Global Explorer Compass on the Quai's ground floor

A NORTH STAR FOR OUR GLOBAL EXPLORERS

The O Hill Family Global Explorer Compass welcomes visitors to the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, symbolizing how the building guides AUP students through higher education and supports their preparation for international careers.

Robert O Hill, called ROH since high school, came to Paris at the age of 30 and fell in love with what he describes as "the most beautiful and greatest walking city on the planet." Regularly returning to the city, he eventually rented an apartment on the Île Saint-Louis where he and his family lived for several months, during which time he took his young children to visit carrousel across the city. The family's connection to the City of Light continued when Bren O Hill, ROH's daughter, enrolled at The American University of Paris in Fall 2017.

During construction work on the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, the whole family took a tour of the building with President Celeste Schenck. She explained AUP's vision of the

global explorer - a term used to encompass the kind of globally oriented, open-minded student that AUP exists to educate - and the concept of the Quai building as a 1930s ocean liner; the symbolism resonated with the whole O Hill family.

"The compass will reflect in a single image AUP's goal that each student find his or her north star and leave equipped for an international career and a lifetime of global citizenship," says ROH. As a prolific real estate developer and investor, ROH was thrilled by the chance for the O Hill Family Fund to support the compass mosaic. It is characteristic of a building filled with the tools that students need to succeed throughout their university

careers and beyond, orienting them toward a global future.

"As a family we have been very blessed and it's wonderful to be able to give back," says ROH, who is set to continue his philanthropic efforts through the launch of Investors Philanthropic, a donor-advised fund whose mission statement is "to bring the joy of giving to millions." Supporting a Paris-based project, and in particular one geared toward training responsible and enlightened global citizens of tomorrow, was important to the family. "Our kudos to President Celeste Schenck and her entire team who put so much heart, soul and talent into a very important addition to AUP." ■

A WARM WELCOME FROM THE CHARTOUNI FAMILY

The Chartouni Family Lobby, made possible thanks to the generosity of AUP parents Nabil and Samantha Chartouni, will play a vital role in improving the University's international profile. First impressions are, after all, everything.

Nabil and Samantha Chartouni, parents of Monica Chartouni '18, provided an early commitment to AUP Ascending, fully funding the creation of AUP's new foyer in the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons. The aim was to give the University a beautiful, welcoming space in which to greet visitors from all over the globe. Walking into the Chartouni Family Lobby, visitors are met by an open area filled with light. One can see through to the library stacks in the glass atrium that connects the building to the Combes Student Life Center and browse the artwork on display in the adjoining Fine Arts Gallery. "I think it looks very neat, modern, bright and airy," says Nabil.

Following their daughter's enrollment at AUP, Nabil and Samantha, themselves an international couple, were motivated to

give by the University's cross-border ethos. "I thought the combination of having an American university in Paris, mixing the two countries like that, was really great," he explains. "I'm very much encouraging the continuation of this mission." The couple has always supported academic institutions that their children have attended. "I think education is the key to everything," says Nabil. "Those who can should help a little bit to offer those opportunities to others."

He recalls an old adage, still relevant today: if you give someone a fish, you will feed them for a day, but if you teach someone to fish, you will feed them for a lifetime: "It was an expression of support for the program, a motion of support for the University as a whole." By making the support of state-of-the-

art services for the next generation of global explorers a philanthropic priority, Nabil and Samantha are helping ensure AUP students reach their full potential as they prepare to move forward into international careers.

At the Quai building's opening celebrations on Thursday, March 21, President Celeste Schenck spoke from a podium in the lobby, where she delivered a speech inaugurating AUP's new home on the Seine. "May it welcome our visitors, scholars, researchers and *concitoyens de Paris* with AUP's characteristic openness to the array of differences that define us," she declared. This warm welcome would not have been made possible without the kind support of the Chartouni family. ■

The Chartouni family generously supported the lobby of the Quai





The Founding Classes Classroom on the 7th floor of the Quai

THE DECADE CHALLENGES

With our decade-specific giving challenges, alumni have the chance to join their classmates in supporting a named project, making sure that their graduation decade is represented in campus development across the University.



