

Advanced Studies in England

2017 ASE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

DEAN AND DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Dearest ASE Alums,

Welcome to the ASE Alumni News for 2017!

After last year's later-than-planned edition, it feels quite an achievement to be actually writing this IN the year 2017. And for that, Rob and I owe a large debt of gratitude to our Guest Editor, **Maddie Anthes (Su09, Denison)**, who's done a marvellous job of organising much content, and indeed of politely nudging the two of us to produce and share copy, more-or-less (usually less) on time.

Maddie is not to blame (or to thank?), however, for the somewhat Denison-centric content of this edition. It's by good fortune rather than by design that we have a trio of wonderful Denisonian contributors: **Stephen Weber (Su98, Denison)**, who shares his account of bringing NYC high school students to the UK; **Sara Ely Hulse (Sp95, Denison)** who tells us about her long overdue get-together with ASE roommates; and **Professor Peter Grandbois'** gothic twist on his summer-long experience of the Programme. Ill fortune is in evidence, however, as we commemorate the premature passing of an old Denisonian friend, **Professor Jim Davis**, who taught here in summer 2008. His sharp and faux-bleak wit will be sorely missed by all who knew him. So too will ASE's own **John Jackson**, tutor of *Irish Nationalisms* and *Terrorism*, who just last week lost his long battle with cancer. We also say farewell, albeit in a happier way, to our Shakespearean dynamic duo, **Brian and Ruth Hazel**, who recently retired to their dressing rooms after many acclaimed performances.

It was a year, inevitably and thankfully, of beginnings and achievements as well as endings. This is plain from your own Updates and News, printed on page 21, as well as here in Bath. As of August 2017, there's been a new and youthful face at Nelson House: it belongs to **Melissa Glass**, who introduces herself on page 3; we're also relishing the growth of our visual art options, under the capable guidance of 44ADartspace's **Katie O'Brien**. And at Oxford, **Andrew Bell**, briefly ASE tutor of Medieval History, has brought renewed vigour to the Programme's connection with University College. Elsewhere, the one and only **Andrew Venn**, long-time ASE staff member, gives a colourful and moving account of his energetic efforts in aid of a cause close to his (and his son Joe's) heart. Equally moving is **Dwight Maxwell's (Sp93, HWS)** poem in honour of ASE's Founder, Don Nunes; and we're thankful to the longest-serving of our burgeoning Creative Writing 'department', **Kieron Winn**, for permission to print two more pieces from his delightful collection, *The Mortal Man*.

One major ASE story that's missing from these pages is that of **Linley House** which, as many of you will know, suffered a damaging fire in a top floor bedroom back in April. Mercifully, no-one was hurt, and I'm delighted to report that renovation work is now all but complete – and the house now looks more stunning than ever. I look forward to sharing pictures of this remarkable rejuvenation with you next year!

Jonathan Hope, ASE Dean and Director



ALUMNI REUNIONS

Thank you to Sasha Schechter and Joanna Chlebus for organizing a successful summit and fantastic reunion at the Speakeasy at The Gin Mill in New York City! 73 attendees came, including alums from as recently as Spring 2017 and as far back as Spring '95. There was even a special appearance by Andrew Butterworth! Our annual reunions seem to grow each year; we can't wait to see the Washington, DC turnout!



SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

- Next year's annual reunion will be in Washington, DC on September 22, 2018
- ASE's 30th Anniversary and reunion will be held in Bath on July 3, 2019!



A NEW ASE TEAM MEMBER

Melissa Glass, who joined the ASE Team in August to work alongside Lindsay Orchard on the social and cultural programme, introduces herself

Hello! I'm Melissa and I'm the new Social and Cultural Events Assistant here at ASE. I graduated earlier this year after receiving a first class degree from Plymouth University in Events Management, specialising in individual experience and event perceptions.

Having grown up in and around the West Country I am proud to be able to share my knowledge and home with all past, present and future ASE students. My hobbies include travelling, swimming, going to see live music and trying out or creating new recipes. I love cooking!

Before I decided to go to University I travelled Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia to experience and gain more knowledge about other cultures. As a recent graduate, I feel my knowledge and experience of student trends, including all social, travel and cultural aspects will benefit all of those who need help once they arrive in

Bath. I've been at ASE

now for just over 3

months and I can't quite

believe how I'm already a part of the furniture! I've really enjoyed working alongside Lindsay, who has been not only a great mentor for me but also a good friend. The friendly atmosphere, along with the fantastic opportunities and unique personalised programme offered at ASE really make it an enjoyable and comfortable place to work.

Already within my time here I have had the opportunity to see talks at the Cheltenham Literature Festival, I've hiked up a very wet and windy mountain in Wales and visited quaint, tucked-away villages in the Cotswolds. I've also visited lots of beautiful historic buildings and shared some delicious meals with ASE students and staff – all of which I would jump at the chance to do in my own time, so I feel very lucky that I can count those activities as part of my job.



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT BRITAIN

Stephen Weber, (Denison University, Su '98) discusses how he's preparing his English class for an upcoming trip to England.

In April of 2018 I'll be boarding a plane with a group of excited teenagers on a trip that would delight Chaucer to no end: a pilgrimage to the United Kingdom, the place that gave birth to the language that creates common ground for my New York City students no matter where their familial roots may spread.

I've learned over the years that the UK is particularly fascinating to my students. When we went to Costa Rica in 2013 and China this past spring we had only seven students each time, but I currently have twenty-two students signed up for this particular tour and several more on the fence; our previous UK trip had nearly thirty student travelers.

It made me wonder why. What is it about the UK that fascinates teenagers in NYC in 2017?

I mean, I know my own reasons for obsessing about all things British when I was their age, and I even know some of yours. Back in August I posted the question to our ASE Alumni Facebook Page asking you all what books, movies, bands and such you enjoyed that turned you into an Anglophile and made you want to study abroad in Bath. Your answers ranged from the ridiculous (Ab Fab & Monty Python...) to the sublime (Austen, the Brontes, Dickens...) with everything in between (The Beatles, David Bowie, Oasis, Dr. Who...). For myself, it was a steady diet of King Arthur stories and Narnia during my early years as a reader that got me hooked.

But the thing is, hardly any of the works that you mentioned live in my students' imaginations (I did have a die-hard Whovian, but she graduated two years ago). Half of my students have grown up in non-English speaking homes, so they didn't have kooky uncles (like I did) who memorized *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and made them recite scenes to help shape their love for British humo(u)r.

Furthermore, our school's English curriculum is very American-centric, so until they have me for English class, the only works of British literature they've read (in school at least) are Orwell's *Animal Farm* and Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, and -- let's be honest -- no young person dreams of crossing The Pond because they were so moved by Piggy's death.

It turns out that they will make the trip for Harry Potter, though.



When I put the question to them directly the majority of them mentioned the boy wizard as a major influence (so a visit to King's Cross Station is a must). Some have discovered British television thanks to Netflix; *Black Mirror*, in particular, was hugely popular with my students last year -- a few indicated that it had sparked their curiosity about Great Britain.

One of my boys said that the thing he was most looking forward to was trying the food. I told him he was probably the first person to wish to travel to the UK for that reason alone. It was another student who told him that British cuisine was famously bland. "Blander than the food in Greece?" he asked, referring to our 2016 trip where the food, to my taste, wasn't very bland at all. (I'll make sure he gets a curry.)

Their Global History class has motivated more than a few of them to sign up. Several students expressed an interest in seeing remnants of Ancient Rome (don't worry -- I'm bringing them to Bath!). Medieval castles and places affected by World War II are also high on their list, as are, of course, the iconic landmarks, Big Ben and Buckingham Palace in particular.



These are all fine reasons, and of course it moves me to hear students identify an interest in history as a reason for travel, but, being a literature teacher, I wish they were able to feel the same affinity from books they've read beyond Harry Potter (although I, too, am a fan). I decided, therefore, that my curriculum this year would be a Brit Lit survey.

So far it's been a success.

After an intro unit on the history of the language and some early medieval works, we're now up to Chaucer, which has prompted a student to publicly declare her love for Middle English. I told her that was a good thing because our voyage will be in April just like Chaucer's pilgrims, so I fully intend to have film them reciting the opening lines of *The Canterbury Tales* somewhere atmospheric.

A few readings of Celtic myths had half the class speaking in Irish brogues and asking me if it would be rude if they spoke that way in Ireland. I suggested, rather, that they learn to speak Irish and Welsh using Duolingo, and some have taken up the challenge.

