

ASE ALUMNI NEWS, 2015



Dearest ASE Alums,

Welcome to the **ASE Alumni News** for 2015!

It's a dark, blustery afternoon here in Bath, and I've just made my way through fairy-lit streets thronging with Christmas shoppers to the relative peace and quiet of Nelson House (peaceful because, this being the last Saturday of the semester, there are no students and staff to be seen!). On the way, I was trying to think of a word or two to sum up the past year at ASE, and the best I could come up with – perhaps because of the thronging streets – was **PACKED**...

It's fitting, then, that the packed pages following are festively preoccupied with the previous packed year in all its most rewarding aspects! We've packed in a rich array of articles which collectively defy the notion that our acronym really stands for 'Advanced Studies in *English*': the pieces reflect the broad, and broadening, liberal arts curriculum that lies at the heart of the ASE experience.

Thespians among you will be delighted to see Theatre and Performance looming ever larger at ASE. There are items by two recent students, **Nicky Cooper** and **Bev Kippenham**, who've relished their involvement with our Theatre Summer School (which ran for the second time in 2015); and by **Stephen Weber** and **Heather Harris**, two more senior alums who continue to draw on their UK theatrical experiences for professional inspiration. For those with a penchant for Politics, History, or both, there are reflections from two eminent professors we've been fortunate enough to have teach on the ASE Programme: first, **Stephen Medvic** from Franklin and Marshall College, PA; second, University College's very own **Leslie Mitchell**, who is retiring after ten years plus of weekly seminars in Bath. If the visual arts are your thing, perhaps it will be former ASE Printmaking tutor **Jim Dales'** article, retracing the path to his latest novel (inspired by the life of Rembrandt) that will catch your eye; or perhaps the photos from our new Fine Art tutorial, born this year of a partnership with central Bath's coolest exhibition and studio space, 44AD.

Things have been packed on the ASE housing front, too – and in one unfortunate case, *packed away*, as we said goodbye, after more than 15 years, to much-loved student residence **5 Clarendon Villas**. You'll find suitably stirring Clarendonian commemorations below, along with articles by recent alums **Meghan Burrows** and **Kerry Bisaga** inspired by **Linley House** and **29 Northampton**, as well as by the pleasures of making 'proper tea', and the perils of messy male housemates...

There are also updates from four of my delightful colleagues, **Rob Jones**, **Karyn Jones** (no relation), **Laura Bartsch** and last but not least **Lindsay Orchard**, whose super-cute daughter Imogen celebrates her first birthday in just a few weeks' time!

Here's to a fun-packed 2016 to all of you!

Jonathan Hope, ASE Dean and Director



The Dean and Director on the mean streets of Gettysburg College this fall.

Teaching Shakespeare at The Globe

Stephen Weber (Su98) recounts a summer spent in London, rekindling a passion for teaching the Bard at high school

I've been an Anglophile for my entire life, or for at least as much of it as I can remember. Julie Andrews and Angela Lansbury are probably to blame, but no matter: the fact is, if I don't set foot on English soil at least every five or six years I get cranky. This is what brought me to Bath and ASE to begin with, first in the summer of 1998 as a student, then as a graduate intern for the 2000-2001 school year, and I've been back periodically ever since.

In January of this year, however, it occurred to me that I hadn't eaten a Ben's Cookie since 2010. 'How could this be?!' I lamented, 'Totally unacceptable!' But I've never been one to dwell on misfortune, so I turned my computer on and began to search for opportunities. I teach English at a high school in New York City; "Surely someone in the UK offers study abroad program(me)s for teachers?" I thought.

Guess what? They do.

Every summer Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on London's South Bank offers a course for American English and Drama teachers called *Teaching Shakespeare through Performance*. It's designed to give teachers the strategies to help students feel that Shakespeare's works live and breathe today. Rather than demeaning the Bard generation after generation with dreary, sedentary class readings, the Education department at the Globe turns teachers into actors – and showed us how to do the same with our students.

Although I hope the experience I create with my students will be incredible (I plan to direct *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this spring, my first attempt at directing Shakespeare!), it won't be quite the same as what we were able to do this summer. Our ensemble of teacher-actors spent two weeks preparing scenes from *As You Like It* that we performed *on the Globe stage itself* (!!!), as well as in the new Wanamaker Playhouse, a reproduction of an indoor Elizabethan theatre. Despite being a replica – and therefore not *the* theatre where Shakespeare's works were first staged – the current Globe has showcased some of the finest Shakespearean actors of our lifetime, and now we are a part of its story (I'm confident my turn as Rosalind will not soon be forgotten!). I knew I was in good company when I looked around during the first rehearsal on the stage itself and saw I wasn't the only teacher who was tearing up.





I wouldn't have said that I was burned out from teaching, but the Globe definitely rekindled a passion that must have been slowly cooling. I brought the games, activities and strategies we learned into my classroom on the very first day of school this year and every one of them has been a huge success. Incidentally, if you're a high school English or Drama teacher (and I'm guessing more than a few of you reading this are), you should definitely look into this program. And if you want tips on how to get it fully funded (as I did), contact me; we'll talk.

I spent two days in Bath before my experience in London began, getting there just in time to enjoy the end of the ASE summer school's Final Tea. I caught up with Jonathan, Su, Peta, Rob and the current ASE gang as they took their group picture exactly where we took ours in the summer of 1998. I had a pint of cider at the Huntsman with several students who took part in ASE's fantastic (and relatively new) Theatre Summer School. They were lively, intelligent and as sad to leave as the rest of us were when our time in Bath was up.

As for that cookie from Ben's that I dreamt of in January...well, I had it in July. So you know, Ben's Cookies is still tucked away in the little side street right where we all left it. Their white chocolate cookie is still warm, divine and gooey, and best enjoyed in front of Bath Abbey, where overly flirtatious acrobats still juggle fire on unicycles in front of appreciative crowds near the entrance of the Pump Room, where Jane Austen took the waters as she looked down into the ruins of the ancient Roman bathhouse.

After writing that last sentence it's clear that I'm going to spend the rest of the evening on the internet trying to plan out my next UK adventure.

I wonder what kind of summer workshops the RSC offers....

(Interested in learning more about Teaching Shakespeare Through Performance? Here's a link:

<http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education/teachers/courses-for-teachers/teachers-summer-school>)

Reverse Culture Shock

Excerpt from a transcript of **Bev Kippenham** (Su15)'s video, recorded on returning to the USA after five weeks on ASE's Theatre Summer School.



Hey guys, it's Bev. I've been back from England for about 4 weeks now. And I'm still not over it. I'm nowhere near over it. You guys don't even know what happened to me over there. I have changed so much. And I can't – I can't even begin to describe how I've changed and how much I've changed... Every time I think about it, I just - I wanna talk about it. And that's why I'm making this video. I wanna talk about it so badly.

And it's – it's almost hard to talk about it because I lived there for five weeks – five and a half weeks – and it was my life. I went to the grocery store, I went to school, I went to the pub every now and again, I went to the club. I lived. I lived in Bath...for five weeks. And now I'm in Texas and I actually feel like I'm under appreciating it. Because I've never been to Texas and I should be so excited to be here but...I'm not. I'm – I'm not. I'm almost about to leave and I'm – I'm not gonna miss Texas, but I don't wanna go back to Virginia. I wanna go back to England. I've known since it was three weeks in. I remember saying to my friend – we were in Southwark, England, which is an amazing part of London; it's where the National Theatre is, where Southwark Cathedral is - and we had just finished seeing *The Beaux Strategem* at the National and we were walking by the river and I say to my friend Nicky – 'Nicky...how – how am I gonna go home? How can I – how can I possibly leave this place? I've never felt so at home.'

And honestly, I hated admitting this to my parents, well it was my mother, I didn't miss them for a second. I didn't miss my friends, I love my friends. I love them, I love them, I love them. I love my parents and I love my brothers, but I didn't miss any of it. I didn't miss the United States, I didn't miss my family, I didn't miss my friends, I didn't miss my school. I wanted to stay in England...for the rest of my life and have these people that I had met, these six other theatre people – these six other actors – I wanted them to stay my family. And the people that I had lived on Prior Park Road with, I wanted them to stay my family. I wanted to stay.



My mom even said, she's like 'I was not worried about you, like I thought I would be. My soul was at peace because I knew that you were where you were supposed to be.' And I think that's one of the most beautiful things that a parent can tell their child. It's that they didn't have to worry about you because they knew you would be okay.

