



***ADVANCED STUDIES IN  
ENGLAND ALUMNI NEWS***



***2018 & 2019***







## Dean and Director's Welcome

Dearest ASE Alums,

### Welcome to the ASE Alumni News for 2019 – and indeed 2018!

(I'm going to leave the sheepish Rob to explain how we came to combine two years into one edition – see **p.1**)

What I *will* say is that I'm confident you'll find this two-year bumper edition of the ASE Alumni News well worth the wait. Why? Because contained in its pages (all **66** of them!), alongside our usual updates and lists of visitors to Bath, are some genuine gems of journalism and creativity – not only from former ASE students, but from UK and US faculty past and present, too. So many gems, in fact, that we felt compelled to introduce, for the first time, a Contents Page to ensure you don't overlook anything you really should be reading.

**In short, you will find plenty here to keep the cockles of your ASE heart warm and cosy through the coming chilly months...**

And it's with matters of **the ASE heart** that this particular edition begins. For yes, my long-standing wish (or, as my unsentimental friend and colleague Rob Jones saw it, *threat*) to gather together stories from ASE-inspired couples has finally – and I would say triumphantly – come true.

It will come as a surprise to few that ASE's 30-and-a-bit-years of existence have generated not only remarkable academic achievements, extraordinary social and cultural experiences, fun, frolics and laughter, but also no shortage of...ROMANCE. (A number of you reading this will, no doubt, have your own memories on this score!) Compiled here, with the generous help of guest editor **Maddie Anthes (Su09, Denison)** are no fewer than 17 accounts from alums who found lasting love which, in one way or another, owed its inception to the Programme. If this collection of **ASE Love Stories** seems unfairly heteronormative, this is only because – to date – we are unaware of any enduring same sex partnership for which ASE can claim credit. Do please get in touch if you know otherwise...!

Everyone here at Nelson House is excited about the coming year; not least because, as you should know by now, 2020 will see this delightful old building get a much-needed makeover. We expect work to get underway in July, which seems a long way off, but will be upon us in no time.

To all of you who have already donated to the **Nelson House Campaign**, a heartfelt thank you. To those of you who haven't, it's *not too late!*

Have a lovely holiday, everyone; and a very happy New Year. And come back to Bath very soon!

Season's Greetings

**Jonathan Hope, ASE Dean and Director**



# Contents

From the Alumni Association Coordinator	1
ASE Love Stories	2
The Start of the Affair, <i>Molly McGrann</i>	11
From Jane Austen to Harlequin Romance, <i>Niki Rokicki</i>	13
New Faces (1): Rika Seeman-Sterling, Admission and Academic Coordinator	15
Coordinator Goodbye Lindsay	16
New Faces (2): Hugh Mclean, Student Affairs Coordinator	18
Hello from P!	20
Memories and Testimonials	21
New Faces at ASE (3): Kara Chambers-Grant, Accommodation Manager	24
Alumni Scholarship Recipients	26
From Blogging Bath to Dublin, and 'The Bod', <i>Annalise Torcson</i>	29
Summer of Great Wars, <i>Tim Peltason</i>	31
From Bath to <i>So Long the Sky</i> , <i>Mary Kowaleski-Byrnes</i>	34
An Extract from <i>So Long the Sky</i> , <i>Mary Kowaleski-Byrnes</i>	35
Coast to Coast, <i>Kate Hay</i>	36
Tea, Sheep and 7-Hour Theatre, <i>Jennifer Kibbe</i>	38
New ASE Faculty: Matt Alford (UK Media Tutor)	40
Creative Grief, <i>Maira Johnston</i>	42
New ASE Faculty: Mandy Horlock (Acting and Directing Tutor)	47
Ode to Wine, <i>Sara (Harenchar) Levinson</i>	49
Nelson House Campaign Update	50
Thank You: Alum Helpers	56
'They Came to Bath'	57
Alum Updates	63



# From Rob Jones, Alumni Association Coordinator

*In which Rob rather sheepishly apologises for the late arrival, once again, of the Alumni News.*



Well, this must be some kind of a record, I think. We have had to combine the 2019 and the 2018 Alumni Newsletter into a double edition. I can't blame our contributors, all of whom got their excellent pieces to us well within the deadline (and I apologise to those who have been waiting to see it in print for over a year!) Nor can I blame Maddie Anthes (Su09), who, having done such sterling work as our editor in 2017 was unavailable in 2018 (she said it was because she had her new son Grayson to look after, but I suspect Jonathan and I were just impossible to work with!) I can't even blame Jonathan, as he was proof-reading copy on his sick bed at the beginning of 2019.

No, this one is all down to me, I'm afraid. It simply got away from me. In my defence (and with the caveat that I wouldn't take this kind of excuse from one of my students) it has been a very busy time. I've been teaching some excellent students (you know who you are), and we've welcomed a series of new staff members onto the team (all of whom have introductions above). I've had some terrific recruitment trips (it was great to see so many of you coming out to help; your voices are invaluable, and it is your enthusiasm for the Programme that tips the balance for so many potential ASE students).

We had a terrific reunion in DC back in September 2018 (not quite the turnout we had in New York the year before - but then Andrew Butterworth wasn't with us in DC!).

We also launched our first capital campaign. That's right, folks, after much deliberation, and overcoming our innate Britishness about asking for money, we have finally asked for your help with the repair and restoration of the façade of Nelson House. You have responded with enormous generosity. So much so that, at the time of writing, we are about two-thirds of the way to our total, but there is still plenty of time to contribute to help get Nelson House shipshape again (I know, but how could we resist a nautical pun or two?).

This Summer was especially crazy. As well as our usual summer school, we had our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party. We had wonderful weather, a lovely boat trip and luncheon next to the Avon for many of our guests, and then a larger party in the evening. (Jonathan did not reprise his lycra-clad Aladdin Sane role, but made a very convincing Freddie Mercury – is there no end to the man's talents?!)

I have also been working on forming a strategic plan for the Alumni Association; thinking about how we want it to look in five years' time. As we clarify our thoughts we'll be reaching out, but I am excited at the potential.

Finally, we will be having our 2020 Annual Reunion in Philadelphia on either the 19<sup>th</sup> or the 26<sup>th</sup> of September. Stay tuned to this station, as they say.

Right, where's the copy for the 2020 newsletter...?

## ASE Love Stories

**When I was asked to curate love stories for the ASE alumni newsletter, I was extremely excited. Jonathan Hope always jokes that ASE could double as a matchmaking service, and this was certainly true for me. Bath is special to me for many reasons, but the top reason is because it's where I met and fell in love with my husband, Joe. (Technically, we met in Newark airport, though that's far less romantic to say...)**

**My story is below, along with 16 other couples brought together by ASE's matchmaking magic. I was delighted by each story's voice, so while I edited for length and grammar, I kept the original wording as much as possible. Enjoy!**

*Maddie Anthes (Denison University, Su09)*

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### **Maddie Anthes, née Weinland (Denison, Su09) and Joe Anthes (Gettysburg, Su09)**

Maddie: I saw Joe with a group of other students holding ASE brochures in Newark airport and I approached them all. When I asked where they were living, Joe said "Northampton" but didn't know which one. In fact, his answers were curt and he seemed totally disinterested in talking to me. I thought he was blowing me off. What I didn't know was that Joe had never taken an international flight before and was very nervous. We sat apart on the plane and parted ways at Bristol airport. I didn't realize he was even living with me until he showed up late to our first house meeting (he'd been taking a nap and overslept, which I now know is a typical Joe move). My first thought was, *oh great, this guy who blew me off at the airport is living with me*. I soon found out that my initial impressions were incorrect; Joe found out I had food allergies and immediately asked me tons of questions so he didn't risk hurting me (I'm allergic to nuts and he'd tried to bring peanut butter on the plane – needless to say, he had to be careful!). Through these conversations, I quickly figured out that Joe is extremely considerate and puts other people's needs above his own, a quality I've always admired in him. The next day we had our formal party at the Victoria Art Gallery. We walked along the paintings together talking about how little we knew about art and culture. We just clicked – the rest, as they say, is history. We've been together for 10 years now and married for five. In September, 2018 we had our son Grayson, and we all live happily together in eastern PA.



