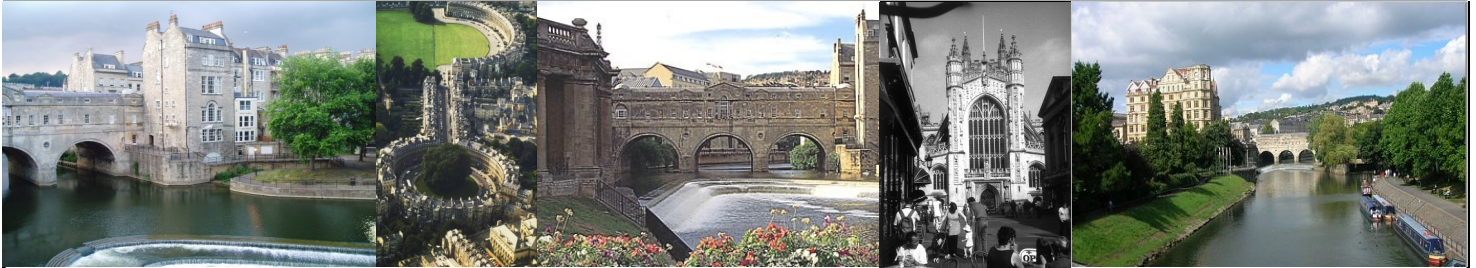

ASE ALUMNI NEWS

ADVANCED STUDIES IN ENGLAND

November 2013



A Message from the ASE Director, Jonathan Hope

Dearest Alums,

From an even darker, colder and more Wintery Bath than usual – warmest greetings, and a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Every year – at least since I became Director – the publication date of the **ASE Alumni News** has crept later and later into the recesses of the Autumn semester. This year, the distinctive wooden huts that cluster in the streets around the Abbey during the Bath Christmas Market are already up, if not yet vending their panoply of seasonal gifts, distractingly good-smelling food and (my personal favourite) cardboard cups of hot mulled wine. (At this rate, expect me to open next year's **Alumni News** with 'Merry Christmas!')

But oh, dear readers, thanks to the combined efforts of our Editorial Team (that's **Lindsay Orchard** and **Rob Jones**, our new Academic Administrator, who introduces himself again on **page 3**), and a host of witty, wry and wonderful contributors, trust me when I tell you that the 2013 edition of **ASE Alumni News** is *well worth the wait!* It's bigger, it's better, and it's brim-full of building work (**page 12**), Bath-based movies (**page 17**), and babies (both royal and 'tutorial', **page 16**)!

There's the usual rich mix of updates and news from staff, tutors and students from both sides of the Pond, and – for the first time ever - from an ASE student (**Jeff Michaels**) who actually managed to become an ASE tutor (see **page 7**). You'll find an article from ASE tutor **John Stevenson**, one of our most eminent British historians (and convincing Santa Claus-lookalikes), on **page 5**, and more from US writers and professors **George O'Har** and **Warren Rochelle** (**pages 9-11**), who reflect on Bath's continuing allure and Bristol broadcasting respectively. Then, there's a prize-winning essay from Sp12 student **Kaylee Dyson** (**page 14**) that's bound to induce homesickness (or perhaps *lovesickness?*) for the city; and the tale of a return to Oxford by **Kendall Murphy** (Au04) which will no doubt add envy to that lovesickness (**page 15**)...

Here at ASE, it's been a year of planning, scaffolding (ugh! *scaffolding!*) and building. And I'm not just talking about the messy, fraught, but ultimately satisfying major renovation works carried out at Nelson, Linley and Nunes Houses since I last wrote. I mean, in part, exciting curricular developments - including new internships at the Roman Baths, The Rondo Theatre and a fabulous independent bookshop, Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights. I mean the addition to the ASE recruiting team of a talented and charming US-based Coordinator, who is already representing ASE at fairs, at conferences and on campuses previously beyond our reach (meet **Karlyn Jones** on **page 4**). I'm also referring to a new partnership with The Mission Theatre, which – numbers permitting – is enabling us to launch a first-ever **Theatre Summer School** in 2014 (see the ASE website for details: www.studyabroadbath.org).

But, perhaps above all, I mean the planning and building that's centred on YOU, the extended ASE Family, as we start to usher in 2014, **ASE's Silver Jubilee Year**. (On **page 2** you'll find a round-up of our recent efforts to develop the Alumni Association, and of plans to mark ASE's first 25 Years!)

And so, it's with great pleasure that I say, on behalf of numerous UK and US staff and tutors, past, present (and possibly even future), that we hope very much to see you in Bath in person on **July 2!** And, if not, to see and hear from you as celebrations get underway, over here *and* over there...

Jonathan

ASE's Silver Jubilee

The countdown begins.....

2014 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of Advanced Studies in England's first ever semester. We're going to celebrate in style - and we hope you will too!

Here in Bath we'll be having a day of celebrations on **July 2**, culminating in a special evening party. In due course, as many ASE-connected people as possible will be invited; but we can already confirm the attendance of such luminaries as **Ann Nunes, Barbara White, Chris Pelling and Andy Venn!**

If you think you'd like to attend, sign up for the event on the **ASE in America Facebook page**. Official tickets will go on sale early in 2014, so watch out for more details in the New Year.

We hope, too, that ASE-themed celebrations will be organised across the USA. We'll be asking for volunteers to help set up and run events very soon.

