

ALUMNI NEWS

2022



ADVANCED STUDIES IN ENGLAND

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Greetings from Bath - from me AND my illustrious predecessors, Barbara White and Ann Nunes, pictured with me at Chris Pelling's send-off dinner in Oxford, back in March!

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Is it just me, or has something very odd happened to time in this past year?

Gathering images for this edition, I found myself staggered to discover it was only 12 months ago we were cancelling postponed staff Christmas lunches and hosting online Welcome Meetings for our 53 Spring arrivals, while bracing ourselves for the onset of Omicron.

Was it really only last February that I planned a recruitment trip without being certain I'd actually be allowed onto most campuses? And just last March I joined a much-depleted, avidly mask-wearing group of attendees at a conference, and hosted what felt quite a daring alumni reunion in Chicago?

What a peculiarly disorienting year it was!



On the plus side, 2022 saw the return, properly and with renewed vigour, of ASE to the USA, as well as a very welcome gradual rise in the number of alums and friends able to visit us here (see *They Came to Bath*, page 14). It's no accident that these pages are filled with pictures of our hectic, joyful visits Stateside and with some of yours Bathwards, with visual glimpses of overdue reconnections and reunions - and of brand new friendships forged. (Read **Stephen Weber's** delightful account of one such new ASE Alumni friendship group, the Victorian Widows, on page 28)

2022 saw plenty of welcome beginnings and more than its fair share of endings, from the happy to the painfully sad.



We have seen the sudden, unexpected passing of two admirable UK faculty members in recent months. The first, **Mike Nicholson**, will be remembered by almost everyone who's been in Bath and Oxford with ASE over the last decade or more, as the tousle-haired, silver-bearded, brilliant Oxford Don with the guitar and the dead-pan sense of humour. (Our tribute to Mike is on page 19.) The other, **Frederica Noble**, had been with ASE only a few years, both as a professor of Psychology and as a contributor to our Certificate of Cultural Enrichment (CCE), offering her unique perspective, as an American woman of colour, on the country and the city she had made her home. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Mike's and Frederica's families and loved ones.

Purely professional goodbyes were said to ASE's legendary Education Programme Dynamic Duo, Messrs **Mike Rix** and **Andrew Butterworth**, who - quite independently, as ever, it seems - decided to pass, heavy-heartedly, through the proverbial school gates one last time*. Their after-school reflections can be found on pages 26 and 16.



The unenviable task of replacing the irreplaceable Mr B as Education and Internships Co-ordinator has gone to **Bill Badley**, who came highly recommended by... Andrew himself. (I am trying hard not to refer to Bill as Mr BB.) Bill has brought his own unique brand of charm and melodious wisdom to Nelson House; and has become part of a revitalised ASE Staff Team that - as of June 2022 - includes the delightful **Georgina Hayes** and **Annie Leathes**, who quickly established themselves as firm favourites with our Summer and Autumn students.



ASE's relationship with Franklin and Marshall College took an exciting new turn in 2022. A first-ever Presidential Visit by **Barbara Altmann** and other College Top Brass coincided with the launch of a new Autumn-only experience for F&M first-years. This was led with verve in its inaugural semester by F&M

Professors **Jennifer Redmann** and **Kevin Brady**, who undertook various musical, literary and artistic pilgrimages while they were here (read more on page 21), as well as teaching me something vitally important about Bath: did any other Radiohead fans not know that OK Computer was recorded a few miles outside the city?



GREEN ONIONS

As of October 2022, UK-based **Carbon Footprint Ltd** have been tracking and helping ASE minimise our carbon emissions, and what we can't avoid (including all those transatlantic flights) will be compensated for in full through investment in their Gold Standard carbon offsetting projects.

Lucy Marten joined fellow climate-concerned educators from the European chapter of **CANIE** in travelling to Milan by train, rather than plane, for a conference that same month. She, I and the rest of the ASE Team are committed to upping our green game on the curricular and co-curricular front, too. In 2023 and beyond, expect to see more ASE initiatives with a focus on sustainability, biodiversity and the environment. **John Brueggemann's** course on the UK's Sustainable Food Movement (page 23) was just a taste of what's to come!

You see what I did there?

It's an ambitious aspiration, but I would personally like to see ASE compensating not only for our present and future but for our historical carbon footprint, too. Wouldn't it be something if we could find the resources to offset every flight taken since the Programme's first semester in 1989..?

Happy reading, friends!

Jonathan

Jonathan Hope
ASE Dean and Director



In March, I donned wellies and waterproofs and went to help plant saplings on a new local reforestation scheme ASE is supporting, just outside Bristol. It was a small first step in what I intend to be a positive transformation of ASE in light of the climate crisis.



*Notwithstanding the re-appearance of said Mr Butterworth on numerous ASE-organised Bath city tours, and even the Spring 2023 Stonehenge visit this past weekend!

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2022 COHORT

Meet our New Alumns from 2022

Spring



Summer



Autumn





ROB'S ROUND UP

Hello from Bath on a crisp, cold day with blue skies, the kind that gives the city that golden glow that makes it so magical.

I am writing this update, inevitably, in 2023; to be precise, at the start of orientation week for the Spring '23 students. It's always a hectic time, but also one full of promise and excitement as a new group of students experiences Bath and ASE for the first time.

This week also marks my tenth year at ASE! The decade has just flown by, and I have packed so much into it. But then, the last year has rushed past too, and so it has taken me some time to reflect on the past year, and the coming one, to work out what I should update you about!

Reunions

Jonathan and I re-launched the annual ASE Alumni Reunion in style in Philly in September. As always, we had a great turn out of alums from the very recent to the... well, the somewhat less recent! It was a fantastic evening, and wonderful to reconnect with folks in person again.



The 2023 annual reunion will be held, again, mid-September, in New York City, and we'll be working on the details of that this summer. When we last took a bite of the Big Apple, over 70 of you turned up (although no doubt Mr Butterworth's attendance had an impact on numbers!) It would be super to match that again.



Looking a little further ahead, 2024 will see another major anniversary as the Programme reaches its 35th year. As in 2014 and 2019, we are planning a big bash here in Bath in the July, with a lunch and evening party and other fabulous stuff that we have only just begun to dream up. We'll be fixing the date soon, so you'll get plenty of warning to save up your holiday and your dollars to make the trip over.

One of the things that were less successful than hoped in '22 were our planned online reunions. We think this was probably down to an understandable general weariness of online meetings and gatherings, but it is still a great way for people to reconnect, and we're determined to try again in 2023...