### Jennifer Tuxford, née Tosi (Simmons College, Sp10) and Jack Tuxford

Jennifer: My first month at ASE I decided to join the Debating Society at the University of Bath. When I told my friends at home my plan, they were completely shocked as I am pretty shy and absolutely despise public speaking in any form. For some unknown reason I felt compelled to go, but I am glad I did because my first time there I met my future husband, Jack. I went back every week and the two of us became friends. After I went home we kept in touch and after a few years of friendship we began a long-distance relationship, traveling back and forth to visit each other every 6 months. Jack moved to the U.S. after we got engaged and we've been married now for almost 4 years. Jack is planning on starting the process for applying for U.S. citizenship soon.



### Dani McCullagh, née Visser (Boston College, Sp2009) and Gibson McCullagh

Dani: When I arrived in Bath in “Spring” 2009, it was snowing. After a harrowing journey — England was experiencing its first real snow storm in years, which shut down nearly all travel — I was finally standing on the steps of Nunes, watching the snow drift over the river and listening to the Bath Abbey bells toll. I didn't know it then, but my semester with ASE would lead me to love and to my best friends: my husband and my three flatmates.

There are some people you're just meant to be friends with, and Cassie, Katy, and Kat are some of mine. We were put together randomly as roommates but bonded instantly over a shared love of adventure, ham and cheese sandwiches, Jane Austen, Harry Potter, and dancing at Po Na Na. In 2012, three years after our semester with ASE, Cassie introduced me to her best friend from college and my now husband, Gibson. I could never have imagined that a college choice to spend a semester in England, somewhat on a whim, would lead to the love of my life. My husband and I got married in Maine in 2015 (all three flatmates were bridesmaids) and recently welcomed our daughter, Cassandra (named after her Auntie Cassie), in August 2019.



My friendship with my flatmates now spans a decade and links us across four different cities (San Francisco, Chicago, Nashville, and Boston). It has seen us through happy times, breakups, job changes, four advanced degrees, and three weddings — our friendship has grown up with us, and it all started because of ASE. Our friendship led me to my husband (and by extension, my daughter) and has been a constant source of laughter, wisdom, cups of tea, and sound fashion advice despite our different lives. I know that these girls are and always will be just a phone call away. And that's the real ASE love story.



### Emma Richardson (Hobart and William Smith, Sp16) and Jon Blader (Franklin and Marshall, Sp16)

Emma: I very distinctly remember the first day of orientation: Jonathan Hope said something to the effect of, “We’re known for being a match-making program; some of you might be sitting next to the love of your life.” I leaned over to the girl next to me, rolled my eyes and said, “I bet they say that every orientation!”

Little did I know, he was right! Jon and I met during the Super Bowl showing at The Cork – we were some of the only people in the room who knew anything about football and got to talking. We were just friends at first, going on group dinners and outings around Bath. Around April of that semester, we both realized we had feelings for each other. Our first date was mini-golfing near the Royal Crescent. When the program ended, we decided it was worth it to give it a shot and do long distance. We made it through senior year, driving between Geneva, NY and Lancaster, PA every month.



After graduating, we moved to my hometown of Chicago and made it our own. It was nice to go from several hundred miles apart to about 800 square feet together! Our story reached its next adventure this August, when Jon proposed to me in the courtyard of my church on Michigan Avenue. We’re getting married in September of 2021, five years after meeting that chilly Superbowl Sunday. All I can say is, thank you ASE for connecting us. If you hear Jonathan say something about finding your true love through ASE, my advice is to listen up and look around the room! You might be next :)

### Melinda Snow (William and Mary, Au05) and Steve Teske (Hobart and William Smith, Au05)

It was early September 2005, and we had been in England only a week or two. Melinda was cooking in 29 Northampton when she realized she needed a can opener. Unable to find one in the house, she walked across the street to 18 Northampton (another ASE property) to see if she could borrow one. Steve answered the door and was immediately interested in her. He found her the can opener and resolved to get to know her better.

Over the next few weeks Steve pursued Melinda. We soon bonded over a mutual interest in history. By the time we returned from our study trip to Oxford we were a couple. However, while we enjoyed hanging out together that semester, we broke up at the end of the program rather than try a long-distance relationship. We kept in touch over Instant Messenger for about a year, then settled for being Facebook friends, never expecting to meet again.



A decade passed. We both went to graduate school, lived abroad, and dated other people. In 2014, Melinda moved back to her hometown in the D.C. suburbs. The following year, Steve took a job in Washington. Using Facebook, he reached out to ask if we could get together so he could learn more about the area. We met again in December 2015, nearly ten years to the day since we had last seen each other. The conversation flowed naturally, and we spent hours walking together through the eighteenth-century streets of Alexandria. Though we had been a good match as college students, we realized time and maturity had made us even better for each other.

After two and a half years of dating, Steve proposed. We were married in June of this year. For our honeymoon we went to Bath, joining the ASE 30th Anniversary celebration. It was really special to return to a place that was significant to both of us. We’ll be back to celebrate our 10th anniversary - and ASE’s 40th - in 2029!



### Jennifer Redman, née Romano (Boston College, Sp91) and Mark Redman (Hobart and William Smith, Sp91)

Jennifer: Thanks to Sadaam Hussein, the first Gulf War, and a terrorist threat against my intended study abroad program in Florence, I found ASE and my future husband. In need of an alternate term abroad program and quick, my Boston College roommate Emily Moody said, “Come to Bath with me!” Don Nunes must have known what would follow as he quickly agreed to have me. Off to Bath I went. Mark’s journey to Bath from Hobart with his best friend Eric Schnure was a welcome escape from upstate NY winters, a chance to study European History and catch some English football. They also tested their math skills—you try to figure out how many Imperial pints are in a gallon without the help of Google!



January 28, 1991. It was not love at first sight. Mark and I both lived at 8 Henrietta Street and our first interactions left us thinking “wow, she’s bitchy!” and “ugh - what a geek!” (Both still somewhat true.) Marathon card games of Egyptian Rat Screw, pints at The Boater and some bad dancing at The Bog [Island Club] led to a friendship and a lunch for two at Pizza Express. We are New Yorkers and we NEEDED pizza. Our flat mate happened by and asked, “Are you two on a date?” We looked at each other – maybe we were? Inspired by Barbara White’s “Sin Sex and Morality” course, the relationship blossomed. 13 hours of flirting on a bus to Glasgow and more bad dancing at a pub in Edinburgh sealed the deal. After a brief break up, a cathartic weekend with our ASE friends on the Shenandoah river, some long-distance dating and Mark finishing law school, we were married in October 1996. Emily and Eric were by our sides and other ASE friends joined in the celebration. We have lived in and around New York City since our time in Bath.

To bring our story full circle, our first-born son Luke (18) is a freshman at Colorado College and he’s been encouraged strongly to be the first ASE legacy student in the program’s history. For good measure, we brought him and our younger son Will (14) to Bath in 2014 to show them where mom and dad met. Thank goodness The Huntsman, Pizza Express and Schwartzburger are still there. RIP The BOG and Moles. Mark and I never dreamed as we got on the same plane at JFK in January 1991 that we would end up meeting our future spouse. But, you know what they say...sometimes you have to go to a World Heritage City in England to meet a nice boy from Long Island.

### Cara Famighette, née Alaimo (Bucknell, Au98) and Joe Famighette (Boston College, Au98)

Cara: We met at the beginning of the semester but didn’t start dating until November with about a month left in the program. Its almost like a light bulb went off around that time and we fell in love quite quickly. We spent the remainder of our time abroad traveling and hanging out. We took one memorable trip to Greece at the beginning of December visiting Athens and the island of Aegina. Once back in the States, we dated long distance from Bucknell (where I was at college) and Boston College (where Joe went.) Right after graduation in 2000, we moved together to Cambridge, MA. Since then, we have lived in 9 different homes, visited 16 countries, got married, had three daughters and relocated to the suburbs of Chicago, where we have been since 2016.

Our story is a result of our semester with ASE. The sense of freedom, adventure and a curiosity to explore have been at the heart of our relationship ever since we split a bowl of pasta in Bath over 20 years ago.



### Meredeth Barzen (Boston College, Au05) and Alexander J. Theoharides (Skidmore, Au05)

“Four AM” (Non-fiction piece by Alexander): Trying to fit your girlfriend inside a carry-on suitcase is a difficult feat. Do you stuff her in head first? It seems she might suffocate that way. Do you stuff her in feet first? But her head would stick out through the zippers and everyone on the airplane would think you were a crazy person.

I first met her at Heathrow Airport. She told me the upright bass was sexy, and I told her she was strange, but I couldn't stop looking at her. One month later, on a tour of Oxford, she brushed her right hand against the small of my back. Two months later, we went out for coffee. Three months later, I told her I loved her. And three months and two weeks later, she told me the same thing.