Members of the Founding Classes during the classroom's inauguration in January

THE '60s CHALLENGE: THE FOUNDING CLASSES CLASSROOM

"You're looking at some of the very first students at AUP!" says Robin Black '64, as we sit down to interview her along with her partner and fellow alumnus, Ed Plaisance '64. When AUP was founded as the American College in Paris (ACP), students weren't yet enrolling in full four-year degrees; two years was more than enough to leave a lasting impression. When asked to name her most abiding memory, Robin exclaims, "It was incredible, just being in Paris! It was a real privilege to go to school here."

"The defining word would be 'life-changing,'" says Ed. It was something the couple heard

repeatedly from fellow alumni while attending the recent Founding Classes Reunion, an event that saw graduates from 1963 to 1969 invited back to the University for three days of activities. "They wined and dined us, wore us out with museum visits, it was really well done," he continues.

The schedule included the dedication of the Founding Classes Classroom on the 7th floor of the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons. Made possible thanks to the generosity of the classes of the '60s - including both Ed and Robin - this modern classroom honors the people who helped found ACP and made possible everything that came after: Dr Lloyd

DeLamater, Marie DeLamater, Raymond Flowers, Colonel Karl Cate, Dr Carol Maddison, Walter Brennan, Dr Ian Forbes Fraser, The Very Reverend Sturgis Riddle and The Reverend Dr Clayton Williams.

Having only previously seen the building under construction, the couple came back to campus for the Quai's opening celebrations. "This is year 51 that I've been doing interior design, and I have to say that the interiors are knock-out beautiful," says Robin. Ed agrees, adding, "I love the space between the two buildings, it's almost open air with its glass ceiling."

Ed is keen to encourage other '60s alumni to donate, particularly as gifts can be tax-deductible, providing a further incentive to support AUP. Both alumni were motivated to give by a combination of happy memories of their time at the University and the opportunities that an ACP education offered them in their future careers. "I need to pay back and help others who want to go to school here," says Robin. "I get so emotional about it. A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

THE '70s CHALLENGE: THE QUAI'S VERTICAL GARDEN

After more than 30 years working in international philanthropy, alumnus Elan

Garonzik '70 knows that "those that ask, get." He was, therefore, delighted when the University approached him about helping to launch the '70s alumni giving challenge to fund the Vertical Garden, a living wall rising above the glass atrium that connects the two sides of the Student Life and Learning Commons. Along with the support of fellow alumnus Elliott Burdette '70, Elan's gift set the precedent for more classmates to become part of this historic development.

Elan attended the American College in Paris for a two-year Associate of Arts degree. "Why do I give today? Because I'm awfully glad I went there!" he explains. "My recollection is that I had a suite of really excellent professors." Alongside mandatory courses in science, history, and both oral and written French, Elan chose several art history courses as electives. "What better place to study art history than Paris!"

After graduation, he embarked upon a career in international philanthropy - aided by his AUP experience. He was based in the US when he started at his first organization, but he was granted a transfer to Brussels partly because he spoke fluent French and had already lived abroad. His career has since led him to work across Africa, Europe and Latin America. He has been with his current organization, ELMA

The Vertical Garden rises above the Quai's glass atrium



Philanthropies, for over 14 years. Elan is still closely involved with AUP life; he became part of the President's Alumni Advisory Council five years ago and often hosts the annual alumni chapter meetings for the New York tri-state area at his home.

The horticultural aspect of the Vertical Garden appealed to him personally. "My office is like a greenhouse!" he explains. His work colleagues can attest to his great appreciation for plants

and flowers, so he was glad to contribute to a green project. "It's not just bricks and mortar, it's something living."

THE '80s CHALLENGE: RENOVATING THE AMEX CAFÉ

The '80s were a time of change as ACP officially became The American University of Paris in 1988. However, some things did stay constant – not least the AMEX Café, nestled, as it was, in the old Bosquet building. It is fitting, then, that

the '80s alumni giving challenge focuses on the renovations of the cafe in its new location in the Combes Student Life Center. "The AMEX was our center of gravity," says Ranjit Sondhi '83, something that particularly helped him adjust to student life when moving to a foreign city by himself. He is happy to contribute to passing on this hub of activity to the next generation.