They call it reverse culture shock. It's when you've lived in a different culture for so long that what was once familiar to you is now foreign. It is as though you are going to something that you never experienced even though that's how you lived for 20 years in my case – 20 and a half years. And you experience sort of a feeling of loss and you feel...empty sometimes. I haven't experienced that since I've been in Texas, which is really great, but I do feel like a part of me is missing.

But....if you ever have the chance to study abroad, you should do it. Go for as long as you want. Go for 5 weeks, go for a whole summer, go for a semester, go for a year. Do it. You will never regret doing it because it changed my life. I have a whole new goal. The goal was New York. The goal was Broadway. The goal is not Broadway anymore. The goal is The Royal Shakespeare Company, the goal is the National, the goal is The Globe. The goal is all of these theatres in England that I got to see and I want to be a part of that. I want to live that. That life.

So I'm not gonna waste any time. I'm gonna save up. I'm gonna hone my acting skills so that I can hopefully get into drama school. I'm looking at East15 and LAMDA and City Central and RADA even though RADA's not really where I wanna go necessarily. But. I'm ready to go back. I've been ready since the minute I watched my bus take off from the station. I've been ready since I watched my friend Nicky walk into the train station and I had to go back to my house to finish to pack.

I've been ready to go back since before I even left.



Token Brit

Nicky Cooper, a Bath Spa University student who joined Theatre Summer School in 2014 and 2015, reflects on his experiences with ASE



I remember when I first read about it. I was in my second year at university up in Bath and I was scrolling through my news feed on my phone – as I do far too often of a day – when I saw a promotion for a new theatre summer school starting in Bath.

I was genuinely in awe of the opportunity I saw before me. All those trips to see shows in amazing places, an acting class that would explore theatre from different walks of life: I was immediately enthused to try and get involved! I never held out much hope for getting in. There would be better people applying, I didn't stand a chance. But I *was* accepted – and not only onto the course but into the amazing little family that is ASE.

And that's the best way I can describe ASE: they are kind and caring and always there for everyone and anyone. I have made so many fantastic friends since I first got in touch that to single anybody out would be unfair. But to everyone I have had the pleasure to get to know from across the Pond, and closer to home, I hope that our paths can cross again in the near future because our times together will stick with me. Such special memories.

We had lots of fun, but we worked hard too, dividing our time between different kinds of drama: Shakespeare, Restoration Comedy, contemporary scenes and fully devised theatre. Shakespeare was where we started our work, trying to find a sense of 'play' within the text. From there, we went on to learn about the ridiculous and wonderful eccentricity of Restoration, and its stark contrast to the subtler tones required for contemporary theatre. Working as a group with our fantastic tutors, Ian and Siouxsie, to put these scenes together for the final performance at 'Write Night' was a truly great experience.



But most satisfying for me was getting the opportunity, twice, to devise a new piece of theatre that was entirely unique to each group I worked with. Seeing our ideas come together over many weeks felt like a like such a unifying experience, and to produce shows to be proud of at the end of both courses made all the work we put in feel so worthwhile. Add to this the exciting overnight trips to London and Stratford-Upon-Avon (now one of my favourite places in the world) to see live theatre at its very best and you have a couple of unforgettable summers.

Though I've now graduated with a degree in Drama and Film, I didn't want to say goodbye to Bath (like many of you I'm sure!), so I've stuck around to do a Masters in Performing Shakespeare! And next year I will, unbelievably, have the honour to perform on the stage at the Globe Theatre – where, thanks to ASE, I have seen two mind-blowing performances.

So, to both my ASE Theatre Summer School families, I love and miss the lot of you. The best of luck until we meet again!

Forever your token Brit – Nicky

Drama Queen

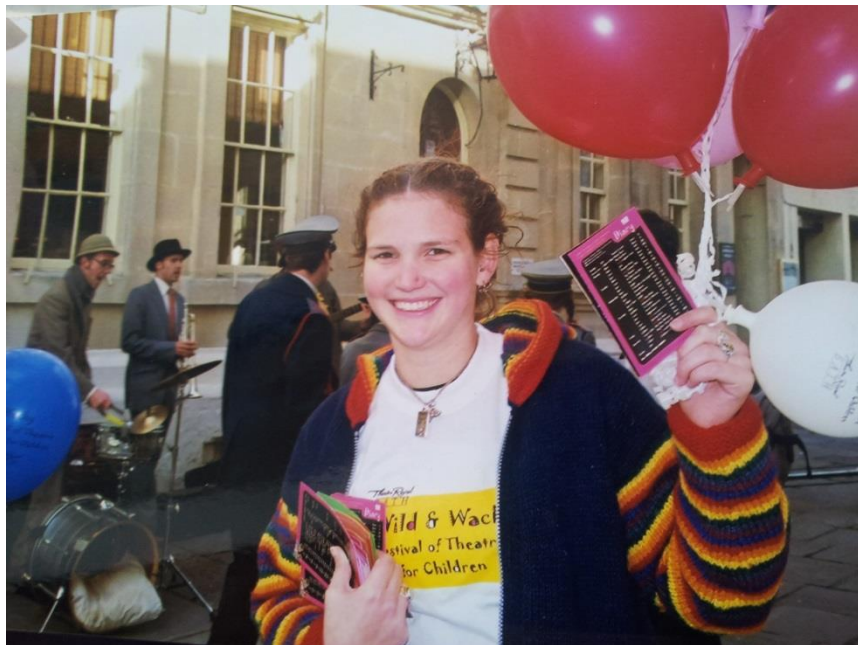
Heather Harris (Au02/Sp03) looks back on her internship at the Theatre Royal, Bath, and how it has shaped her professional life since

I had always been a bit of a drama queen. My mother tells stories of me as a toddler checking my face in the oven glass to make sure that my temper tantrums were reading just right to my intended audience. As a teen, I translated this love for theatrics into days and nights spent rehearsing and performing at our local community theatre. I carried on during my first two years at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, performing in as many plays as possible and working in set design and construction.



So, it is no surprise that I was drawn to ASE's course offerings in theatre, as well as to the internship offered at the Theatre Royal. Only now, over thirteen years later, can I articulate exactly how meaningful that experience was in shaping my career trajectory.

At the Theatre Royal, I worked under the supervision of the then Education Officer, Jamie Luck, who was coordinating everything from the theatre's post-show discussions to its Saturday workshops and community outreach initiatives. He could so easily have relegated me to a copy-maker and coffee (errr...I



mean tea) fetcher. But Jamie took his role as intern mentor seriously, always finding meaningful work for me to do. I ran around to every shop in Bath soliciting sponsorships of our various programs; I gave tours of the Theatre, enjoying the chance to spook patrons with its haunted history. Most importantly, I worked as a teaching artist, leading my own workshops and co-teaching with Jamie and others. The most memorable of these was a program for students excluded from traditional schooling who were using the dramatic arts as a bridge back into mainstream education. This experience firmly instilled

in me the necessity of expanding the reach of artistic institutions beyond the walls of privilege.

My time at the Theatre Royal also left me with an expanded view of what sort of future I might have. It was my first time working at the intersection of the arts and education, and I have been doing so in some capacity ever since. I had also always loved children, but it wasn't until arriving in Bath that I began to realize education and the arts were a viable mixture that was not only fun, but could also produce a career.

After returning to the States, I pursued a Master's degree in Educational Theatre from New York University. This led to many opportunities, including performing Shakespeare in schools across New York City, studying with students of renowned theatre artist (and proponent of social justice in the arts) Augusto Boal in Puerto Rico, and teaching theatrical improvisation to elementary school students. Eventually, I began teaching full time, first in a middle school on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and later at a combined middle and high school in the Hamilton Heights section of Harlem. Between these two stints, I went abroad again, spending a year in Buenos Aires, where I worked for a touring theatre company that performed plays in English for Spanish-speaking students. I toured throughout the continent, crossing the Andes in a white cargo van that doubled as a tour bus, sometimes performing three shows a day before packing up and heading to the next city.