I'm not sure she's my other half, but I know I don't want her to leave. We are in her attic bedroom, which overlooks the River Avon and the Bath rugby field. She's packing her last suitcase for Minneapolis, and I have my head stuck in Steven Millhauser's *Edwin Mullhouse*. But I'm really thinking about the distance between Minneapolis and my hometown of Amherst, Massachusetts, and the distance between her school, Boston College, and mine, Skidmore College, and yes, the tears pouring down her cheeks. I wonder when, and if, my tears will come. Outside her window, three floors down, a drunk sings the lyrics, “show me the way to go home—bom bom bom, I'm tired and I wanna go home—bom bom bom.” I have no idea what he means.

Her flight departs the next evening, and I've promised to stay up with her all night, until four a.m. comes, and I have to walk her to the bus station. At two a.m., after a bottle of wine, she falls asleep. At three a.m., after another bottle of wine, I determine there's no chance she'll fit inside my carry-on bag. At four a.m., still two bottles of wine later, I walk her to the bus station. “I'll miss you,” she says. And tears stream down my face.




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### Rebecca Walters (Rochester, Au14) and Andy Cummins

Rebecca: I met Andy early on during my time at ASE. We both swiped right and met up for coffee and naturally fell into conversations for a few hours. We both enjoyed each other's accents and learning about growing up in England and America. He walked me home afterwards and texted me about an hour later saying he had a lovely time and wondered if I might like to meet up again that evening. I told him that must be against the dating rules somewhere but agreed to meet up. We got a beer and cider from the store and headed to The Crescent where we sat on a bench and enjoyed the beautiful view and each other's company. For the rest of my time at ASE we grew closer and decided to give long distance a try. An LDR is hard to maintain across continents but we tried to make the most of it by traveling together. Our relationship was very much centered around airports due to the circumstances and so 3.5 years into our relationship Andy proposed to me at Newark airport and of course I said yes! We planned our wedding in New Jersey and made plans to move to the UK together. We have now been married over a year and living together near London. Bath is still a place we hold close to our hearts - we take our friends and family around Bath and show them all the wonderful places where our relationship started and began to grow.





### Becky Lally, née Masferrer (Skidmore, Sp99) and Benjamin Lally (Boston College, Au98/Sp99)

Ben: When my wife saw me in Bath for the first time, she thought I was one of her professors. She was arriving for her Spring 1999 semester, and as one of the four returning full-year students, I had been asked to help greet our new classmates. I may have overdressed for my responsibilities. She still kids me about it twenty years later.

Since we were both in the education programme at ASE, we had a lot of class time together. She was organized and confident and skilled. I was anxious and overwhelmed. When we had to complete our portfolios at the end of the ten-week placement, she took pity on my miserable effort and helped me figure out how to best present myself. She saved me from an embarrassing final product. She still kids me about that one too.

We didn't start dating, though, until the summer after our time at ASE. I was living in Maine that summer, and she was living in Boston. As fate would have it, her sister was studying in Maine close to my home, and I was traveling to Boston a lot to visit with my grandmother. So we got to see each other a lot that summer. During one of my Boston visits, Becky called me at my grandmother's house. After the call, my aunt asked me who it was. I told her, honestly, it was "just a friend," to which she replied, "Sure. A friend." How did she see it? Come to think of it, Becky and I took a three-day bus tour in Scotland during our final month at ASE. At one stop, we got off the bus alone to take some photos, and the way the tour guide encouraged us to take our time in coming back made me wonder what she was really suggesting. Was it that obvious?



We've recently passed the landmark where we've spent more of our lives together than apart. And we have two lovely girls, Sophia (10) and Violet (9). We brought them to Bath in the summer of 2018 to celebrate the wedding of one of our dear friends, and another one of our ASE connections, Jonathan Hope. (Who knows – maybe our daughters and his will be ASE classmates in a few years?) We were happy to show our girls where it all began for us, and to show them that the greatest things can happen in life, as soon as you know what to look for.

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### Sade Phillips, née Greene (Bates, Au09) and Mark Phillips

Sade: I met my husband during my semester abroad with Advanced Studies in England in the Autumn of 2009. I was studying English literature and creative writing at Bates College in Maine and wanted to challenge myself and gain a new perspective on the craft of novel writing. After submitting an application of my work, I was accepted into the ASE Autumn Program along with a Creative Writing Tutorial at University College Oxford. It is ten years since I have met my husband in the Widcombe area of Bath where I was assigned to the student residence at Claverton House. How we actually met was literally like a sliding door situation. I normally do not go out on my own without being in a group or on a pre-scheduled date but that Saturday evening in September I decided to go out on my own but locally. I went to The Ram, a local pub in Widcombe and had a glass of wine while reading some of *Northanger Abbey* before Monday. Then my now husband came in with a friend to watch the Manchester United game playing on the flat screen television. I left The Ram to have some dinner across the street at The Ring o'Bells. It was the first time I

have tasted venison and it was amazing. After the awesome meal, I went back to The Ram for one last drink before going home and he was still there but this time we made eye contact as I walked over to the bar. He sat beside me and asked what I would like to drink. I told him whatever he was having and that was a bourbon and cola and he asked me "are you one of the Sugababes?" I asked who they were because they sounded like a singing group or a girl band but they were not popular in the US at the time, so he explained who they were. Then we introduced ourselves. He said he was from Oldland Common a village between Bath and Bristol and he moved to Bath because of work. When I said I was from New York City we talked all night about all the films, books and music we loved. Although I went home that night and didn't exchange numbers, literally two weeks later, after our week away at Oxford, he saw me walking down the street and remembered me. He quickly ran after me and we exchanged numbers. We have been together ever since, and the rest is history.



### **John Doroghazi (Boston College, Sp02) and Diana Doroghazi**

John: I attended ASE in Spring 2002. Diana was one of my best friends at college, and I had spent much of the Fall having a crush on her, but not speaking up. For her spring break, Diana decided to visit me in England. I like to believe it was because her secret love for me was finally shining through; she claims to this day it was because airfare from Boston to London was cheap and she had never been to England before. In any event, I met her in London, where we spent the weekend together before coming back to Bath. After going to my classes, we went on a date at a restaurant (name long forgotten). We then went to The Huntsman, where sparks started to fly and we became a couple. When she went back to the States, I spent many nights sitting on the stairway steps in 29 Northampton talking to her on the phone with minutes purchased at the Post Office. She kept the Northampton houses and me stocked with care packages (Kraft Macaroni and Cheese and American ketchup were frequently requested). We dated through the rest of college, got married 13 years ago, and now have 3 children.




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### **Amanda Allan, née Goma (William and Mary, Su04) and Neil Allan**

Amanda: I lived in Prior Park and have great memories with Amy, Megan, Kate, and Katie, Chad, Antony and many others. We did a Sport and Culture seminar and for part of our course we went to Wimbledon. I'm pretty sure we queued for four hours to get in! I remember our other trips to Oxford and Cornwall, too.

I met my now husband Neil at the Pig and Fiddle pub the third night we were in England. Neil was an engineering student at Bath Uni. After Bath, I went back to William and Mary and arranged to study abroad in Exeter for my last semester of my Senior year.

We've been married since 2008 and now live in the Midlands.





### Nick Papazian (Skidmore, Su17) and Sarah Stephen (Mary Washington, Su17)

Sarah: We met during ASE’s Summer 2017 session—our houses hung out together a lot, but we didn’t get to know each other too well since we had different classes and only got together in large groups. (Somewhat surprisingly) we stayed in touch back in the States but didn’t see each other again until we got some of our gang back together at the New York reunion the following fall. Looking back, this is where Nick *likes* to say that our close friendship started developing, but really things didn’t start changing until months later when he took a road trip to Virginia to see friends at my college and we finally had an individual conversation. I soon returned the favor by driving to Nick’s school in upstate New York. After repeating that pattern a couple more times, we clued in on how most people wouldn’t drive eight hours just for a friendly weekend visit and decided to date (absolutely none of our friends were surprised).



A year-and-a-half later, we’ve both graduated college and have made our relationship a bit less long distance with Nick working in Boston as a carpenter and brand ambassador for a local brewery and myself in publishing in New York. This past summer, we even had the opportunity to return to Bath! It was so wonderful to reconnect with the staff and revisit the places where we made so many amazing memories two summers ago.