So there should be somewhere - not a million miles from you - to join us in celebrating!

In the countdown to the ASE Silver Jubilee, we've been raiding the archives for past photos. Each week, a dozen or so images from two or three semesters and summers have been posted in the Alumni Galleries here, and a group photo has gone up on the Facebook page.

We have to say, the response has been superb! The pictures have given rise to lots of chatter amongst alums, reminiscences of happy times—and all sorts of shenanigans. They have also helped us reconnect with a lot more of you. Although we are coming to the end of our postings (the last two semesters—Autumn/Fall '98 and Spring '03—will go up on December 10) we hope that you'll continue in the same vein, posting your photos on Facebook and here in the Alumni pages. We'll use many images at the Jubilee Party, and the more pictures we have, the better!

Besides parties in Bath and the USA, we have a number of things in the pipeline for 2014. Dates will soon be announced for our 2014 recruitment trips, and we're keen to tie those in to Jubilee get-togethers....We'll also be asking as many of you as possible to complete an exciting (!) online survey, canvassing your opinions on the future of the Alumni Association. Rob is also hard at work, ploughing through the archives to get back in touch with tutors from past years (they're ASE alums too!), and we're now looking at the possibility of ASE merchandising—both specifically for the Jubilee and more generally (see our request for help below).

It's going to be a very busy lead-up to summer '14 but, hey, it's not every day you're twenty-five years old!

In the lead up to the Silver Jubilee celebrations next summer we are starting to look at developing **Advanced Studies in England merchandise**. Obviously, we are thinking in terms of ASE-branded sweatshirts, rugby shirts, ties, hoodies and that sort of thing. Whilst it is relatively straightforward for us to find a supplier in the UK, we'd also like to find a way to make it easy for alums in the 'States to buy these items too.

If anyone has any experience or advice on sourcing, selling and distributing this sort of thing in the States we'd love to hear from you; drop Rob a line at r.jones@asebath.org

Introducing Rob Jones

ASE's new Academic Administrator and *Romans in Britain* Tutor



It seems a little odd to be saying hello given that I have already been in contact with each and every one of you, but here goes... Hi! I'm Rob Jones and as of January I am ASE's academic administrator.

You already know some of what I do. I'm the one who has been sending you emails asking for contact details and getting you to join the alumni pages of the ASE website (<http://www.studyabroadbath.org/drupal6/alumni/> in case you haven't already done it). I also watch the LinkedIn group ('Advanced Studies in England Alumni') and am one of the voices behind the *ASE in America* pages (I've spent a lot of time looking at your lovely faces as I post up the alumni photos).

My core task, however, is to work with Lucy Marten, the Director of Studies, helping to ensure that the academic program runs smoothly and efficiently, producing exam scripts, - and all of the other mass of paperwork that each semester requires. I also assist in the marketing of the program – preparing material for the webpage, mailing catalogues and leaflets and posters to the various colleges. Most days I can be found doing battle with the ASE database or the dreaded shared drive!

I do wear other hats. I came to ASE as a tutor first. Whilst pursuing my PhD on medieval knighthood and chivalry at Cardiff University, I had a part-time position working as a guide at the Roman Baths. When the PhD finished I continued to work at the Baths (I will almost certainly have talked to some of you during that time without even realising it!) For the Fall semester of 2012, Lucy (whom I knew from the medieval history conference circuit) contacted me asking if I would teach the Programme's *Romans in Britain* course. At the end of the semester the Academic Administrator post became vacant and I applied. The rest is history!

Joining ASE has been great for me. I love my work (even fighting with the database), the people - staff, students and tutors - *and* I get to teach subjects I love. The *Romans* seminars have been great, and from next semester I am also leading a tutorial on medieval knighthood and chivalry. There are very few college posts that give you the opportunity to teach your own subject to such a small group of dedicated and able students. I've even managed to wheedle my hobbies into the mix, introducing this summer's students to the delights of medieval swordplay and Historical European Martial Arts!

Well that's me. It looks like I'll be coming over to the States next year on recruiting trips with Jonathan and Karyn. With the 25th anniversary celebrations coming up that should mean that I get to say hi to you all again, this time in person!



Rob in sword-fighting mode with Summer 13 students.

Full Circle

by Karyn Jones, ASE's new US Recruitment Coordinator



Working with ASE completes a circle for me. My first two jobs after graduate school were in international admissions (at the University of Michigan and Syracuse University), bringing people from other countries to the US. More recently, I served as Assistant Dean of Students, Study Abroad Adviser at Amherst College, and Director of Study Abroad at Yale University, helping students at those institutions to find the right programs all over the world. Now, I am recruiting students for ASE, helping them to understand why Bath might be a great fit for them. The circle (or should that be the *Circus*?) is complete!

Working for colleges and universities for over 25 years, I had long been intrigued by what it would be like to be on the 'other side'. Knowing what I did about programs all over the world, I was clear that there were two programs that really stood out for me – ASE and... another one (we do not speak its name!). So, when Jonathan invited me to join the ASE team, it was a very easy decision to make.

While I've travelled to six continents (still not made it to Antarctica!), eaten exotic foods (maybe the duck's foot in China was a little *too* "exotic") and seen some amazing sights, I know there's not much can compete with the pies in The Raven, or Bath's beautiful Georgian facades and that gorgeous honey-colored stone. For the bibliophiles, Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights (where ASE has a new internship! – ed) is surely one of the great bookshops of the world. I find it nearly impossible to walk out of there without at least one book by an author previously unknown to me.