After three years at the school in Harlem, I grew more and more frustrated with the role of the arts in schools. With the heightened emphasis on

standardized testing, I saw them being increasingly marginalized and was distraught when I saw students pulled from their art, music, and drama classes for remedial math and reading sessions. My time at the Theatre Royal had shown me that you do not have to be in the formal schooling sector to have an impact on arts education. I wanted to increase my capacity as an advocate for the arts and broaden my influence on arts education policy. To that end, I decided to pursue a PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Curriculum & Instruction, with an emphasis on aesthetic education. I was able to put my research into practice at the university's art museum, where I coordinated their education programs, including an innovative partnership called KAM-WAM, which enabled elementary school students to spend an entire week in a museum, giving them a chance to engage with the collection in a much more in-depth way than the traditional one-hour field trip.

Recently, a dream job arose for me in my hometown, leading educational programs at a brand new art museum in Morgantown, West Virginia. I moved back this August. My position is, in many ways, similar to the one that Jamie Luck held in Bath all those years ago. Now, it is my turn to conceptualize those programs that will make the arts accessible, my turn to engage new audiences and mentor university students who work as my interns and work study employees.

I returned to Bath for a visit this summer, just a few days before I received the job offer. I could not help reflecting on how much ASE and the Theatre Royal shaped my journey.

Memories of 5 Clarendon Villas



One of my favorite memories is my housemates' last meal together at Clarendon Villas, right before we left at the end of the semester. We had ordered Thai food from Salathai on Pierrepont Street on our first night together in Bath and so we did the same thing for our last meal. It was a bittersweet ending to an incredible four months spent together in Bath.

- Liz Williams (Sp12, Gettysburg College)

Everyone in Widcombe Hills seemed to welcome us with open arms, reminding us Americans what the true

meaning of 'neighbour' is. When my first Sunday in Bath rolled around, I strolled up the hill to St. Thomas á Becket Church for morning service. I was greeted and welcomed by everyone I met, and by the end of the service (having made the mistake of sitting next to the organist) I had been recruited into the choir! Over the next few months, I grew to love the new friends I had made. As B. (the church organist) said to me as I walked her home the last time, "You'll always have a piece of Bath with you, and it will always have a place for you." That's what Widcombe (and Bath overall) do: they take in strangers and give them a home for the rest of their lives.

- Heather Smith (Au11, Gettysburg College)



It was more my home than any dorm or apartment at college ever was, and I was only there for five weeks! I immediately felt like I belonged, something that is rarely true of a new place. Everyone in our house got along; we all loved 90s pop music and Disney movies and acting silly just because we could. Clarendon Villas wouldn't mean as much without the people who lived there with me, but I don't think we would have meant as much to each other without Clarendon Villas.

- Colleen Clark (Su12, University of Mary Washington)

We marvelled at the wardrobes that must have been passages to Narnia. We were mystified by the intricacies of the washing machine, we became masters at composting, and we frequently forgot that the oven worked in Celsius, not Fahrenheit.



- Clare McCormick (Su14, Hobart and William Smith Colleges)



My favorite memories have to include marathon sessions of *Law & Order*, *LOST*, and *Grey's Anatomy*. We elevated box-set binging to an art form!

There are also fuzzy memories of our end-of-term BBQ. However I won't be the one to spill those secrets.

- Mavreen Schmiel (Sp06, Hobart and William Smith Colleges)



My favorite memories involve stepping outside the narrow little house into the wonderful world of Widcombe. Being situated halfway up what felt like the steepest of Bath's seven hills seemed like a disadvantage when you were hauling your groceries back from Sainsbury's, but I maintain that the local cheeses from the Farmer's market always tasted better after the hike. I'll never know which I enjoyed more: turning down the hill and finding myself in Widcombe, where the German girl in the little coffee shop by the canal knew my name and my tea order within a week of term starting, or walking up the hill and finding ample reward for my aching calves in the pastoral glories of

Smallcombe Vale. From there, you could follow the National Trust trails through the pastures (if the cows didn't get in the way) into Smallcombe Wood to the Old Bathwick Church, ruined and lovely as a Romantic poet's dream.

Perhaps the best part of living in Widcombe was the feeling of really belonging to the neighborhood for three months—watching the family across the street walk their five golden retriever puppies and six tow-headed children up the street on Saturday mornings, and getting locked out on a sunny afternoon and using the excuse to sit on the stoop and chat with the man from No. 2 about Keats.

- Anna Barnes (Au12, Williams College)

While this isn't necessarily part of the house it was *because* of the house - the walk to and from the city center was one of my favorite parts of living in Bath. Even though at the end of the day I cursed that uphill walk to the front door, I looked forward to walking into the city and taking in the sites. One of my favorite places to stop was on the way up the hill, near the front door. When the sun was setting it was so pretty to look at, you could see the not so distant hills behind the church steeple (probably covered by the townhouses at this point, they were in construction when we were there).

- Niki Rokicki (Su14, Gettysburg College)



From the moment I stepped into Clarendon, I knew it would become my home. I loved the children's literature theme, and the quaint décor, and the situation in a lovely residential area. We, the ladies of Clarendon, also loved being in Widcombe. Living in a house, especially one where we could cook for ourselves, and spend time in our very own garden (and hang our laundry outside), made Bath feel like home. I feel like I got to know Bath's history better

by living in Clarendon, which was in an older part of the city. Clarendon Villas is one of the things I will miss most about Bath!

- Catie DiElsi (Su15, Wellesley College)



Living in Clarendon connected me to previous students who had studied abroad with ASE in prior sessions. One of my friends from UMW, Colleen Clark, also lived there when she studied abroad and although we did not have the same experiences or people in our sessions, we can talk about our love for Clarendon.

- Maggie Stough (Su14, University of Mary Washington)

One of my favorite memories of Clarendon Villas was actually the very last time I was there. I was the first of the Clarendon ladies to leave for the US. My bus left for Bristol at 5:30AM. My roommate and friends got up that early in the morning to send me off, say goodbye. I felt very loved, and knew for sure that I would always be

able to call Clarendon, and the women I shared that house with, a home.

I loved writing my letter to the next inhabitants of the special Jungle-themed room on the top floor. Aliza and I made a pretty good list of the fun places to go to in Bath. I was happy to learn that my good friend and F&M roommate would be staying in there two semesters after I did! The legacy lived on!

- Livia Meneghin (Au13, Franklin and Marshall College)

Clarendon Villas will always have a special place in my heart because for a whole semester it was my home. A place where I met seven incredible ladies and formed friendships that I know will last a lifetime.



One of my favorite memories was the living room, with that couch that you sank into or the large windows that gave a great view of our little backyard. I loved how when it was sunny the whole room would fill with sunshine and created a warmth that just invited you in. That living room was where, on the first day we 8 members of Clarendon Villas, still travel worn and bleary eyed, laughed and watched Disney movies to fight off sleep. I loved that living room because it was cosy, comfortable and felt like home. It was a place we all drifted too and became the central spot to meet up, whether to all head out to the pub or to the meeting spot for class trips. I loved that living room.

- Charlotte Hughes (Au14, Franklin and Marshall College)



Road Warrior

ASE's US Recruitment Co-ordinator, **Karyn Jones**, updates us from the road

Greetings from Carlisle, PA – or wherever I am on the road by the time you read this!

My husband has long had a Ben & Jerry's bumper sticker in his office that says 'If it's not fun, why do it?' Well, it has been three years since I made my first campus visit on behalf of ASE, and I'm still having fun. The enjoyment I've had comes from working with a great group of ASE colleagues (albeit much of the time via FaceTime and email), and our campus friends – the study abroad advisers, faculty and (especially) our alums, who help us to spread the word about the wonders of studying and living in Bath.



Since my first campus visits in autumn 2012, I've logged thousands of miles in cars and planes (and once, a train) and chatted about ASE with hundreds of students – most new to us, but also with our alumni now returned to their campuses and excited to tell me their stories about their 'home' in England.

My fellow 'Road Warriors', many of whom I have known for years through my former positions in study abroad offices, welcomed me into the fold from day one (the surprised looks from them when I showed up on the 'other side of the table' at study abroad fairs were priceless), and have provided plenty of good advice – from parking tips, to which colleges' students aren't terribly keen on signing up at fair tables (you know who you are!), to where to find reliable, free wi-fi. One of my road friends has even toyed with starting a Facebook page for photos of bad, sad road meals, to which I will happily contribute. I've also become quite adept at finding independent bookstores near our partner campuses – to my mind it's the best way to spend an evening, even if budgets and luggage space sometimes overrule my obligation to buy at least one book in each shop I visit!