As befits such a social project, the AMEX redevelopment brought '80s alumni together.

"It is a great way to reconnect – some of us have been out of contact with AUP for years," says Franklin Craig '81, who also sat on AUP's Board of Trustees from 2008 to 2018. When we reached out to catch up, Franklin was vacationing with Ranjit and alumnus George Aucoin '80. All three agreed that supporting such an icon of college life was a great way to show their gratitude to the University. "It resonates in a way that puts a smile on your face decades later!" says George. Having

the opportunity to contribute to the AMEX – "our rally point for social activity in the '80s," he says – is a memorable way for alumni to commemorate their unique experience.

Graeme Wright '82, another friend of the group, remembers "so many wonderful chapters" of his university experience. He was motivated to give by the idea of "leaving something unique for future generations." Along with Franklin, Graeme was a recipient

of financial support through scholarships during his time at the University, making the importance of giving back much more personal. These four alumni, just a few of the many '80s graduates who supported the renovation, are proof of the enduring power of an AUP education to bring people together. The University is grateful for the support of everyone who contributed to the challenge – as are current students enjoying the AMEX.



The AMEX Café continues to be a hub of student life

THE '90s CHALLENGE: AN ARTS CLASSROOM FOR MONTESSUY

The '90s alumni giving challenge aims to realize the final step in AUP's five-year campus redevelopment plan. Following the library's relocation into the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, its former home in the Montessuy building is being redeveloped into The Montessuy Center for the Arts.

The new facility will provide a purpose-built space for the University's burgeoning Department of Art History and Fine Arts, which has, until now, lacked a centralized home on campus. Nevertheless, enrollment in the department's majors has increased 270% over the last five years. The time has come to provide this new intake of students with advanced arts classes and professional-grade work spaces that showcase the full extent of artistic possibility on offer at AUP.

Since graduating, Roxanne Collins Vanderbilt '95 has had an impressive career path, including a decade-long stint at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. She was excited to learn about the proposed redevelopment, which includes a 70-seat auditorium, studio spaces and two large classrooms - one of which forms the basis of the '90s challenge. "It is no accident that the formative years

I spent at AUP honed my commitment to supporting excellence in education," explains Roxanne, who, along with fellow art history alumna Monica Heslington '93, launched the challenge with a foundational gift.

She continues to enjoy friendships with her former classmates and recently attended the '90s alumni reunion in Paris. "They are kindred spirits whose unique life experience, professional trajectories and globally focused perspectives provide me with a fount of wisdom and inspiration," she says. Keen to encourage her classmates to support the University, she believes that no gift is too small. "Your contribution is a tangible gesture in support of the future life of the University, as it inspires, connects and engages a new generation of students." ■

The view of the Eiffel Tower from rue de Montessuy

JOIN YOUR CLASSMATES IN SUPPORTING AUP

President Schenck joins an AUP art workshop

ALUMNI NOTES

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Two Generations of
Global Explorers

THE AUP LEGACY: TWO GENERATIONS OF GLOBAL EXPLORERS

The AUP experience is like no other, offering the unique blend of an American education in the heart of Paris, a close, collaborative student-faculty relationship and a diverse, international student body. It's hardly surprising that some of today's global explorers are not the first in their families to attend the University but are following in the footsteps of one - or sometimes both - of their parents. We caught up with families across the globe who passed on their AUP legacy to the next generation.

Students from AUP's early years on a
Cultural Program study trip

DOUGLAS & LUCILE CULVER



Douglas Culver '83 and his daughter Lucile Culver '13 both had transformative experiences studying comparative literature at AUP - and it was all thanks to a man named Chuck. Douglas met Chuck when working near the University after dropping out of college in the US. "Over time, I became friendly with some of the students including Chuck. I don't know his last name. He introduced me to the AMEX Café and encouraged me to consider going back to school at AUP. It was good advice."

