



# **2007-2017 & THE NEXT DECADE**

AFAM\* is a 501c3 incorporated in 2007 in the State of California.  
AFAM stands for American Friends of Arts et Metiers.

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### **Thank You**

*Our work would not have been as successful if it wasn't for the continuous support of our numerous donors.*

*In particular, we want to recognize Louis Magne (An 130) who, through his outstanding generosity, helped solidify the fiscal foundation of AFAM and grant us sufficient funds to launch and operate all our key programs for the foreseeable future.*

*To all the people involved at the inception, at Arts et Métiers ParisTech, as donors, as board members, or as volunteers, we are grateful for all your help.*



*Photo: Courtesy of Arts et Métiers ParisTech*

### *A Word from The President of Arts & Métiers ParisTech*

The French industry needs “champions” of technology in higher education in order to accompany the industry of the future, both in France and worldwide. My objective is that in 5 years, Arts et Métiers ParisTech will become the reference and be renowned worldwide for its cutting-edge technology education and research.

Arts et Métiers ParisTech aims to provide a dynamic, motivating and challenging environment in order to attract high level students and researchers, able to reply to the future scientific, technological and human needs of society.

As President of Arts et Métiers ParisTech, one of my main priorities is the outreach and attractiveness of Arts et Métiers ParisTech in Europe and worldwide. The USA plays a major role in this strategy.

We aim to build structured strategic partnerships with leading American universities through exchanges of students and professors in both directions, in education, research and innovation. The recent partnership with Texas A&M is an illustration of this strategy. I am confident that AFAM can continue to help Arts et Métiers ParisTech build its brand image in the US by accompanying students in the admission process for MSc programs in American universities, internships in the US (Shasta), as well as provide grants for periods of academic exchange and internships.

The challenge is now to attract American students and researchers to Arts et Métiers ParisTech in France. The outreach of AFAM in the USA is crucial for reinforcing the Arts et Métiers brand image.

I hope that Arts et Métiers ParisTech and AFAM will continue to work together over the next 10 years, and create a deeper and more innovative impact for its community and the world.



Laurent Champaney,  
President of Arts & Métiers ParisTech

## *A Word from Our President*

### Our mission:

The mission of AFAM is to grow the brand image of Arts et Métiers ParisTech in the United States, and to strengthen the community of its students and alumni residing in the USA.

To that end, AFAM helps establish strategic partnerships with universities, businesses and nonprofit organizations, working closely with the school, its alumni association (*la SOCE*), and The Foundation (*Fondation Arts et Métiers*). AFAM also provides a common platform to drive socio professional activities that strengthen the community of its members.

### Our beginnings:

AFAM was started on the encouragements of *Arts & Métiers ParisTech* President Jean-Paul Hautier and *Fondation Arts et Métiers* President Vincent Jouet (Ai 172). Together, they recognized the importance of mobilizing the US-based Arts et Métiers alumni community to help strengthen the Arts et Métiers brand across the United States of America. They injected the idea of creating a new non-profit organization that would help federate and structure our community towards a common identity, common causes and programs.

When they asked me to help shepherd this work, I immediately believed in the great impact we could create. We asked about a dozen of US based A&M alumni to help me in this task and become the founding board of the nascent AFAM organization. The year was 2007. The AFAM was born.



Eric Benhamou (Ai 172)  
AFAM Founder and President

## 2007 – 2017 & The Next Decade: Key Programs Serving Our Mission

First, we support Arts et Métiers students who want to have a professional American experience, by helping them find internships, prepare for interviews, and supporting them in their American professional development. Our work through the Shasta internship program, has led to a continuous offering of attractive positions numbering in the double digits each year. The cumulative number of Shasta internships applications in the US over our first AFAM decade exceeds 630, for over 150 internships available cumulatively.

Second, we help support the Arts et Métiers ParisTech school forge and expand durable academic partnerships with major peer academic institutions such as Texas A&M, Georgia Tech, UC Berkeley, MIT, and many others. These partnerships lead to an exchange of students, professors and researchers, joint research and teaching programs and activities, in some cases joint diplomas and full-fledged joint ventures. These relationships, both formal and informal, greatly contribute to propagating a favorable image of the Arts et Métiers brand, which in turn benefits the entire alumni community.

Third, we help students expand their academic training by attending top US universities towards graduate degrees (Masters or PhD), or as part of academic research programs. Many of the AFAM founders greatly benefited from adding to our Arts et Métiers degree a graduate American degree. We want to make sure all deserving and motivated Arts et Métiers students have a full opportunity to follow our footsteps and in most cases, avoid the pitfalls we encountered 20, 30, or 40 years ago. Our efforts have led to a cumulative number of Arts et Métiers students pursuing a graduate program in a major American University in excess of 135 over the past decade (not including Georgia Tech).