### Charlotte Menna, née Martin (Boston College, Sp08) and Brian Menna (Gettysburg, Sp08)

Charlotte: Brian and I met during the ASE spring semester of ‘08. It was during one of the first ice breaker sessions and I had just explained that I was from Brookline, MA. Brian came up to me, explained that his favorite bar, the Public House, was located in Brookline and asked if I’d ever been. Feeling extremely insecure and shy, I lied and said yes (good start, Char!). It also turned out that Brian was from Dover, MA, a town only 30 minutes away from my hometown. Pretty soon after that initial meeting, we started going on walks together, chatting online, and eventually we started dating. Because we lived so close to each other, we decided to take the relationship back across The Pond for the summer. When the summer ended and it was time for us to return to our respective schools (Gettysburg in PA for him, Boston College for me), we agreed to try the long distance thing. At the end of the year, we were still going strong and Brian moved back home to MA. 4 years later, Brian surprised me with a Christmas trip back to Bath, where he proposed and I accepted. We got married that summer. In January 2017, we had our first daughter, and just this past September we welcomed our second daughter. When I actually stop to think about it, I can’t believe Brian and I have been together for 10 years! We’re both in agreement that we feel a lot of gratitude towards ASE for bringing us together.



### Amy Taylor, nee Tamarkin (Bates, Au2007) and Phil Taylor

Amy: While studying at ASE Fall 2007 I was looking for a way to meet more British students and to earn my certificate of cultural enrichment. I attended the Freshers Fair at the University of Bath, and the bell ringing society sounded like it could be interesting - and something quintessentially British. On the following Thursday evening I went along to the bell ringing practice in Widcombe, and immediately noticed a tall and handsome Brit called Phil who was studying maths at the University of Bath. Needless to say, I became more motivated to attend bell ringing practices.

I returned to Bates for Spring 2008 but managed to come back to Bath with a student working visa for the summer and spent a lovely summer working at the Roman Baths. Phil and I started dating at that time, and we've now been married 10 years and are still bell ringing together in the Cotswolds.




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### Marnie Weir, née Prevost (Hobart and William Smith, 2000-01) and Matthew Weir (Hobart and William Smith, Au2002)

Matthew: Marnie and I did not attend ASE together but we have always considered ours to be an ASE love story. Marnie was a senior at HWS, and I a sophomore, when we met in the fall of 2001. Although it was our membership in the HWS Colleges Chorale that originally prompted our meeting after she'd been away the entire year prior in Bath, it was not until an ASE recruitment trip and subsequent night out for drinks with Barbara and some of the HWS-based alums that the two of us hung out socially. By the time we started dating about a month later, I had already decided to make ASE my abroad program of choice for the following autumn, and Marnie was *super* helpful in preparing me for a great semester: courses to take? yes to *Ghosts & Ghouls*, which she regretted missing during her year in Bath, and yes to *Jane Austen*, even though I might be one of only a few guys in the class (I was the only one, ultimately); strings pulled to get me choice housing at North Parade? possibly... By the time my semester in Bath drew to a close, Marnie was hopping across the pond for a visit (she arrived in Bath via bus during my *Jane Austen* final which I, unsurprisingly, finished in record time; I got an A- and Lizzie approved of my hasty exit) and we had a magical trip to Wales and London before she headed back to the States for Christmas. And the rest, you can say, is history! We were married in Manhattan just over five years later, in January of 2008, joined by a healthy contingent of alums in attendance, and ASE has remained near and dear to us these many years. Marnie, our son Timothy and I even had the luck of recently sharing Liverpool's historic 6th European Championship with Jonathan and his daughter Ivy this past June as we hosted a watch party in Worcester, MA. The ASE love lives on!



# The Start of the Affair



*Molly McGrann (Sp94, Skidmore), now a novelist teaching Advanced Creative Writing for ASE, recalls how her semester in Bath became the starting point for family life in England*

About 25 years ago, in the middle of a snowstorm on the East Coast of America, I flew to England for the first time, descending through clouds into the grey, moist haze I have come to know so well. Somehow, I don't recall now, dazed and very tired after a sleepless night on the plane watching movies, we—Susie and I, classmates at Skidmore—made it to Nelson House, where we were warmly greeted by Don, Andy, Barbara and Carol, legends of ASE. And so it began, my love affair, my *enchantment* with this island I have now called home for the last 20 years.

As affairs go, mine has all the elements: passionate, loving, caring, fraught at times, occasionally hateful. I view myself as American (it's my only passport, though my children have both) and yet I've lived here so long—the longest, ever, including my hometown, to which I still return at regular intervals—that I can't imagine living anywhere else. Except California. But that's another story...

Way back when, 1994, in Bath, after an incredible semester abroad, saying goodbye to my tutors and new friends, I vowed to return (in fact, I think my exact words were, "I'm going to marry an Englishman"). Then again, at 21 years old, life was like that; I was *young*, effortlessly exuberant, a bit faithless, reckless, inexperienced but grasping for new experiences all the time. England was the first step on a long journey that took me around the world and beyond; living abroad, however briefly at first, fuelled my creativity and independence, the universe of my mind, my poetry and, ultimately, my fiction. I'm a proper writer now, having published three novels—my stories have even been read aloud on BBC Radio 4, which felt, for me, like a national honor (although I still spell words like 'honor' and 'neighbor' etc without the U, confirming I'm very much American, if only in my heart, heritage and writing habits).

Something else happened to me that year, or, rather, on Thanksgiving Day of 1993, six weeks before I set off for ASE: my long-term boyfriend and another close friend of ours were killed in a car crash. It was harrowing, and I endured the pain privately and, for the most part, silently; I didn't know how to talk about it. I was grateful to have the distraction of the program and also to be among people who didn't know about the recent tragedy in my life. My loss, my devastation, had a physical effect—I was in shock, yet likewise determined to carry on with a long-planned semester abroad, despite feeling like I'd been shot, all over my body; splintered with bullet holes, torn apart. I walked around Bath and along the canal for hours, a *flaneur*, but also getting to grips with profound grief. Travelling throughout Europe on weekends and Spring Break was a tonic as well—I could be outside of myself, looking at new, marvellous, exotic sights. Little by little, I began to heal.

After ASE and Skidmore, I moved on to an MFA course in Creative Writing at NYU and a job at the *Paris Review*. Whilst living in Manhattan, I met the rock star, who happened to be English, and the rest is history: back to Blighty with my husband, thus fulfilling destiny just as I had promised myself when boarding the train at Bath station for the last time in 1994, on my way to Heathrow and home. But on that crowded, busy platform in 1994, with too much luggage, I had no idea what was coming

next. I just knew that I had grown, and that I was better-equipped for the world, for my future; I was more thoughtful, cultivated, educated, capable, thanks to a semester abroad. Tools for my toolbox, as such.

I'm here, in the heart of Oxford, raising three sons, writing fiction and teaching creative writing—for ASE, no less! I'm a tutor for the Programme, in another funny twist of fate. I have returned to Nelson House.

My love affair with England, at this moment, is solid, established, no longer unfaithful—we are basically married. My boys attend school locally, and we walk there and back together and say hello to all the neighbours (a few of whom are, thankfully, also American). We drink cups of tea, and I even call this ritual a 'cuppa' now. I read British newspapers and the fiction and non-fiction that our estimable island publishers produce, and also, occasionally, if I'm at the dentist, I read HELLO for royal and celebrity news. I struggle to distinguish between an American versus United Kingdom accent these days; my ears do both. My children call me Mummy and Mom indiscriminately.

This is me, Molly—the person, mother, writer, teacher, friend, neighbor—that I have become. I'm about halfway through my life (I hope; I do hope, but you never know...) and, as such, it's interesting and evocative to gather my experiences into a sort-of essay about becoming. Sometimes *becoming* feels like sleight-of-hand, a magic trick that fate has up its sleeve. But I believe that we determine our own luck with the choices we make. For me, one of the first choices I definitively made in my life was ASE, and even though I was dealing with endings—death, loss, grief, the marathon to recover from calamity—it felt like a beginning, and so it was.



# From Jane Austen to Harlequin Romance

*Niki Rokicki (Su14, Gettysburg) describes how a job in publishing has unearthed some unexpected literary connections*

I wish I could say it was all part of my master life plan. That the Disney fairytales I grew up watching and the Golden Era of Rom-Com films I love so dearly (shout out to *You've Got Mail*), were all in preparation for the single moment in my life I accepted a job at Harlequin, the legendary romance novel publisher that paved the way for all the others.

I didn't plan a career in the romance novel industry. It was just a step in the door into the broader publishing world I wanted to be a part of. Coming from academic publishing at Cambridge University Press, I knew nothing of the genre or the scale on which the books were produced (about 100 titles a month), but when I joined the Managing Editorial team at Harlequin in 2017, I quickly learned just how much goes into these books.