Some 30 years later, his daughter was inspired by the literary world. "I decided to transfer to AUP at a time when all I wanted to do was look up from a novel - I think I was reading Zola - and see the setting as the characters within those pages would." The Paris location wasn't the only draw, however. Growing up in a multicultural family - with a dad who went to AUP - meant that her first day walking into the Grenelle Teaching and Mentoring Center felt like a rite of passage. For Lucile, an AUP education means being conscious of otherness and a world outside of oneself. "It means feeling strange, pushing boundaries and being

ruthlessly inquisitive," she argues. Douglas has a similar view: "My AUP education exposed me to a wide variety of cross-cultural ideas. It ignited in me a curiosity to learn."

Douglas is now based in Southampton, New York, where he works as First Vice President of Investments at Wells Fargo Advisors. Lucile went on to receive an MA in History and Literature from Columbia University before turning her skills into a career in content marketing. She now works as a copywriter and marketing communications manager for a publishing startup in the San Francisco Bay Area. Both credit Professor Roy Rosenstein with honing their writing skills. "Dr Rosenstein had a profound influence on my education," says Douglas. "He is a remarkable teacher! I know he had a tremendous impact on my daughter's education too."

"Professor Rosenstein's passion for teaching and knowledge of comparative literature has inspired a tradition of lifelong learning in my family," says Lucile. "His rigor grading papers was also a frequent topic of conversation, but I think I had better grades than my father did!"

ALEXANDRA, JÖRN & MATTHIAS CLOPPENBURG

Matthias Cloppenburg '20 comes from a family of global explorers - both of his parents are AUP alumni. He began his BA in International and Comparative Politics in 2017 and admits that his parents may have had a little influence over his choice of university. He was also attracted by AUP's international atmosphere and wanted to return to Paris, having previously lived there. "Another reason for choosing AUP for me, personally, was to find a university that uses the American educational system, which is more to my liking."

Alexandra Cloppenburg '94 (International Business Administration) and Jörn Cloppenburg '95 (Political Science) met in the fall of 1992 at a celebration hosted by the University. After graduating, Jörn completed an MBA at the École National des Ponts et Chaussées while Alexandra started working at IBM. The couple moved to Düsseldorf, Germany in 1997 and has since also lived in Paris. Matthias is the eldest of Jörn and Alexandra's three children. Does his experience differ from that of his parents? "He probably doesn't have the

same culture shock," says Alexandra. "I think that already speaking French fluently may have eased his experience of living in Paris when he started at AUP."

Matthias views his time in the city as quite different from that of his parents - though he does have English classes with Professor Adrian Harding, who also taught his mother. He notes that AUP's campus has evolved significantly, citing new buildings as the most dramatic development since his parents' time. "Nothing can really stay the same in Paris," he says.

In his freshman year, Matthias worked at the AMEX Café in the Combes Student Life Center. "Although it's not at Bosquet anymore, I am sure that it has a bit of the same purpose it had when I was at AUP!" says Alexandra. "AUP was the stepping stone in our relationship, where it all started for Jörn and me. Now it's even more special because after 20 years our son is following in both of our footsteps by attending the University - that's pretty special to us as a family!"



GILLETT & CHLOE JOHNSON



Gillett Johnson '86 studied international business administration at AUP, a decision now mirrored by his daughter's choice of university. "She was pretty hell-bent on going to AUP," he explains, "so much so that she didn't apply to any other school. Ironically, 32 years ago, I informed my parents it was the only school I applied to."

For Chloe '18, it was the intersection of different backgrounds at the University that made her so sure of her choice. She knew from an early age that she wanted to travel and live abroad, and a large part of that stemmed from her parents' appreciation of the world. "The first time I went to Paris I was 15," she explains. "My dad took us to his old stomping grounds all around Bosquet, Grenelle and the American Church and I couldn't stop envisioning my own life in Paris."

After graduating, Gillett moved to New York City and worked for some years in currency trading. He moved again in 1990, this time to San Francisco to follow his passion and make a career in the wine industry. "ACP opened some of the biggest doors of my personal and professional life, and directly shaped many

aspects of who I would become," he says. Chloe, meanwhile, is right at the beginning of her career, embarking on a master's degree in marketing at the University of Edinburgh Business School. Her impressions of AUP are reminiscent of her father's: "My AUP education means the world to me because it gave me the world. It opened my eyes to all the possibilities of what I could be and where I could go."