Winter fairs and visits are the best (although leaf peeping season is quite special too)! As a Midwestern transplant, I miss 'real' winters here in south central PA, so getting to travel to U of R, St. Mike's and Skidmore for their January and February fairs is perfect – even when I have to drive through white-out conditions, or get stuck an extra night somewhere. My trusty Volvo, snow boots and Icelandic sweater are happy to get a workout but (ironically) snow and ice caused me to spend three nights in an Atlanta airport hotel when the southeastern US got socked by an icy Winter storm and all the campuses closed – just another road adventure.

As fun as all of this is, I never lose sight of my goal – to introduce as many new students, faculty and study abroad staff to ASE as possible. I've been able to chat with friends old and new about the high quality academics and personal programme structure we can provide their students, but I also value the contacts made through all our campus colleagues – in particular, our alums. Over the years we've been contacted by many of you who are now teaching or working in administrative positions at colleges and universities throughout the US and asked 'Why isn't my college using ASE?' and 'What can I do to help?'

Your introductions can provide the critical impetus, the foot in the door we need to start a conversation with study abroad offices and other faculty. So, please keep them coming!

Imogen Arrives

Lindsay Orchard, ASE Associate Dean of Students, on becoming a mum – and changing jobs for a year

This year I have been lucky enough to have a year off from my role at ASE to look after our new baby daughter, Imogen. My fiancé Leon and I had convinced ourselves we were having a boy, so it was a wonderful surprise to welcome her to the world on 6th January. I was amazed at how familiar her face was to me from the Ultrasound scans, especially the shape of her nose and mouth. We were both completely smitten.

Bringing her home was daunting and we quickly realised that no amount of baby books, ante natal classes and Google searching can really prepare you for the task of looking after a new-born baby. We tried to relax and assume that Imogen's very loud



integral alarm system would soon let us know if we were getting something terribly wrong. Thankfully, she didn't have to hit full volume very often.

Imogen has truly blossomed as the year has gone on. Her smile melts our hearts – even at 3am when she considers that morning and there isn't anything we can do about it. She is crawling now and starting to say a few words. So far she has said 'dada', 'cheese' and 'tea'. I'm on tenterhooks to see whether 'mama' even makes fourth place on the list. We are excited, now, to see her take her first steps, although that will bring with it a whole new set of challenges, I'm sure.

The end of my maternity leave is approaching very quickly and I am preparing to come back to ASE in January 2016. Although I am sure I will find it hard to leave Imogen, she will be looked after at home by

her daddy and no doubt they will get up to all sorts of mischief in my absence. Leon is a professional photographer and I know he is keen to practice his portraiture on her at every available

opportunity. Imogen already has a keen sense of when there's a camera on her and a definite 'photo face', which is worrying.



Motherhood is definitely the busiest job I have had so far, so I'm sure that will set me in good stead for a return to the hustle and bustle of Nelson House. I've enjoyed my visits there with Imogen this year. You realise, when you are observing, just how many things are going on at once and how hard everyone is working to keep ASE organised, like the graceful swan whose legs are motoring away under the water. I must thank Laura, who has ably looked after the social and cultural programme in my absence. I know that she has done a fantastic job and I am excited to take the reins back and keep up her good work.

I'm sure there will be new things to learn, but I also know that many things at ASE will be the same. After a year of so much change, I have to say that will provide some welcome relief indeed!



Summer of Surprises in British Politics

Stephen K Medvic, The Honorable and Mrs. John C Kunkel Professor of Government at Franklin & Marshall College, *thinks back on a summer teaching British politics at ASE*

The British general election of May 7, 2015 wasn't supposed to turn out as it did. Public opinion polls on the eve of the election indicated a dead heat between the Conservatives and Labour. A headline in *The Guardian* on May 6 read, 'Britain Heading for Hung Parliament.' Such a result would have been the second hung parliament in as many elections. Before any votes were cast, speculation about the end of the British two-party system was widespread.



The rise of the Scottish National Party on the left, and the UK Independence Party (or UKIP) on the right, meant that voters were not as loyal to Labour and the Tories as they had once been. Indeed, while the two major parties shared 96 percent of the vote in 1951, their share of the total vote had dropped to 66 percent in 2010. The election of 2015 was likely to continue that trend and the results were sure to be momentous.

It was in this context that I prepared students for our summer course at ASE on Contemporary British Politics. I sent emails in April with links to articles on the upcoming election; I asked them to monitor the campaign and watch the results on May 7; and I even suggested that when we arrived in Bath on June 6, Britain might still be without a government. We were going to be studying British politics at one of the most interesting moments in recent British political history.

The election result was extraordinary, but not in the way anyone had expected. When all constituencies had tallied their votes, the Tories had secured 331 seats in the House of Commons, an increase of 24 seats. This marked

the first time since 1992 that Conservatives won an outright majority and it was the first time since 1900 that a prime minister (David Cameron), after completing a full term in office, would increase his/her party's popular vote.

That the students and I weren't arriving to witness the machinations of coalition building didn't dampen our experience. British politics is intriguing to American citizens. Though our system shares some aspects with the British system (e.g., single-member plurality legislative districts), parliamentary government differs significantly from the presidential system of the United States. A running theme of the course – besides how awesome the spectacle of Prime Minister's Questions is – was the contrast between the ability of the majority in the UK to 'get stuff done' with the gridlock produced by the separation of powers in America. The students seemed to split equally on whether they preferred the British model to our own.

There were many highlights of the course, but two stand out. The first was our study trip to London to visit Parliament. The Gothic grandeur of the Palace of Westminster is breathtaking and is unrivaled by anything in Washington. Right across Parliament Square, sitting just behind a statue of Abraham Lincoln, is the newly established Supreme Court, which we also had the pleasure of visiting. In addition, our trip coincided with the British Library's exhibition celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. With the help of Lucy Marten, ASE's Director of Studies, the students and I were able to experience one of the most remarkable exhibits I've ever seen.



The other memorable moment in the course was a visit from the newly elected Member of Parliament from Bath, Ben Howlett. At 29, Mr. Howlett is only a few years older than the students in the class and they were inspired by his success and his public-spiritedness. The realization that many of the Conservative Mr. Howlett's views would put him squarely within the Democratic Party in the States served as yet another reminder of just how different are British and American politics.

I hope the students gained an appreciation of those differences as well as a life-long interest in British politics. (If the election, just two months after we left, of Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the Labour Party doesn't interest them, nothing will!) Maybe, too, they developed a respect for those who seek public office despite the calumny politicians are forced to endure. As former Prime Minister Tony Blair said in his final speech to Parliament, 'Some may belittle politics, but we who are engaged in it know that it is where people stand tall... If it is, on occasions, the place of low skullduggery, it is more often the place for the pursuit of noble causes.'



My Amazing Year with ASE

Laura Bartsch, ASE's Social and Cultural Co-ordinator, reflects on a year working with the Programme



'I'm ready for a grown-up job' was a line I remember from my interview when applying for Lindsay Orchard's Maternity Cover position; I was to be the Social and Cultural Programme Co-Ordinator for ASE for the next year and I couldn't wait!

I was initially overwhelmed and very nervous when confronted with all the ins and outs of what makes our ASE-rs tick and, most importantly, what keeps them entertained. Lindsay was there every step of the way, guiding me through a tremendously exciting end of semester (I'm sure the students had fun too). After the handover, I very gratefully accepted all kinds of help from the very thing that makes ASE this home away from homes, the wonderful staff: Su, Emma, Rob, Lucy,

Peta, Bernice and Jonathan (the boss man).

If ever in doubt, they are rocks anyone can turn to in matters of diplomacy, patience, practicality, guidance, knowledge and most of all, needing a chat and a hug.

With this same supportive 'wind beneath my wings' that every ASE student knows, I went on a very interesting ASE journey of my own.

From the home-sickness abating Thanksgiving dinner, to the extremely emotional Final Tea, and every other social activity one could possibly sandwich in between, I realised that ASE students definitely do not get bored while abroad. These wonderfully colourful grown-ups-in-training were an absolute revelation to me. They embrace every new experience with so much enthusiasm, while still keeping a very keen eye on the academic prize they came here for in the first place.

The Certificate of Cultural Enrichment taught me as much as it did them - their seemingly endless excitement for new and different cultural and social activities was contagious. Every day I saw Bath through adoring, awed and appreciative new eyes.

It's not an easy task to create a programme that lets young people thrive academically, socially and culturally, while still having enough freedom to make their own decisions and have their own experiences. Advanced Studies in England has managed to find this sorcerer's stone of studying abroad: live, learn and love what you're doing while you're doing it. Every student can tell that the staff love and breathe this spirit; it's truly infectious.