And so it goes. I'm not really interested in shaping my students into the rabid Anglophiles that I and more than a few of you are, the ones who refuse to accept anyone other than Colin Firth as Mr. Darcy. My goal, rather, is to have them be able to associate history, literature, art and music with every place we visit so that, hopefully, they will have made the effort and spent the money to cross the Atlantic for more than just a plate of greasy fish and chips and some mushy peas.



“THE CIRCUS” BY MACKENZIE FABER (SP’16, SAINT MICHAEL’S)



England | April 2016

‘By April, I still hadn’t quite grown accustomed to living in a Jane Austen novel. Even while (barely) carrying bags of groceries after an hour at the gym and a full day of class, sweating a little under my tee-shirt, I often stopped in my tracks when I reached the Circus, a circular row of limestone homes right near where I lived at the top of the hill. In fact, the closer the end of my time in Bath was, the longer I stood. Perhaps it was the warmer spring air, with the tree that seemed as old as the Circus itself blossoming with pale pink flower petals fluttering under its shade and the choir of songbirds all around, or perhaps it was the creeping feeling of premature nostalgia. It was probably both. And so on my way home one April evening, glowing like the Circus in the fading glory of the daylight, I put my bags down for a moment, breathed in, and let my camera have a long look, too.’

Her photo and this piece won in the ‘City Life’ category of St Mike’s Study Abroad Office’s ‘Global Eyes’ photo competition.

FOR DON NUNES, THE MARINER OF HEARTS

POEM BY **DWIGHT MAXWELL (SP93, H&WS)**

Over split rivers and white washed rocks and gales that have no love for us
 the mariner came like Hermes in old age, borne by the unwavering
 the strength that only youth could provide.
 Soft to look upon, your dark hair swoon upon firm brows
 and your face told tales of biblical proportions.
 I saw you come from afar off and spread the youthful heart
 filled the valves with intoxicated adventures.
 O humble Sire, you gave so much, expected so little returned.
 I know that when I relinquished the train and saw the Baths you offered I was in love.
 My eyes full of tears--- a sea tossed African entrusted to your care.
 What spirit, what tender-hearted carriage was yours to own.
 And all of us gathered by your worn out toes, like Myrmidons
 singing gratitude and praises to the caretaker of our fields.
 O I cannot speak ample words...my tongue is now forlorn
 my lips are waghered for and you have taken ashes form.
 O ever this wicked world should boast about a man
 'tis you I prize above the rest.
 Your mariner's knuckles have stared us over the deeps.
 What freedom you have instilled in me (courage of stampeding horses
 who in their numbers breech the gates of captors).
 I adore you--- your passing rends me, as you could not have guessed.
 My black feathers are oiled for winter's blight ever since you treated me fair.
 Fly away then since you must for a stronger voice needs thee more.
 And when we meet beyond the walls of clouds reserve to me
 your good natured love.



ASE AND 44AD

Katie O'Brien, Project Director at 44ADartspace, reflects on a fruitful partnership with ASE – and on collaborating with her Fine Art tutorial students

For those of you who don't know us, 44AD artspace is a community-driven arts venue, located right in the heart of Bath. We overlook the Roman Baths, and the crowds and street entertainers in Abbey Square.

The handsome Georgian building boasts two floors of (free admission!) gallery space, exhibiting a high standard of contemporary artwork from student, emerging and established artists. On its upper three floors are studios housing 16 artists, whose practice ranges from paint, print and illustration, to sculpture, video art and performance.



Each semester, it's great to meet the new intake of ASE students. Typically, it'll be on a Friday night at a very relaxed (and of course glittering) reception held at the Victoria Art Gallery, in the centre of town. There is a sense of anticipation and excitement in the air. Students have just arrived in Bath, and are seeing firsthand the beautiful city that will become their home for the next 15 weeks.

I always look forward to introducing my own students to the creative building which is home to 44AD, and to the (wonderfully supportive) fellow artists who work from the studios. The students are usually thrilled to discover their own studio space, with its iconic view; and quickly feel at home in the workshop, full of books and art materials, where they will be taking their lessons. They also get to see, for the first time, the gallery space, where – in a matter of months – they will be exhibiting. Yes, *exhibiting*. (I have generally tried to keep this part a bit of a surprise...but I think word is beginning to get around now...!)



Throughout the year, we deliver a dynamic and comprehensive gallery programme of art exhibitions and associated events - collaborating with various charities, art groups and educational institutions, including ASE.

Since we first partnered with ASE in 2015, I have had the pleasure of teaching numerous Fine Art Tutorials and overseeing several internship placements.

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The ASE Fine Art Tutorial is an incredibly immersive course. A lot of work is created and developed to get exhibition-ready, within a relatively short time. I have only ever written half a Tutorial syllabus, in advance: I feel that art practice and creativity needs to be flexible and, as my students chosen project progresses, the rest naturally writes itself. Before meeting, I try and discover where a student's individual art practice lies, their preferred media, favourite artists/art



movements etc. I then tailor (half) a syllabus that aims to stretch and challenge, yet is congruous to their particular disciplines and preferences.

The tutorial is predominantly practice-led, often beginning with observational drawing or painting exercises, depending on the student's style, ability and interests. I design homework briefs and encourage sketchbook documentation, as well as teaching a running historical and contemporary overview, to inform and contextually place a student's work and ideas. 44AD's studio artists also take an active interest in the resident tutee, and a mid-term presentation and critique with them ensures valuable feedback and direction. There is so much going on at the gallery, with a weekly turnaround of exhibitions and exhibitors,



workshops, artist talks and activities. This, along with the array of other galleries, museums, festivals and new experiences that picturesque Bath has to offer, make it easy to find inspiration. It is usually quite soon in the semester that an outline idea for an exhibition appears.

And, of course, there's nothing like the prospect of sending out invites to your own private view to focus the artistic mind!

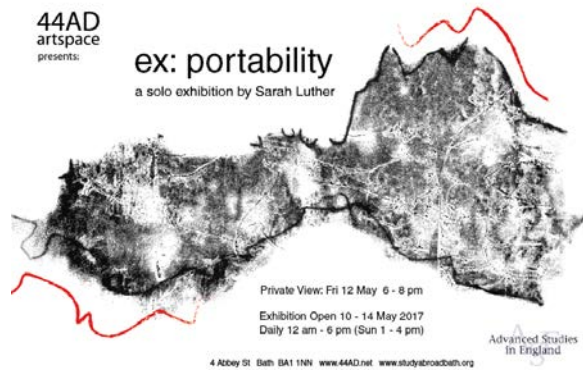
The surroundings and environment of Bath have strongly impacted on and resonated in all of the ASE student exhibitions to date, and it is rewarding to see the city perceived and represented through fresh eyes. Exhibition themes have included a photographic-led painting project of the seven crescents of Bath, a series of abstract water reflections from Bath bridges and a collection of printed map work based on local walks and surveys.



I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting and guiding the ASE students I've worked with to date through the practical aspects of exhibiting and all it entails (including publicity design and promotion), helping them curate a confident and accomplished body of work. I look forward to working with many more!

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44AD artspace presents

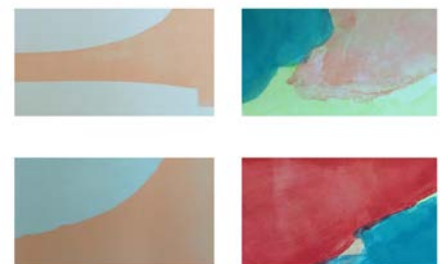
Advanced Studies in England

A Tale of Two *

Eleanor Frick
Shiyu Kong

A semester residency by ASE students

Private View: Thurs 10 Dec (6pm - 8pm)
Exhibition continues: 11 - 13 Dec 2015



* cities nations artists ideas

4 Abbey Street Bath BA1 1NN www.44AD.net www.studyabroadbath.org

CYCLING FOR A CAUSE

Andy Venn recalls his cycling trip from Bristol to Paris to raise £150,000 for a 3D heart scanner.

There it was, my destination, the Eiffel Tower. With 440km behind me, only 10km were left before I could, with 64 other riders, dismount from a narrow saddle, stop taking pain-killers for my non-working knee, drink a long beer and relax. After 4 days of solid riding from Bristol, through Bath (couldn't stop at Nelson House), to Salisbury (missed Stonehenge), Portsmouth and overnight to Caen (Medieval History trip memories), we were in Paris. These last few minutes were the final stage of a personal and emotional challenge that had begun a year earlier when, from his hospital bed, I was bullied by an 11-year-old boy... Joseph Venn.