So, if you are one of the 1993, 2003 or 2013 semesters and would like us to help organise and/or host a virtual get-together, please get in touch with me!

Common Interests

Stephen Weber's piece on page 28 about the Victorian Widows Club (and yes I am proud that it was my course that brought them together; you know what they say: misery loves company!) is a reminder that the ability to meet online can be a great positive and enriching experience. With that in mind, one of my priorities this year is to finally get the first couple of 'Alumni Interest groups' off the ground. I plan to focus on creative writers and educators, in no small part because so many of you have either an amateur or professional interest in these subjects.

The sticking point, as so often, is technology. What platform is it best to use to put folks in touch? Facebook messenger is fine, but fewer people are using it, or are prepared to use it. WhatsApp is popular, but requires you to share your mobile phone number with others. Chat Rooms like Discord (for the younger gamer crowd) are great, but can get overwhelming. Moderation and administration can also be an issue (even the nicest groups of people - like you lot! - can run into problems when posting to a group chat).

So, if anyone has suggestions or ideas on how to run this kind of thing, and especially if you feel able to help me get it off the ground, then please get in touch!



Continuing Education

Another project I'd like to renew and revitalise is the Continuing Education (ASE ContEd) programme. The big challenge here is maintaining the personal connection with the tutor whilst handling the time difference and people's personal lives. I know from chats I have had with some of you that an in-person alumni summer school or similar is likely to be very popular (especially if we can lure Mr Butterworth out of retirement), and Jonathan and I are talking through ideas for trialling this. Watch this space...

Mentoring and Advice

This year has seen more of you approaching me for connections, whether it be for grad studies or advice about embarking on a particular career. Again, I am always delighted to connect alums across the semesters, and our regular grad studies evening for current students on the programme is proving increasingly popular. So, keep those requests coming!

Website and Communications

2022 saw us continuing to roll out our new database and CRM system, which has already paid dividends in streamlining admissions, academic and recruitment work. Your records are being transferred, cross-checked and updated over the next few months. This will allow us to be more nuanced in the emails we send out, to ensure that you get updates on things in which you are genuinely interested.

To that end I have created a new form for you to update your details. Thanks to those of you who have already used it. (**I'd really appreciate EVERYONE taking a moment to fill it in!**)

The next step will be to open up a members section on the website, making it easier to access the Alumni News, picture galleries, final tea slideshows, and events booking.



I shall sign off now, and get back to prepping for my forthcoming US trip. I'll be in Pennsylvania for the first week of February, and am looking forward to catching up with more than a few of you then!

All the best

Rob

Rob Jones- r.jones@asebath.org
ASE Alumni Association Co-ordinator

ALUMNI GIVING

This year saw modest but steady growth in the number of you choosing to support ASE financially.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who's contributed so far, either to the Nelson House Campaign or to the various ASE Scholarships the alumni community helps support!

Conversations we have had with development professionals in the UK and the US this year have made clear to us just what a generous lot you are, given the size of our Programme.

Nelson House Capital Campaign

Work to renovate the outside of Nelson House, towards the cost of which many of you were generous enough to contribute, is now scheduled for the coming summer.

We managed to raise about half of the projected cost of the renovation - very encouraging for our first ever capital campaign!



Alumni Scholarship Fund - Become a Regular Donor

Our new drive has a rather different feel. Mindful of the increased rise in the cost of living, we have decided to emphasise the value of smaller, regular donations - **and to ask ALL OF YOU to consider helping us by setting up a regular contribution of \$5, \$10, \$20 or \$50 per month:** whatever your circumstances allow.

All regular donations go directly into the Alumni Scholarship Fund, which we use exclusively to provide financial assistance to ASE students with proven financial need.

The ASE Alumni Community is now about 3,500 strong. If one in ten of you were to donate just \$5 every month, we could raise over \$20,000 each year to provide essential financial support to our most needy students.

Can you imagine the difference that could make to a student thinking about coming to Bath to study, but worried about affording books or travel, or covering costs more affluent students take for granted?

You can get a sense of the difference you can make from the reports by our recent Alumni Scholars in the pages following.

A soft launch of this campaign at a DC gathering and the Philly reunion in September saw annual pledges totalling over \$3,700.



If you'd like to add to that total, or (nudge, nudge!) you pledged and haven't yet followed up with a donation, here's the link you need:

<https://www.asealumni.org/alumni/givetoASE>

The page includes information about tax-efficient giving through the British Schools and Universities Foundation, as well as information on the different scholarships you can support if you'd like your money to go to students from specific communities - whether students of colour or LGBTQ+, for instance.

HUGE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Jonathan, Rob and the ASE Team



SCHOLARSHIPS & GIVING

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR 2022

Alumni Association Scholarship

- Ben and Becky Lally (Au98/Sp99, BC, Skidmore)
- Danelle Godjikian (Sp08, Dickinson)
- Maddie Anthes (Su09, Denison)
- Abigail Heller (Su10, F&M)
- Christina Paladeau (Au10, William and Mary)
- Marie Albiges (Sp12, CNU)
- Jennifer Dickey (Su12, F&M)
- Amelia Clark (Au12, Yale)
- Meghan Harris (Au12, Denison)
- Casey Parker (Au16, Denison)
- John Quinn (Au16, Bucknell)
- Alexis Larios (Sp17, Georgetown)
- Meara Waxman (Sp18, Elon)
- Jeremy Mauser (Su19, F&M)
- Rebecca West (Su19, Clemson)
- Shannon Briggs (Su21, F&M)

Bridgetower Fund

- Ryleigh Nucilli (Sp10, Washington and Lee)
- Riley Cruickshank (Su16, William and Mary)

Chris Pelling Scholarship

Suzanne Keen (Friend of ASE)

ASE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Meet some of the ASE students who benefitted from the ASE Alumni Association's Scholarship Scheme in 2022.



Studying abroad with Advanced Studies in England has been an absolutely phenomenal experience. I came from Smith College, in Northampton, Massachusetts, after a long year and a half of online and hybrid learning. I was eager to be in a new country and see more of the world, but I had no idea how much I would actually learn - in my classes and out. I am leaving Bath with lifelong friends, and also, a new relationship with myself that I didn't know was possible.