OK, so they don't have the greatest brownies in the UK (my next career may be to import them!), and I still don't understand Brits' fascination with Weetabix, but that aside I think the new role is a great fit for me. The ASE staff are an amazing bunch, and tremendous fun to be around. And I really enjoy helping US students see the value of a smaller, more intimate program where they can get to know everyone and develop relationships for life.

Having grown up in Wisconsin, I may not have the British accent, but I certainly understand something about the Brits. I've been married to a Welshman for nearly 30 years and my former boss at Amherst was from Derbyshire. There's hardly a castle or a country pub I haven't been dragged to; I can recite a fair amount of Monty Python by heart; and I've learned why curry, not fish and chips, is the true national dish. When I'm not talking to students or travelling, I'm usually reading, either Scandinavian mysteries or social history, baking for friends and family, or dreaming about meeting Hugh Laurie, Alan Rickman or Colin Firth.

Catch up with our tutors

John Stevenson teaches our *Tudors and Stuarts and Women, Culture and Society* courses



When Jonathan asked me to write for ASE Alumni News I suddenly recognised that I have been teaching with the programme for the better part of five years -so much for early retirement! For those who haven't been on my courses I teach both *Tudor and Stuart England* and *Women, Culture and Society in Eighteenth Century England*. They form an interesting contrast for two periods of history that run into each other c. 1700, from the Wars of the Roses and murderous head-chopping (if nothing worse) Tudors to the decorous world of Jane Austen with its polite conversation, balls and fashionable assemblies. But they have something in common, not least Bath itself.

No-one in Bath for more than a few minutes can miss the Abbey only a few hundred yards from Nelson House. In fact, the Abbey is the most prominent Tudor legacy to Bath, but only by lucky chance. Students who visit that wonderful building may scarcely credit that under the Tudors it came within a whisker of being demolished. The Church we now see was a part of Bath Abbey and became a casualty of Henry VIII's Reformation. He determined in the 1530s to dissolve all the monastic foundations, partly because he persuaded himself and others they had become corrupt and outlived their religious purpose. More importantly, he wanted to confiscate their wealth in order to pursue his military ambitions in Europe. The Abbey Church was surplus to requirements and in the unfortunate position of being only part-way through being re-roofed when the dissolution happened. Offered for sale to the town, it was turned down - Bath already had plenty of churches and did not need another one which was half-finished! For decades it was derelict and only under Queen Elizabeth I did the generous gift of the building to the town by its owner lead to its completion and the glorious building we have today.

If the Tudors we study gave Bath its Abbey Church, the eighteenth century gave us most of the Bath we see today, featured in the novels of Jane Austen and many others. By the time Admiral Lord Nelson turned up in Bath in 1780 to recuperate from the serious fever he had picked up in Central America (on a forlorn and disastrous expedition to capture Nicaragua) it was already the most fashionable town in England. Nelson came to convalesce, taking the waters, and was a 'living in' patient to the doctor who lived in Nelson House. Not all the ASE students who have gathered around the table in the Seminar Room in Nelson House realise that they might be sitting in the room where Nelson lay for several weeks recovering from his illness, making daily visits to take the waters at the nearby Pump Room.

The Bath of Lord Nelson and Jane Austen was a place not only to get well but also to have a good time, with a constant round of social events (a bit like an ASE semester?). It was already a tourist destination—the Holborne Museum, where some of you have been interns, was originally built as a

hotel. In fact, the social round could get so wearily routine that one ageing matron complained the only thing it was possible to do differently from the day before was to *die*! No-one, I hope, finds Bath (or my classes!) that boring, especially now a multi-million dollar refurbishment of the Holborne Museum has made it one of the most attractive exhibition venues in Europe.

I have been fortunate that the subjects of both my courses have proved popular with TV and film producers, providing a good starting point when I first meet new ASE students. The love life of Henry VIII has been a staple of TV series such as *The Tudors*, and Queen Elizabeth seems to attract producers regularly. The Pilgrim fathers and Oliver Cromwell have not proved quite so popular with film makers (I wonder why?). The eighteenth century course still trades on the success of films like *The Duchess*—based on the life of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire— much of it set in Bath where she was the centre of the glittering social world based around the Assembly Rooms, spending evenings in high stakes gambling and equally high-level politicking with some of the most powerful men of the day. *Downton Abbey* is a little too late historically speaking, but I await a TV soap based in eighteenth century Bath—I'll be happy to act as the historical adviser, fee negotiable.

Apart from teaching for ASE it has been a particularly busy year for me because one of the people I write about, the radical writer and politician, William Cobbett, is celebrating his 250th anniversary. Still read today, he was a trans-Atlantic radical, spending two periods of his life as a journalist in Philadelphia in the 1790s and as a political exile in 1817-19 when he farmed on Long Island. He liked America, which he admired as a country free of aristocrats and offering a better life for ordinary people, much as the Pilgrim Fathers had felt two centuries earlier. But, like Jane Austen, he didn't much care for Bath (too many aristocrats)! An anthology of his writings compiled by me and another ASE tutor, James Grande, will come out later this year. For now, I look forward to introducing another group of ASE students to the delights of the eighteenth century, aristocrats and all!