My son Joe was born with serious heart defects and has been looked after by the Cardiac team at Bristol Children's Hospital from his first operation at 72 hours old, through six other surgical interventions, to a second by-pass in April 2015. It was during that last stay that 'Above and Beyond', a charity for the Children's Hospital, asked if they could use Joe as their 'featured child' for the 2016 cycle from Bristol to Paris campaign. The aim: to raise £150,000, for a 3D heart scanner. This isn't a standard bit of kit, but when a young child's heart may be the size of a cherry, having the most accurate and in-

formed images is crucial.

Joe immediately agreed and instantly fell into role, being photographed, appearing on TV and the radio, and getting time off school. Behind it all, no doubt, he was waiting his moment to corner me. This came when he announced to the team and press officer that as the dad of the featured child, I had decided to do the ride - and would be the first to sign up! Faced with a wired-up child and a room of excited 'story-focused' faces, "No Way!" isn't the expected response. A face-saving "Yes, that's right" came out, while a series of expletives ran through my head.

While I may not initially have been amused, as the months went on, the training got more intense and the weight reduced (an added bonus!) I began to look forward to each ride, and to seeing if my time and duration improved. I felt better physically, and was proud to be able to give something back to the people who had given so much to Joe. Dr Andrew Tometzki (Joe's Cardiac Consultant) and Ian Jenkins (his anaesthetist) also signed up, and from training rides with them and with the organised get-together rides, I realised that I was a 'middle group rider'. Phew! However, even with the training I was nervous, but - as my daughter Emily pointed out 8.00am on Friday 28th April - it was "too late now!"



With those final words.. we were off.

The ride was even harder than I had imagined, but amazing. We rode through beautiful countryside and encountered hail, blazing spring sun, wandering cattle, and more than a few wrong turns. But everywhere, we were greeted with warmth, cheers and never-ending hospitality. I was rarely known as Andrew, but always as “Joe’s dad”, when needed, when talked to and even when introduced to anyone new. In my group were doctors, hospital staff, and teams from businesses in Bristol, as well as parents and relatives of other children; but on the ride we were all one. 65 set off and 65 made it. At different paces and on different bikes, but we did it through supporting each other. And at that moment when we gathered to descend into Paris together, we all shared in the elation, pride and celebrations. On getting home - and with some extra fundraising - we MADE IT, and in June 2017 the 3D heart scanner was installed.



Of course Joe had to have a go! But this kit is not just for him, but for the thousands of children who will go through the children’s hospital. As THE child for the campaign, Joe was a symbol of inspiration and hope, not just for the riders who took part, but also for what he represents to other children and their parents. He illustrates the success, so far; and the possibility of greater successes in the future. As I said at the final dinner, with paediatric heart complaints, the odds are always against us, because nature has already said “NO, sorry NOT this one.” But the cardiac team look nature in the face and say “Why not?” They then work tirelessly to prove nature wrong. Things don’t always go to plan, but this scanner puts more chips on our side of the scale and that always equals HOPE.

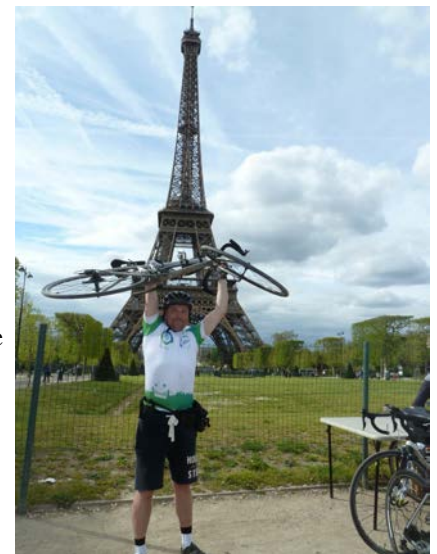


To make a donation to Bristol Royal Hospital for Children (BRHC), go to: <https://www.aboveandbeyond.org.uk/forms/donate-to-your-hospitals>

After you are taken to the page, select “Bristol Royal Hospital for Children (BRHC)” from the dropdown list under “I would like my donation to go to:”

Then, where it asks a specific ward or department, please type in “WARD 32 (Ref JV)”

Thank you!



ASE FRIENDS REUNITE IN NYC

Anne Tarbox Hall (Sp95, W&M), Sue Baumann Mihok (Sp95, W&M), Liz Watts MaGee (Sp95, Denison), Shannon Joseph Lopoukhine (Sp95, UofR), and Sara Ely Hulse (Sp95, Denison) met up for the ASE Annual Reunion in New York City. Sara tells us about their get-together, and their time at ASE.

It had been almost 14 years since the girls of 16 Raby Place had been able to get together, and we were SO excited about the ASE NYC reunion! The older you get the harder it seems to be able to leave the husband, the kids, and get away. Thank goodness for Facebook!

Anne, Sue, Liz, Shannon, and I all converged in New York on Friday. Anne had recently broken her leg so she wasn't very mobile and was in the city with her husband, Charlie, who was performing with his band. The couple have two sons and live in Philadelphia. Sue is married with three children and lives in Maryland; Liz lives in Ohio with her husband and three children; Shannon lives in Rochester with her husband and three kids; and I live in Long Island with my husband and twin girls. **Jennifer**

Shaevel Hopkins (Sp95, H&WS), who is living in Vermont with her two kids, was supposed to meet us but sadly her childcare fell through at the last minute. Our other ASE buddy **Jane Linnard Hale (Sp95, H&WS)** is living in CT with her husband and three children. She is a newly-ordained Episcopal priest so that makes it hard to get away on the weekends.

We started the weekend by going through old photo albums - thanks Sue for hauling those in! - and reliving some great memories.

We all feel so lucky to have been put in the same house together. We think it was the first and only time 16 Raby Place was used as ASE housing – but perhaps there are others out there who know better? We laughed as we remembered how the other residents hated us for cooking copious amounts of garlic. Not that we recall cooking that much. We recall more having a sustained nutritious diet of Jacobs Water Biscuits and Scrumpy Cider. We recall loving our History of Architecture class and enjoying all the sights that we walked past every day: the Baths, the Royal Crescent, the Abbey ... and having a lot of fun at Bath Fest. Plus all the great trips we took to Ludlow, Stonehenge and beyond. We all became best friends in a beautiful place surrounded by professors who genuinely loved their jobs. What more can you say...?

Then we got busy making some new memories - we hit NYC! We went shopping, saw a show, and then headed down to the Speak Easy to meet other ASE classes... We were proud to be the oldest class attending! Our favourite moment was meeting a guy who was *born* in May of 1995 — the same time we were in Bath together! That was a sobering thought. We also met students who had just come back from their Fall semester and regaled us with new stories of Bath. We have always talked about getting the group back to Bath for a reunion visit and I think we want to do that now more than ever.

(Sara – we hope very much to see you, and lots of other alums from ASE's 'early years', at the 30th Anniversary Party in Bath in July 2019! Ed)



WRITING GHOST STORIES IN BATH

Denison University's Peter Grandbois relays some spooky tales about his summer teaching with ASE

I'll never forget entering the old masonic lodge for the first day of our *Writing the Literary Ghost Story* class. The lodge's 265 years of history ensured the place would be haunted, and the class of eight students was not disappointed. The lodge was originally built as the first Royal Theatre outside of London, the theatre where the actress Sarah Siddons made famous her *Lady Macbeth*. It then became a Catholic church and in 1865 the home of one of England's oldest masonic lodges.