Finally, we support the Arts et Métiers alumni community in the US. We help them connect with their peers and fellow Arts et Métiers alumni. We drive socio-professional activities of interest across 3 major regions of the country including the San Francisco Bay Area, the North-East corridor, and the Texas/Greater Houston region. We network with the alumni of other top French schools and with major French community hubs such as French consulates, Chambers of Commerce, etc. This community management work has taken a stronger importance over time and injected life in the US Arts et Métiers community.

Going forward, we intend to build upon this work and help Arts et Métiers entrepreneurs coming from France to the US with an intent of building or growing their enterprise in this country to benefit from the help and mentorship of Arts et Métiers alumni already well established in the US and eager to give back of their time and wisdom to increase the chances of success for the younger cohorts.

## Major Milestones in The AFAM Decade

### **2007-2008: The beginnings**

- 2007 – Foundation of AFAM. Establishment of the first AFAM board
- 2008 – The AFAM's 1<sup>st</sup> web site is launched ([www.americanfriendsam.org](http://www.americanfriendsam.org))

### **2009-2010: The first breakthrough**

- 2009 – The AFAM community connects with 500 US-based alumni and establishes a social network presence on Facebook and LinkedIn
  - Louis Magne makes a sizeable grant to AFAM to help launch and expand its programs across the US
  - Launch of the Shasta program
- 2010 – 1<sup>st</sup> cross country mission of the Arts et Métiers delegation led by Jean-Paul Hautier with its top 5 academic partners

### **2011-2013: Major partnerships & milestones**

- 2011 – An Arts et Métiers student gets admitted in an MIT PhD program for the first time in decades
- 2012 – The Arts et Métiers school signs a strategic collaboration agreement with UC Berkeley to accelerate the exchange of graduate students and research collaboration in mechanical engineering and materials sciences
- 2013 – The Shasta program places its 50<sup>th</sup> intern
  - AFAM enables US-based alumni to pay the SOCE (*Société des Ingénieurs Arts et Métiers*) through AFAM and maintain their SOCE membership from the US

### **2016-2017: Reaching new heights**

- 2016 – An Arts et Métiers student receives admission in a major Stanford graduate program for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 40 years
- 2017 – AFAM awards its first US grants to two students to help them accomplish their US program objectives
  - AFAM facilitates the first of its kind partnership with Texas A&M: the “Joint Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Research, Innovation, and Education Cluster”

## A&M Internships in the USA

### **Focus on: The creation of Shasta, our internship program**

Upon launching AFAM, we tackled the opportunity to help *Arts et Métiers* students receive internships in the US. They can be a life changing experience for a student, but companies are very different in the US than in France: the language, the culture, the hiring and decision-making, and many other aspects make it a challenge to have the most fulfilling experience.

We capitalized on our shared experiences amongst alumni. Many of us are contacted by students looking for internships, each of them facing more or less the same challenges (resume, presentation, offers). In parallel, US companies with an interest for highly qualified motivated interns were lost when facing the hiring process, between the visa, interviewing the students, etc.

We knew there was an opportunity to create an immediate impact. We used our network to collect internship positions, created application templates, mentored students through the process, and also offered companies help to hire the students they wanted. Very quickly we reached a database of around 12 internships each year in a variety of fields. We also created a monitoring process and feedback loop from students, discussing their experiences and lessons learned.



*Above: in our events, we always include students interning in the US – we are all just one big community!*

Over the years we have processed over 630 applications, placing students for under 25% of these. We faced challenges of all sorts, from the economic environment post crisis, and to the changing academic curriculum that shifted the timing of internships. As we look forward, with the experiences we built, we are now launching even more impactful and exciting internship programs.

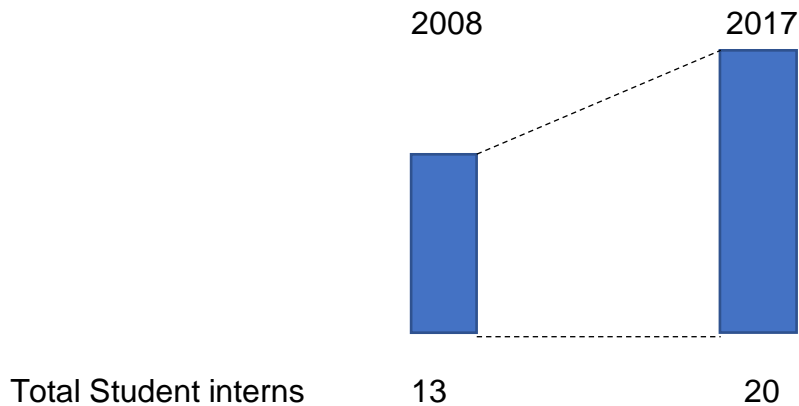
**Xavier Wartelle (Li 82), board member at AFAM since 2007**



**Our impact:**

We quickly ramped up to 13 internships offered and sponsored in 2009, to over 20 internships annually between 2015 and 2017.