The scholarship I received from the ASE Alumni Association made a massive impact on my time in the United Kingdom (and gave me the ability to see Europe as well). Not only did it relieve the financial stressors of leaving the country for four months, but it gave me the opportunity to participate in more events, travel more, and really soak up Bath to the fullest. I was able to spend the most magical weekend in Hebden Bridge, where I got to visit the grave of Sylvia

Plath, one of my biggest inspirations as a writer; she also holds a special place in my heart as she went to Smith College as well (all of my professors at Smith were thrilled!). I visited the Isle of Skye, which is where my favorite novel by Virginia Woolf, *To The Lighthouse*, was set. I fulfilled my lifelong dream of going to Greece, a time that has changed my life forever. These are trips I would have never taken for fear of financial insecurity without the help from the ASE alumni.

As a non-traditional student it was particularly challenging to make study abroad a financial possibility but the ASE community provided me with resources and support and I am incredibly grateful. Thank you!

Paige Passantino (Sp22, Smith College)

Our cover feature this issue!



When Jonathan came to my school to talk about ASE, one of the first things I heard about was the Tutorial program. This aspect of the program was what initially prompted me to apply, and getting to experience it has quickly become my favourite part of the semester. I went into this semester with a story idea, but I needed more confidence in my ability to put it on the page. Meeting with my tutor over these twelve weeks has achieved that, improving my writing and my confidence in my work.

Another part of this program that I wasn't expecting to love as much as I do is the city of Bath itself. Even though it's smaller than London, it still feels like I'm living in a busy area. There are endless restaurants, shops and things to do, and even more places I've yet to discover. However, since Bath is smaller, I appreciated connecting with the city's community more than if I was anywhere else.

The final part of this program that can't go overlooked is the people. With the wide range of students' schools, majors, and interests, I've met some absolutely amazing people. The friends I made during this semester will be in my life for a while, and I wouldn't have gotten to meet them otherwise. Overall, I am unbelievably grateful I was given this opportunity, and I cannot emphasise enough how life-changing this experience has been.

Ellie Ketchum (Au22, Bucknell)

Hello! My name is Kris Freda and I studied in Bath, England this autumn with ASE. The ASE Alumni Scholarship Fund enabled me to partake in so many opportunities, both in and around Bath! One of the most memorable experiences I had was going to Wales with the whole program, in which we saw Goodrich Castle and Monmouth. The castle was beautiful, and I went to all the different shops in the small town, including a dog-themed café! I have also had great experiences in Bath with friends, especially going to different pubs in which I was able to try Bath favorites, and meet locals.

During Fall break, I got to travel to Italy and compare Italian culture to Bath. Towards the end of the semester the Christmas Market came to Bath - I would say this was my favorite experience by far! I loved being able to go through all the stalls, enjoy hot mulled cider and Christmas pudding, and try ice skating with my friends!

With the support from the ASE Alumni Scholarship Fund, my semester abroad has been so fulfilling and I've fully experienced British culture!

Thank you!

Kris Freda (Au22, Gettysburg)



[Donate to the ASE Alumni Scholarship Fund](#)
and help other students enjoy the benefits
of a semester or summer in Bath!

THANKS FOR HELP ON CAMPUS



ALUMNS & FRIENDS WHO MET WITH US OR HELPED ON CAMPUS IN THE US

Alison Bunce
Emma Driver
Beth Fitch
Grace Gallery
Liam Garcia-Quish
Jaydie Halperin
Henry Hamilton
Chloe Hanrahan
Shiloh Hurley
Rachel Lion
Allison Lyne
Kayla Mead
Paige Passantino
Nicole Pavese
Clarke Pernel
Dom Pfister
Emerson Prond
Sadie Rounds
Abby Saracino
Hunter Wasser
Zoë Wilson



A big thankyou to everyone who came to see us or help out, and apologies if we missed your name out of the list - we are still VERY grateful!

THEY CAME TO BATH

Debbie (Kirk) Lewis (Spring '94, William & Mary) for the first time since being on the programme, with Husband Chad, daughter Reagan, and son Dawson.

Regina (Toto) D'Avella (Spring '07, F&M) with husband Chris and daughter Elise. Baby Emma was born in November.

Nicole (Capuano) Ball (Spring '11, BC) with her family, caught up with Jonathan and Ivy over the summer break (pictured below).

Ellie Hahn and Meghan Harris (Autumn '12, St Mike's, and Denison) (pictured below in their ASE merchandise)

Laura (Venzke) Baranes (Autumn '12, Denison)

Lisa Johnson (Summer '14, Mary Wash') also visited in November. Having done an MEd, and traveled to Spain on a Fulbright, she has been teaching, and is currently a High School English teacher in Virginia

Paul Soltis (Autumn '14, William and Mary) after graduating from University of Aberdeen with an MLitt in Scottish Heritage (pictured below).





Gail Quintos (Spring '16, HWS) (pictured left) working in TV and film casting, on such shows as *Billions* (Showtime), *Monsterland* (Hulu), and forthcoming projects with A24, Coen Brothers, MGM, and Netflix.

Sophie Heath (Spring '17, Skidmore) having completed a Masters at Durham University.

Ian Farber (Spring '18, Gettysburg) now teaching... and growing a beard.

Niki Rokicki (Summer '14, Gettysburg)

Paige Pasantino (Spring '22, Smith) (pictured left) having traveled in the intervening months to Greece, France, Switzerland and Germany.



THAT'S WHY I CHOSE ASE

by Andrew Butterworth

These are the opening lines of a song written by **Ben Oddo** (Spring 2011, Washington and Lee), part of a promotional video he made at the end of his internship at Suited and Booted Film Studios. I had another look at it the other day on YouTube. (Incidentally, and annoyingly, the ad which preceded Ben's video was about vision loss - my vision is fine, thank you!) "That's Why I Chose ASE" is a sort of take-off of that brilliant marketing spoof, "That's Why I Chose Yale", but made in something of a rush in a couple of weeks at the end of Ben's semester, with no budget, borrowed equipment and a cast of somewhat limited cinematic experience. It did make me laugh, though, watching it again after eleven years, as well as warming the cockles of my heart.

I must have supervised hundreds of interns during my eighteen years at ASE, and nearly all of them were just like Ben - resourceful, talented, curious, intelligent, amusing and best of all, excellent company. I would often come away from a day at Nelson House, perched high up in the Crow's Nest, after six or seven delightful tutorials with interns, thinking

" Did I actually get paid for having so much fun?"