The students and I entered the second floor room where we'd be holding class for the next five weeks only to find the portraits of countless dead actors, priests and lodge members staring back at us. I'll never forget the fact that during class I would swear the eyes of Sarah Siddons' portrait followed my every move! We couldn't have asked for a more inspir-

ing building in which to write and read ghost stories. The caretaker of the lodge was an odd but kind man named Clive who had an air about him straight out of a gothic horror novel. He immediately startled the students with talk of the many ghosts who haunt the lodge. "Many freemasons have spotted the ghost of Sarah Siddons floating about. In fact, we've got so many ghosts," he said once, "I've got to let them all out to wander at night, then gather 'em all back in the mornin'." Clive mysteriously provided glasses and pitchers of water for the class each day—an act we greatly appreciated during the week of record heat. He also brought his dog to the lodge. I think the chance to pet that dog healed any homesickness the students might have felt.



other! No wonder the eight students in the class wrote such terrific stories! I still remember Jason's story about the giant skeleton



If the second floor room with its portraits staring down on us wasn't inspiration enough, Clive took the class on our own private tour of the lodge and its catacombs—where thousands of skeletons lie buried. The students were far braver than I, as we descended the stairs down into the musty air of the catacombs. I'll never forget the experience of walking on the actual gravestones that made up the floor, knowing how many people had been buried beneath. Most terrifying of all were the holes in the walls where you could stick your head through and peer into the darkness and perhaps just make out the outline of toppled graves or a skeletal arm rising from the dirt.

Of course, we also ventured outside the lodge for inspiration, walking the same Bath streets where the infamous naked, ghost soldier walked, or having class (on two occasions) in my personal favorite haunted pub, The Salamander. My guess is the students will never forget holding class in a pub with a pint in one hand and a pen in the

that lived beneath Bath Abbey or Sarah Stephen's (Sarah the Red) story about the ghost who refused to leave the beautiful house and garden in which he'd lived, a ghost that reminded me of Clive, or Christa's story about the ghost seagulls who haunted a man down on his luck. Of course, anyone living in Bath could relate to seagulls driving you to the point of madness. One of the first things we learned was how to put a pillow over your head in an attempt to drown out the cacophonous cries of the gulls at four in the morning.



There are so many great things about teaching in Bath, but one of the best is the way in which you get to know the students on a much more personal level. The fact that you take trips with them on the weekends to Dorset, Oxford, or Glastonbury. But most of all, the special weekend trip we took as a class to visit London. I think we were all impressed by the surprisingly poignant beauty and haunting silence of Highgate Cemetery. I could have walked those paths through the vine covered graves for far longer than the brief afternoon we spent. And then there was the extraordinary history and grandeur of the Tower of London. I loved watching the seriousness with which the tower guards took their jobs. Finally, the Jack the Ripper walking tour, which was a highlight for me, not for the graphic details that nearly made me faint, but for the very human stories of the suffering of so many poor women in 19th century London, women who had few choices in life. There is nothing better for a teacher than to learn alongside his or her students.

In the end, however, it was the eight students in the ghost story class I'll remember the most. What a talented group of writers! They brought their whole selves to Bath, diving into every adventure that awaited them—and creating a few of their own. Mostly though, it came down to each student sitting in that haunted room on the second floor of the masonic lodge, bringing their best insights to bear on the wide range of literary ghost stories we read—I seem to remember that Algernon Blackwoods' "The Willows," Kelly Link's "The Specialist's Hat" and Steven Millhauser's "Eisenheim, the Illusionist" were a few of the class favorites—and bravely journeying deep into their own literary imaginations to write not just stories that scared us, but stories that scared us because they made us see deeper into ourselves. That takes imagination, intellect, and courage, and somehow because of the strange alchemy between Bath and these particular students, they found their way to all three.



FROM *THE MORTAL MAN*

Two poems by Kieron Winn, ASE Creative Writing tutor

In the Garden

Neptune, open-mouthed, discredited,
Spouts from the fountain on our rosy wall.
This August evening air is equable.
I fetch a bottle from our earthy shed
By swags of grapes that hang in green and red,
And from our complex wrought-iron chairs we call
The talkative cat, watch campanile-tall
Hollyhocks nodding to us from their bed
Then pick some berries. How can I begin
To thank you for all you give and understand?
Icebergs have shrunk to icecubes, topped with gin.
House martins sew the sky. A bumblebee
Goes stumbling round the blue hibiscus tree,
Coated in pollen like a boy in sand.

In the British Museum

The Mausoleum of Halikarnassos

Among colossal rags of statuary,
A hunk of horse, a head, a bride and groom
Whose thighs are gracefully advancing, we
Skitter like hundreds and thousands or packet seeds,
Or tropical fish about a watery tomb.
We pass by captions of heroic deeds,

Borrowing our bright clothes and warm soft skin,
Viewed over skulls and jewels in misting cases.
A Pharaoh's lovely daughter traipses in;
A Roman nose, a clear broad Grecian brow
Are each exhibited in passing faces
Of visitors among the statues now.

THE HAZELS BID FAREWELL

Brian and Ruth Hazel reflect on many years as ASE's resident Shakespeare tutors

After more than 20 years working for ASE, we are hanging up our metaphorical professorial gowns, handing in our red marking pens, and saying a wistful 'goodbye' to the many wonderful friends, colleagues and students we have met through ASE. Our first encounter with this amazing institution was in the early 1990s when Ruth was asked by Don Nunes, ASE's founder, to take a class on Renaissance Drama, and then two more, on British Drama and *Mythologising Shakespeare*. A few years later Brian joined ASE, taking over the British Drama and *Mythologising Shakespeare* courses, and later devising a new course, *Make It Live!*, which combined academic study of British drama of the 1980s with an intensive practical element, culminating in an assessed performance. Ruth taught a second Shakespeare class, which concentrated on the history of Shakespeare in performance, and also offered a class on Renaissance culture: *In the Courts of Princes*.



We first met at University, when Brian was playing a lead role in Camus' *Caligula*, and Ruth was a bit of female stage dressing. Later she graduated to playing Brian's wife (in Shakespeare's *Richard II*, in Robert Bolt's *A Man For All Seasons*, and then in *All's Well That Ends Well*), and having got used to the roles, we married in actuality in 1968 (yes, it really will be our Golden Wedding next year).



As we've both taught Shakespeare classes for ASE, there has often been a bit of overlap when we've been able to combine classes for study trips – workshops and open air performances at the Globe Theatre in London were highlights. As Host Tutors for the Stratford Residentials, we, and ASE students, have been privileged to see in the flesh some of the most famous actors in British theatre: Dame Judi Dench, Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Ben Kingsley, Sir Antony Sher, Nigel Hawthorne, and Ralph Fiennes (not to mention a couple of actors whose names meant nothing to us, but who were instantly recognised by students as having been in *Game of Thrones!*). Sometimes we met actors informally at the 'Dirty Duck' or at the Stage Door, and got programmes autographed, or heard some in-house gossip. On one memorable occasion, ASE found itself in the presence of royalty in the Swan Theatre, when

HRH Prince Charles and his new wife, Camilla, arrived to attend a performance of *All's Well That Ends Well*. (Those who know this play about an unhappy arranged aristocratic marriage will appreciate the irony of that choice for the royal couple's theatre visit.)

As the demands of full-time academic work, research and family increased, we were less able to act together, although Brian was able to continue directing while working for Birmingham University. It was therefore particularly enjoyable for us to be able to keep in touch with live theatre through ASE, and Brian especially enjoyed his *Make It Live!* class. What was particularly pleasing about this was working with a very small cast, who, in the best traditions of 'Poor Theatre', had to organise design, lighting and staging, as well as act. The feeling of working to one goal as a dedicated group is exactly what theatre is (or should be) about. Brian treasures the comment of one student who came onto that course saying he knew nothing about theatre, and, having turned in an excellent performance as the Interrogator in Harold Pinter's *One For the Road*, said he



hadn't known he could act and that the class was the best personal experience he'd ever had!

Ruth was also able to do a bit of theatrical dabbling when she persuaded students in her Shakespeare class to contribute scenes to introduce the plays they'd studied and which the whole School was to see at Stratford. We remember being rather worried when the Stratford Residential was going to see three of Shakespeare's English History plays: the three part saga of Henry VI and the



Wars of the Roses. Ruth's class did an excellent job in explaining the inter-familial struggles and civil conflicts these plays covered – not so very different from *Game of Thrones*, actually. However, credit where credit is due; the whole School were bowled over by the RSC's triumphant presentation of the trilogy, which was spectacular, gripping and affecting by turns. We needn't have worried!

Another whole-School theatre trip which sticks in our minds was when there was a gap in the Stratford programme, and we brought ASE to our home city, Birmingham, to see Matthew Bourne's modern ballet version of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; modern dress, gender reversals, male nudity, strobe and neon lighting – we thought it was great, but were surprised how easily shocked ASE students could be ...

Ruth found the study trips to Hampton Court Palace (for *In The Courts of Princes*) very enjoyable; usually 'Live History' actors were around to interact with tourists, and on one occasion Ruth was able to present her class of six beautiful female students to 'King Henry VIII', suggesting they might represent his six wives.