When he was back on campus to visit his daughter, Gillett most noticed the University's physical changes. He remembers a "structured but rustic" ACP experience, where an average day involved running from Bosquet to a tucked-away alley in the 15th *arrondissement*. "I noticed the classrooms weren't as cold and the roof of the AMEX Café now doesn't leak when it rains like it did in the old building - too bad." Chloe speaks fondly of her father's visits, when he would meet her and her friends for a beer at the AMEX. They would take turns showing each other their favorite spots in the city. "It was the perfect place for us to reminisce about his time in Paris and ponder over my future in the world."

CHRISTOPH & ANNA ENDRÖS



Christoph Endrös '82 and his daughter Anna '18 may have graduated 25 years apart, but their AUP experiences had much in common - they both studied international business administration. German-born Christoph began classes in 1978. He describes his four years at ACP as "a complete life-changer." Upon graduation, he continued his studies with a master's in business administration at IESE Business School in Barcelona before working as a management consultant in Paris. "My AUP education opened my horizons to new cultures and new ways of thinking," he says. "I now have friends from all over the world and feel comfortable working anywhere." He now lives in Barcelona with his wife, Patricia, and is Chairman of the Board of ODU - a German-based international industrial company.

Anna is the second eldest of the couple's five children. After completing her secondary education at the German School of Barcelona, she was set on getting her undergraduate degree in a different country. "I've always been surrounded by some sort of international environment," she explains. One of the reasons she chose AUP was to get to know people from

all over the world; having visited AUP's campus on previous trips to Paris, she appreciated its multicultural atmosphere.

Anna graduated from the University last year. "She loved her time at AUP," says Christoph. He views his daughter's experience as broadly similar to his own - the two even shared the same law professor, Fred Einbinder. Anna agrees; despite a changing campus, she feels that the University has "kept the same spirit" and that "the people who attend AUP have a lot in common."

Now back in Barcelona to complete an internship as a sales analyst, Anna carries that AUP ethos with her. "It's been one of the best things I've experienced," she says. Christoph continues to be part of AUP life as a member of the Board of Trustees; he will soon finish his second term in the role. For several years, he also served as Board Treasurer. "I visited Anna often, probably about four times a year," he tells us. "I got to know her friends and took them to good restaurants. I always found a good excuse to visit. Paris is, and will always be, in my heart!"

GIVE & TAKE

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HOW DONOR SUPPORT KEEPS AUP ASCENDING

After joining AUP as Vice President for Presidential Initiatives midway through the Quai project, Mary McLean Evans quickly recognized the importance of maintaining an integrated campus in the heart of Paris. Here, she shows us just how much support from alumni, parents and friends benefits student life.

What was your background before joining AUP?

For most of my career I worked at my alma mater - Hamilton College in the state of New York - first on the development staff and later as director of the career center. After that, I held a two-year position at a women's business leadership organization in Chicago. These roles, and particularly my work in career services, really emphasized to me the importance of co-curricular experiences to personal and professional success after university. The Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons is the embodiment of that.

What has been the most memorable aspect of your AUP experience so far?

I was so struck by our first major capital campaign, AUP Ascending - the idea of this institution on the rise. The name is perfect because the University is on such an upward trajectory under the leadership of President Schenck and so many others who are committed to its success. AUP is figuratively in ascent, in the sense of our aspirations and international visibility, and now we are literally ascending over the Seine! We're just getting started, too. It's an exciting time to be a supporter of AUP - every gift to the University is a building block toward furthering its mission

to provide a student-centered, career-enabling and transformative learning experience.

What does the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons represent for the University?

I have such respect for what the entire planning team has done to create our learning commons: a building that brings together all the necessary services for student success. Students are encouraged, from their first semester, to take advantage of the full range of opportunities offered at AUP. This includes, of course, their classroom experience, but also a wide range of co-curricular services - now available under one roof in the Quai. Not only are faculty and staff committed to ensuring student success from the very first day, but we now also have a place where students will want to come and hang out while making use of those services.

What is your favorite part of the Quai development?

One of the things we've been talking about is how exciting it is to have this beautiful building overlooking the Seine, but something that has struck me is how equally stunning the Combes side of the building is. It overlooks the Vertical Garden and the top of the gorgeous atrium that connects the

two buildings. It's a lovely view, perfect for a contemplative moment, where you have a real sense that you're in the middle of a big campus. I also find the way the library is integrated with other services over multiple floors very exciting. Libraries of the future are people- and resource-based and our learning commons reflects that.