I knew that working with ASE would be short and sweet. Yet meeting all these amazing people in such a short amount of time actually allowed me to figure out what I want to do next. All thanks to this newfound respect and love for all you 'young adults' wanting to thrive in a challenging environment brimming with wild and wonderful opportunities. I have decided that my next career move absolutely *has* to include working with students.

So, thank you my Autumn 14, Spring, Summer and Autumn 15 ASE-ers, for your endless sense of adventure, for making it OK to find yourself, for being proud of who you are and will become, for living the day, and for sharing it all with me. I'm proud to be able to remember you as a kaleidoscopically enlightening part of my life.

Lots and lots of Love,

Laura

A Decade of Happy Mondays

Dr Leslie Mitchell, Emeritus Fellow of Modern History at University College, Oxford, and retiring tutor of *Modern British Political History* and *Politics and Society in Georgian England* looks back at his time at ASE

Retiring after a decade or so of teaching for Advanced Studies in England I find myself reflecting on the experience. Reflection and retirement naturally go together.

Committing oneself to the uncertain adventures offered by the First Great Western railway every Monday morning became a happy routine. Lunch in The Huntsman, surrounded by the burr of West Country accents, then set up for a class on Modern British Politics.

Overwhelmingly, my students came to this subject with little or no previous experience. Few majored in Politics, even fewer in History, but, from a tutor's point of view this was fine. It meant that no misconceptions would muddy the waters. A blank sheet contains no errors. The only thing to get clear at the beginning was that British and American ways of playing politics are so similar and so different at the same time. ASE students took this point on board and never looked back. Twelve weeks later, they, with luck, would have the confidence to chase down these ambiguities, understanding Britain more and more, and, by implication, seeing the politics of their own country in a new light.



Why does this matter? Well, much time is spent nowadays discussing the 'special relationship' between the UK and America; its precise nature or whether it exists at all. We are told that even if it once existed, it is time for young Americans to look elsewhere. The Far East, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa can all properly make claims to their attention, but the argument of ASE is that, if you don't know where you came from, you will probably end up going in the wrong direction. To know the story so far, in politics or literature or anything else, is as important as to offer a prospectus for the future. Students coming to ASE have the opportunity to acquire this expertise.



They do so in small classes, by taking up internships, and going on rewarding class trips. The chance to instruct and challenge can be taken in many contexts. Teaching is never more agreeable than when someone is confronted by new, cultural references and responds to them, not by resisting doggedly but by evaluating and absorbing. That way, an intellect and personality really develops. Over the years, I have seen this happen over and over again in the people I have been fortunate enough to have in my class. Inevitably, some have been more vocal than others, some still rode hobby-horses long after the poor animal had died under them, but all, I think, would agree that the ASE semester had changed them. That is as it should be.

So, I will miss my Mondays in Bath. Most agreeable days they were, and I owe thanks for them to the good-humoured staff at ASE and to students who could be largely counted on to laugh in the right places.

Journey into the Jungle

Kerry Bisaga (Au09) on the pleasures and perils of sharing at 29 Northampton Street

When I decided to study abroad during the autumn of 2009, I chose ASE with my personal preferences and comforts in mind. After all, few travel to Bath, England looking for an exotic, rough-and-tumble experience. I was, and still am, a lover of literature and history, museums and long jogs in manicured gardens. I was also a hater of dust, disorganization, and generally unexpected events.

And then I met my roommates.

I was assigned to live in a perfectly adorable townhouse at 29 Northampton Street, just behind the Royal Crescent. When I moved in, pink roses were blooming in the back garden, and my bedroom was filled with late-summer sunlight. There were four other lovely girls sharing the top two floors, while three quirky boys took up residence in the first floor bedrooms. We all became fast friends and spent our first night on British soil at the Pig and Fiddle pub. I don't think I'd ever had so much fun in my life; my new roommates were fabulous at letting loose and allowing a night to take them on a journey.



However, the girls and I soon discovered that the boys took this journey a little bit more often than we did, and that their final destination was often our basement level kitchen. Or, more specifically, the cabinet filled with *my* whole-grain cereal and protein bars. I began keeping my food in my bedroom and continued enjoying their company; we had so much fun together that it seemed an even trade for a little inconvenience. Things continued to get messier, too, and soon our yard was transformed from pretty rose garden to a mud pit littered with empties.

By November we hadn't seen that late-summer sunlight – or *any* sunlight, thanks to the rainiest autumn in British history – in weeks. We also hadn't seen a cereal bowl, a spoon, or a drinking glass in longer than we could remember. By this point the house had fully split into two gender-based factions, and we girls started to grow tired of drinking tea from dessert bowls and eating yogurt with forks. We hypothesized that the dishes had migrated into the boy's bedrooms, a zone of the house none of us really wanted to enter.

I began planning a reconnaissance mission into the boys' bedrooms. Once the boys headed out one evening, I was alerted that the time had come; I grabbed a bucket from the back hall and headed into the jungle.



What I saw in those rooms still haunts me. I found the lost cutlery and flatware, yes. I also found a tangle of visibly dirty clothes, dog-eared books, wrinkled class notes and random souvenirs bought on class trips to Jane Austen's house and Stonehenge, all strewn about and covered in a layer of mysterious grime.

Oh, and the *stench*! I shielded my nose and continued sifting through filth to find my favorite teacup.

It was the most repulsive safari imaginable but, to be honest, I was laughing the whole time. It's been six years, but I still count my 29 Northampton roommates among the best

friends I have ever had. I hadn't expected my time in England to push me outside of my comfort zone as much as it did, but I flew home a less rigid, more relaxed version of myself, and I could not be more thankful.

More than a Door

Excerpt from an essay about ASE's Linley House and making 'Proper Tea' by **Meghan Burrows** (Au14)

Nestled in Pierrepont Place, adjacent to Pierrepont Street, Linley House sits. The eighteenth-century home was originally owned by the Bath composer, Thomas Linley. The cobbled streets leading to the house and the creaking wood floors inside it verify the age of the building. Romanesque columns border the front door. Painted all white, the only thing identifying the building is the black letters reading *Linley House*.

Non-threatening, simple, inconspicuous, Linley House is insignificant to the passerby, including myself on the first day of my arrival in England. Walking from Bath Spa Train Station, luggage pulled behind me, I was so caught up with the new city – its slim streets and British demeanor – that I almost overlooked the unassuming front of the house. Little did I know, as I walked up the two steps in front of the house, what lay behind the modest door. Four months in Bath would make the house's three aged *storeys* my home, and this doorway the threshold into my love for England.



The entry way revealed the history of the home. Past the front door and straight ahead hung the original deed to the house, a yellowing document put to rest behind a strong frame, alerting a newcomer to the original owners. To the left of the door was an alcove, draped with linen curtains. The moment I first saw it, I recognized its significance.

When I was young, I would flip through copies of *Picket Fence Preview* and dream of owning a home with an alcove in which I could sit, between the walls, with sunlight filtering through the window. In that alcove, I'd read books and sip hot chocolate – or coffee as I got older. That first day in Linley House, I dragged my suitcases through the door, the first one to arrive. I smiled at the alcove and spent ten minutes sitting there, taking in the new environment: the

buzzing street outside, the silent house surrounding me. In the months to come, I'd wait there for my housemates to get ready before going out, find letters from home resting in its seat, and read class assignments in its filtered sunlight.



I brought my luggage up the first set of stairs and made my move to Linley House official. Reaching the first floor, I found myself in the drawing room. Mismatched couches and bookshelves filled the high-ceilinged room. A window to the side opened onto the space, allowing a view of Bath from the back of the house. This drawing room would see many faces, including those of Billy Connolly and

Russell Howard, seen weekly on television, as my housemates and I attempted to understand British humour. One day, Melanie and I spent the afternoon watching *Good News* episodes one after the other. She settled on the worn red couch, I on the velvet green chair. It was one of those rainy English days where robust water droplets hit the ground with hard thuds. Russell Howard kept us company as we listened to the rainfall outside and split a pack of Digestives.

The drawing room had a small knee-high table in its center. Oval in shape, the table tipped slightly as one leg was shorter than the others. Coffee stains and paperwork decorated its top. Doubling as a stool, the table would provide extra height to fan the smoke alarm after we forgot the oven was programmed on Celsius. It would give extra inches when the blown light bulb had to be changed in the middle of *Pride and Prejudice*. It would also see the results of my lesson on making proper tea.