One thing we won't miss is waiting for the mid-term and end of semester evaluations: it was always a relief when students said nice things, and a real stab in the heart when they didn't like us! However, some comments – such as one student saying Brian was better than Harold Bloom – deserved to be framed and go up on our study wall. Less easy to preserve, but just as much of a delight, were informal comments like 'Nice socks, teach' (murmured to Brian by a male student at the end of one class session), and (from a female student) 'Nice tie – so bright'. (Indeed, keeping Brian up to the high sartorial standards he set early on in ties, socks and cufflinks has been quite a challenge, although it meant we were never short of suggestions of what the children could give him at Christmas and birthdays.)



For the space of a short semester, we got to know you all so well, and it was with a bit of a tear in our eyes that we used to wave you goodbye from Stratford, on what was usually our last meeting with you. Thank you for all the very good times we've had with you, ASE alumni!

Being now fully retired we have more time to enjoy our five grandchildren, the three eldest of whom we have already introduced to the fun of theatre-going.

Finally, as our headline says, this is a 'Farewell' to ASE: we wish all our friends from ASE, recent and from way back all the very best in your several futures, and for the institution, born in the late 20th century, may it indeed 'fare well', thrive and prosper long into the 21st!

With our fondest good wishes,

Ruth and Brian



NEW MAN AT UNIV

Andrew Bell, Senior Tutor at University College, Oxford, who has taken over as ASE's Liaison to the College, on his long-standing links with the Programme

As John Lennon didn't quite sing, it was almost twenty years ago today... I was a newly appointed College Lecturer in Medieval History at Magdalen College Oxford, unpacking boxes of books in my office in the fifteenth-century cloister of the College's Great Quad and wondering how on earth I would live up to the expectations of the portraits which hung in the College's Hall. The College's old members include Erwin Schrödinger, Oscar Wilde and, oh yes, King Edward VIII, the British monarch who abdicated the throne so he could marry his American divorcée sweetheart, Wallis Simpson. I felt their watching eyes keenly, and I wasn't at all sure that they'd be all that impressed by what they saw.

For the previous seven years, I'd been a student at University College, the Oxford college with which ASE has a long-standing and much-valued association. Univ's alumni are no less distinguished than those of Magdalen, and they include C.S. Lewis, Stephen Hawking, and some American guy called Bill Clinton. I don't suppose that they were all that impressed by me either. As an undergraduate student at Univ I studied a lot of Ancient History, and I was very fortunate to be advised by Chris Pelling, who was a professor at Univ at the time, prior to his appointment as the University's Regius Professor of Greek. As I was moving into Magdalen,

Chris got in touch with me to explain that he was the Academic Advisor for an excellent Junior Year Abroad programme based in Bath, that they were looking for a tutor in Medieval History, and he wondered if I might be interested in working with them. So began my association with ASE. Each week for the following semester, I travelled from Oxford to Bath to work with a bunch of talented and enthusiastic students on such topics as the Norman Conquest of England, the Black Death, Feudalism, Monasticism, and the Wars of the Roses. As it happens, I was co-authoring a textbook on the period at the time, and so my research, my writing and my teaching came together in a really fruitful way.

It wasn't just the teaching that I enjoyed, it was the sense of community and shared enterprise. Everyone who was part of ASE, whether as a student, a teacher, or a member of the core management team, was there because they thought that education and exploration were important, that opportunity and open-mindedness mattered. It made for a really enriching environment. I was delighted to be able to take part in some of the study trips – Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick Castle were particularly memorable – and to play a part in the social life of the programme too. Talking about History is great; talking about History with a beer in your hand is even better. I'd hoped to teach for ASE beyond that first year, but to my surprise I was appointed to a post at the University of Cambridge which took me to the other side of the country.

I spent the next fifteen years in Cambridge, teaching and researching Medieval History, and latterly playing a leading role in undergraduate admissions and education policy. I kept in touch with my friends at ASE, and on one glorious day in spring 2004 I hosted a study trip led by Jonathan Hope which explored literature, memory, and the landscape of eastern England. A group of us sat by the river in Darwin College Cambridge discussing Graham Swift's *Waterland* and Penelope



Lively's *Moon Tiger*, before heading off for a long walk across the endless-seeming flat fenlands to the north of the city. Throughout our hike, the great Norman cathedral of Ely – called by locals the ship of fens – floated on the horizon, as it has done for more than 900 years. It was a magical day.

A little over two years ago, I returned to Oxford and to Univ as its Senior Tutor. The Senior Tutor of an Oxford College has similar responsibilities to an Academic Dean in the U.S., and so I have general oversight of everything that has to do with student admissions, teaching and learning, academic appointments, and pastoral support. I still have time to do some teaching and research too, although term is always very busy and so the books that were unpacked in Magdalen cloisters all those years are opened less often than they might be. I sometimes look back on my younger self and wonder how I used to fill my days. There are many pleasures to being back in Oxford, and many challenges to take on. I hope that as I go about my day-to-day business, my thinking will be informed by the experiences of that young man - the first in his family to go to university, incidentally - who felt that he could never live up to the expectations of the portraits on the wall.

One of the greatest pleasures of returning to Univ has been reacquainting myself with ASE. Having spent some time with its staff and students in the last two years, I'm delighted to have taken on a liaison role which will strengthen the already strong bond between ASE and Univ. I now have the privilege of welcoming ASE's students to Oxford when they come into residence at Univ, and with Chris Pelling I'm pleased to support ASE in securing the best possible tutors for its courses. As I've welcomed the students of the last two cohorts, I've been struck by the fact that, though they come from an ever wider range of schools in the U.S., and though they follow an ever more ambitious programme in Bath, and though the haircuts are a little different, they have the same energy, enthusiasm and internationalism that the students I taught all those years ago had. It was almost twenty years ago today...



THEY CAME TO BATH!

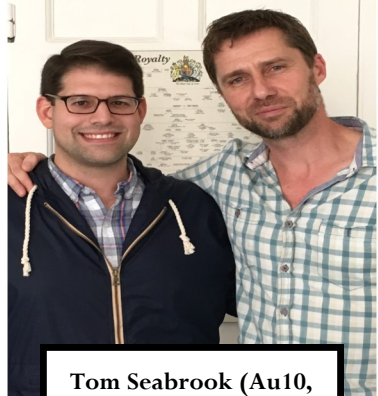
March 2017

Alyssa Tomkowicz (Sp14, Williams College), Caroline DeAngelis (Sp16, Gettysburg), Jane Fillion (Au15, Wells), Lisa and Andrew Falconer (Au93/Sp94 and Au93, both U of R)



Renee Conklin (Au00, H&WS),
May, 2017

in Hong Kong, Nick Laughman (Su15 & Sp17) a mere two days after leaving!, Marie Albiges (Sp12) looking to connect with alumni in the Austin, TX area, Mayze Teitler (Au16)



Tom Seabrook (Au10,
William and Mary),
August, 2017

June 2017

Nancy Coleman (Sp17, Washington and Lee), Stefanie Milovich (Sp17, Elon) after travelling Europe, Sadé Phillips (Au09, Bates College), Lindsay McCormack (Au97, Skidmore), Brooke Bakken (Au97, Mary Wash') and Laura Koch (Au97, BC) all came to visit, celebrating the twentieth anniversary of their time at ASE, Erica Delsandro (Au00, Su03 Intern, Bucknell)

July 2017

Maddie and Joe Anthes (Su09, Denison & Gettysburg), Eddie Baldwin and Anneke Demarest (Au07, William & Mary and F&M) dropped in on a round-the-world trip



The Falconer family,
March 2017

April 2017

Sydney Jackson (Su16, F&M) whilst studying in Freiburg, Germany, Nora Brickner (Au14, Oberlin), Rajiv Rao (Su12, Denison)

May 2017

Renee Conklin (Au00, H&WS)



Lindsay McCormack (Au97, Skidmore),
Brooke Bakken (Au97, Mary Wash') and
Laura Koch (Au97, BC),
June, 2017



Dwight Maxwell (Sp93, H&WS) and
his wife Jen, August, 2017

THEY CAME TO BATH!, CONTINUED

August 2017

Tom Seabrook (Au10, William and Mary) visiting the UK with partner Bryn, Dwight Maxwell (Sp93, H&WS) with wife Jen, Stephen Weber (Su98 and Intern 00-01, Denison), Dana Winston-Day (Su15, Wells) and Nicky Cooper (Su14, Su15, Bath Spa University)