Figure below: Students interning in the US 2008-2017.



Our experience in linking students and recruitment managers allowed us to learn a number of lessons:

- First, most internships needed financial support to help students with their cost of living away from home and their visas.
- Second, we found that many students underestimated their own skills and refrained from applying to internships. Overall, the feedback from recruiters was very positive.
- Finally, over the years, and after changes at the Arts et Métiers ParisTech school and in its curriculum, we found that our own efforts and focus had to be readjusted to adapt to the academic year and changing internship format and requirements.

**Shasta 2.0:**

The most recent incarnation of the Shasta Program focuses on high potential candidates with a long term professional plan in the US and provide more qualitative help. Part of this was because we have learned that the quality of internships has also increased at the forefront of technology in areas such as material science, computational science, and aerospace. We addressed this through two improvements:

- We have committed an annual scholarship budget of \$20k per year. So far, 2 years into the program, 4 Arts et Métiers graduate students received \$4k each. We believe that this number will continue to increase quickly with the growth of the overall interest in the US.
- We have also been more active through direct interactions with students, starting with resume help, webinars, and currently putting together a mentorship plan.

**Take my Word for it:**



**Oriana Peltzer, A&M ParisTech 2015**, currently studying at Stanford, on the role AFAM for her internship and following studies:

*“In 2016, I interned for two months at Berkeley's EECS department. Aurore Prevot (the AFAM Community Manager at the time) had reached out to me about a Berkeley Professor looking for an Arts et Métiers ParisTech intern. This internship fit right in with my career goals and made me reconnect with my American roots, having grown in New York City. Because of this internship I became very motivated to continue my studies in the*

*US. In fact, in 2016, I applied to the USA curriculum at Arts et Métiers ParisTech and was admitted at Stanford.*

*I am very appreciative of the role of AFAM in supporting me through my internship, and for my studies in the US. Since I intend to stay in the country now for quite a long time post my studying here, I am planning on being an AFAM supporter and giving back to benefit others like it benefited me.”*

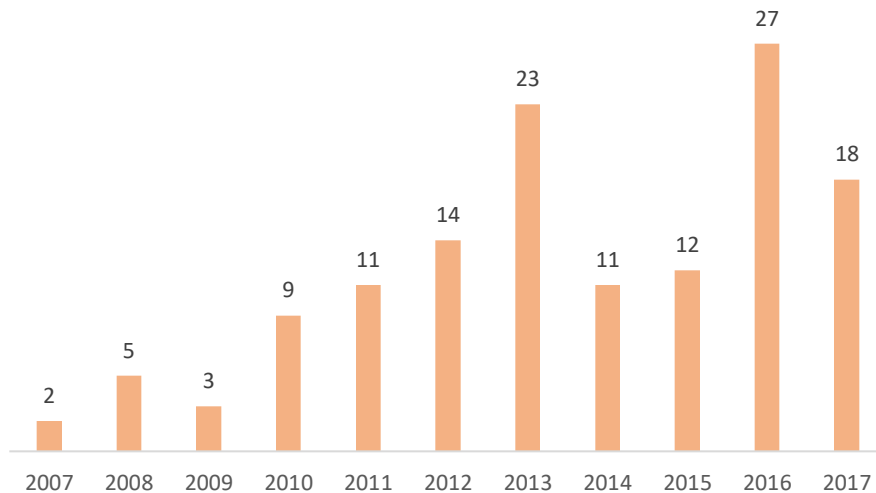
## The Arts & Métiers USA Academic Network

In parallel to our work on internships, we have spent time developing and nurturing relationships with universities. A lot of the ground work had been done at the research level, when French or American professors and researchers connected with their peers, and through partnerships with universities. However, the work to materialize the existing relationship into academic equivalence at the Masters level, or even dual degrees required a mutual understanding of complex academic programs and a continuous communication with American universities.

Our role at AFAM has been to promote our Arts et Métiers brand, to enhance the existing relationship, or create it from scratch, and support the Arts et Métiers ParisTech team in signing programs allowing French students to come to the US. This promotion takes the form of trips, fairs, and numerous calls and meetings throughout the years, as well as seeking opportunities for collaborations between professors and research facilities.