John with the A11 Tudors and Stuarts class



John with Sp11 Tudors and Stuarts students at Montacute House

ASE Revisited

by Jeff Michaels, Full Year Student, 1998-99; tutor of *British Intelligence and the Special Relationship*, Spring 2013.



The first image that popped into my head as I opened the door to Nelson House this February was that of Charles Ryder in *Brideshead Revisited*. This was perhaps a bit overdramatic, given the circumstances; though it was exactly 15 years ago that I had first read Evelyn Waugh's masterpiece, sitting in my room at University College. Little did I know at the time that my year with ASE would change my life. Nor could I have guessed that, 15 years later, I would be returning to ASE as a member of the faculty.

Looking back on my 1998-1999 year abroad, I have many fond memories. Prior to my time with ASE, I had been struggling through a degree in Business Administration at Skidmore College. The subject was not one I had any particular interest in. As I finished my sophomore year, I was certain my future would consist of moving from one corporation to the next, from cubicle to cubicle, whilst mastering solitaire. Though I really enjoyed reading about international affairs, as well as military and Russian history, it never occurred to me that I could have a future outside the business world.

My year in Bath changed everything. Among the subjects I studied were the Russian language and contemporary Russian politics. The former allowed me to do weekly tutorials at Oxford, an experience still etched in my memory. The latter was taught by a senior lecturer from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, who worked for an organization based there called the Conflict Studies Research Centre (CSRC). At the end of the Autumn semester, I was invited to continue my Russia studies at the CSRC the following term.

I could not have asked for a better environment in which to write a dissertation on Russian foreign policy after the Cold War. CSRC was home to some of the UK's top experts on the former Soviet Union; it also had a unique atmosphere. At that time, lunch in the Sandhurst mess consisted of a ritual Gin and Tonic before entering the dining room for a three course meal with wine, followed by 45 minutes of coffee and reading the newspaper in leather arm-chairs. For a 20-year old from New Jersey, this was a most unusual world, and I was not keen to leave it anytime soon. But leave it – and ASE - I eventually had to.

My journey back was somewhat unusual. After my Business degree I took on a number of short-term accounting jobs. My Sandhurst tutor, however, took a keen interest in my future and eventually introduced me to a former colleague who was working as the Special Adviser for Central and Eastern European Affairs at NATO HQ in Brussels. Through him I was able to get a six-month internship, escaping the world of accounting and returning to return to my interest in Russia. From Brussels I went on to another research post at the NATO School (SHAPE) in Bavaria.

In the years following, I have had not so much a career as a series of interesting jobs. In Washington, I worked on a contract for Andrew Marshall, known as the 'Yoda' of the Pentagon. This was followed by an MA in War Studies at King's College London. I then returned to Washington and worked for two years as an intelligence officer attached to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Feeling rather suffocated in the Pentagon sub-basement, I moved back to the UK to begin a PhD in War Studies, albeit still working for Uncle Sam. But the civil service was not for me, and so I made the move to academia. Since 2008, I have worked in a number of teaching and research positions at King's College, and now I am based with their embedded staff at the UK Defence Academy at Shrivenham, a short train ride from Bath.

I couldn't resist the opportunity to return to the place where my long journey had started. This Spring, I taught a course for ASE called *British Intelligence and the Special Relationship*. Anyone who has taught in the place they went to school will be familiar with the eerie feeling associated with it. As I looked into the students' faces, recently arrived and still bewildered by this new environment, so many memories flooded back of my own time in Bath. By the end of the course, it was clear to me (even if not to all of the students!) that their horizons had been broadened, and that they would return to the US wiser and more worldly for their time with ASE.



Jeff (back, centre) with Au98 students



Jeff (back, second R) during the Sp99 semester

Time Well Spent

George O’Har, Associate Professor of English at Boston College, reflects on a (record-breaking) fifth summer teaching at ASE.



George at the Su03 Final Tea

This summer I went back to ASE to teach a creative writing course. I had not been to Bath in six years, and I worried a bit that the allure of the city, tangible on every previous visit, might have dissipated some, that the fun and the charms and beauty of Bath would now be lost on me, since I was, in many respects, an old hand. I had taught at ASE four times previously. Additionally, over the course of ten years, the ASE roster itself had changed. Ann Nunes, Barbara White, Andy Venn, people I had come to know and love, were no longer with the program. So, I fretted. I managed to talk myself into thinking I was going to have a terrible time. I expected trouble at the airport, trouble getting to Bath, and five weeks of rain. I figured my students would either dislike me at first sight or, if I got lucky, simply be bored to death.

None of that happened. ASE remains a warm, tight ship, run by a stalwart crew of talented adventurers, some new (Lucy, Lindsay, Rob, Emma), some old (Jonathan, Peta, Su, Andrew Butterworth). Bath itself is as it was: a feast for the eyes. And changes have been made; the city never sleeps. The bus station area has been tastefully revitalized, new restaurants are opening up all the time (my wife and I had an utterly fantastic meal at Menu Gordon Jones, and a perfect martini at the Canary Gin and Wine Bar), and, if you can imagine it, the quality of the buskers has even improved. The hills are as you remember them; so too the glorious giant trees. The munificent flowers, hanging and stationary, continue to be munificent. The Roman statues, hovering like sentinels above the baths, remind you that *you* are as much a part of history as they and the hands that made them are. And every once in a while, for reasons I don’t know, the bells of the Abbey begin to ring with abandon. This makes me inexplicably happy.