(Don't tell Jonathan or he might press me for a refund!). It was satisfying to see the internship programme grow significantly over those eighteen years, and although not every intern had an amazing, life-changing experience, some of them did. I remember **Maggie Smith** (Autumn 2010, Hobart and William Smith) who interned at Donald Insall, a conservation architects' practice. She had such an inspiring time working with ancient, crumbling buildings in the Bath area that she decided to focus on conservation architecture as a future career. Twelve years later, she is now Senior Preservation Planner for the city of San Francisco. Maggie was also a rock climber. I remember her demonstrating her expertise at a Welsh border castle on a study trip - Rob, avert your eyes - despite all the signs prohibiting such activity. I think I managed to talk her down gently, before any damage was done to the medieval walls.

I was hired initially by the then director of ASE, **Ann Nunes**, to organise the school placements for the education programme, and it was hugely pleasing to share my enthusiasm for the craft of teaching

In a town called Bath on Pierrepont
Street

There's a building you will find

Where Americans roam, far from home

In a programme of a different kind
Called ASE

A great place to be



with hundreds of fledgling American educators. Not all of them found it easy to adjust to the English school system - it takes courage, resilience and ingenuity to turn up to a strange school in a foreign land every Tuesday and try to make a meaningful contribution.

The vast majority succeeded, a small minority in spectacular fashion - it would be invidious to mention names, but you know who you are. I had the enormous privilege of observing ASE student teachers in the classroom towards the end of the semester. There were many memorable moments - the Boston story "Make Way for Ducklings" transposed to Bath's Royal Victoria Park; a demonstration of the feudal system through role play which very nearly became rather too realistic. It's gratifying to think of (and see on Facebook) so many of those education students now plying their trade in American schools, and I'd like to think that their brief interlude in a Bath school made a small contribution to their development as effective teachers.



I was very fortunate that my initial minor role in ASE's education programme gradually expanded - first the internships, then accompanying study trips and providing various Bath walking tours. Ah, those roistering Dublin weekends..... singing raucously in Oliver St. John Gogarty in Temple Bar, ensuring an ASE student would almost always win the prizes at the end of the Literary Pub Tour by surreptitiously providing the answers, much to the annoyance of the tour leaders. I remember one spine-tingling moment in Normandy, early one morning, waiting for Falaise Castle to open, when the tutor took us up to a ridge overlooking the Falaise Gap and gave a vivid description of the Polish troops who heroically held that position against overwhelming odds in June 1944.



On study trips, I was essentially the baggage man, tail-end Charlie, handing over the money for entrance fees, trying to mop up any problems. When given a more leading role, on ASE's famous hikes, for example, I occasionally came unstuck. Not every ASE student appreciated those hikes, being dragged into a remote and wild part of the UK for a ten mile route march, often in the wind and rain. I remember one distraught student informing me indignantly at the end of a particularly inclement walk that it had been the worst day of her life! I have a fond hope that she now

reflects on that day as character building. On one particular unpleasant day in the Brecon Beacons, we decided it would be unsafe to take our usual route to the summit of Pen y Fan. I devised a low level walk in the foothills, but sadly, I overestimated my map reading skills. Faithfully following what I thought was the right footpath, I led fifty students and half a dozen staff into the middle of nowhere.

My reasonable sense of direction took us on an exhilarating yomp over rough ground and across a couple of streams, back on to a forest track. Never in doubt.



So my ASE memories are all fond ones. Camaraderie and laughter over coffee in the Nelson House staff kitchen; mind-boggling displays of talent at numerous Write Nights, and yes, those hikes up mountains or along the Dorset coast. Above all, I shall remember the company and friendship of those hundreds of ASE students I was lucky enough to meet. I am delighted that the education and internship programmes are now in the extremely capable hands of my old friend and former teaching colleague, Bill Badley.

May the good ship ASE continue to flourish and thrive - and all who sail in her!

IN MEMORIAM: MIKE NICHOLSON

26 May 1943 – 9 September 2022



It is with shock and deep regret that the College reports the death of Dr Mike Nicholson, who died suddenly and unexpectedly at home early this morning, aged 79.

Mike came to Univ as Tutorial Fellow and Praelector in Russian in 1987. He formally retired from that role in 2010, but continued to perform his college duties until the end of 2011, when his successors were ready to take over. He served also as Senior Tutor in 1989-93 and 1999-2000, was Dean of Graduates in 2002, Dean 2006-2011, and Dean of Degrees from 2014 until his death. Just last night he was in touch with colleagues here about the Degree Day that will take place tomorrow, on Saturday 10 September.

Mike made a huge and enduring contribution to the College, and we will miss him enormously. Our thoughts are with Barbara and the rest of his family, and all those who mourn Mike's death as they remember what he means to us and to them.

The College Flag is flying at half-mast on the Radcliffe tower as a mark of respect.

Published on the Univ website: 9 September 2022

Mike first came to ASE in Autumn of 1998, when he delivered a Russian tutorial for **Jeff Michaels** (Au98/Sp99, Skidmore). Two more students benefitted from his expertise in this language: **Amanda Hillyer** (Au00, HWS) and **Rachel Gauthier** (Au14/Sp15, Sarah Lawrence). In Autumn 2003 and Spring 2004 he taught the course in gothic literature, the name of which has changed subtly over the years, but which he always referred to as 'Ghosts and the Goths'. He was to return to this course in 2012, and continued to teach it every semester it ran, right down to Spring 2022.



Most alums, however, will remember him as the beguilingly vague, soft-spoken, guitar-wielding academic who got up after the formal dinner at Oxford, and told the meandering, tragic epic of Univ graduate, composer and adventurer Lucas St John-Ploughmondely, (pronounced Sinjin-Plumbly) [my thanks to Jonathan for the correct spelling; no matter how often I heard the story, I could never fix on it! - Rob]. It was always one of the high points of Oxford week, especially watching the faces of the students as the realisation dawned (on most!) that the story they were hearing might not be entirely true. The medley of English and American tunes that formed the finale showed the talent of a man who just missed out on being one of The Beatles.



Mike had a wit that was as dry and as warming as the sherry he served to tutors at the 'pre-prandial' before the Oxford dinner. Some of you will recall his brilliant, barely plausible account of the University College Alumnus who played a part in [the assassination of Rasputin](#). Jonathan often tells the story of an ASE Academic Board meeting held at Univ, where the possibility of ASE developing a range of Creative Writing courses in different genres was earnestly being discussed. The faculty and academic advisors at Oxford seemed rather unwilling to comment, but eventually Mike spoke up on their behalf. 'I think in Oxford we tend to think of creativity as something that should really only happen between consenting adults in private', he quipped.