Starling Irving (Au15, Bowdoin)
November, 2017

September 2017

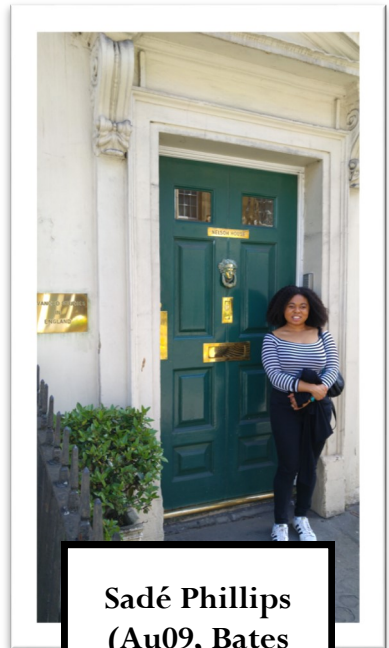
Kate Hay (Su12, William & Mary), Annalise Torcson (Sp15, Tulane), whilst in Oxford for matriculation

November 2017

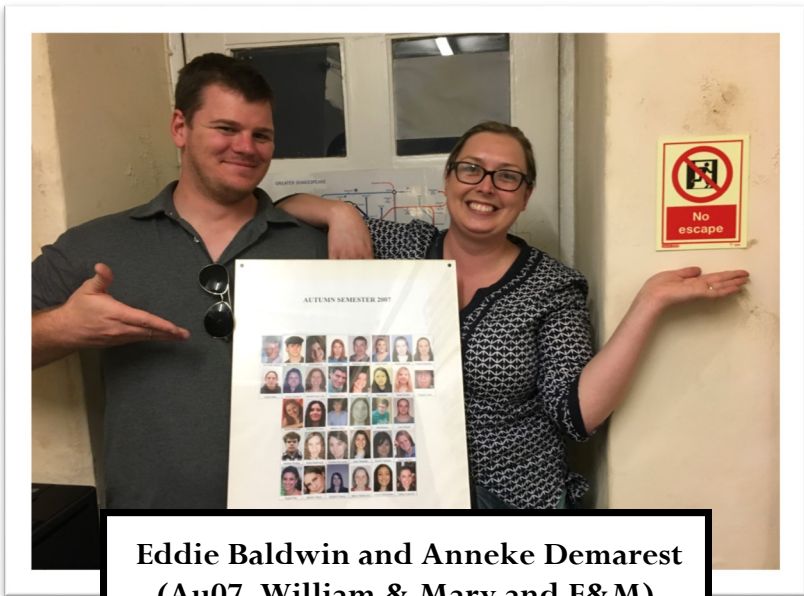
Starling Irving (Au15, Bowdoin)



Kate Hay (Su12, William & Mary)
September, 2017



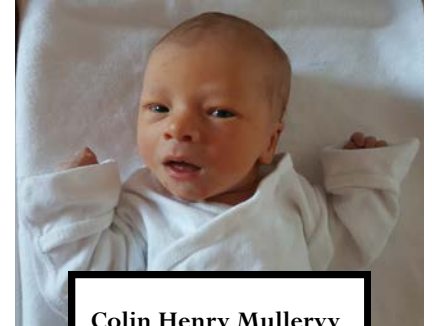
Sadé Phillips (Au09, Bates College)



Eddie Baldwin and Anneke Demarest (Au07, William & Mary and F&M)
July, 2017

ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

- **Shaun Lippy (Au92, Bucknell)** is moving to Middleburg VA, after 22 years in Chicago, IL. He's taken a new job in Cyber Research for ManTech International, leading an infrastructure team of about 25 engineers.
- **Dwight Maxwell (Sp93, H&WS)** is teaching in the greater Birmingham area.
- **Erin (Poll) Blankenship (Sp97, Skidmore)** moved from Seattle, WA to Acton, MA with husband and two daughters (3 & 6).
- **Steph Mullervy (Sp99, BC)** and hubby John welcomed Colin Henry Mullervy into the world on November 25th
- **Erica Delsandro (Au00, Su03 Intern, Bucknell)** is currently teaching Women and Gender Studies at Bucknell, and has a book contract with Florida Press for a work entitled *Women Writers and Community: The Making of Modernism*.
- **Shane Dunn (Au05, Graduate Intern Su07, Cornell)** and his wife, Elizabeth Bernardi (Boston College Class of 2004, Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University Class of 2014) welcomed their son, William Reilly, on August 18. He goes by the name Liam and is a happy, healthy, smiley little guy so far.
- **Katie Moulton (Au06, BC)** is based in Oakland, California, but for the spring will be the Hub City Writer-in-Residence in Spartanburg, South Carolina.
- **Mavreen Smiel (Sp06, H&WS)** has started working for SnapChat, out of their NYC office as Quality Engineer.
- **Renee Benham (Sp06, Denison)** gained her PhD in English from Ohio University this April, and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.
- **Sara (Harenchar) Levinson (Su'08, Gettysburg)** lives in Los Angeles, CA with her husband Drew, whom she married in 2013. She is a Strategic Account Executive for Clicktale, a marketing software provider. Sara's writing has been published in Ruminant Magazine, Hubspot, Thrive Global, and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. She's most proud of this recent piece, for which she received a personal reply from Arianna Huffington: <https://journal.thriveglobal.com/becoming-an-unstoppable-woman-3719cebf4e96>
- **Joe Anthes (Su09, Gettysburg)** started a new job in July 2016 as Assistant Principal of a Broughal Middle School in Bethlehem, PA and is working on a Doctorate of Education at Lehigh University.
- **Maddie Anthes (Su09, Denison)** is teaching first year undergraduate writing and literature at The College of New Jersey. She is also Acquisitions Editor with *Hypertrophic Literary*, and has had several of her fiction pieces published. She published two pieces in the *Bath Flash Fiction Anthology*.
- **Coral Breuer (Su09, Denison)** has a life full of woods and oceans and mountains as she settles into life in Maine. She's spent the past three years working for a

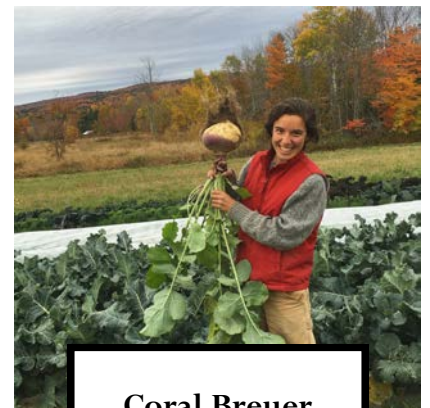


Colin Henry Mullervy



Liam Dunn

hus-

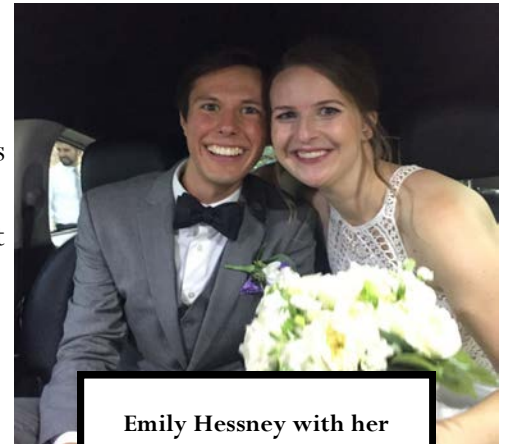


Coral Breuer

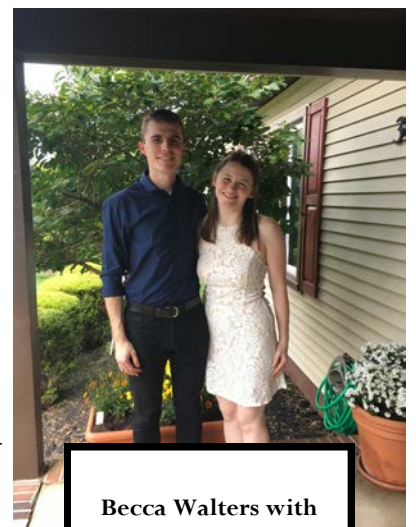
ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

horse-powered vegetable, flower, and sheep farm in rural Maine, New Beat Farm, as a field crew member and crew leader. She's also in the process of founding a nature connection democratic school with some friends, called Northwood's Natural Learning. In their third year, they lead youths aged 5-17 in woodcraft and naturalist learning in the forest. Coral also serves as the Board President for the Downeast Friends of the Folk Arts, a non-profit membership organization whose mission is to nurture and promote the living traditions of folk music and dance in Maine, many of those traditions having been inspired by English Country music and dance traditions!

