Jeff Archambault ’74 began his career selling peanuts (literally), and today he is vice president of communications for Europe’s most popular tourist destination, Disneyland Resort in Paris, France.

Jeff has traveled a winding road—and crossed an ocean—to build an international career and home life. A member of the last graduating class of Assumption Prep School in 1970, he had grown attached to the intellectual, personal and spiritual education of the Assumptionists.

Early interest in foreign affairs
“I was looking for a Catholic, liberal arts college education in order to pursue my early interests in a career in foreign affairs,” he remembers. “I chose Assumption College based on the advice of several Assumptionist professors.”

At Assumption, he was influenced deeply by several professors, including Rev. Denys Gonthier, A.A. ’44, who became a mentor; Rev. Gerard Messier communicated his creativity and passion for French poetry and theatre; political science professors Jack Crutcher, Donald Erler and Patrick Powers ’64, deepened Jeff’s understanding of Western culture. Finally, Professor George Doyle HD’92 provided important guidance and a first exposure to economics.

Selling peanuts abroad
Immediately after Assumption, Jeff began a career in sales, which led to a job with a large farm cooperative based in Atlanta … “a Yankee selling southern peanuts overseas,” he quipped. The business and travel throughout Europe and Japan reinforced his interest in working internationally. He went on to earn an MBA in finance in 1984 from Stanford University.

He worked for four years on Wall Street with Bankers Trust in both New York City and Los Angeles. The lure of working abroad again attracted him to join Apple Computer as their international treasury manager, based in Paris. Four years later, he joined Disneyland Resort Paris to launch the company in Europe.

For some alumni settling in a foreign land is not such a foreign concept. These Assumption graduates welcomed the opportunity and challenge awaiting them at a destination across the sea.

“Fear is temporary. Regret is forever.” These bold travelers have set aside their fears and opened their minds to a revised definition of home. Although they admit missing some aspects of American life, these alumni have established roots in their new home countries and learned far more about themselves than they could have imagined.

By Troy Watkins
With Disney, he has worn many hats—though none with ears. After leading the construction project for Disney’s Film Studio Park, Jeff was named company spokesperson for French and European media. He was appointed vice president of communications in 2006. He oversees internal communications for a vast employee community that also includes 13,000 cast members, as well as external communications.

**Outside the comfort zone**

“Living abroad clearly takes you out of your comfort zone and presents ongoing challenges, not only of quasi-daily cultural adaptation, but also intellectual stimulation—seeing the world through very different social, religious and political prisms,” Jeff explains. “Living in the heart of Europe through the fall of Communism, the extension of the European Union, the vicissitudes of pro- and anti-American sentiment, I’ve met and created lasting friendships with fascinating individuals from so many countries. Living in the City of Lights does have its drawbacks, Jeff said. “Frankly, I miss the sense of space, the openness and the ongoing ‘pioneer’ spirit of Americans and the U.S. culture, also the ‘can-do’ attitude and the ability to challenge the status quo and accept changes.”

**A family of nations**

Jeff’s family reflects his international lifestyle. He and wife Majo, a native of France’s Alsace region, married in 1990. They adopted their son Nicolas, 17, and daughter, Carolina, 12, from Bogota, Columbia. The family resides in the heart of Paris, between the Eiffel Tower and Les Invalides, and enjoys a summer home on France’s Atlantic Coast.

“Looking back, I see that life is not linear,” Jeff explained. “I believe my Assumption College liberal arts education, with its very privileged teacher-student exchanges, gave me the moral and intellectual strength to pursue my ambitions wherever they led me and ultimately realize many of my fondest dreams. Merci beaucoup, Assumption!”