What impact have donors had on campus redevelopment?

I have a lot of experience in higher education philanthropy - way too many years' worth! - and one exciting thing about AUP is that, if you make a gift here, you'll find that we put your donation to more immediate, more direct and more impactful use than might be the case at a larger institution. One strong example is the atrium itself. Thanks to the generosity of a 1986 AUP graduate, the atrium will be named in honor of President Celeste M. Schenck, who has been so vital in reimagining AUP as a hub of liberal arts inquiry at the meeting point of France, Europe and the world. The alumna was keen to recognize the President's contributions to providing an unforgettable experience for global explorers and views the atrium as a symbol of AUP's transformation, one that will inspire other alumni to celebrate and support their alma mater.

Are there still opportunities to get involved?

Donors can contribute in very concrete ways – for example, through our decade challenges. Our cohort of 1970s alumni is raising funds for the Vertical Garden that rises above the atrium, and a group from the 1980s is leading a drive to support our new-look AMEX Café. Donors can also make individual contributions – there are still many spaces in the learning commons that could be named in recognition of support, or in honor of a favorite professor. The Quai is full of spaces named for donors who have helped AUP ascend ever higher. The sky's the limit! Each donor's creativity and imagination will inspire further support of AUP's ongoing transformation and ascension into the future.

What new opportunities will the Monttessuy redevelopment bring to campus?

The Monttessuy Center for the Arts will be a transformative space for students on campus. It will allow us to respond to increasing interest in the Department of Art History and Fine Arts, from both majors and non-majors alike. Not only will the facility be a much-needed expansion – providing well-equipped studios and classrooms for arts instruction along with a

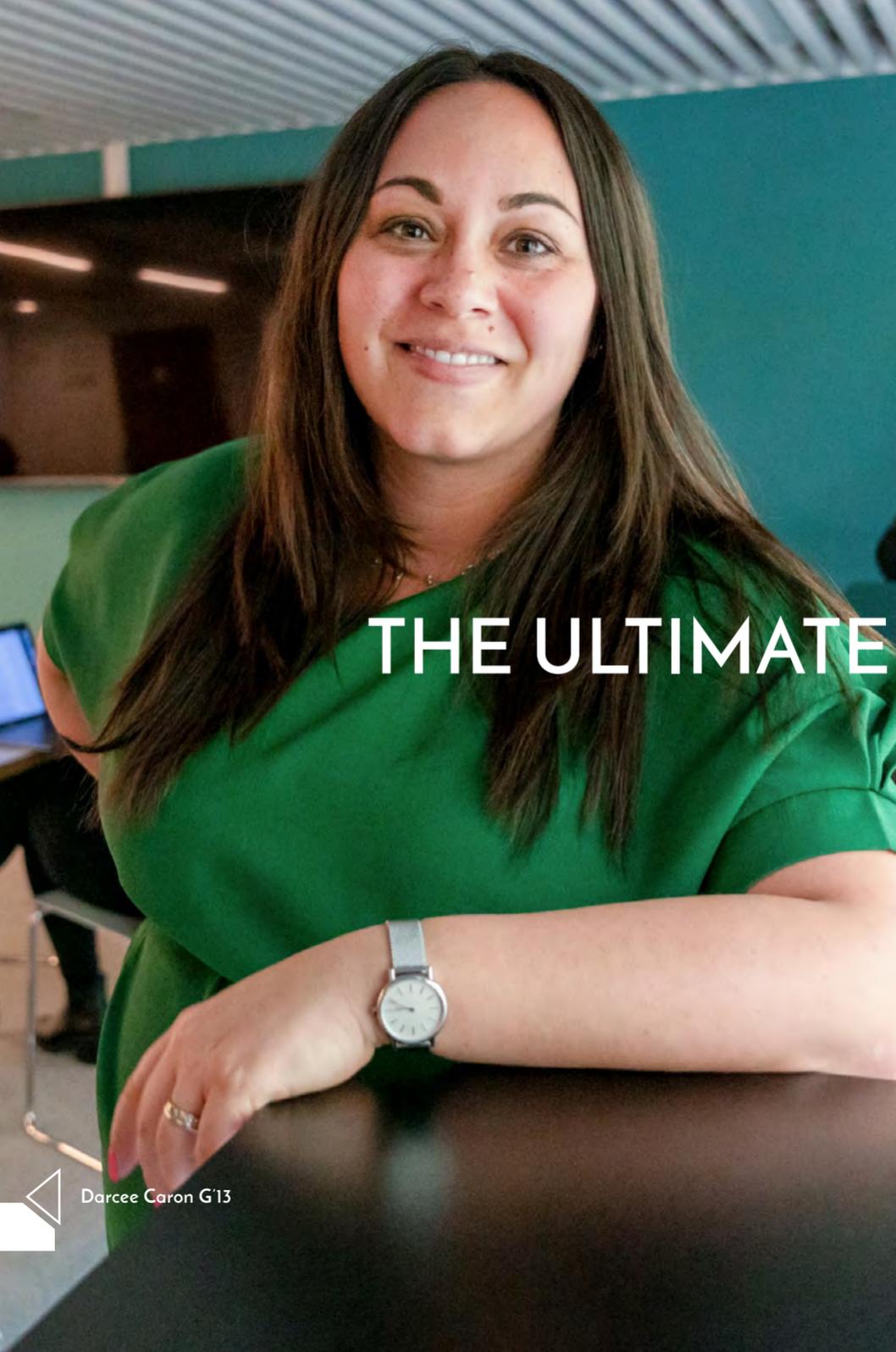
purpose-built auditorium, the very first at AUP – but it will also serve as a visible beacon for the arts on campus. Since the first classes enrolled at the American College in Paris in 1962, immersion in an arts experience has been part of AUP's educational experience – both in the classroom and in the museums of Paris where art comes to life. Decades later, alumni still tell us that their time at the University truly changed their lives, laying the path for a lifetime appreciation of art or even a career in the arts.