George with his Su06 students



George with his Su13 class in Dorset

The weather this summer was the best I have ever experienced in Bath. A bit of rain now and then, to keep things green, but for the most part, sun. At night Bath, much like Venice, turns into a sound stage. You walk about in that wonderful light that never seems to fade and find that the city belongs to you, that you are practically alone. Where else can you do that? Walk through the corridors of a splendid living history and not have to pay a fee, or be told to move on? I’ve walked my way around a goodly number of cities, so I say this with some confidence: Bath is the best city in this part of the galaxy. Anyone who doesn’t agree, or has somehow forgotten, is advised to get on a plane. You won’t be disappointed.

Teaching at ASE, in Bath, has been, and continues to be, a transformative experience. I think about England, and the people I know there—some new, from this summer—all the time. I’m sure the same is true for all ASE alumni. We are a kind of family, born out of a shared experience. I am gratified to be a part of it, a *continuing* part of it. The same, I suspect, is true for us all.

On the Air in Bristol

by Warren Rochelle, Professor of English, Linguistics and Communication at the University of Mary Washington and ASE Summer 13 tutor.



You and Gary did what when you were in England?

We were interviewed on a radio station in Bristol, Ujima Radio—on our last full day in the UK.

What?

Yeah, we were interviewed on the radio in Bristol, Ujima Radio, 98FM, an African-Caribbean station.

Did you plan this?

Uh, no, not really.

It happened this way.

Farah Mendlesohn, a friend of mine, is Professor and Head of Department in the Department of English, Communication, Film and Media at Anglia Ruskin University. I emailed her after arriving in Bath this summer, thinking of a

day trip to London to visit with her and her husband. Our schedules didn't work out for a visit, but she did suggest I get in touch with Cheryl Morgan, a writer, essayist, and critic, and Hugo Award-winner, who lives near Bath.

Sure, why not?

Cheryl invited me and Gary to Bristol Pride the first week of July. We couldn't make it—summer school and other travel plans. She also happened to have her own program on Ujima Radio in Bristol.

Interested in being on the program? Talking about your experiences as tourists in the UK?

We sent her links to my website and to some of the articles Gary has written for Huffington Post and Positive-Lite, including his 16-part series on life with his former partner, Robert, who died of AIDS back in 2002. We both checked out her website and from there, Radio Ujima. She is a transgender woman, and interested in women's issues, energy economics, and science fiction and fantasy. Ujima Radio 98FM ("Keep on Movin'!") "features local voices and aims to inform, represent, educate, entertain and celebrate culture, heritage and diversity within Bristol" (www.ujimaradio.com). According to the BBC, it is "Bristol's urban community radio station" (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes>).

A few days before we consulted again: okay with talking about Trayvon Martin? Books and writing—one of the usual topics for her program, but since the news about Trayvon...

Sure. That marriage equality passed in England and Wales a few days before seemed icing on the cake—although I was hoping the Royal Baby would make an appearance beforehand, too.

You can't have everything.

So, on July 17, a sunny Wednesday morning, Gary and I took a black Yellow Cab down to a long, pink building, with CEEB over the door, at 97 Wilder Street and found ourselves waiting for Cheryl in the station's front office and chatting with the friendly staff, Paulette, and Frances, who had a decided Scottish accent and the tech guy, Mark, who had a magnificent mane of dreadlocks.

Oh, by the way, Paulette told us that we would be sharing the studio with several British teenagers touring the country as part of the National Citizen Service program, exposing them to possible careers.

Okay, I was a little nervous. So was Gary. But Cheryl made us feel more than welcome, just like the rest of Ujima Radio. At noon we were sitting in the little studio, the mikes at the right distance from our faces, the teenagers lined quietly to one side, facing Cheryl and her clipboard of

questions. Mark counted down: three, two, on, and we are live....

We were on the air.

After Cheryl introduced us as guests from America, both of whom happened to be writers, she asked us what had brought us to the UK this summer, and about our impressions of the country. Advanced Studies in England, of course, had brought me to Bath; and Gary, to be a tourist. Great program and the students had a great time. We talked about the places we had been—most recently a two train, two bus jaunt to Tintagel (we took a taxi back to Exeter St. David and the train, by the way), and a day trip to Cardiff—and how much we had enjoyed our time in the UK—even though escaping the summer heat back in Virginia hadn't quite worked out as we had planned.

After that: what was like being gay in the US, would marriage equality be the law of the land there, as it just become in England? Trayvon Martin? AIDS?

We were frank.

At a university, I am somewhat protected. In a big city, like Richmond, with a large gay community, Gary is, too, somewhat. 13 states and the District of Columbia—30% of the country's population—have legalized gay marriage; 6 more, civil unions of one kind or another. But in over 30 states, no. And in many places in Virginia, and too many places elsewhere in the States, no, neither of us would be completely safe—as a couple, as individuals.

Someday, yes. I believe soon.

As for Trayvon Martin: if he had been white, the story would have been completely different.

So it went.

After half-an-hour, our UK radio debut was over. We called Yellow Cab and were on our way back to our hotel.

The next day, we were on our way home.