‘Proper tea,’ Craig began, ‘has three ingredients: tea, milk, and sugar.’

I sat on the kitchen counter, avoiding crumbs from the morning's breakfast rush. The smell of banana took over the narrow room as the ripening yellow fruits rested next to me. Craig turned around to face me, a British smirk on his face. He filled the teapot with water and moved it onto the electric heater. Flipping the switch, electric currents ran from the outlet to the water. I reached behind me, opening the cabinets and grabbing two cups.

‘Good, English, black tea,’ Craig instructed, dropping a PG Tips tea bag into each mug.

After a month refusing to give in to the milk-and-sugar trend of English tea drinkers, I conceded. Craig and I had become fast friends after tying in a pub quiz match and bonding over our love for travel. He had finally convinced me to try this foreign version of my favorite drink after I made him sit through an entire Bruins game. Born in York, grown in Somerset, he had strict rules when it came to tea. The water had to just reach boiling point, the bags had to wait patiently in the cups, and I had to keep quiet. There was no back-seat driving in tea making.

Craig poured hot water into the cups, his long arms moving the kettle effortlessly. Even streams hit the bag sitting at the bottom, sending steam upwards. After filling the mugs most of the way up, he grabbed the sugar and spoon.

‘Just enough to cut the bitterness,’ he explained, dropping a little less than a teaspoon of the sweet stuff into each cup.

Next came the milk. I was used to the earthy taste of tea, and not just black tea, but green tea—tea that tasted like it came from dirt. To put milk in it worried me, but I trusted his instincts. Slowly tipping the carton, Craig let just a small amount of milk fall; just enough to hit the bottom and plume back up, creating a light tan cloud over the darkened water.

Stirring each cup with the sugar spoon, he admired his work, compared the two, and chose the cup for me.

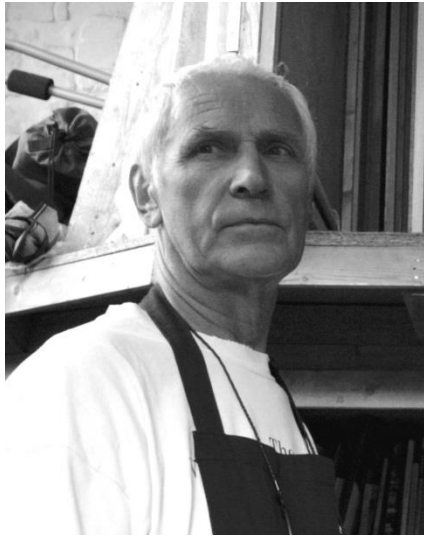
We sat ourselves on the floor, setting the tea on the knee-high table in the sitting room. The first sip was still too hot to taste much, but as conversation flowed, the drinks had time to cool.

Proper English tea tasted like comfort. Its earthy tones still held strong, but they were balanced with the lightness of the milk. The sugar held the polarized flavors together, and the temperature of the beverage quickly moved from my fingers holding the glass to the rest of me in smooth warmth.

The first floor of Linley House would become the floor of tea time, of perfecting the craft of proper English comfort, of conversations over oval tables, and movies when it was too dreary to go outside.



Portrait of an Artist



Jim Dales, former ASE tutor of Art History and Printmaking, recounts some key moments in his life and shares news of his new novel

My relationship with ASE goes back to its earliest days, when I was recruited by Don Nunes to teach the history of Impressionism and Renaissance painting. Some alumni may remember those days and the visits to Paris, Florence, Venice, even Moscow and Leningrad. Later, I taught drawing and the history of etching on an ASE Printmaking course with my wife, Caroline MacMichael.

My childhood was spent happily in a seaside town in Lincolnshire. On leaving school, I did a number of boring clerical jobs before deciding that, as the one subject I had been good at was Art, I would become a full-time student. When I failed to get a place on a degree course, however, I set off on the hippie trail to India. I lost my nerve in Syria, and returned along the Mediterranean coast via Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and eventually Spain. My mother was so concerned I might be lost to her forever that she forged my signature on an application to Maidstone College of Art and, after a rather brutal shave and haircut, I went for an interview and was accepted.



In *The Naked Civil Servant*, Quentin Crisp described Maidstone as 'a cultural borstal in Kent'. Fortunately, the college operated an atelier system and I spent most of the next three years working with one of England's leading painters, Derrick Greaves, in his Woburn studio. I left Maidstone with an honours degree and went on to teach painting and Art History at Lancaster College of Art. After four years I moved to France with Caroline and our two small sons, to paint full time. When our money ran out we returned to England, living first in a bed-sit in Bath, then on a Dutch barge, before settling in Wiltshire.

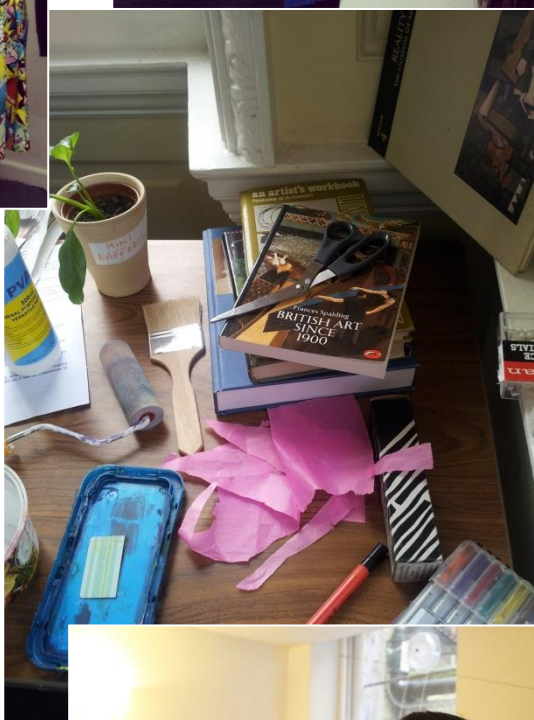
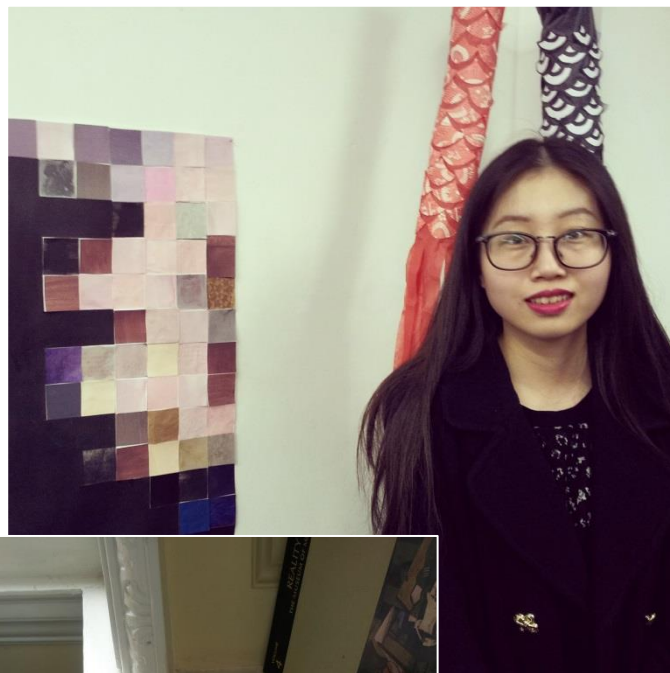
My work is exhibited in collections in England, Europe and America and I have had several solo exhibitions, notably at the Barbican Centre in London and at Gettysburg College, PA.



Encouraged by students who enjoyed my anecdotes and art history lectures, I wrote my first novel, *A Canvas Man*, set in Paris around the time of the Impressionists. Although several agents expressed interest it languishes in a drawer. My second novel, *Aksinya*, set in Russia in the nineteenth century, suffered the same fate. I succeeded at my third attempt with *The Man in a Mirror*, which will be published in May 2016 – visit www.yolkpublishing.co.uk

The novel is set in seventeenth-century Holland and revolves around an incident in the life of Rembrandt van Rijn, the miller's son from Leiden, who became one of the greatest painters in European art. He is seen through the eyes of his assistant and the women in his life, Saskia (wife and mother of his son Titus) Geertje Dirck (housekeeper and mistress) and Hendrickje Stoffels (lover, business manager and mother to his only surviving daughter, Cornelia). They are the mirrors through which we glimpse a deeply flawed human being at the end of his life. A man, perhaps disillusioned, disappointed, wondering what his life has been about and yet, paradoxically, sure of his genius, of his place in history.