AYE-AYE, IF&M

A SUCCESSFUL DEBUT FOR ASE'S PROGRAM FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS FROM FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE

by Kevin Brady and Jennifer Redmann (F&M)

There were audible gasps from the students as we emerged from Charing Cross tube station onto Trafalgar Square on a sunny September afternoon. The students spun around, gazing in awe at Nelson's Column, the National Gallery, and London crowding all around. The inaugural group of iF&M students had arrived - or so it seemed to us, their professors.

International F&M - or iF&M - is a new program that allows a group of enrolled students from Franklin & Marshall College to join ASE in Bath during their very first semester of college.

It was the brainchild of ASE Director Jonathan Hope, Sue Mennicke (Franklin & Marshall Associate Dean for International Programs), and Jimmie Foster (F&M Vice President for Enrollment Management). During the pandemic, some international Franklin & Marshall first-year students could not enter the US to study on campus, but they were able to travel to Bath. In order to accommodate them, the ASE staff designed a curriculum appropriate for first-year students. Building on the success of that effort, Jonathan, Sue and Jimmie created iF&M as a means of attracting a stellar group of first-year students to F&M through a unique and exciting program. This first iF&M cohort was diverse, including American students from Pennsylvania and New Hampshire and international students from Brazil, India, and Rwanda. Only one of the students had ever been outside of their home country before arriving in the UK. Recruitment efforts for the second cohort in the Fall of 2023 are underway.

In Bath, the iF&M students enrolled in a full complement of courses designed just for them, while also taking advantage of the rich social and cultural program offered by ASE. This fall, the two of us - Kevin Brady and Jennifer Redmann - joined the program from Franklin & Marshall as its first faculty mentors. Not only did we see our seven iF&M students regularly in the classrooms of Nelson House, we lived in neighboring flats at Nunes House and accompanied them on all of their many academic and cultural excursions.

The centerpiece of the iF&M curriculum is a Connections course, a multidisciplinary writing-intensive course that all Franklin & Marshall students take during their first semester of college. The topics of the on-campus Connections courses vary widely; Jennifer's course for iF&M, Exploring World War I through Literature, Art and Film, was ideally suited to a residential program in the UK. Over the course of the semester, students searched out First World War memorials, wore poppies to the Remembrance



Sunday service at Bath Abbey, and came face-to-face with key World War I artifacts during a visit to London's Imperial War Museum. Jennifer's second course, on European Fairy Tales, featured a study trip to sites associated with King Arthur in Glastonbury. Kevin's course, Introduction to Drawing, culminated in an exhibit in 44AD, a local art space next to Bath Abbey. Students also enrolled in courses taught by ASE tutors: an introductory economics course, a cross-cultural psychology course, and a course on UK-US comparative politics that included an in-depth tour of the Houses of Parliament.

Living and working together, the iF&M students developed close bonds with one another and with us, their professors and 'house parents'. We were struck by how uninhibited and open the students became in the classroom. Since they knew us and each other so well, they clearly felt comfortable asking questions, offering opinions, and responding openly to assigned materials. Because we, their professors, lived in the same house with them, we were able to meet frequently one-on-one in the Nunes House common room for quick consultations and feedback, even during the evenings and on weekends. As a result, the students are well prepared to access resources and seek faculty guidance when they begin their studies on the Franklin & Marshall campus in Lancaster this Spring.

Outside the classroom, the iF&M group became increasingly independent and adventurous over the course of the semester. They cooked, baked, and made a project of discovering local restaurants together. They hiked Bath Skyline and the Kennett and Avon Canal. One student played American football at the University of Bath and another got involved in a local church. Two students regularly attended a weekly 'Knit Night' at a Bath yarn shop. Through their time in Bath, they learned the importance of time management and finding a work-life balance. When they return to the Franklin & Marshall campus this spring, they will be living in the same dormitory, and Jennifer will serve as their academic advisor through their sophomore year. We are confident that their connections with each other and with us will last for the next four years and beyond.



Some of our favorite moments with this year's iF&M group involved climbing hills. In the second week of the semester, the students surveyed the city of Bath from high atop Solsbury Hill, site of an Iron Age hill fort some five miles outside of Bath. In October, they joined the other ASE students on a long, rainy walk to the top of the Kymin, a hill in Wales overlooking the Wye Valley. While fog and rain obscured the view, the sun soon came out, bringing the afternoon to a bright close among sheep and glorious rolling farmland. On a study trip to Glastonbury, students trudged again through fog and mist to the top of Cadbury Castle, reputed to be the site of King Arthur's Camelot, and later that day, a climb to the summit of Glastonbury Tor featured cleared skies, sunshine and spectacular views. The iF&M students climbed repeatedly, enthusiastically, in every weather.

The stamina such climbing requires is an apt metaphor for the college years, and the 2022 iF&M students seem ready and eager - at least to us - to take on the challenges to come.

Skidmore professor John Brueggemann describes his summer teaching in Bath

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Hiya! All right?

In June of 2022, 49 students and five faculty from American colleges made their way to Bath. For me, and I suspect a lot of others, there were some elemental aspects of our experience there that left a lasting impression.

Time

Our sense of time had already been discombobulated by COVID-19 (e.g., time on Zoom, time in quarantine, time between vaccines, time away from family and friends). Then we added a journey across time-zones, witnessed thousands of years of history visible throughout the city, dashed around on wide-ranging field trips, and crammed a semester's worth of work and at least that much fun into five weeks. The second-longest serving monarch in all of history celebrated 70 years on the throne - 'Platty Jubes', as young Brits called it. All together, it was disorienting and thrilling.

Space

COVID shrank our worlds. We weren't allowed to move around as much. As we've inched towards normalcy, many of us jumped at the chance to spread our wings and travel abroad. After our arrival in Bath, the vast space across the Atlantic remained on our minds as some of us waited days or even weeks for our suitcases to arrive. We visitors each occupied living situations different from our homes, often with roommates and common kitchens. We noticed architecture, shops, seagulls, the River Avon (which translates as 'river river'), narrow boats, stinging nettles, all kinds of people, and so much else as we walked more than usual. And some roamed even further than most (I'm acknowledging your extra exertions, Northampton people). I didn't miss driving.

