

#### Vision

Académie Lafayette is a national leader in language immersion and global studies education, empowering our students to reach their full potential and make a difference in the world.

#### Mission

Our mission is to bring together a diverse community of students and an international teaching staff to develop critical thinkers, global citizens and engaged learners through immersion in world languages and cultures.

#### Values

Excellence • The Joy of Learning • Caring Community • Character • Diversity • Accountability • Transparency • Académie Lafayette does not and will not discriminate, or in any way prefer, any student over another based on race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, income level, proficiency in English or athletic ability.



# Annual Report: 2015–2016

## Stories of Académie Lafayette graduates

by Sarah Guthrie



**Tom DeZutter**  
Class of 2013

### A Perfect 36

Tom DeZutter, AL class of 2013, is a rare breed. He and 12.1 million high school students took the ACT college admissions test last spring. Tom, however, scored a perfect 36 on the English section, putting him in the top 0.5% of ACT test takers.

Rare indeed, but Tom, a senior at Shawnee Mission East (SME) High School, says it's not surprising because of his early education at AL.

**"We always had the best MAP scores in math and English," he remembers. "At AL we learned to dig deep into everything, to expand our knowledge base beyond what is asked of us, not just learn enough to do well on a test."**

Visiting France in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade was another life-changing experience.

**"Here I was, age 12, standing on top of the Eiffel Tower, talking with friends, and being awed at how crazy it was," he said. "We had lived with host families for two weeks and we were now navigating Paris. It was so cool."**

**Tom does not know where he is going to college although "everyone asks me that." But he does have a vision for his future.**

**"I plan to get a Masters in Engineering," he says. "My goal is to try to invent, create, and improve alternate energy sources. Producing more electricity with solar panels, wind turbines, and hydroelectric systems will help us drive oil and gas off the market and stop poisoning our planet."**

His language skills will be crucial because "communicating with international scientists will be huge. This will be a team effort; this is everyone's earth. Knowing another language helps you understand other cultures, teaches you how to respect differences, and helps you collaborate."

For right now Tom is active in the Theater Department at SME where he recently directed a one-act play. He also occasionally slips into French with his sister when they need a private conversation.

**"I am very grateful that my parents took the chance to send me to this school," he said. "I would not be who I am without it."**