Before studying Jane Austen with ASE in the summer of 2014, I took a crash course on Austen's work, speed reading through six novels before leaving for England. At first glance, you wouldn't think the two were comparable, Austen and modern-day romance novels. But now I've spent a lot of time reading and watching Jane Austen's stories, and I see that my job wouldn't have existed without her. Austen might roll over in her grave at the observation, but she planted the seed for a mass market genre that outsells nearly every other genre in publishing, written (mostly) for women by women.

According to the Romance Writers of America, an organization Harlequin works closely with, 'the main plot of a mass-market romance novel must revolve around the two people as they develop romantic love for each other and work to build a relationship. Both the conflict and the climax of the novel should be directly related to that core theme of developing a romantic relationship, although the novel can also contain subplots that do not specifically relate to the main characters' romantic love.' Most importantly, the stories must have a happily-ever-after.

Though she definitely wasn't the first to write in the genre - the earliest romance novels arguably date as far back as Ancient Greece - many of the tropes we know and love in modern romance novels, Austen used quite frequently: rags to riches, friends to lovers, enemies to lovers, secret romance, love triangles, etc.

At Harlequin, there's a romance for almost everyone, whether set in the Regency era, or a cowboy-meets-city-girl romance set in the mountains of Oregon. In *Good-Time Cowboy* by Maisey Yates (my personal favourite), the main characters exhibit an adversarial relationship much like Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, until they finally admit to their feelings. There are notes of *Emma* in Kerri Carpenter's *Bayside's Most Unexpected Bride*, where the heroine knows and utilizes the small-town gossip to stir up trouble. And in *Christmastime Cowboy* by Maisey Yates, the hero and heroine have a history similar to Anne and Captain Wentworth in *Persuasion*; and they too get a second chance at love.

I can't imagine Harlequin existing without Jane Austen, and I'm forever grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the company. I didn't really think much of romance novels before. I



laughed at the covers and the titles (I still do, to be honest); but I have a new respect for them now. If I hadn't studied Austen and her books, I don't think I'd have understood the romance genre, the history from which it developed, or why it's so important to the industry.

And I have ASE to thank for that!



*UPDATE:* Since writing this piece Niki has moved on to pastures new and is considering taking a break from the publishing industry and NYC. She has plenty of experience of project management, scheduling and contracts. If anyone has any ideas about where she might go next, feel free to reach out to her through the alumni website's directory.

# New Faces at ASE (1): Rika Seeman-Sterling, Admissions and Academic Coordinator

*Hallo alle zusammen!* Rika here, greeting you in my native language. I am delighted to have joined ASE as the new Admissions and Academic Coordinator. Originally, I'm from Germany and have an American dad but came to the UK in 2016 to join the University of Bath and complete a Master's program in International Education and Globalisation. The city of Bath captured my heart and I wasn't ready to leave after graduating.

But let me backtrack a little, to about 2003. Travelling abroad has been a part of my educational path since 9th grade. I went to Boston for one school term and a few years later, I went to Metz, France to study in the 11th grade at a French lycée. When I reached university, I chose a major that would allow me to study abroad yet again. This time it was Seoul, South Korea. These experiences have cemented my love for getting to know other countries and becoming immersed in different cultures.



Now, fast forwarding to the present day, I am in a position to support students from US institutions who come to study abroad for one or two semesters. They want to experience something I wholeheartedly believe is key to broadening one's horizons. Not only do they receive an excellent education, but they have the chance to live in a new environment with different customs, cultural practices and daily etiquette. It is a privilege to be able to play a role in their acceptance to ASE and their onward journey while in Bath.

Since working for ASE, I have been able to see Stonehenge, go to the Cotswolds, follow Harry Potter's footsteps in Oxford and enjoy many other day trips in and around Bath. This is mainly thanks to ASE's amazing social and cultural programme. On the academic front, rather than standing on the side-lines, I found myself taking part in an ASE creative writing workshop one afternoon. Suddenly, I was a student again; and Michael Loveday, our tutor, drew ideas out of my mind that I didn't realise were there. Combining such inspiring educational experiences with the adventure and challenge of living abroad offers the ideal recipe for internationally-minded learning.



When I'm not at ASE, I enjoy doing yoga, knitting, learning languages and travelling. Practicing yoga and balancing upside down on my hands has become a particular passion of mine. Handstands – just like study abroad - offer a completely different perspective on the world!



# Goodbye Lindsay!

*A farewell and thank you from Lindsay Orchard, ASE's Associate Dean of Students since 2008*

It is with mixed emotions that I bid farewell to ASE after nine and a half years overseeing the social and cultural programme. Although I will miss the hustle and bustle of Nelson House, I am excited to spend some precious time as a stay-at-home mum to my daughter, Imogen, before she starts school.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to be able to connect ASE students with a supportive network of community partners. I would like especially to extend thanks to Dave Twine and Barbara Shrubsole at Manvers Street Open House Centre, the Tower Tours team at Bath Abbey, Bath Organic Garden, Bath Foodcycle, Jane Austen Dancers, Bath Spa University Student Union and Ann Garner at the Mission Theatre (to name a few!). Thanks also to the many British student helpers I've had the pleasure to work with, who have not only encouraged but accompanied ASE students as they got involved. Above all, thank you to the ASE students (now ASE alums) for the contributions you made to the Bath community, and, in so many cases, for managing to fit in a regular commitment to a club, society or volunteer opportunity to your busy semester abroad.



Aside from a fairly calamitous punting trip or two, I've had many wonderful experiences as a result of working for ASE. I've lost count of the number of superb productions I've seen at the RSC, something I am very lucky to be able to say. And I was welcomed so warmly to US campuses by alums, faculty and study abroad colleagues during recruitment trips. Also, I'm grateful for the opportunity I have had to see Bath and the UK through a visitor's eyes: I now have a lengthy back catalogue of trip itineraries to delve into as Imogen grows up, and I'm hoping I might even be able

to tell her a fact or two from listening intently to ASE tutors and, of course, to Andrew Butterworth.



When I was thinking about my favourite ASE moments, one stood out for me above the others. During my first ASE summer school in 2010, it so happened that England were playing the USA during their opening match of that summer's football (soccer) World Cup in South Africa. It seemed remiss not to rearrange the schedule for the Saturday of Cornwall weekend to ensure that our 30-strong group would be firmly seated in front of the TV at the Paris Hotel in Coverack in time for kick-off!

The locals in this tiny Cornish fishing village showed us wonderful hospitality that night, with some good-natured interactions during the match, followed by an exuberant after party which went on well after official 'Last Orders'.

Although an England victory would have been nice (for us Brits, at least), I can't help thinking the rest of the night would have been a lot quieter and less fun had Robert Green's goalkeeping howler not allowed a USA goal to make the match 1-1. So thank you Robert, all is forgiven.

I am blessed to have worked with such supportive colleagues at ASE, and I'm especially grateful to Melissa Glass and Hugh Mclean for their vital contributions to the management of the social and cultural programme over the last year. Hugh has hit the ground running in his role as Student Affairs Assistant and I wish him every success for his future at ASE. I'll miss seeing the whole ASE team every day but will be sure to raise an 11am cup of coffee to them now and then and, just maybe, the occasional glass of Cornish cider!





## New Faces at ASE (2): Hugh Mclean, Student Affairs Coordinator

Hi All! My name is Hugh; I'm the new Student Affairs Coordinator here at ASE. I joined the team in August 2018 in the run up to the Autumn '18 semester. I am a recent graduate from the University of Manchester, where I studied Environmental Resource Geology. After university I decided to remain in Manchester to gain some professional experience within the

recruitment industry. I learnt a great deal during this time, allowing me to hone my skills in communication, organisation and marketing.

Prior to joining ASE, I had just returned from three months of travelling around South East Asia, which was an unforgettable experience. Most notably, I bought a motorbike in Vietnam and biked 2500km across the entire country. The experience taught me greater resilience when the going got tough and reinforced the need for good organisation, planning and self-reliance. It's difficult to pin point my most memorable moment of the journey, but a particular highlight was when I was in the Vietnamese mountains, to the North, approximately 3000m up in the clouds. The sense of pure tranquillity and bliss was overwhelming, and I felt (quite literally) on top of the world.