Bodies

Jetlag sucks. Walking rocks. I am so over facemasks (of course, I'll wear one if necessary). Swordplay is hard (even if you have an excellent teacher who is an expert on medieval weapons like Dr. Rob Jones). "Roads and rivers" were the biggest threats, we were warned, but the cliffs on the Jurassic Coast seemed perilous too. I've never been so awake as I was swimming early in the morning off Swanage Beach in the English Channel - as a few other hearty souls can attest. Even though I



developed comprehensive knowledge of Bath pubs, I left Bath thinner than when I arrived, thanks to Shank's pony.

Food

Bath is a place where people care about the good earth and good food. "Yummy Vegan options" in fast food restaurants, The Nook, Sugarcane Studio, the Bath Organic Garden, and the Bath Farmers Market all get top marks for sustainability and tastiness. "It's been many years since I had such an exemplary vegetable!" Mr. Collins exclaimed in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Pubs offered much more than ale. I'm chuffed just thinking about The Raven's "pint and pie".

Pimm's Cup, anyone? Fancy a cuppa? Our crew sampled all kinds of fun stuff at The Cornish Bakehouse, La Cremeria, Chai Walla, Bath Noodle, Yak Yeti Yak, The Fish Plaice (in Swanage), Corfe Castle, Borough Market, Camden Market, and other settings.



People

If you have any curiosity at all, it's impossible not to learn a ton in Bath. There are literal layers of intriguing history being physically excavated. There are also complex layers of social life inviting the attention of inquisitive minds. As a sociologist, I always regard people as the most interesting subject, even in a UNESCO World Heritage Site like Bath. I crossed paths with so many memorable folks there.

Mortie is a lifelong Bathonian with a strong Irish accent (because his parents were Irish). Paul is from Scotland, has stage four cancer, and is thrilled that Americans appreciate the acting skills of his fellow Scotsmen Sean Connery. They are at The Grapes pub every Thursday for Irish music, or at least were the three times I was there.

I savored listening to the buskers all around - the regulars on trumpet, electric guitar, classical guitar, and vocals, as well as the special combos who showed up for only one day. Magic.

My class and I met several charming septuagenarians at the Bath Organic Garden. They served us cake and tea while explicating their techniques for maintaining a vibrant urban garden and nurturing community, both of which proved vital during the pandemic. We all found their warmth, pride, and exuberance infectious.

Jonathan Hope declared "Andrew Butterworth is the best tour guide ever". After eavesdropping on numerous tours and going on two led by Andrew, I was convinced that this wasn't idle hyperbole. Andrew evinces contagious zeal for history and life, encyclopedic knowledge about his beloved city, and generous curiosity about other people. I call that virtuoso!

The next best tour guide I encountered was a fellow who led Bizarre Bath-Comedy Walk, which I attended twice because I almost spit up my lungs laughing the first time. Sorry to my friends who joined me the second time, which was led by a different bloke and wasn't as good - though I'm still wondering how the drowned rabbit survived.

We met several pleasant gents who drove us all over the country in large coaches, including one who somehow backed his rig up a narrow, curvy road a proper distance. I thought he was a real pro until I started pondering how we got into that mess in the first place, and found out he had slammed the door on Jonathan. Anyway, he was a nice chap - and we did all make it back safely.

From my vantage point, the best part of the trip was the people I got to know, including the amazing ASE staff and faculty, and the wonderful American colleagues with whom I was privileged to work. A cracking group of professionals and fine human beings, innit.

I relished being there with students from my home institution, Skidmore. We are still talking of Bath. It was also a special treat to get to know a bunch of students from other schools, and to see them all become friends with one another.



Bath will always bring to mind fond memories of that summer, those people, and all the learning and fun we shared together. As Catherine Morland said in Northanger Abbey: "I really believe I shall always be talking of Bath, when I am at home again-I do like it so very much.... Oh! Who can ever be tired of Bath?"



MIKE RIX, A RETIRING EDUCATOR?!

A farewell from the ever-youthful Mike Rix, long-time tutor of ASE's Education in England seminar course



It's been rare that the term 'retired' has been applied to me, but after enjoying 21 years as Education in England tutor at ASE, among hundreds of delightful students, dozens of talented staff, and three enterprising directors, I've finally decided to call it a day. What a joy it has been, learning and teaching with you all!

ASE students will know all about long haul flights. My journey in education began over 70 years ago, when I first experienced the system which has changed so frequently, and at a seemingly accelerating speed, over recent years. As an 'Infant' (Early Years) pupil, starting school, I was placed in a 'B stream', simply because my father was a lorry (truck) driver!

My destiny seemed charted from that early age. The controversial "11+", a life-changing examination taken in post-war Britain by all primary children which separated allegedly academic pupils from 'the rest', came to my rescue. It was at that point, I guess, that my mission to champion those from lower income families was first formed, and I decided to seek a career path in education.

That journey has subsequently taken me to witness and help overcome deprivation in some of our inner cities, both here in the UK, and in the US, but crucially in the East African state of Eritrea. Conversely, I enjoyed a year as an exchange teacher in Maine, and a spell working among some able, postgraduate students in Hong Kong. After spending 18 years as a Head Teacher (Principal) and then many years as Senior Lecturer at Leeds, and Bristol University Postgraduate Department of Education, I set up a business working as an independent consultant, and was delighted and privileged to add ASE to my portfolio of contracts, in 2001.

Over the past 21 years at ASE, I have been immensely fortunate to meet and interact with so many responsive, energetic and committed Education students, and if you're one of these, reading this, thank you for the opportunity to share ideas with you!

There have been too many highlights to mention here, but I guess among them must be the celebration of ASE's 25th anniversary in 2012, when it was so enjoyable to reconnect with former students and tutors. Also, the regular visits to teach at University College, Oxford were always eagerly anticipated.

Most of our Education students have been placed for teaching experience in schools in Bath, and in our weekly discussions what has always come across so strongly is our mutual understanding of the potential of education to transform peoples' lives, and to resolve social injustices. You often hear educators telling their students 'You can be anything you want to be', but sadly, that isn't always completely true. Wealth, birth and privilege are still key factors in individual achievement. We still have a long way to go in breaking down barriers, and ensuring that 'equality of opportunity' is not a hollow phrase.

But I retain a strong faith in that power of education, both here, in the US, and overseas, to overcome prejudice and narrow social divisions.

I firmly believe that, with hard work, energy and encouragement those many, varied talents of young people from all cultures and levels of society can be realised, so that those youthful aspirations and dreams may indeed become a reality!