That's how it happened that we were on the air in Bristol.



Warren at the Bodleian Library with his Su13 students

ASE Properties get a Make-Over!

2012-13 was a busy year on the renovation front at ASE. Here are some **BEFORE** and **AFTER** photos of the major work completed in the past year (and just a few to hint at the unbelievable mess that was made between...!)

*Christmas 2012
Linley House
gets a new
kitchen*



*Nelson House
computer
rooms and
bathrooms*



Summer 2013

Nunes House gets a new roof and an exterior facelift; flats 3 & 4 new kitchens and bathrooms



Nelson House stairwell is redecorated



And we're planning more work for 2014-15...

City Love

Excerpt from a prize winning essay by Kaylee Dyson, Spring 12 student



My study abroad experience felt like a relationship, and the end was like a bad breakup. I spent four incredible months in Bath, England. Boy, was that city out of my league.

Bath was really sexy. First of all, Bath was cool and posh. Everybody loved it. But at the same time, Bath was deliciously cultured and comfortable in its history. And always so well-dressed! Bath sported Georgian architecture like nobody's business. Looks, personality, brains, and style! Bath always spoke to me in a British accent, which made everything sound infinitely more clever and wonderful. We took classes together – Shakespeare, the British media, and a literature class that studied the works of Tolkien, CS Lewis, and Philip Pullman. I tell you in full sincerity that *The Chronicles of Narnia* can be quite romantic. Bath taught me the wonders of the

BBC – I am now a loyal fan of *Doctor Who* and *Sherlock*. And we had our song: “Lego House” by Ed Sheeran. We went on many dates. At first we explored all the new restaurants, but eventually we settled into a comfortable routine with our favorites, like Cafe Nero and Scoffs Sandwich Shop. Bath took me on some lovely vacations in England – we spent several days in Stratford and an entire week at Oxford. We even took a few adventures outside the UK and explored Rome, Paris, and Dublin.

Bath introduced me to some fantastic friends, both American and British. I guess you could say things got pretty serious, because I even introduced Bath to my parents. They were sold in a heartbeat, in love with Bath and proud of me for how well I was doing, how happy I was. Of course we had our ups and downs, our cultural differences. But overall, I spent those four months beaming. It must have been too good to be true. On May 19, 2012, I had to return home to America. It was all over.

I'm not okay. I'm not over it. My friends think I live in the past and that I talk about Bath incessantly. I have a box of all our things under my bed – old train tickets, booklets from museums, photos, a key chain. I'll admit it...sometimes I even look at Bath's Facebook page when I'm feeling low. I don't even want to talk about trying to watch the 2012 London Olympic Games from my couch in America, just weeks after my return. Even when I'm doing well, something will happen and a poignant memory of hiking on the coast or reading in a coffee shop will come hurtling at me. The fragment lodges itself in my chest, and I can't extract it. The worst part is I think Bath has moved on. A friend of mine is now studying abroad in Bath, and they seem really happy together.

A few weeks ago, I was innocently making my way through a magazine. I came across a section where readers were writing in and saying what they wished they had known about love earlier in life. One woman wrote saying that a truly loving relationship gives you strength after it is over. She went on to explain that her husband died in a car accident several years ago and how difficult it was. But she's still here. She recalls the love she and her husband had and shares it with their son every day. And when I read that, something in my heart clicked into place. My experience studying abroad wasn't like a bad break up at all. It was more like the experience this woman was describing. Of course, the end was difficult. It made me intensely sad. My incredible, life-changing experience had been reduced to a memory. But that memory is so strong. And the truth is that Bath isn't dead. It's still going strong across the pond, and it's alive in me as well.

From Austen to Tolkien

Kendall Murphy. Autumn 04 student, reflects on her journey from studying in Bath to working in Oxford.



Kendall and Jenn return to Bath

Little did I know what a phenomenal impact attending ASE in Autumn 2004 would have on my life. Living in Bath for those four precious months on North Parade simply was not enough... of Europe!

While abroad in England I arranged to spend my second semester in Rome. While Italy was a truly unforgettable experience, England was my first true love, so I worked in Oxford for six months with the BUNAC programme after graduating from Washington and Lee University. I then returned to the UK in 2007 for my Masters at the University of Westminster. Living in London was incredible, but the dreaming spires of Oxford felt like home, and eventually I landed a job in devel-

opment at Pembroke College (and discovered that Tolkien was a Fellow here for 20 years!).

When I first returned to Oxford, I was immediately seeking the familiar sights and haunts from that whirlwind ASE residential week. Fortunately, the traditional dislike of change extends not only to the quads of Oxford Colleges but to the drinking establishments as well! In no time at all I was able to meander my way through the narrow cobbled streets to the Turf and Chequers pubs with the best of them...

During the ASE residential at Univ, I don't think I realised how much of an Oxford College experience we were actually receiving. Harry Potter-esque dining halls, winding staircases and secluded cloisters can indeed be found at every turn amongst the Colleges, and I have to admit it is a great place to live and work. It seems that my time with ASE did prepare me for a life in England – to my knowledge I haven't yet committed any horrible *faux pas*. I have even been known to navigate around Oxford on a bicycle (which is something I would never be able to do in the mountains of Virginia!). In August 2011, Jenn Ostromecki (also Au04) came to the UK to visit me, so I had the opportunity to show her around Oxford in more detail and, of course, we took a trip to Bath!