After returning home, I decided to remain in the South West of England, where I was born and raised, as I have a strong network of friends and family here. With the bank account well and truly empty by this point, the inevitable job hunt had to take precedence. I focused my efforts around



roles that played to my strengths and interests. Luckily, I stumbled upon the advertisement for a Student Affairs Assistant at ASE. This immediately caught my interest, as I have held a number of positions working with students and enjoyed them all very much. After researching ASE further, my love for the role began to blossom. It seemed to tick all the boxes: where else would I be able to work with students and express my love of travel and adventure all at the same time?! After a few ironed shirts, a rigorous interview process and plenty of smiling I managed to impress the team and secure the role.

I'm now fifteen months into my ASE journey and I am thoroughly enjoying it, to say the least. In my first semester, I worked alongside Lindsay Orchard, assisting her with all aspects of the social and cultural programme. Lindsay was superb at teaching me the ropes, and was an excellent mentor and an absolute pleasure to work with. Now that she's moved on, I am equally excited to be working with Emma Hurry in her new role as Admissions and Student Affairs Manager.



My role encompasses a wide remit of responsibilities; including planning, booking, active promotion and practical administration of the social and cultural programme. It also involves managing a team of British student helpers, who assist with the running of the social and cultural programme, and help build bridges between the ASE cohort and their peers at the two Bath universities. I foster and maintain meaningful links between ASE students and local volunteering agencies, clubs, sports teams and societies. I take primary responsibility for publicising programme events through social media channels. In addition, I also provide pastoral support to students as and

when needed. So far, I've been lucky enough to go on trips to Stonehenge and Salisbury, and jaunted through the history of Jane Austen. Not a bad job if you ask me!

I'm looking forward to my future with ASE, and to seeing how my role will develop further down the line!



# Hello from P!

## A message from Peta Hall, ASE's long-standing Housing Manager until her retirement last year

Hello, Everyone.

Well, to say I am missing my friends at ASE is an understatement!

In February 2017, just after I had greeted our new Spring semester group and started to settle them in to their new ASE homes, I had an accident which left me spending four months in hospital. I am actually still recovering. Sadly, this meant I had to step down from my role as ASE's Housing Manager. However much I wanted to, I just couldn't run up and down all those stairs with a broken leg!

I had been at ASE from the day its first semester in 1989 (yes, I am very old!) and I must say I enjoyed every moment – watching the college develop and grow over the years, and helping to look after many hundreds of students, who we hope built wonderful memories during their time here in Bath. My experience was not even dampened by those call outs on cold nights to deal with failing electrics, or a student who had lost their keys!

I still feel odd every Wednesday morning when I would normally be turning on the oven at Nelson House to heat up pastries for my Housing Committee meetings, but I am still managing to keep busy, working from home and doing lots of voluntary work. That has at least helped to fill the big gap I felt at first.

Some of you sent some lovely messages and comments when you heard of my retirement, for which I am so grateful. The friendships made, and the memories I have are so important to me, and although I have left my actual office at Nelson House I still feel very much a part of the ASE family, and will follow ASE's news with interest.

Thank you everyone – Love, Px



# Memories of and Testimonies for Peta from Various Alums

"I had the best time getting to know P while I was a student (Au05) and summer intern (Su07). I had the good fortune of being the housing representative for 29 Northampton so got to see Peta in action. She's a lovely human being with a super sense of humor and a graceful approach to supporting and guiding students. I wish Peta all the best and am grateful for all she did to keep all ASE students safe and supported."

**Shane Dunn (Au05, 29 Northampton, BC)**

"My favorite remark from P came at the opening of a house rep meeting: "Paul, I just saw your passport photo. You used to be smooth! We've made you pale but you used to be smooth!" or something along those lines..."

Please extend my best wishes to P and continued thanks for an amazing experience. House Rep Meeting was my favorite class every week."

**Paul Soltis (Au14, Prior Park, William and Mary)**

"Peta was so nice and patient with me and my housemates at 29 Northampton. Even when I used blue sticky tack to cover my whole wall with pictures. Even when my housemates broke 20% of the bannister poles. Even when the boys rooms started smelling really bad. Peta was nothing but sweet and supportive!"

**Kerri Bisaga (Au09, 29 Northampton, Bucknell)**

"I remember Peta talking to 28 Northampton about flat life and the way flats work. I distinctly remember the discussion about not frying the electrical and then how (I think it was) ONLY HOURS LATER someone used an American appliance in an outlet and set the alarms off. The alarm was flashing. Lights were out. And I'm sure PETA was EXHAUSTED after a day of telling jet lagged Americans about British flats. But she was a total dear while we were all panicked about the lights and everything, in true British fashion, was fixed."

**Joanna Chlebus (Sp04, 18 Northampton, Mount Holyoke)**

"I was lucky enough to serve at 31 Prior Park's representative on the Housing Council during my semester at ASE in the Fall 2005 and adored every minute I got to spend with P. I was even lucky enough to get a ride home with her one night (my only time to get to sit on the wrong side of the car while I was in the UK!).

P was the best; so patient and helpful with anything that came up with the house. We had an eventful year that year at Prior Park (a mysterious roofing repair, a fun downstairs neighbor and many requests for new pots and pans as we all loved to have family dinner at the house). P may remember we were the ones who asked for a new wok :-)

Wishing her all the best in her retirement!"

**Krystal Thomas (Au05, Prior Park, Gettysburg)**

"In Fall 2016 when I came to Bath, Emma and Su practically bamboozled me into being Housing Rep for Nunes House because out of seven of us living there...I was the only one whose schedule had room for the position. I didn't know what to expect, I didn't even know who Peta was. The brief interaction I had with P was when I arrived late to orientation, and she grabbed one of my suitcases and flitted up the stairs, and I thought, " Wow she has more energy than I do!"

All to say, that I didn't know what to expect as Housing Rep or what my responsibilities would be. So, I walked down the stairs to the common space, I was the first to arrive, and there was P sitting in a chair with a table piled with goodies. When I say piled I mean, little pastries, candies, juice, apples, essentially my entire breakfast selection right in front of me. And P, in her energetic warm manner invited me to eat up! Just about every week followed in this manner: all of us Housing Reps met up with P to a feast of goodies and we talked and laughed, mostly because whatever changes needed to be made to the house caused some pretty hilarious chaos. One week Christian, in his very serious manner, announced that John had decided to use the shower that was built into the wall in their room because the main shower was being used. Let me repeat that again: a shower, just a shower, no toilet, no enclave, just a shower and a door in the corner of the room, with its own little light. While John was showering it had begun to leak into the room (as one might expect) and at the same time, the little shower light went out. For reasons unknown the main room light was off, so John began to scream for anyone in the house to please come help him and turn the room light on because he was wet, it was slippery, and he couldn't see a thing. P and the rest of us were doubled over laughing and poor Christian was just trying to let P know that the light was out and that they needed a bath matt for the shower. That was just one of the many stories that P had to deal with on a weekly basis. I wish P the best, and hope she remembers this story and that it brings her a smile and maybe even a little chuckle.

Much love to P and ASE Staff"

**Mia Silvan-Grau (Au16, Nunes, Oberlin)**

"I was lucky enough to serve as an ASE intern so I had an inside look at just how much Peta made things work behind the scenes. I saw her lead bathroom renovations, kitchen rescues, and she didn't even get mad at me when I lost the key to my flat in my couch cushions (who does that?). Though I was with ASE over 10 years ago, I know that Peta has continued to be an indispensable and integral part of the ASE family. She is an incredible blessing and I wish her well on her next adventure!"

**Meg Mascelli (Sp03, ASE Intern 04-05, Nunes, Mary Wash')**

"My memories of Peta are a friendly and welcoming face upon arrival to a strange new country. She was extremely warm and helpful...always there to answer questions and make sure we felt safe and comfortable. My memories at ASE are some of my favorites!"

**Karen Harvey (Au03, Nunes, Hobart & William Smith)**

"I can't believe that Peta is retiring! She is an integral part of the ASE family and it is hard to imagine how everything will continue on smoothly without her. When I was in Bath as a student and as a summer intern, P was kind, friendly, and full of good humor. She was always so welcoming and inclusive. Three cheers for Peta and best wishes for this next adventure in her life!"

**Erica Delsandro (Au00 & Su03, Bucknell)**

"I was the housing rep in Autumn 2009 for Nunes House. I have such fond memories of our weekly meetings with P - she always had biscuits and a lovely chat waiting for us! I managed to convince her to take a photo with me at our Final Tea, which I've attached. Happy Retirement, P!"

**Allison Peña (Au09, Nunes, Yale)**



"I would love to share a few favorite memories of Peta over my semester. There are 3 distinct ones to choose from (if not all)!