How can these newly developed spaces also be used to increase the University's visibility?

Once Monttessuy opens, we plan to invite scholars, collectors, gallerists, curators – anyone with an interest in art – to learn more about art history and fine arts at AUP. We will also showcase our immensely talented AUP faculty with this effort, through academic talks, gallery discussions and art tours both in Paris and beyond. We plan to invite our Parisian neighbors and the Francophile community across the globe to engage with the arts at AUP. Our Fine Arts Gallery, too, will play a role in this. Now extending from Combes all along the glass atrium of the Quai, the gallery mounts new shows every three weeks. Our vision remains ambitious, and it continues with The Monttessuy Center for the Arts. ■



The former library building and soon-to-be home of The Monttessuy Center for the Arts



THE ULTIMATE COMMITMENT: ALUMNA, STAFF, DONOR

There are many ways in which alumni contribute to AUP life. Some take advantage of the University's varied employment opportunities for liberal arts graduates; others feel moved to support student scholarships or campus development. A few veteran global explorers even make the ultimate commitment as alumni, staff and donors.

Darcee Caron G'13

Once a global explorer, always a global explorer. The AUP experience stays with you long after receiving your degree. Studying the liberal arts in Paris, a city known for its cultural and historical significance, means you benefit from an engaging environment that makes it easy to embrace diverse academic perspectives in the pursuit of lifelong learning. Students often find the AUP lifestyle such a draw that their paths lead them back here as faculty or staff. Many alumni are also keen to help future students enjoy the same opportunities by donating to AUP. These three alumnae have gone one step further; not only do they work for the University but they also give back financially.

"I give to AUP because it changed my life," says Darcee Caron G'13. The promise of thoughtful academic programs coupled with an international student body - she describes such diversity as "awe-inspiring" - motivated her to apply. After graduation, Darcee took a six-month internship with the OECD before settling into a sales position with a French technology startup. Yet the lure of AUP was ever strong and she soon found herself volunteering for the Career Mentoring Program, an opportunity that later motivated her to come back as a member of staff. "I found that I really enjoyed interacting with young professionals, so when

the Internship Coordinator role at AUP opened, I decided to apply."