As a result, the Arts et Métiers student community in the US has grown to 27 students in 2016, from only 2 students in 2007, not counting the approx. 30 students coming to Georgia Tech.

Figure below: Total students having studied in the US in a given year (excl. GeorgiaTech students).



Today, our network of partner institutions extends coast to coast. On the East coast, MIT was an early target of our efforts. In 2009, our first student in a long time received the AFAM fellowship to support him on his way to a PhD. In New York, Columbia University and NYU are also strong engineering schools feeding the very strong growing need of engineers in the city, across a variety of disciplines.

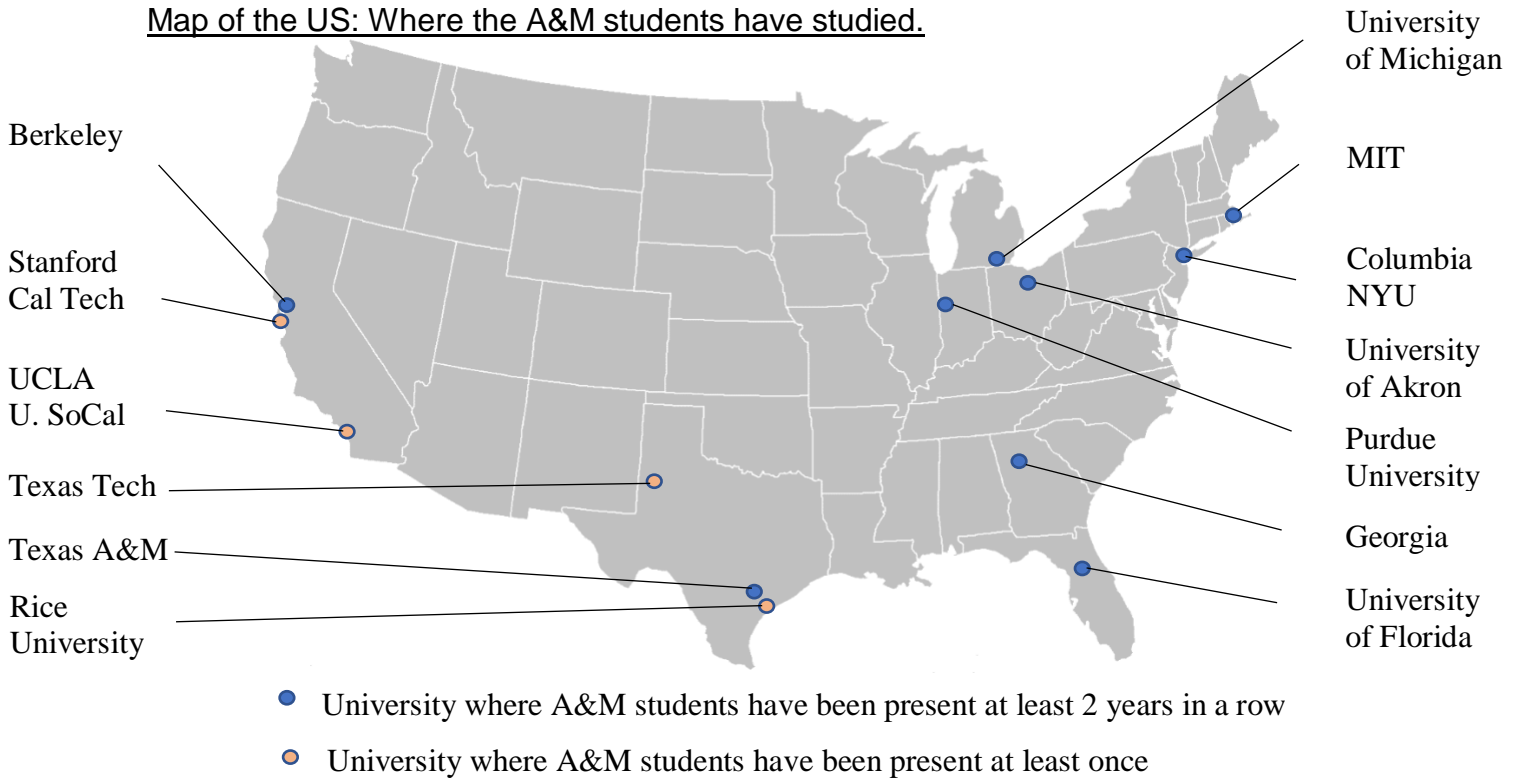
In the Midwest, the University of Michigan, Purdue and the University of Akron, Ohio are all very close to the manufacturing and aerospace industries, especially the automotive. This is also the case with Georgia Tech.