In the meantime, it will be awesome to hear of the adventures and achievements of all my former students, and I wish you all every success as you continue your own, individual journeys!



ASE'S MERRY WIDOWS

I was one of the last guests to arrive in Atlanta the night before Rachel Podber and Alex Kennison's wedding. It was 11:00pm and I was exhausted, having rushed from work straight to JFK airport in New York a few hours earlier. I was planning to drop my luggage off in the room before coming down to say hello to everyone - like Lady Violet Crawley, at my age, one must ration one's excitement - but Rachel and Emily Cranfill, both ASE alums from the Spring 2014 semester, saw me checking in and had other plans. They ran over and, in a riot of laughter and gleeful screaming, we put on quite a show for the receptionist who hadn't yet finished checking me in. But who could blame us? It was our first time meeting each other!

In person, that is.

If you're reading this, you're an ASE alum, so I don't have to tell you what an impact living and studying in Bath has had on my life because I already know it's shaped your life in wonderful ways, too. My involvement with ASE spans the centuries - well, the 20th and 21st; I was a student on the programme in the Summer of 1998, and after I graduated from Denison University I worked at ASE as a Graduate Intern for the 2000-01 academic year. Since then I've attended every reunion in the New York City area and returned to Bath several times, and along the way I've made friends with quite a few other alums. No surprise in that - we tend to be an interesting, sociable group of individuals.

I was surprised, though, that I left the lockdown era of the pandemic with a whole new group of ASE friends whom I met taking the online alumni courses. Signing up for the courses felt like a solemn duty: we had to do whatever it took to help keep ASE financially afloat through the pandemic! The fact that the courses themselves were excellent was no surprise - ASE courses always are - so I expected intellectual stimulation (and got it!). I'm not surprised, either, that I look back on that part of that era fondly; I took courses during six of the seven "semesters" and found them to be a great source of joy and solace during a chaotic time.

Stephen Weber (Su98, Denison) on the friendships that bloomed from an ASE Continuing Education course



But I am surprised by the friendships, or, rather, the depth and quality of the friendships forged via zoom (of all places!). I don't remember really when or why it happened, but a Facebook Messenger thread got started with myself, Emily, Rachel and Wes Hershner (Summer 2011/Fall 2012). We met in that first session of classes, in Rob Jones's Chivalry course, found we were all eager to share our thoughts and soon started sharing them outside of class. Because our chats were so centered around historical gossip ("What's your opinion about the princes in the tower?...Well, d'you know what I heard?..."), gin-based cocktails and knitting (well...mostly just me showing off my latest pandemic project), we decided we were like a bunch of Victorian widows sitting around the fireplace late into the night, laughing and enjoying each others' company immensely.

So, we changed the name of our thread to the Victorian Widows Club (the name first came up during a special Zoom chat with Andrew Butterworth that we all attended), and this lent itself to all kinds of wonderful in-group branding. We've had Victorian Widows Club movie nights, VWC book discussions, we even had our first annual holiday gift exchange - Victorian Widowmas! - which featured a video from Dan Jones wishing us a Happy Widowmas!

(Look him up on [cameo.com](https://www.cameo.com); thirty bucks can get you a personalized video from a dreamy medievalist! Rob Jones was our first choice, but his rates were too high... 😊).

Between these fun events, our chat was filled with endless memes and hours of witty repartee.

Dan Jones made a video appearance for that occasion as well. He was asked to weigh in as to whether or not Rachel could remain in the Victorian Widows Club if she were married. Fortunately he stated very confidently that she could and a tense scene was avoided.

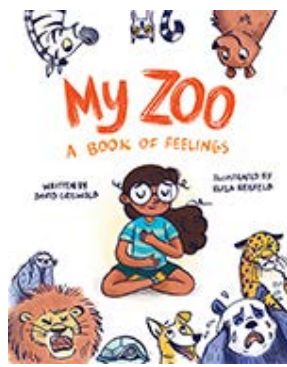
Wes, unfortunately, was not able to make the wedding, so there's another first meeting still in the future for all of us. But the wedding guests included quite a few other ASE alums who were all seated together, so my acquaintance among the ASE family continues to grow. I don't know if the Victorian Widows Club is accepting new members (this would need to be discussed by the executive council in person over tea at Sally Lunn's), but there's certainly the possibility of new bonds, new friendships - and new, nerdy message threads - in the ASE alumni universe (alumniverse?), so I encourage everyone to remain involved. Your semester may be over, but ASE isn't done bringing wonderful things into your life!

(Oh, and for the record, we all believe that Richard III had a hand in the disappearance of the princes, but not as brazenly or directly as Shakespeare would have us believe. *sips martini*)

Hints for Grieplings



by Kim Shute • Artwork by Victoria Gaisford

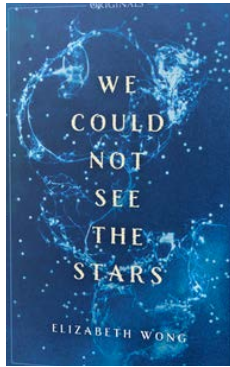


ASE WRITERS

Kim Shute (Au91, Wells) has written a keepsake- sized book entitled Hints for Grieplings for people who have suffered a loss to death.

David Griswold (Au05, Yale) has published My Zoo: A Book of Feelings, a children's book that helps kids to identify and accept different emotions.

Elizabeth Wong (Su06, Yale) has a novel We Could Not See The Stars - on Malaysian(-ish) fishing villages, memory loss, seas and deserts - published by John Murray Press/ Hachette UK.



Keiran Miller (Au13, F&M) has had a piece - Catch Them All - published by Vermillion.



Bethany Thomas (Su17, Mary Wash') has published two books - April Renegade - and - A Mare's Nest.

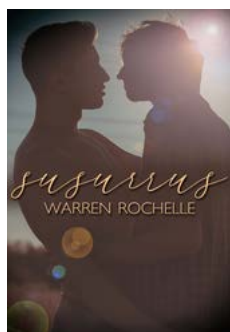
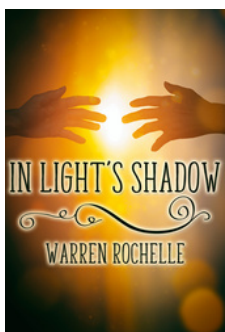
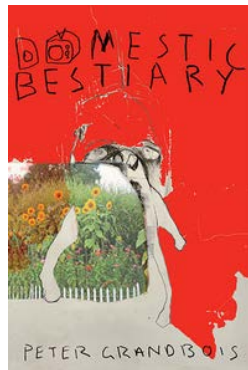
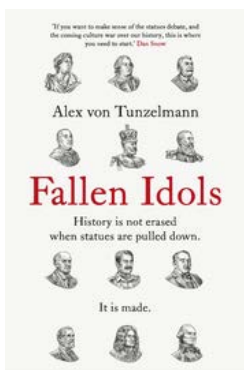
Keiran Miller (Au13, F&M) has had a piece - Catch Them All - published by Vermillion.