Back in 2004, I never dreamed that living in England was even a remote possibility. After my studies, I was fortunate enough to obtain a post-study visa to work in the UK for two years and have since received sponsorship from Pembroke to remain here. The visa application process can be a bit tricky, but I would highly recommend further study or working in the UK to all ASE alums. At work, I've been in charge of fundraising mailings and telephone campaigns for the past couple of years, but I still frequently attend Pembroke's alumni events and contribute to various newsletters and publications.

It's exciting to hear about ASE's own Alumni Association developing and I'm really looking forward to what lies ahead - the Silver Jubilee event in July 2014 will be a fantastic way to boost the ASE alumni network!

The Royal (and the ASE) Baby

By Lindsay Orchard, Associate Dean of Students



In the early stages of her pregnancy, the Duchess of Cambridge suffered from an extreme form of morning sickness, for which she had to be hospitalised. Royal events are often accompanied by a novelty sick bag for those who cannot stomach the twenty-four hour news coverage, but never has a piece of tacky gift shop merchandise seemed so apt!

Once the Duchess had left hospital, speculation turned to whether the baby would be a boy or a girl. The passing of the Succession to the Crown Act in April meant that, should the new royal baby be a girl, she would remain third in line to the throne even if William and Kate were to go on to have any sons.

Such a significant constitutional shift certainly added an extra frisson to tea time conversation, not to mention the aforementioned rolling news reports, once the Duchess had gone into labour.



for the first time since Queen Victoria was pictured with Edward VII, George V and Edward VIII in 1894.

On the 22nd July 2013, the birth of Prince George of Cambridge was announced in the traditional manner, on an easel placed outside the gates of Buckingham Palace. After all the talk of female accession, the birth of a boy means that Queen Elizabeth II now has three male successors. The subsequent christening provided an opportunity to photograph Britain's living monarch with three future kings



ASE *Jane Austen* tutor Helena Kelly and her husband Dave Armstrong were delighted to announce the birth of Rory Armstrong-Kelly on Saturday 16th April. He really is a beautiful boy!

Congratulations to Helena and Dave, and to all of you who have become parents this year!!



Bath on Film

By Lindsay Orchard, Associate Dean of Students

Bath provides a unique backdrop for film makers and is used for a variety of productions including, most obviously, period dramas. Here are some that you have probably seen and some lesser known examples.

The Music Lovers (1970) - the Pump Room



Barry Lyndon (1975) - Royal Victoria Park



The Remains of the Day (1993) -
Dyrham Park



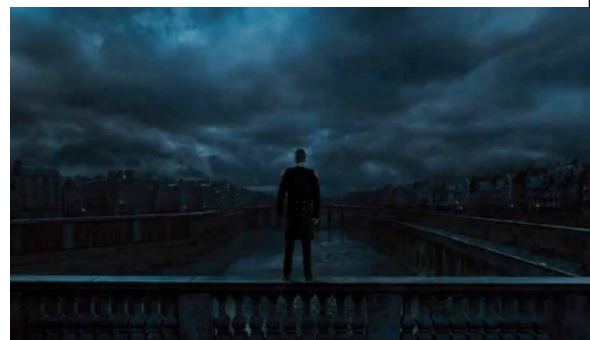
Persuasion (1995) - Assembly Rooms,
Abbey Green, Sydney Place



Vanity Fair (2004) - Great Pulteney Street,
The Holbourne Museum



Les Miserables (2012) - Pulteney Bridge





They Came To Bath

Every year alums make the special trip back to Bath for reunions, a bit of nostalgia or to show loved ones where they misspent their youth...



Kat Atwater (Sp06) visited in December '12. During her visit, she paid a visit to Linley House, her former ASE residence. Kat was taking a break from graduate studies at the

London School of Economics.



Tessa in the new Linley kitchen

Tessa Resta-Flarer (Sp10) visited in April. She has been recently hired as a Kindergarten teacher in Brooklyn. At the time of her visit, Tessa was living in Florence, Italy as part of a teaching internship.

Lauren Grau (FY04-05) and Brian New (Sp05) visited in April. They have recently moved to California from DC and now live their with

their rescued Formosan Mountain Dog, Luna, and kitten Shadow. They got married in their backyard in August 2011.



Kat visiting Linley House

Abigail Heller (Su10) took a trip to Bath in May to attend our UK alumni summit at Nelson House. She was studying for a Masters in Politics and Government of the EU at the London School of Economics. She has now graduated from that programme and is applying for PhD programmes in the US.

Kendall Murphy (Au04) also attended the alumni summit in May. After graduating from Washington and Lee, she completed an MA at the University of Westminster. She is now working in the development office at Pembroke College, Oxford.

Miriam Grinberg (Au09) was another attendee at the summit in May. She is currently studying for a PhD at the University of Warwick. Her studies form part of the East Asia Fellowship and she is preparing for her fieldwork in the US and Japan next year.



The alumni summit delegates outside Nelson House

Susan Gordon (Sp91) also visited in May for the alumni summit.



Lauren and Brian in Parade Gardens

Deirdre Roche (Au11) visited in June. She graduated from F&M and went backpacking through Europe. She is moving to Berlin to live with her German boyfriend.

Dabney Rice (Sp13) returned to Nelson House in June, after travelling with friends and family at the end of the semester.