She was motivated to give after seeing the impact that smaller gifts from an active alumni community have on student life, including when it comes to encouraging larger donations from those who are able to give more. Gifts of any size to AUP's Annual Giving campaign go toward supporting student scholarships across the University, ensuring that the global leaders of tomorrow can get the head start they need in an increasingly complex, interconnected world. As part of this, the Coup de Pouce Fund helps students participate in an AUP tradition, the Cultural Program. Darcee herself took part in the program as a student. "I think my most memorable experience was the Hague Practicum," she says, describing her visit to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, where she witnessed the trial of the now convicted Bosnian Serb war criminal Radovan Karadžić.

When our founder, Lloyd DeLamater, asked how we can transcend the bounds of narrow nationalisms, the sentiment wasn't limited to a university context. The mission of international cooperation and the philosophy of respecting global viewpoints are both lifelong

commitments. Students often cite these cross-border aspects as central to AUP's unique feel. "An education at AUP is special because of the international focus of each degree and program offered and the incredible diversity of the student body, faculty and staff on campus," says Kristina Keenan '08. Before arriving at AUP, she worked on multinational teams in the US army. Upon graduating, she initially continued this path with an internship at NATO as a counter-narcotics analyst. Realizing her career objectives were gradually moving away from the security field, she accepted a position in AUP's Outreach and Advancement team. Over the next nine years, she would get to know the large population of AUP alumni all over the world. "The AUP community truly became my family!"

That community contributes to life at the University in so many ways: through volunteering time or donating financially, but also by passing on a wealth of experience. Peregrine Olander '06 and G'08 is a standard-bearer for this combination of meaningful professional engagement and AUP's culture of inclusivity. After graduating from her master's at AUP, she became an executive producer for a PEPFAR-funded behavior change communication platform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which



Kristina Keenan '08

culminated in a television series - *Rien que la vérité* - that included an element of HIV/AIDS education and prevention. "AUP is the antidote to all the craziness happening in the world today," she explains. Bringing together her love of learning and her love of Paris, Peregrine now works as Multimedia Producer and Photographer in the communications team. "Looking at the job description it was like they had written it for me," she says. "The opportunity to use my experiences as a communications and media professional to share my love of the University felt like destiny."

These three alumnae highlight the varied career paths and motivations open to AUP students after graduation. Their reasons for giving are just as diverse, though one common thread does tie them together: working at the University means they see firsthand what a difference alumni support makes. "Even a small contribution can have tangible benefits in the lives of our students," says Peregrine, who also highlights the value of volunteering one's time. She notes that alumni mentoring, alumni speakers and alumni community groups all have a significant positive impact on students.

"I give to AUP to support the University's development," says Kristina. Two years ago, she began working on AUP Ascending - the

University's first comprehensive capital campaign. Centered on campus development - and specifically the Quaid'Orsay Learning Commons - the campaign has transformed AUP's physical presence since Kristina's graduation in 2008. The University has raised over 14 million euros thanks to the support of alumni, parents and other friends of AUP; the project has had an effect on the whole community. Kristina describes her pride in taking alumni on campus tours and showing them these new developments. "My hope with my gift to the current fundraising campaign is to show that even younger alumni can be part of this momentous project."

Darcee agrees that it is personally important to her to be able to make a meaningful contribution. "I also like to imagine that my small gift helps a current student do something that will contribute to her or him having an awesome experience at AUP - just like I did." There's real lasting passion behind alumni contributions; the breadth of support on display, often going beyond financial or professional commitments, showcases how our ethos permeates all aspects of life even after graduation. Peregrine summed it up with a simple sentence: "I give to AUP because I believe in the mission." It's a mission we aim to carry into the future with the help of our community. ■



Peregrine Olander '06 and G'08

GIFTS TO AUP



The view from the 8th floor of the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons

CUMULATIVE GIVING

August 2012 to April 2019

Thank you for your loyal support. We proudly acknowledge the following contributors, each of whom made generous gifts above €500 to AUP between August 2012 and April 2019. All gifts, whatever their size, are transformative for our small institution. Although we were unable to include all gifts on these pages, we remain grateful for the steadfast support of all alumni, parents and friends.

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