Linley House Washer:

Long story short, our clothes kept getting stuck in the washer because of a faulty door. And I think I was the victim of this at least 3x and each time, Peta's demeanor and patience wore off a little bit. Toward the end right before the last call to the repair man, she assured me that it would be fixed and left with a lasting quote: 'It is quite unacceptable!' It is just interesting because that was the angriest I've seen her and it was also the most subdued anger too... I appreciate the hustle, Peta!

Hostel residents:

I had the bedroom on the first floor facing the street level and time and time again specifically during the weekends, my roommate & I would be awakened to a resident of the next door hostel sitting by our front door. And he was always whaling bad music on an acoustic guitar. After complaining to Peta, she set up a formal laminated note on our front door warning people that this was a private residence and not to sit on the stoop. There were no issues after that! Peta dropped the hammer!

First day:

Peta gave the girls and I a tour of Linley (I believe on the first day). When we saw the tap water faucet in the kitchen, we were a little taken aback. I don't think any of us had experienced a faucet without a water filtration system quite like that. When we asked her if it was safe to drink, she responded with "Whatever doesn't kill you!" Obviously the water was fine... but that stands out as one of my favorite memories overall. The levity and humor really set the stage for the rest of trip.

Thank you, Peta for always being so attentive to us. I'm sure it was not easy to manage over the years. Wishing you the very best in your next stage!"

**Carolyn Han (Au06, Linley, BC)**

"Congratulations on your retirement, P! It's hard to believe that I was studying abroad ten years ago but even though all that time has passed, I still remember how welcoming you were. On our first day, you gave our Prior Park group of jet-lagged Americans a tour of the kitchen (which you had stocked with tea and biscuits!) as well as tips for using the washing machine and making international calls. You introduced me to Digestives and Hob Nobs, which I still pick up at the store when I'm feeling especially nostalgic for Bath. And, I felt especially lucky on the days my internship overlapped with your work at No. 1 Royal Crescent. It was so nice to see a familiar, friendly smile when I was in a new place. Thank you for making ASE such a welcoming community. Enjoy some well deserved rest and relaxation (and hopefully some adventure, too)!"

**Emily Weir Foley (Sp08, Prior Park, F&M)**

## New Faces at ASE (3): Kara Chambers-Grant, Accommodation Manager.

Howdy, y'all!

With a nod to Rika's introduction, I'm happy to greet you in my native language! I'm Kara, a Texas-born transplant to the UK, and I have been with ASE nearly a year now as Accommodation Manager. I had some big shoes to fill, indeed, following Peta Hall's legacy of nearly 30 years! As I carry the role forward, I am so grateful for the solid footing and history of care for ASE students that she provided.

In any given week as Accommodation Manager I may tackle small fix-it jobs, coordinate contractors to perform regular safety checks, liaise with landlords and the council planning commission, and help housemates find positive solutions to personality or housekeeping clashes. I'm learning a load about the nitty-gritty of maintaining Georgian buildings. My goal for all ASE homes is that they will be safe and welcoming spaces, both comfortable havens and launching pads for students to explore Bath and beyond.



One of the high points of my work week is the Housing Committee meeting, where I get feedback from the student representatives of each house (over coffee, of course!), and I'm looking forward to being more involved with student life in the future. I took my first trip to Stratford with the program this term, and next term I'm very excited to be serving as Rainbow Mentor. This is an evolving role but will be focused on being available to provide support for LGBTQ+ students. One of the joys of being part of the ASE team is that we all wear multiple hats and truly work together to make sure that students get the most out of their time in Bath.

Working with ASE in Bath actually represents a full-circle journey for me, as I first came to the UK when I spent a semester in the city of Oxford as an undergraduate. I, too, lived in a sprawling, charming house full of US students, learned under brilliant tutors, and relished the deep connections between my surroundings and my studies. Returning to my university in Texas, I was so eager to pass along my impressions that I even wrote a guide for future program participants! Little did I suspect that I'd end up in the perfect position to help provide a similarly rich experience for other students over twenty years later.

In the time between leaving and returning to the UK, I've been fortunate to be able to realise the dreams of travel and adventure that I'd had since childhood. I've made my home in Philadelphia, Maryland, Chicago, Indiana, and Haiti – with shorter stints in other spots. I earned a law degree from Indiana University – Bloomington, which led to work with human rights and community development projects and a time serving refugees back in Texas. From running a youth hostel on the Appalachian Trail to working in graduate admissions for an optometry school, from launching restaurants to writing grants – all my experiences have led me to feel right at home with the variety of a working life at ASE.



My unexpected circling back from my earlier studies to now putting roots down in the UK was a result of modern romance, when online connections can displace geographic distance. My wife, Jo, is originally from Coventry, but has lived in Bath since university. We married in 2017, and I now make my home in this gorgeous city, too. We have a 13-year-old son, so family life and DIY work on our new home keep us quite busy. But, when we have extra time, we love finding quiet camping spots in the UK and travelling together.

When I first studied here, I had no idea that I'd eventually choose this wonderful little island as my landing place, but I couldn't be happier about the way that life has unfolded. I look forward to meeting you many of you as you return to visit ASE in the future and hearing how your own lives have unfolded for you since your time abroad. We'll have the coffee ready!



# ASE Alumni Scholarship Recipients

*This past semester, ASE's first ever Alumni Scholarships were awarded to two students, on the basis of proven financial need – and an impressive letter of application! Although the Scholarship Fund is currently in its infancy, we hope to see it grow substantially over coming years, making more achievable our strategic aim of widening access to the Programme. You can donate here - <https://www.studyabroadbath.org/alum/donations>*



Hello Alumni Community!

My name is Alison Lashendock and I am a junior at Gettysburg College studying with ASE for the Autumn semester of 2018. Thank you for your generous scholarship support this term, which has helped to fund my course textbooks and travel within the United Kingdom.

At Gettysburg, I am a Political Science major with a double minor in Economics and English. My classes at ASE have given me the chance to explore these passions from a different perspective. My class on *British Detective Fiction* might just be my favorite, but it is so hard to choose when also learning about the UK's government system and media culture and, of course, Jane Austen! Bath is a beautiful place to live and learn and it's crazy

to think I now have another home on the other side of the world.

I am loving every minute of the ASE program and am so grateful for your support!

With Gratitude,

**Alison Lashendock**, *Gettysburg College*



Denison University has opened me to so many incredible opportunities, but the best one has definitely been introducing me to Advanced Studies in England.

As a Communication student from rural Ohio, I never thought about the possibility of being able to travel abroad anywhere, let alone study in beautiful Bath, England. At Denison, I am very active in the theatre and volunteer communities and wished to further this while I was studying abroad. ASE was that exact place.

Because I was offered the Alumni Scholarship, I have been able to intern with the Natural Theatre Company - thus furthering my desire to delve into a career in theatre marketing. I have also been taking the classes *Jane Austen, Ghosts & the Gothic*, and *British Detective Fiction*. In keeping with my love of service, and my love of the dirt, I have been consistently working with the Bath Community Garden, growing closer to the community.

This opportunity has been among the most life-changing and motivating experiences of my entire life, and I am very thankful to those of you who helped me get here.

**Brooke Stiles**, *Denison University*



Dear ASE Alumni ,

Thank you very much for sponsoring the alumni scholarship award! Your support has helped me afford necessary diabetic supplies during my stay in Bath, which has allowed me to take part in ASE without worrying about logistics. This, in turn, has allowed me to take classes that have been exceptionally useful for my writing major and an Advanced Creative Writing Tutorial where I worked on a novel that I hope to someday publish. In addition, thanks to your financial help, I was able to visit Edinburgh, Glasgow and London and immerse myself in UK culture. I have

had an exceptional, unforgettable experience with ASE and I sincerely appreciate your continued support of the program and its participants.

Thanks again!

**Abby Bethke, Drake University**



Dear ASE Alumni,

Thank you so much for the ASE scholarship award! This semester has been so exciting and I have learned and grown so much, and it would not have been possible without you and this award. Here in Bath I have been exploring various restaurants with my flatmates, as well as trying out new recipes at home, as I am a big foodie.

The internship at Suited and Booted has been a phenomenal experience for me and has made me feel like I am truly turning into an adult! All the courses have been amazing experiences for me, and are all things that my home institution, does not offer, so I am very glad that I got to expand my academic horizons.