Sara Barrell Carlucci (Au04) came to visit in July. She married Matthew Carlucci a few weeks before and is working as a speech language pathologist for NYC Department of Education.



Deidre and friend enjoying tea in the Nelson House staffroom



Dabney and family with Lucy outside Nelson House



Chris and family enjoying the (rare) Bath sunshine

Christopher Tannock (Sp03) visited in July. He is living back home in Bermuda with his wife, Danielle and two children, Josiah and Mathias. He is currently working as a high school teacher.

Rob Flint (Au93) stopped by in July. He is married to Shannon and they have three children, Ryan, Emma and Jack. He is working as an emergency physician in Maryland.

Annie Nybo (Au10) visited in August. She is currently working at McElderry Books, Simon and Schuster (alongside other alumnae). She is working with authors like Cassandra Clare and Susan Cooper.

If you are planning a trip to Bath, do let us know and arrange a time to pop in for a cup of tea! You are always welcome— but apologies to those who come over weekends, holidays or during Programme events and find us not here!



Updates From Alums!



Sharon Eppler née Feinroth (Sp90) got in touch to say she had such a great experience at ASE and remembers it like it was yesterday!

Beth Widmaier Capo (Sp94) is proud to announce the birth of her daughter, Claire Marie Capo, on 20th July 2013.

Erin Donovan (Sp99) is just finishing the last chapter of her dissertation which is on the illuminated 15th Century manuscript of the Livre d'Eracles, which is a history of the crusades.

Kate Martz née Farran (Au00) married Matt Martz (also an alum) in September 2005 and they have a four year old son Jack. They had such a fun time at ASE and hope that all study abroad students are lucky enough to have such a great experience.

Melissa Hozik (Sp03) is self-publishing a comic book that she wrote about bipolar disorder, geared towards children and young adults. The artist formerly worked for DC Comics, and it will hopefully be out for sale later this year. The support she received from staff at ASE, before being formally diagnosed, helped her to start learning to live with the disorder. She keeps in touch with Stacy [Smoyer] Phillips, and hopes to find a way to get back to Bath for the anniversary next July.

Lauren Lombardo (Au03) is working as a post-graduate fellow at a law office in NYC while she looks for a full time post. She is an attorney for children in custody and visitation cases which she finds very rewarding.

Laura Perrings (Au06) is currently at Texas A&M University working on her PhD in English Literature.

Frank Hoban (Sp08) is currently working as the foreign manager of a top restaurant in China. He is training staff in English language and etiquette and hosting events. This follows four years teaching there.

Cristin Stephens (Su08) has recently begun an M.S.Ed. In Education, Culture and Society at UPenn.

Virginia Claire Tharrington (Au08) left China in July 2013, where she had been teaching 2nd grade at an international school, to start law school in the US. In the previous year she travelled in Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Egypt (over the 1 year anniversary of the Revolution) Tanzania (on safari), and Zambia. She keeps in touch with several of her housemates and still makes people green with envy when she tells them she took a class on CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien; though interning at the Jane Austen Centre was the real highlight of her ASE experience. She wants to go back to Bath as it is still her favorite city!



Virginia Claire in Shanghai

Corallina Breuer (Su09) graduated from Denison in May 2011 with a degree in English Literature and Educational Studies. Immediately after graduation she became an AmeriCorps VISTA and served a year with Ohio Campus Compact building capacity for programs at colleges across the state that engage students in poverty alleviation work in their communities. When her year of service came to an end in July 2012, she was hired by Ohio Campus Compact to co-direct their non-partisan election engagement project for the 2012 election season. That project came to an end in July (2013) and since then she has been traveling Europe, exploring community gardens and meeting lots of neat folks! She has just been accepted to a position with Maine Campus Compact as their VISTA Leader for their College Access program. She moved to Lewiston, ME at the end of September, and would love to meet up with alums in the area!

Sarah Short (Sp10) earned her Masters degree in French from Middlebury College in August 2013, after spending a year in Paris. She will be returning to Paris for another year to start a Masters in Applied Translation at the Sorbonne.

Rebecca Rawling (Su10) got her Masters degree in literature from the University of Rochester and has been working for the University of Rochester press, which is part of the UK press Boydell Brewer. She enjoyed meeting up with Jonathan and other ASE alums during his Rochester visit this year.

Emily Loney (Au11) is starting the first year of a PhD program in English Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Hanna Bertoldi (Sp13) recently completed her third summer working for the Mugello Valley Archaeological Project (MVAP) as object registrar and cataloger. The Mugello Valley Archaeological Project and Poggio Colla Field School center on the excavation of Poggio Colla, an Etruscan settlement site in the Mugello near the modern town of Vicchio, about twenty miles northeast of Florence, Italy. The Fieldwork Fellowship Award granted by the Etruscan Foundation enabled her to assist in this season's excavations and continue her own research into *sigla* (marks on artefacts that are symbols or non-verbal characters). Her research and position as registrar this summer will greatly contribute to the completion of a one-year masters in Artefact Studies at University College, London.



You are welcome to send us your news throughout the year and (with your permission) we will publish it in the annual newsletter. Whether it is an exciting career development, a reunion, a wedding or a baby, we'd love to hear about it...

It's always great to have photos from you to accompany the stories—particularly if you have met up with other ASE alums!

*Email Lindsay:
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