"I told corporate America to blow me. I call it my quarter-life crisis."

"It is really a hellish place. One of the most special parts was knowing that I was part of a very special band of brothers."

"I spent a lot of time in Paris, drank myself silly and slept with a lot of European women."

A new life

Alumnus tells tale of disillusionment in the French Foreign Legion

By Liz Bower
Senior Writer

After about a year in corporate America, Jaime Salazar realized he wanted more in life.

He wanted more than a big paycheck and a BMW.

Salazar is a born adventurer and romantic and was not content with his job with Siemens in Chicago, where he was part of the technical sales teams.

His ideals led him to the French Foreign Legion, one

from Purdue in 1997 with a degree in mechanical engineering he was going to get out of Indiana and West Lafayette.

"Coming from Lafayette, which is a small town, I wanted to get the hell out and not go back," Salazar said.

He considers his Purdue days rather uneventful.

"Ninety percent of my time was devoted to my rigorous and all encompassing engineering studies. To me, Purdue was a pretty dull campus full of rather uninteresting people. Like most people, I was in it to get the cherished engineering degree and get the hell out. Intellectually, I grew by leaps and bounds, and I'm grateful that I got a world-class education basically for free."

Salazar said his job with Siemens was not giving him what he wanted out of life.

"Selling was mind-