- **Miriam Grinberg (Au09, Gettysburg)** is now the Program Associate for the Sigur Center for Asian Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.
- **Sadé Phillips (Au09, Bates College)** recently married the man she met at The Ram in Widcombe whilst on the program, after an eight year long-distance relationship, and is now settling into life in the Bath area.
- **Emily Hessney (Sp11, University of Rochester)** was married in September to **Tim Lynch**. He was studying abroad in London at the same time she was in Bath, and a mutual friend invited them on a trip to Amsterdam, but Emily declined and Tim said yes. They didn't meet until nearly a year later, but clearly it all worked out!
- **Mary Albiges (Sp12, CNU)** has become editor of the San Marcos/Buda/Kyle edition of Community Impact Newspaper, covering a small city south of Austin, TX.
- **Karen Bullock (Sp12, Denison)** is now the Managing Proofreader for Sounds True, a multimedia publishing company in Louisville, Colorado.
- **Kate Hay (Su12, William & Mary)**, walked the 192 miles from Britain's east to West coast. She doesn't recommend following in her footsteps.
- **Paulina Kosturos Khoury (Sp12, Mary Washington)** and her husband are living in Bahrain and loving it.
- **Eleanor Hahn (Au12, St Mike's)** is Editorial Assistant at Benchmark Education Company (an educational publisher) in New Rochelle, NY.
- **Elena Britos (Au13, Bowdoin)** has begun an MFA in Creative Writing this fall at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.
- **Livia Meneghin (Au13, F&M)** has her first chapbook, *Honey in My Hair*, forthcoming from Finishing Line Press.
- **Nora Brickner (Au14, Oberlin)**, started an MA in Public Policy at Bristol University
- **Becca Walters (Au14, University of Rochester)** got engaged to fiancé Andy in March. She met him whilst on the programme and they will be marrying June after which she will be moving back to the UK to live.



Emily Hessney with her husband, Tim.



Becca Walters with her fiancé, Andy

ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

- **Annalise Torcson (Sp15, Tulane)** is pursuing a part-time MSt in Creative Writing at Oxford and, to avoid having to commute from the States, a MPhil in Irish Writing at Trinity College, Dublin!
- **Bev Kippenham (Su15, UMW)** graduated Summa Cum Laude and with Departmental Honors from the University of Mary Washington with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and two minors in Arts Administration and Musical Theatre. In August she began working as the Patron Services Associate for the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.
- **Eleanor Frick (Au15, F&M)** will have her first solo art exhibition, 'Songs Unseen', opening at the Phillips Museum of Art in Lancaster in March.
- **Starling Irving (Au15, Bowdoin)** set up a pop-up vintage shop (Stillwater Vintage) with her sister, travelling from town to town across the US.
- **Zach Gianelle, Jon Blader, Emma Richardson, Erin Hallenbeck, Cara Dunhill, Sarah Heffernan, Juliana Knight and Chloe Kimberlin (Sp16, Elon, F&M, H&WS, F&M, Simmons, Hampshire, F&M and Skidmore respectively)** gathered for a graduation reunion in Nantucket.
- **Nancy Coleman (Sp17, Washington and Lee)** completed the six-week Virginia Program at St Anne's Oxford, concentrating on English renaissance literature and history.
- **Stefanie Milovich (Sp17, Elon)** recently travelled Europe and acted as Assistant Director of Communications for Ben Howlett's 2017 election campaign.



Spring '16 friends gather in Nantucket

WHO'S THE BRIDESMAID?

A strange coincidence connects a new ASE tutor, and a long-serving ASE staff member



On Saturday 1st October 1960 at the Church of our Lady of the Assumption in West London the marriage of Michael Gazzard and the then Susan Rhodes took place. It was a short mixed-faith service, much to the delight of the only bridesmaid, who at such a young age couldn't wait to get to the very special reception at Brown's Hotel, where she was made to feel like a Princess! This marriage resulted in the birth of – yes – our new Shakespeare tutor, Hugh Gazzard. Why are we mentioning the bridesmaid? Can anyone spot who it might have been? (Clue: she's the longest-serving member of the ASE Team!)

IN MEMORY OF JIM DAVIS, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT DENISON UNIVERSITY

On March 8, 2017, Professor Jim Davis passed away after being ill for several years. Besides being an esteemed member of the Denison community, he also taught at ASE in Summer 2008 and was a champion for the Programme. Here we remember him and his legacy both at Denison and in Bath.

Below is the statement released by Denison University after his passing:

Jim received his B.A. from the University of Missouri, his M.A. from the University of Kansas, and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, all in English literature and the latter with a specialization in British Romanticism. He came to Denison in 1985 as an Instructor, and in the subsequent thirty years was celebrated as a popular and effective teacher of first-year writing, advanced nonfiction writing, and British and American poetry and prose from a variety of periods. He served on the advisory board of the off-campus program Advanced Studies in England, for which he also taught. His scholarly publications included articles on British Romantic writers and special topics in popular culture, as well as a book-length study of William Wordsworth and the insightful Rowman and Littlefield Guide to Writing with Sources, currently in its fourth edition.

As a member of his department and the Denison community he was especially active, influential, and generous—from pioneering efforts such as the South African Student Orientation Program in the late 1980s, to virtually every campus governance committee in the 1990s and 2000s. He served as Chair of the English Department from 1999-2002 and as Chair of the Faculty from 2009-10. He was named the Lorena Woodrow Burke Chair of English in 2015 in recognition of his many gifts, and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues for his leadership, elegance, wit, and friendship. And even for his famously bad puns.

A few of our favourite photos of Jim Davis



IN MEMORY OF JIM DAVIS, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH AT DENISON UNIVERSITY, CONTINUED

"I first met Jim many years ago when he came to ASE to serve on our annual Academic Board and later, to teach on one of our summer schools. We hit it off immediately - Jim loved dogs and admired David Bowie - what not to like? Of course, I soon learnt there was so much more to Jim - a sensitive man of great learning who could captivate students with his love of literature. He wore his erudition lightly, mingling profound thought with the most mischievous wit and mordant sense of humour. There was always laughter when Jim was in a room. Jim was a very special man and I shall miss him greatly."

Barbara White (Director Emerita, ASE)



"Jim Davis was my Professor, my advisor, and my friend. He was my Professor in my very first class at Denison: British Literature survey. Jim deserves much of the credit for converting me to an English major. He also wrote a recommendation letter for me when I applied to graduate school, and continued to encourage me through my doctorate which was, coincidentally, in British Literature. I remember many funny episodes with Professor Davis: when he received a package of tiny plastic babies in the mail and began hiding them around Barney-Davis, when he coyly suggested in our Brit Lit survey that God might be a woman, and when he made me a soufflé on a sunny Saturday morning. Most of all, Jim always cared about my wellbeing. When I was a senior at Denison, I took a course with Dr. Sylvia Brown, but one Friday morning I overslept and missed her class. Hurriedly, I wrote her an email explaining that I feared that I was turning into a vampire and was, therefore, avoiding direct sunlight and could not attend class. (Coincidentally, I had plans for that same evening to go out to dinner with Jim and Dr. Fred Porcheddu.) Several hours later, Jim sent me an email full of concern and anxiety: "Was I alright? Were we still on for dinner? Should Fred bring over his holy water?!" Fortunately, the holy water was not necessary, and dinner was still on. I shall always remember his wit, his wry humor, and his unceasing optimism. Even in the throes of his illness, he remained in surprisingly good spirits and was an inspiring example to all who knew him. He was loved greatly, and he will be missed greatly."