Texas is a sought-after state for Arts et Métiers alumni, because of the importance of manufacturing, and more importantly because of the oil industry. Many of these alumni live and work in Houston.

The West coast is host to the largest Arts et Métiers alumni population in the US, some of which feature notable alumni of Stanford and Caltech. The long history with Berkeley has allowed to AFAM continue develop ties with its two neighbors, Stanford and Caltech, which we are continuously getting closer to.

One measure of success has been the number of universities at which students have continuously gone to study.

Map of the US: Where the A&M students have studied.



**Focus on: our partnership with Texas A&M**

Texas A&M and Arts et Métiers have many commonalities: both are public universities, founded on the premise of social ascension of students from poorer backgrounds, and focused on technology and hands on approach to engineering.

For 20 years, the LEM3 laboratory in Metz has been collaborating with researchers from Texas A&M. Recently, thanks to NSF (National State Foundation) funding, researchers from Arts et Métiers ParisTech participated in a transatlantic research project, coordinated by Texas A&M, and involving American, European and Middle Eastern universities. This project helped reinforce research collaboration, and student exchanges through research projects and summer schools.

When Texas A&M informed us of their aim to create a hub in Europe, it seemed natural, given our similarities, to do it together. Thus, it was decided to create a “Joint Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Research, Innovation, and Education Cluster” (herein “JAMMRIEC”) the MOU was signed on November 30, 2017, between Arts et Métiers ParisTech and Texas AM University (College of Engineering) at the PACA region headquarters in Marseille in presence of the Vice President of the region.



Above: The Signing of the MOU between  
Dr. Katherine Banks, Dean of Texas A&M University, College of Engineering,  
Laurent Champaney, President of Arts et Métiers ParisTech,  
and with Bernard Kleynhoff, Vice President of the PACA region (standing).

Located in Aix-en-Provence, and working closely on the core industries of both Texas AM and Arts & Métiers in both countries, (innovation for aeronautics, energy and digital technologies) the Arts et Métiers/Texas A&M JAMMRIEC comprises three components:

- a. Research: expand collaborative research opportunities for both institutions in the PACA region, France and in Texas in the shared excellence areas of material science and manufacturing in partnership with French & American industry operating in both continents.

- b. Education: expand international educational opportunities in the PACA region and in Texas through the offering of dual degrees, continuing education, summer schools and workforce development on both sides of the Atlantic.
- c. Innovation and Entrepreneurship: expand employment opportunities for the residents through active commercialization and technology transfer to new and existing enterprises in the partners' respective locations. As a double objective, it will provide the opportunity for French start-ups/entrepreneurs to have access to the American market, and American start-ups/entrepreneurs to the French market, particularly in the PACA region, within an ecosystem building on the strengths and contributions of both institutions.

This unique transatlantic joint project is the first of its kind in France. American Universities, usually operate alone. Georgia Tech in Metz for example, or NYU with classrooms for study abroad programs for American students are taught by American professors. This transatlantic research and academic joint initiative is an innovative approach in today's global research and academic environment which aims to jointly reply to industry needs of both sides of the Atlantic, benefiting, researchers, students and industry alike.

The French Embassy in the US strongly supported this joint initiative, through their presence at the MOU signature ceremony in Marseille, and their support for the kick-off scientific workshop which will take place in Texas A&M, College Station in June 2018, alongside the North American Manufacturing Research Conference.

A study abroad program is planned for June/July 2018 where over 20 American students will spend 5 weeks in Aix-en-Provence, which will include study, industry and cultural visits. 2 Arts et Métiers students will spend an exchange semester at Texas A&M as of February 2018, while a Texas A&M student will carry out a 6-months research project at the LEM3 laboratory in Metz.

Funding will be a key to the success of this project, we are now looking for bilateral US-France funding, European research funding (H2020), Erasmus +, industry funding and scholarships for students, and grants for researcher mobility.