ASE tutor Dougie Blaxland (**Jim Brown** to his students) has a new play - On the Ropes - being staged at London's Park Theatre, for five weeks in January.

ASE Tutor **Alex von Tunzelmann** has a new book - Fallen Idols - out, dealing with the way in which statues have been used to tell stories about our past, and what they have come to symbolise.

ASE Summer Tutor **Peter Grandbois** (Su17 and Su23, Denison) has a latest book of fictions, Domestic Bestiary, published by Spuyten Duyvil.

ASE Summer Tutor **Warren Rochelle** (Su07 and Su13, Mary Wash') has had another novel - Light's Shadow: A Fairy Tale - and a stand-alone story - Susurrus - published this year.



ALUMNI NEWS UPDATES

2022

Amy Yarcich (Spring 1993, Washington and Lee) wrote an article for a Richmond regional magazine and was selected to be the cover photo with her family. November/December 2022 issue. Here's the link to the article: [Letting Go of Flawless! - Richmond Family Magazine.](#)

She also donated a kidney to her son, and tells us that 'this experience has made me aware of how important it is to encourage more living donors and remove barriers to donation. I recently worked with my organization, Rx Partnership, to create a Paid Living Donor Leave Policy - and I'm currently working to encourage more organizations to adopt this type of policy. If anyone is interested in supporting living organ donation by bringing the idea and sample policies to their employer's leadership or HR, I'm available to connect. I'm also happy to talk to anyone who is considering kidney donation about my experience - it's one of the most impactful, but also EASY things I've ever done.'

John Kernis (Sp99, HWS) is living in Barcelona, and was made 'parent buddies' with **Marquis Brown (Sp04, Hampton)** at their childrens' school, where they discovered their mutual connection with Bath.

Crissy Spivey (Au00, UofR) got married to John Ritchie in September, photo'd (right) with their daughter Violet.

Doug Jones (Sp 02, HWS) has been living in upstate New York for the last ten years, and teaching at Binghamton University (S.U.N.Y.) where he is currently a faculty member in Religious Studies and the undergraduate director of the Religious Studies Program. He and his wife are expecting their third child - and first girl - this December.

Zoe Malinchoc-DeVoe (Sp04, Wells) is a grant writer and bookseller in RedWing, Minnesota. She says that while Red Wing is not Hay-on-Wye, and they don't have the Bath International Puppet Festival to look forward to, or experimental theatre in the Ustinov, they do have a thriving arts community and the bookstore gets to host some fantastic poets, authors, musicians, theologians, philosophers, and artists throughout the year.



Stephen Teske (Au05, HWS) and **Melinda Snow (Au05, William and Mary)** welcomed Paul (pictured right) to their family in April.



Shane Dunn (Au05, Cornell) becomes Chief Advancement Officer at 'Rosie's Place', the nation's first women's shelter that provides a range of comprehensive services and supports for poor and homeless women. He was also elected as President of the all-volunteer Board of Directors of GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), after eight years service.

Maddie (Su09, Dension) and **Joe Anthes (Su09, Gettysburg)** and their first son Gray, were joined by Luca. Joe has a new job as Curriculum Supervisor of Related Arts and Social Studies in Bethlehem Area School District (pictured right).



Jen Britton (Sp11, Skidmore) married Joaquin in October. They met in Grad school at Columbia University.



Emily Morris (Au11, UofR) passed away, unexpectedly, on July 5th.

Will Morisseau (Au13, Dickinson) married Grace McCrocklin in September.

Rachel Podber Kennison (Sp14, Boston U) finished her Masters in Museum Studies from University of Leicester, with a dissertation entitled "Heirlooms Held Hostage: The Fate of Nazi-Looted Art in Museum Collections".

She also got married on November 5th to Alex Kennison. Fellow alums **Emily Cranfill (Sp14, G'burg)** and **Elizabeth Emery (Sp14, Sarah Lawrence)** were bridesmaids, and **Rachel Hammer (Sp14, G'burg)**, **Emma Murphy-Novak (Sp14, G'burg)**, **Bobby Novak (Sp14, G'burg)**, and **Stephen Weber (Su98, Denison)** were in attendance as well.

Jordie Adams (Su14, Gettysburg) has been working on the Starbucks union campaign. Having worked for Starbucks since 2016. She helped her Connecticut store become the 2nd unionized store in the state. Now living in Massachusetts she is involved with the state, regional, and national campaigns.



Casey Tew (Su14, CNU) married Max Hrank in September, onboard the American Rover, a three mast schooner that sails the Elizabeth River between Norfolk and Portsmouth in Virginia. They live in Chesapeake, VA and both work in the defense industry; Max for a government shipyard, whilst Casey manages recruitment outreach and programs for BAE Systems. Her job includes programming and recruitment strategy for their internship program. Although they typically hire business, finance, communications, and almost all STEM related majors, she is happy to offer early careers advice to fellow alums.

Dana Winston-Day (Su15, Wells) has founded a new company, called Momentum Acts, offering theatre workshops for schools.

Gracie Freeman Lifschutz (Sp16, Oberlin) started working as a Subsidiary Rights Assistant at the literary agency Dystel, Goderich & Bourret in New York.

Emma Richardson (Sp16, HWS) and **Jon Blader (Sp16, F&M)** had their wedding reception on October 8th in Chicago, Illinois. In attendance were **Juliana Lawrence (Knight) (Sp16, F&M)**, **Brittany Coppla (Au16, Elon)**, **Gail Quintos (Sp16, HWS)**, and **Clare McCormick (Su14, HWS)**, (not pictured).

Olivia Termini (Sp18, Dickinson) just joined the board of nonprofit 'Suited for Change' in DC. They help women on their journey to financial independence with job training and professional clothing!
<https://www.suitedforchange.org>

Korinne Young (Su22, William and Mary) is acting as tour director for William and Mary's Symphony Orchestra.