Renee Benham (Sp06, Denison University)

"I took two of Jim Davis's classes while at Denison University, and in retrospect, both classes shaped my future in extremely important ways. He was the professor for my first literature class at Denison, before I'd even decided to be an English major. He was so kind to us terrified Freshman, and that British literature course ended up being one of the best classes I took in college. He had us swap papers with a peer to engage in peer editing, and I didn't know it then, but the girl I swapped papers with in that class would later become one of my best friends. So, I have him to thank for bringing her into my life. I took a second class with Dr. Davis, and this one also changed my life. It was a Gothic literature class, and I still remember every book we covered in that class. He showed us Kate Bush's Wuthering Heights music video, and he made us laugh so much. In that class, he announced a study abroad program called Advanced Studies in England. I'd never heard of this program, but another student in the class (Christine Mince), had gone on the program and told the class how much she loved it. Dr. Davis encouraged me to apply to the program, and the rest is history. Because of their encouragement, I met my husband and fell in love with the program. I'll always remember Jim Davis's overwhelming warmth and how excited he would get to talk about literature. Particularly, he had a water bottle he always picked up as though he was going to take a sip, but he'd get too excited about what he was talking about, and would end up putting it back down without drinking. He has irrevocably changed my life, and he will be very missed."

Maddie Anthes (Su09, Denison University)

"Sitting down and writing about James Davis (or Jimmy D as I so fondly liked to call him) in just a few sentences is hard because of how much he influenced my life in such a short time. He was my professor and adviser at Denison, whatever class he was teaching I was sure to enroll in it and I never skipped. He also is the one the convinced me to study abroad in ASE's summer program, which to this day is still the most life changing experience I've had. During those years, he became more than just a professor, he was a friend that I greatly miss. "

Christine Mince (Su08, Denison University)

STOP PRESS: JOHN JACKSON RIP

As we were going to press, we received further sad news. John Jackson, who for many years taught *Irish Nationalisms* and *Terrorism* at ASE, passed away this week. John is remembered fondly by the ASE Staff for his jovial manner, his ability to tell long, entertaining stories and his infectious laughter. Many students will remember taking his courses and accompanying him on late night excursions to Dublin pubs.

Please get in touch with your memories of John.

A full tribute will appear in the 2018 edition of ASE Alumni News.



Thanks to all the alumni who helped us out at the fairs and recruitment trips in 2017, including:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Bard
Karin Roslund</p> <p>Bates
Halley Posner</p> <p>Boston College
Taylor Puccini
Lia Bonfatti</p> <p>Bucknell
Jon Quinn
Holly Sentowski</p> <p>Denison
Nick Radmer
Mattie Shephard
Casey Parker
Maddie Bellman</p> <p>Elon
Sarah Luther</p> | <p>HW&S
Tyler Crowder
Anika Hanson
Meghan Moore</p> <p>Lycoming College
Hayley Plsciotti
Channimuth Miller</p> <p>Mary Wash'
Shannon Keene
Rachel Dacey
Jenna Desteph
Sarah Stephen
Kylie Bean</p> <p>Meredith
Danielle Hines
Abigail Wickes</p> <p>Mount Holyoke
Juliana Cordero</p> | <p>Oberlin
Mia Silvan-Grau
Hannah Kelly
Amelia Henderson
Campbell Phelan
Brandi Metzger</p> <p>Wellesley
Sebrina Stickney-Morris</p> <p>Saint Mike's
Lauren Wheaton
Mackenzie Faber</p> <p>Simmons College
Erin Clauss</p> <p>Skidmore
Celia Marhefka
Jess Shapiro
Amanda Corey
Emily Stone</p> | <p>TTU
Clare Oldham</p> <p>Washington and Lee
Alice Bradford
Arlette Hernandez
Ellie New</p> <p>Williams
Sarah Tan</p> <p>Yale
Laura Ostrowski
Aliza Lipman</p> <p>And for reaching out to prospective students
Moira Johnston
Shatika Rembert
Rachel Dacey
Ben Incera</p> |
|--|--|--|---|



We think that Rob caught almost everyone who helped out, but if we missed you, Rob is absolutely mortified and so very sorry

A WORD FROM ROB JONES

We Had a Busy Year...

This time last year (well, okay, it was actually January by the time you read it but let's just let that pass, shall we?) I was being hugely apologetic about the lack of activity in terms of the development of the Alumni Association. We were late with the newsletter, the long-promised new alumni website was still not live, and our last reunion had seen a rather disappointing attendance. I will admit that I was feeling rather glum.

Well, what a difference a year (okay, okay, almost a year) makes! The website went live in June (much to my personal relief) and has been very successful already in streamlining communications between Nelson House and you folks, connecting with some of those we had lost, and making things like reunions and giving much easier. If you haven't already [logged in and checked it out](#) (and updated your details) then I'd encourage you to do so as soon as you can!

New York City was the venue for our reunion this year, and our two wonderful New York City Regional Reps – Sasha Schechter and Joanna Chlebus – did us proud, finding a great venue in the heart of Manhattan – The Speakeasy at The Gin Mill. The 73 attendees, including alums from as recently as Spring 2017 and as far back as Spring '95, had a great night catching up with friends and making new ones, and being entertained by Andrew Butterworth's virtual tour of the city of Bath, quite a feat of storytelling and imagination! Special mention goes to the ladies of Spring '95, who had some wonderful tales of their time in Bath, and to the crew from Autumn '13, for turning out in the greatest numbers: fourteen students, a third of the semester!

As you'll see, next year we in DC and then, in 2019, for our thirtieth anniversary, we are holding a grand party in Bath. Details of both events are to follow, but get those dates in your diaries now!

What else does next year hold in store? Well, we'll be expanding the alumni community further, not only by having over fifty students in our Spring semester, but also by inviting current and former ASE staff, tutors, Summer School faculty and other long-term friends of the programme to sign up to the website. We've always said that the ASE family was more than just its students and we meant it. We'll also be looking to increase the number of Class and Regional Reps (see the advert that follows this piece) in order to increase your engagement with us and the programme. Finally, we will be looking to create the first of our professional panels, looking at providing a framework for mentoring and networking opportunities.

So, a busy year ahead!

Best,

Rob



REPRESENTING THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

The ASE alumni community thrives when you folks are engaged and active, and we want it to be about more than the twice-yearly recruitment trips and the annual reunion. In order to make this happen we want to set up a network of representatives to help with communication between the alums and Nelson House, to raise the profile of the programme and to help organise social and networking events across the US.

We are looking for alums who can represent their particular summer or semester, or connect with alums in a particular city or region of the US. We are trying to keep the responsibilities to a minimum, but we do need people who are themselves going to actively engage with ASE and be prepared to keep in regular contact with their constituency.

CLASS REPS are ambassadors for ASE amongst their classmates, working to maintain and increase alumni engagement with the Association and ASE, acting as a conduit for information, and representing the interests of their classmates in relation to ASE proceedings and events. You can find your Class Rep through the alumni website's [directory](#). If there is no Rep for your class and you would like to volunteer for the role, then drop us a line at alumni@asebath.org.

REGIONAL REPS are ambassadors for ASE in major metropolitan areas or other regional areas, the scope of each being defined by ASE. As part of a community of ASE alumni, the Regional Reps work to maintain and increase alumni engagement with the Association and ASE, with a focus on assisting ASE recruitment and events.

We have Regional Reps for **New York City, Washington DC, Rochester and Upstate New York, and Chicago**, but we are looking for Reps for the following areas (some a little larger than others, but based on a projection of the number of alums in the area):

- BOSTON
- PHILLY / NEW JERSEY
- ATLANTA
- OHIO
- CALIFORNIA
- SEATTLE / WASHINGTON
- TEXAS
- PENNSYLVANIA
- UK



If you would like to volunteer for the role drop us a line at alumni@asebath.org.

ADVANCED STUDIES IN ENGLAND



MAKE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE
[ALUMNI PAGE ONLINE!](#)

Send any updates or news to Rob Jones at
alumni@asebath.org

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR, MADDIE ANTHES

Like all of you, Bath holds a special place in my heart. I met my husband, Joe, while we both studied with ASE, and we've been back to Bath two times since 2009. So, when Jonathan and Rob asked if I was interested in helping with the newsletter, my answer was immediately yes!

This year I've learned that putting together this newsletter is no small feat! The alumni community is expanding, and all of you are doing such wonderful things!

I'm excited to see the wonderful accomplishments that

come together during 2018, and I can't wait to highlight them in next year's newsletter.

If you have any accomplishments, send them to Rob at alumni@asebath.org, and we can make sure to highlight you appropriately!

Feel free to reach out to me on Facebook or on Twitter (@maddieanthes). I'm always happy to talk about Bath with other ASE people. I hope to see you all at the reunions in DC and Bath, as well! Here's to a happy and prosperous 2018!