**Audrey Stewart, Director of International & European Development, Arts et Métiers ParisTech, and Board Member, AFAM**

**Take my word for it:**



**Alexis Turjman, Arts et Métiers ParisTech 2006, MIT PhD**, on the role AFAM for his studies and post graduate work life:

*"I received the first AFAM scholarship to study in the U.S. in 2008 for my PhD at MIT. Before that, as a student at the Arts et Métiers ParisTech Lille Campus, I knew that I wanted to pursue a degree in the U.S., whether through Arts et Métiers ParisTech or after graduation. My life as a PhD student in the Department of Materials Science at MIT in Boston was challenging but at the*

*same time it is, so far, the best experience in my life. I joined the laboratory of Dr. Elazer Edelman, a renowned interventional cardiologist to study Vascular Biology, despite little background in this topic. The AFAM scholarship became pivotal then because funding was not readily available to students cross-registering to other Departments and I was able to finance a semester of tuition before receiving other funding such as fellowships from the Consortia for Improving Medicine with Innovation and Technology (CIMIT) and the American Heart Association (AHA).*

*The “Friends” in American Friends of Arts et Métiers captures the special bond between our alumni and is perfectly embodied by its leadership, staff and volunteers. While in Dr. Edelman’s lab, I hired a Gadz’arts for an internship, who helped me with computational work in brain aneurysm research. He went on to attend MIT himself and receive an MS from my Department as well. I feel pride in perpetuating Arts et Métiers and AFAM’s spirit and hope that new comers will increase our footprint in the U.S.*

*Recently, I launched Cognition Medical Corp., an early-stage company developing medical devices to treat stroke. To that end, I moved to Atlanta and was delighted to connect with American GeorgiaTech students who knew, and in some cases attended, Arts et Métiers ParisTech in Metz. The Arts et Métiers network’s growing strength and reputation in the US is a clear asset for its alumni base!”*

## A&M Alumni Network in the US

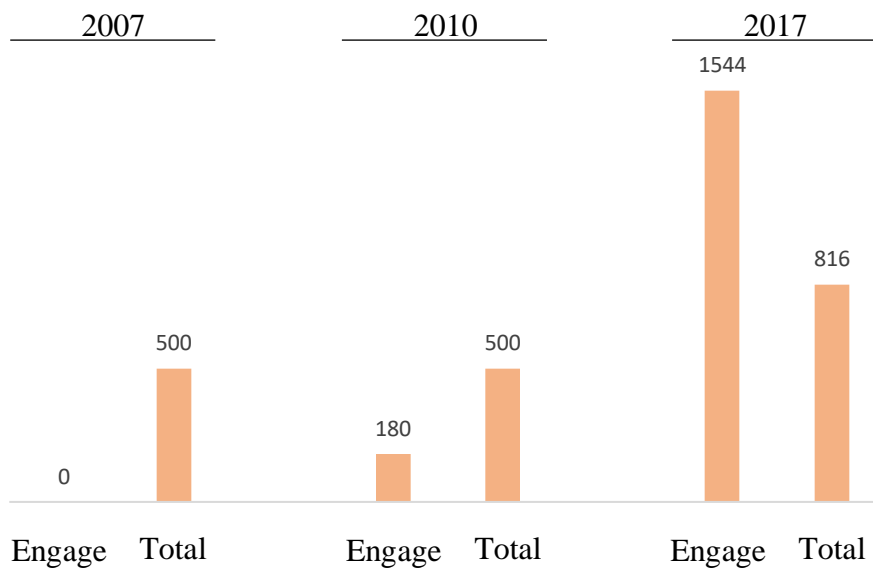
First and foremost, we have been supporting the dynamism of the community life in the US. We help coordinate and communicate on events of the three chapter groups of the Alumni Association in the US. They regularly organize events to bring the Arts et Métiers Community together such as a welcome dinner for the new alumni/students in the area, museum visits, BBQs or *Galette des Rois* and so on.

In 2017, our reach goes beyond the US community, and includes prospective students, and A&M alumni that came to the US for an internship or to study.

Part of our decade of work has been spent re-engaging Arts et Métiers alumni who, for many reasons, were disconnected with their alma mater. Very quickly, AFAM developed its website and social marketing tools in 2008: a Facebook page, a twitter handle, a LinkedIn group, and a monthly newsletter.

Our support has also been geared to help alumni in the US, and alumni coming to the US.

Figure below: Engaged alumni vs Total A&M alumni in the US.



Note that the number of engaged alumni might include alumni outside of the US who are interested in the AFAM activities.





*Above: One of our events, the annual Galette in San Francisco, is always well attended by alumni and their families!*

**Take my word for it:**



**Marc Amblard, Arts et Métiers ParisTech, 1984**, moved back to pursue a career in Automobile & Tech in San Francisco.

*“My relationship with the US began at the very start of my professional life. As a young graduate I moved to Michigan in 1988 to work for Peugeot after a successful internship as a student. I received my MBA from University of Michigan in 1992. I subsequently worked for 4 years at Valeo in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. After 19 years in Paris, my Michigan-born wife and I returned to the US in early 2017, this time in Palo Alto, California.*