Eleanor Frick and Shiyu Kong, the first students on our new Fine Arts Tutorial



They Came to Bath

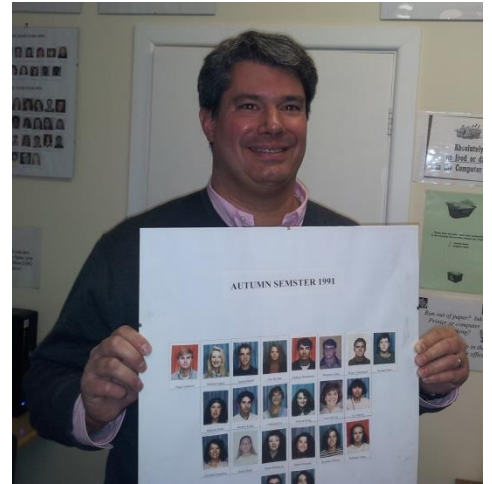
Tony Bustamante (Au91) came by back in November last year, and found his class photo down in the computer room at Nelson House.

Sarah Gord (Au13) didn't visit Bath as such, when she was over in March, but joined the Programme on its week at Univ. She's just graduated from Oberlin and is now in Norway as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant.



Emily Cranfill (Sp14) was back in Bath in March, very excited at the prospect of an internship with the Eastland Disaster Historical Society in Chicago.

Dabney Rice (Sp13) dropped by in April, after visiting both the Frankfurt and London Book Fairs as part of her job as the Foreign Rights Director for the literary agents Dupree Miller.



Another April visitor was **Rachel Smith Egbert (Au03)**, who took the opportunity to pop back to her old flat in Nunes House on a beautiful spring day.

April also saw the first of two visits by **Miriam Grinberg (Au09)** who popped into Nelson House with **Kerri Bisaga (Au09)**. Kerri is now a special education teacher in Boston, and recounted her tale of going hunting for cutlery in the boys' room in 29 Northampton!

Miriam was back a week later for the **UK Alumni Day**, despite being in the final throes of her PhD on US-Japanese relations, at Warwick University.

Also at the UK Alum Day was **Sarah Sigal (Au03)**, **Amy Tamarkin (Au07)**, **Ed Lisovicz (Au12)**, **Catherine DeWyngaert (Sp13)**, **Bess Xintong Liu (Su13)**, along with **Andy Venn** and tutor **Martin Meenagh** (a reminder that the Alumni Association isn't just for students!)



Heather Harris (FY 02/03) came by in June. She married Devin Smart in October this year and has just begun a new job. Whilst we take no responsibility for the former happy event, you can read how her time with ASE led her to her new job elsewhere in this edition.



Robbie Clair (Su13) popped by, fresh from graduating from the University of Mary Washington.

Sarah Clapp (Au04) was our last visitor of June.

Kelsey Fisher (FY 09/10) came by at the beginning of July and had tea with Andrew B. She hadn't travelled far, though, as she is working for the New College of the Humanities in London.

Just as we were reaching the end of Summer School two more alums popped in. **Virginia Atkinson (Au01)** and then, just in time for Final tea and a drink in the Hunstman, **Stephen Weber (Su98 and graduate intern FY00/01)**.

Allison Har-zvi (Au11) was visiting a friend in Edinburgh, but couldn't resist the chance to 'pop by' Nelson House! She's living in New York and working for Simon and Schuster.

Nora Brickner (Au14) came by in August, and over tea and biscuits with Jonathan and Andrew Butterworth, admitted that she had carried home one of the pillows from Linley House because they were so comfortable!



In September **John Flowers and Madeline Kelly (Au08)** visited. They got married in May (fellow Au08 alum Katie Sigler had been a guest) and were honeymooning in Bath!

Abigail Fine (Sp08) also popped in. She's currently working in Georgetown University's Special Collections, and recently gave a paper on *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* at a conference on 'Alice through the Ages'.



In October, **Kelly Hagerty (Sp13)** visited, on a UK break with her mum. She is now working as a consultant for communication and counsel with CRA Inc.

November saw **Ariel Dantona (Su13)** drop by. She's come home again, studying for an MA in Creative Writing at Bath Spa.

Hannah Mooradian (Su15) also came in whilst studying in the UK, doing a year abroad at Worcester College, Oxford.



Alumni Association Update

What *have* we been doing over the last twelve months?

I had a quick look back at last year's newsletter, the first in which I had described the Alumni Association's aims and objectives. It was quite heartening in many ways, as I could see that we are making progress!

So, what have we done?

We held our first Annual Alumni Reunion in Princeton in September. Despite what you might hear, we had chosen Princeton instead of Philly and it was the Pope, not ASE, who had to relocate to the city of brotherly love (not really; the Pope's visit meant not only that we had to move but also that our numbers were smaller than we had hoped). A great time was had by all who attended (kudos to Maddie and Joe Anthes for getting everything set up for us). Next September it will be Boston's turn to host, so keep your eyes and ears open for more details!

Part of the reunion was a meeting of class and regional representatives, as well as Sasha Schechter and Katie Malague, the two board reps, to discuss how the Association was functioning and how it might be better. A key topic of conversation was how we could use the reps more effectively. Part of the problem is that neither we nor they are particularly clear on what is expected of them or what they might be prepared to do for us. So, we set a handful of them the task of creating a 'job description' for both the class and regional representative roles. They've just reported back and I'll be sending out a call for more volunteers in the New



Year.

The other major topic for discussion was the alumni directory. Since the last News I have selected a new CRM system (Customer Relationship Management – a fancy database); a piece of Freeware called CiviCRM. The system should allow us to keep better and more complete information on you all (including when we last saw you), it should be easier for you to keep us informed when you move, or change emails, and it will also allow you to find alums in your area; something that a number of you have asked for as a system (don't panic; we're not going to give out all of your contacts details, and there'll be opt-outs at every level). I'm now working with our web designer to integrate it into the alumni webpages. Hopefully by February (although these things always seem to take longer than you expect) we should be going online with the new web pages (to match our new, bright and shiny main website – if you haven't had a look yet, you really must! www.studyabroadbath.org) and a proper, searchable directory.

In last year's newsletter, I hinted at the creation of an Alumni Fund, as a way that you those of you who want to can contribute financially to ASE. Again, progress has been slow, but we now have a system in place that will work and are ironing out the final few wrinkles before sharing with all of you.

Of course, the other thing we've been doing over the last twelve months has been saying hello again to lots of you. I think that I've thanked everybody who's helped out, in my little thank you list (if I've missed you I am so sorry, and will make it up to you when I see you next!) It is always good to see you all, whether over here or over there. I look forward to seeing many more of you next year.



Lunch for the UK alumni gathering

Rob

Thank you...

For helping with our recruitment visits

- Hadley Brown
- Heather Payne
- Alex Gundell
- Lexi Goyette
- Cindy Gerber
- Julia Mahony
- 'Becca Walters
- Katherine Varga
- Taylor Harvey
- Campbell Ryan
- Uriel Lloyd
- Abbie George
- Karen Kramarsyck
- Grace Gerrish
- Mollie Weisenfeld
- Chelsea Begg
- Keiron Miller
- Sarah Tompkins
- Jessie Meyers Moore
- Erin Teodosio
- Shelby Aseltine
- Corallina Breuer
- Maeve Wachowitz Pistrang
- Bev Kippenham
- Ciara Wilson
- Katie Kastan
- Sarah Kirchoff

- Ashley Tapscott
- Rachel Gautier
- Missy Brewer
- Katie Eidem
- Chandler Fitzgerald
- Kestrel Felt
- Julian Ring
- Adam Gittin
- Nora Brickner
- Jill Ashton
- Amanda Tazioli
- Chelsea Winebrenner
- Ali Bunis
- Emily Mack
- Izzy Riccardi
- Raeburn Hathaway
- Melanie Fernandes
- Alessandra Loren
- Emily Ordakowski
- Megan McNish
- Brianna Cunningham
- Kayla McGillvray
-

For helping with our CRM software and the alumni directory

- Jess Gleason
- Kate Cottrell
- Mollie Southwood

For coming to talk to our students

- Sarah Sigal
- Amy Tamarkin
- Ed Lisovicz
- Catherine DeWyngaert
- Bess Xintong Liu
- Miriam Grinberg
- Ariel Dantona
- Mollie Southwood
- Alyssa Walker

For attending the alumni rep summit

- Katie Malague
- Sasha Schechter
- Hanna Bertoldi
- Joe Anthes
- Maddie Anthes
- Doshka Harvey
- Stephen Weber
- Megan Gordon
- Megan Berry
- Joanna Chlebus
- Cristin Stephens
- Emma Hollier

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



UPDATES FROM ALUMS

Ann Parks (Sp91) is working in the Office of Communications at Georgetown Law as the Senior Writer. She earned a master's degree in English from Georgetown University in 2014 (22 years after her English B.A.), writing a thesis on disabled women in Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone*. "I actually discovered Wilkie Collins while in Bath in 1991--I stumbled across *The Woman in White* one day in Waterstones, and I've been a fan ever since," she writes. "I was absolutely thrilled to be able to go back to school and get my M.A. in English later in life."