*Aurore Prévot, AFAM community manager at the time, was critical in helping me get a head start. She shared her understanding of the business environment, local life, etc., and connected me with a number of the of 70+ Arts & Métiers Alumni based in the Bay Area. I am thankful that they helped me build contacts and comprehend the local ecosystem for my consulting activities locally.*

*From my own personal experience as a working professional, I am impressed by the role AFAM has played in driving the success of the Arts et Métiers brand in the US. It helps each Arts et Métiers Alumni with their specific situation. This is why I was happy to be asked to join the AFAM Board and I have been contributing time to increase AFAM's impact, specifically on helping students find and succeed in internships in the US.”*

## The AFAM Governance & Team

The AFAM governance is simple and fully transparent. We maintain the required 501c3 governance policies, such as a whistle blower policy, a grant policy, a document retention policy, and a conflict of interest policy. We also report each year to the IRS, using an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party to prepare our tax report, report to various authorities, including the state of California, where we are incorporated.

Our board team is comprised of an expanding set of alumni based on the West coast, and the East coast. Over the years, the team has stayed stable, with a few former board members staying active with less official roles, but just as much impact. We have also gradually increased our board slate to include additional alumni willing to help drive new initiative or contribute to existing ones.

Every three years, board members are up for reelection in a process open to anybody who is a member of AFAM. Members are defined as having donated over the last year at AFAM. To make it more open, we have chosen to extend the voting right to any donor over the history of AFAM. Each board position is open for new candidates and any school alumnus who wishes to join the team (except for the SOCE representative, the school representative, and the Foundation representative, whose seat are granted as a function of their role with our stakeholders, not open to a vote by AFAM members). Over time, our board has increased.

### AFAM team is composed of:



**Eric Benhamou**

*President since 2007*

Hi, I'm Eric! I am an Ai 172 alum. I arrived in the US in 1976. I graduated in 1977 from Stanford's School of Engineering and pursued a career in the IT industry in Silicon Valley. I was fortunate to create, grow and lead several successful IT companies such as Bridge Communications, 3Com and Palm. I now serve on several public company boards and allocate the rest of my time between my Venture Capital Fund [Benhamou Global Ventures](#), LLC, the INSEAD global business school in Fontainebleau and the IDC in Herzeliya where I am a visiting professor, and of course AFAM.



**Thomas Ferré**

*Secretary & Board Member since 2007 (CFO from 2007-2015)*

Hi, I'm Thomas! I am a Bo 200 alum, living and born in NYC and raised in France who came back to the USA to graduate from University of Michigan. I am Private Equity and Venture Capital professional, and in my last role, headed equity investments at [Microvest Fund](#). I also founded TOMI OTEE, winner of the 2011 NY FAE Award, and advise tech startups in NY and Paris.



**Jean-Rodolphe Guis**

*Chief Financial Officer & Board Member since 2015*

Hi, I'm Jean-Rodolphe! I am a Bo 199 alum, living in Manhattan. I am currently Global Coordinator for Risk at BNP Paribas in the context of a significant project within the Bank. I have been working in the banking industry for 5 years after spending 7 years as a consultant in Financial Risk Management (ending at Oliver Woman). Back in 2008, I was the Treasurer for the SOCE (Gadz'Arts alumni) during a 3-year mandate. For 3 years I have been USA East coast president and now I am representing ENSAM Paritech as Director at AAGEF Board in New York. Do not hesitate to connect with me on [LinkedIn](#).



**Xavier Wartelle**

*Board Member since 2007*

Hi, I'm Xavier, Li 82, living in Silicon Valley since 1995. I am the CEO of French Tech Hub, one the largest accelerator of French startups in the US. I am also the CEO of PRIME, helping large corporations in their Open Innovation initiatives. Please feel free to connect with me on [LinkedIn](#).



**Jean-Luc Nauleau**

*Board Member since 2007*

Hi I'm Jean-Luc! I have lived in the U.S for over twenty years; I graduated from Santa Clara in 1987 and started my career as a software engineer for Plessey Semi-conductor. I founded Integration Associates in 1991, a semi-conductor startup, acquired by Silicon Labs in July 2008.



**Audrey Stewart**

*Board Member & ENSAM Representative since 2010*

Hi, I'm Audrey. I am Director for International and European Development at Arts et Métiers ParisTech. I graduated from the University of Strathclyde Business School in 1991 and joined Arts et Métiers ParisTech in 2007, first in the Lille campus, and then in 2010, in the head office. I am also a representative of the CDEFI (Conference of Directors of Engineering Schools) in Americas group in charge of defining the international strategy for research, innovation and higher education for the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research; and I am an elected member of the academic committee of INSA Val de Loire. You may connect with me [via LinkedIn](#).