Joah McPherson (Sp94) worked as a speech-language pathologist for the past 15 years, and this fall opened a Speech and Language Preschool in Seattle. The idea for this program has been tumbling around in her brain for 10 years, and her boys are finally old enough (9 and 12) that she had some energy to put into starting a business. It is called Little Birds Preschool, and more information can be found at www.littlebirdslearning.com.

Christine (Johnson) Curtis (Sp97) She and her family just moved from NYC to LA and welcomed their second child, a baby girl - Stella Lydia Curtis - this October.

Lindsay Miller McCormack (Au97) is still living in England with her now-husband Mack, whom she met in Oxford while there with ASE. They moved to Witney, Oxfordshire, 5 years ago with their children, Rosemary, 9, and Theodore, 5. In September 2014, she started a new job as Archivist at Lincoln College, Oxford, and enjoy looking after their historic record collection dating back to the 13th century. She says "It's really fun to be back on old stomping ground in Oxford! I would love to hear from anyone else in the Autumn 1997 class or other ASE alums in the area".

Fawn (Nonaka) Galbraith (Sp98) Since then she graduated from William & Mary in 1999, worked as an editor for a few years in Los Angeles, received her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, married a fellow law student (Matt), moved to Houston and now has two kids, Henry (4) and Dorothy (2). After a break from practicing law, she's about to return to do pro bono representation in VAWA and T-Visa cases.



Elizabeth (Reil) Foster (Sp01 and Graduate Intern 2003-2004) and family

Esther Goldschlager (Sp99) is enjoying serving as a volunteer contributor to the Ms JD blog. The link to her blog series is here: <http://ms-jd.org/profile/esther1578>

Jonathan Farina (Au00) recently has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure at Seton Hall University, where he teaches nineteenth-century British literature and, in the University's Honors Program, intellectual history.

Elizabeth (Reil) Foster (Sp01 and Graduate Intern 2003-2004) just had a baby girl, Brynn Isabella, on May 18th. Elizabeth is a high school English teacher in Virginia, earned an MEd from UVA in 2011, and she and Jay also have a seven-year-old named Evan Alexander.

Jillian Schedneck (Sp01) had a baby daughter - Celia Ivy Jardine - on May 29, 2015. She was born in Adelaide, Australia, where Jillian lives with her husband, Duncan Jardine. Both work at the University of Adelaide.

In August, **Meghan Berry (Sp02, Summer intern 2004)** joined the YMCA of Greater New York as their regional communications director, overseeing communications for seven Y branches in Brooklyn and Queens. Prior to joining the Y, she worked in

communications at Columbia University for seven years. Meghan lives in Red Hook, Brooklyn, with her 10-year-old pug, Owen.

Geordy Johnson (Sp04) got married to Carter Edwards Lee on November 22, 2014 in Charleston, SC. They relocated to Spartanburg, SC where she serves as CEO of Johnson Development. Carter was previously in NYC, and Geordy was in Washington, DC. They traveled to North Yorkshire in September and Geordy says it was wonderful to be back in the UK.

Jess Gleason (Sp08) presented at the Hobsons University conference in San Antonio, TX this summer from July 26th - July 31st, 2015. Her presentation is titled *Herding Cats: A Practical Guide to Managing Large Numbers of Applications Across Varying Schools in Radius* and is both full of witty pop culture references and super boring technical details all the same time. Jess went as part of her job as an Application Support Specialist at Simmons College. She says "don't let people tell you it's a dry heat in Texas. Those people are liars."

Sara (Harenchar) Levinson (Su08) lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Drew, where she works as an Enterprise Sales Manager for ClickTale, a marketing software company. This year she brought the second largest deal in the company's history and added half a dozen new logos to the company's portfolio of clients. Sara also continues to write, and was published in *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *The American Scholar*, and *Ruminate Magazine* since studying with ASE. You can find her at www.saralevinson.com.

John Flowers (Au08) married, **Madeline Kelly (Au08)**. They met on the programme. They stopped by Nelson House in September, "one of the last nostalgic stops before returning stateside."

Joe Anthes (Su09) and **Maddie Weinland (Su09)** were married on December 13, 2014 in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

Christine Luthy (Su09) moved to Washington, DC, where she has started a job as a Development Assistant for Individual Giving at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Jennifer Tosti (Sp10)
and fiancé Jack

Jennifer Tosti (Sp10) just got engaged to someone she met while studying in Bath with ASE! She met Jack at the University of Bath Debating Society that Jennifer attended as part of the CCE program. He was an engineering student and is originally from Essex. They became friends and have been in a long-distance relationship for a year and a half. Now they are engaged and he is moving stateside this January after his visa gets approved! Jennifer says "I just wanted to say a big thanks for ASE and the CCE program. Not only did I make great friends amongst my fellow ASE students, but I also met my fiancé!"

Maggie Smith (Au10) graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Science in Historic Preservation and Certificate in Urban Redevelopment in May 2014 and stayed in Philadelphia while working as an Architectural Historian for Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson. This past summer, she was hired by Page & Turnbull, an historic preservation architecture and planning firm based in San Francisco. She's now living in SF and loving the California lifestyle!

Hilary Wermers (Sp12) has a new job (Writing Center Assistant at the University of Rochester) and a new kitten (Lady Marmalade Pankhurst).

Logan Tapscott (Au12) finished her internship at the Library of Congress on August 7, 2015 in Manuscript Division as the Mary Wolfskill Trust Fund Intern. She will graduate at Shippensburg University with a Masters of Arts degree in Public History in May 2016.



Lady Marmalade Pankhurst, the addition
to Hilary Wermers' (Sp12) family

Casey Osgood (Sp13) moved back to Boston this past May after living/working in San Diego for 5 months after graduation. She started a new job working in Development at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute & the Jimmy Fund.

She will be running the 2016 Boston Marathon as part of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge Team, aiming to raise \$12,000 for cancer research in honor of her mom -

<http://www.rundfmc.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1141651&supid=424841844>.

Rebecca Hauk (Sp13) married Nick Traud on the 13th of June

Shelby Aeltine (Au13) graduated and now is enrolled in Grad School for a Masters in Education. She's teaching at Berwick Academy, a private school in South Berwick, Maine, living in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, coaching cross country running and nordic skiing, and simultaneously taking classes out of Boston. She says "It's a pretty busy life but I have to say, I am really falling in love with teaching and coaching."

Maggie Myers (Su13) moved to Kalamazoo this September and started a MA in Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University.

Taylor Harvey (Au13) and **Will Morriseau (Au13)** are both teaching English abroad in Madrid Spain.

Leah Kofos (Au13) is at Suffolk University Law School and living in Boston.

Keiran Miller (Au13) is working as a College Adviser in Columbia High School through the Pennsylvania College Advising Corps. They work in under-served high schools across the state to bridge the gap between low income and higher income students in relation to college matriculation. This week he had my first student accepted to Harrisburg University.

Emily Cranfill (Sp14) is working at Conner Prairie Interactive History Park as an historical interpreter, focusing on 1836 and 1957 history specific to Indiana. She gets to portray two very different young women - one a German-American widow recently reunited with her family and the other an aeronautical engineering student working in a local patent office! She says that she is absolutely loving the experience, and says it wouldn't have been possible without her experience as an intern at the American Museum.



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:

alumni@asebath.org