**Eric Tran**

*Board Member since 2015*

Hi, I'm Eric, Chalons 94. I have been in the oil & gas business for almost 20 years. At first, in the field of quality services, I spent some time in Scotland then quickly move to Houston, Texas for a couple of years. For 4 years I then switched to UK to join an exciting subsea project for Total. I am now back to Houston at Shell as Sr Quality Management Engineer, providing quality

assurance expertise, especially on capping equipment for subsea-well emergency response in case of an event similar to the BP Macondo accident.



**Louis Castex**

*Board Member 2016 -2017*

Hi, I'm Louis, an INSA Toulouse alum. I received my PhD in Physics in 1987 from the University of Bordeaux. I was nominated director of the Arts et Métiers Campus of Aix-en-Provence in 1991 for 5 years, then I took the direction of the campus of Paris for the following 5 years. Next, I became the director of INSA Toulouse until 2009. Since 2012, I'm the scientific advisor of the Arts et Métiers Foundation. You may contact me on [LinkedIn!](#)



**Eric Didier**

*Board Member since 2016*

Hi, I'm Eric a Chalons 83 alum. I founded or led and grew several IT and software companies, in France or in the US. Among them my first French enterprise software company Soamai was awarded the fastest growing and most innovative European company. I've been living in San Francisco since 2010 with our 3 kids where I founded 2 new SaaS companies, but also spent time on the east coast. I have extensive experience building teams dedicated to create, develop and sell software solutions (with a focus on SaaS, AdTech, eCommerce and Big Data).



**Marc Amblard**

*Board Member since 2017*

Hi, I am Marc! A Cluny 84 alumnus, I first came to work in the US in 1988 and received my MBA from U. of Michigan in 1992. I spent 20+ years in the auto and rail industries between France and the US, working at PSA, Valeo, Renault and Alstom before becoming CEO at EFQM. I moved to Silicon Valley in Feb 2017 where I manage [Orsay Consulting](#), a firm focused on electric, autonomous, connected and shared mobility. I advise startups as well as corporates. More on my [LinkedIn profile](#).



**Jean-Baptiste Commans,**

*Board Member since 2017*

Hi, I am Jean-Baptiste! A Li 203 alumnus, I moved to New York in 2015 as a strategy consultant with the Boston Consulting Group, specializing in Investment Banking Strategy and Risk Management. I have spent my career working with financial institutions. I started as a financial mathematician, for Aon and Credit Foncier de France, where I headed the pricing department. I worked for 5 years in Paris, 3 years in London and now New-York. I am the USA East Coast president. Do not hesitate to contact me on [LinkedIn](#).



**Jean Pommier**

*Board Member since 2017*

I am an An 183 alumnus and have lived in Silicon Valley since 1998. I started working in software and AI since 1987 when I joined ILOG upon its creation in France and until its acquisition by IBM 22 years later. I led ILOG's Services organization for many years and, at IBM, I'm a Distinguished Engineer and CTO for our Digital Business Automation services business. Beyond work I call running my second job, focusing mostly on ultra-marathon trail running nowadays and [actively blogging about it](#).



**Charles-André Richard**

*Board Member since 2017*

Hi, I am Charles-André. I am a Li 202 Alumnus. I moved to the United States in 2012. I live in the San Francisco Bay Area (Silicon Valley) while working for Asentinel as a Lead Developer. I am also the president of the West Coast Alumni Group since 2017. You can connect with me on [LinkedIn!](#)



**Aurore Prevot**

*Board Member, former US Representative 2014-2017*

I joined AFAM in 2014 as a representative, after coming to the US with my family. As an alumnus from Arts et Métiers ParisTech, I have always sought to play an integral role in the community, and was thrilled to contribute over the years in building the Arts et Métiers in the US. Seeing the students and alumni succeed and thrive in the US has been an incredible source of motivation and accomplishment.



**Philippe Claret**

*Board Member, SOCE Representative since 2018*

Hi I am Philippe, Ai 178! I just joined the AFAM board through my election as VP of international for SOCE. I just retired after having spent 33 years at EDF, the French energy company. There I was an engineer and traveled the work, especially Latin America, the Middle East, Western and Eastern Europe.



**Albina Patou-Chebykina**

*US Community Manager since 2018*

Hello, I am Albina Patou-Chebykina. Born and raised in Russia, I fell in love with French culture and French language when I was a teenager. This led me to study in France, first at the Sorbonne Nouvelle and then at the business school ISEE where I graduated in International Affairs. I worked in Paris and in Moscow doing marketing and public relations prior to arriving to the United States in 2011. Today I am excited to join the AFAM team. You can contact me via [LinkedIn](#) or [by email](#).

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