Lastly, I was able to make two trips to London this semester, thanks to the scholarship, where I got to visit some old friends, and I saw many sights, but the best part was that since I went during the holiday season, I was able to visit the Christmas Markets, so I had something to compare the Bath Christmas Markets to (I prefer the Bath ones!).

As my time here in Bath comes to an end, I can safely say that this experience has truly changed me, and I am truly thankful for every moment of it.

Thank you all so much for making my experience the semester of my dreams!

**Julia Vinyard, Brandeis University**

Dear ASE Alumni,

I've known I wanted to study abroad long before I even started applying to universities. In fact, I chose my school because of the variety of programs their study abroad office offered. Before the end of my first year, I was fairly positive I wanted to go to England. From the moment I heard about ASE, I knew it was the program for me. Everything about ASE called to me, from the Humanities-centered curriculum to the study trips. Three things in particular sealed the deal: its location in Bath, its *British Detective Fiction* class, and its people.



Almost every study abroad program in England is located in London - a wonderful place to visit, I think, but a bit overwhelming for just a semester. If I had studied in London, I know I would not have seen half as much of the UK as I have, or gotten as involved in my local community. Bath is, first of all, in the perfect location to access the country. My first day-trip, to Cardiff with my housemates, remains one of my favorite days in the semester. As a treat to myself after finishing several essays, I also visited the lovely little town of Bradford-on-Avon. I truly felt like I fell down the rabbit hole and into Wonderland that day. I found this quirky little cafe, The Secret Garden, in the center of town, and talked with its eccentric owner about the town's history and our favorite china patterns for over an hour.

Interesting characters are easy to find in Bath, especially at Organic Gardening Club. I spent every Tuesday morning at Royal Victoria Park, getting my hands dirty, planting and weeding. During tea time, we discussed cultural differences, usually relating to food or education, between the US and UK. One member told us about his travels in the US and his reactions to things like barbecued bison in Wyoming. One day, I hardly did any gardening because I spent the entire time talking to a travel writer from Ireland who focuses on literary travel destinations.

But the number one reason I chose ASE was for its *British Detective Fiction* class. Sherlock Holmes is the literary love of my life, and ASE was the only program to offer the opportunity to study him and his genre. We spent three whole classes just on Holmes and television adaptations, but it was the study trip that swept my heart away. Visiting the moors of Dartmoor, the setting of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, has been at the top of my travel bucket list for years. I titled my blog post that day "I have been waiting for this day my whole life." Finally, I fulfilled my dream of climbing over the moors in my deerstalker.

I thought, by the end of the semester, I would be overwhelmed by a desire to stay in England. While I do want to find myself a little cottage on the moor someday, I've found that what I really want is to stay an ASE student. I can travel throughout the UK, even live here, but I will never again be surrounded by so many wonderful, similarly-minded people. The staff are incredibly kind and genuinely interested in our feelings and opinions. The tutors have challenged me as much as I have them. Most of all, the ASE students are exactly my kind of people. With them, I've found myself discussing Jane Austen characters over breakfast, Celtic history on a train, and psychoanalyzing my creative writing during a long bus ride. We've laughed our way through the Cotswolds, played word games while hiking in Dorset, and spent hours sharing our favorite novels and genres in Bath's numerous bookstores. I have never once regretted my decision in choosing ASE, and I doubt I ever will.

**Nicole Snyder**, Simmons University



# From Blogging to Dublin, and ‘The Bod’

*Annalise Torcson (Sp15, Tulane University) was awarded an MPhil in Irish Writing at Trinity College, Dublin. Her dissertation was entitled "We go to sleep by artificial moonlight:" Ecocriticism and Ecofeminism in the works of contemporary poets Vona Groarke and Sinéad Morrissey. Annalise's success is all the more impressive because she was simultaneously undertaking a two-year Masters in Creative Writing at Kellogg College, Oxford University, where she won the FH Pasby Prize for her first-year coursework.*

*Here she describes her journey to graduate work in Oxford and Dublin, via ASE*

One temptation of the twenty-first century writer is that of the blog. Sometimes the blog blossoms into a lifetime pursuit, lovingly updated every few weeks with snatches of poetry or pictures of pie; sometimes the blog languishes on the Internet, a memorial to the hours the writer spent coding a snazzy layout; and sometimes, the blog serves as a digital chronicle of one's past experiences.

When I first came to England in 2015 for ASE's Spring semester, I had visions of keeping a blog that would record everything from the way a scone crumbled to the slant of light across the Avon. In reality, swept up in the experiences, my blog gained only four posts to its domain. Recently, however, looking back through the excited musings of my season at ASE, I was struck by the ending of a post titled "Anglo-Saxon Slashing and Gashing." The enigmatically titled post detailed my afternoon in Oxford after a Poetry tutorial with the incomparable Kieron Winn:

"As I left to catch my train that day, I found myself hoisting my backpack higher on my shoulders and singing a bit of an Irish folk song under my breath. The sun was beginning to set, and the spires of Oxford's skyline bled into it like a painting by some Italian master. At that moment, on my ramble back to the train station, I realized something for the first time since I had been in England...I felt like I *belonged*."



Over three years later, I sift back through these posts and smile. I remember a twenty-year-old living in Clarendon Villas, peering through her window onto a frost-stenciled street, and wondering what her future would hold. In the blog's words, I can sense the excitement and the call to adventure that would be nurtured by my experiences at ASE and the remarkable team there. I can detect my resolve for a future plan that until then had only manifested in dreams: I wanted to be a grad student at Oxford. I wanted to live

somewhere in the islands of the North Atlantic. I wanted to be a part of an institution where literature and knowledge were treated as sacred things; to swipe into the Bodleian Library

without a backwards glance or the nervous shuffle of an imposter. I wanted to be a participant in a global community of artists and thinkers, and to learn and grow from the myriad of perspectives we could offer one another. I wanted to kneel next to Tolkien's grave in Wolvercote Cemetery or sit alone on an autumn morning in the Holy Trinity Church where CS Lewis once worshipped. I wanted to connect with all the myths of my childhood: to find that little girl who had crossed the Misty Mountains with a fellowship of nine, who had looked out from the turrets of Cair Paravel, and who liked to name the six wives of Henry VIII in one breath.

But I also wanted to climb the cliffs of Howth above the Irish Sea and look for the mountains of Wales, visible on clear days. Crammed in my tiny North Dublin flat, I wanted to take my copy of *A Poet's Dublin* by Eavan Boland and search the streets for her words. I wanted to see where *Titanic* had been rolled from her dry dock, launched into the River Lagan. (And as the Irish adage goes, "She was fine when she left Belfast!") Through the words of its literature, I wanted to understand the country that so many of my ancestors sailed from in the nineteenth century:



driven by starvation and visions of a different life. I wanted to thank them for their sacrifices. To stand on the Western shores of Ireland, in Clare, and know that ahead of me were only the westerlies and the sleet waters of the Atlantic. This would mean that my continent of birth was far away over that stretch of ocean; the swamps and mosquito-swathed air of my hometown even farther.

When I first moved to Ireland and decided to take on two simultaneous Masters programs, I knew that it wouldn't be easy. I knew that it would be a long journey. But I was filled with such gratitude for the opportunities, and for the siren calls that the work was giving me. But what I didn't realize was that the work would require a complete unspooling of self: a moving through often dark places. As I began to search for my former self, fearing that my identity had simply become "work," I began to notice the new shapes that those threads were weaving. I began to realize that "the work" was not deadlines, combatting months of loneliness, or even hours of research. The work is constant, and it is carried within each of us: how to live as sentient and compassionate beings...how to use our voices and talents to make sense of the world around us. And perhaps use these gifts, which appear in many forms, to invoke change and spread light (or fire). For me, it has always been the written word. And as the words of this past year roll away...poems, essays, a play, a dissertation...I can feel their power rustling through me. It's just the beginning.



# Summer of Great Wars

*Tim Peltason, Professor of English at Wellesley College, reviews a summer in Bath teaching the literature of World Wars I and II*

During the ASE summer session of 2018, I had the great pleasure of exploring with a small group of students from seven different US colleges and universities the two Great Wars of the British 20<sup>th</sup> century and their formative place in Great Britain's sense of itself. We studied first the Great War proper, reading poems and memoirs by the men and women who suffered its horrors from 1914-1918 and who either died in combat or lived with its effects for the rest of their lives. Reading ample selections from the prose and poetry of Robert Graves, Siegfried Sassoon, and Edmund Blunden; from Vera Brittain's *Testament of Youth*; and from the poems of Wilfred Owen, Edward Thomas, Isaac Rosenberg, Rupert Brooke and many others, we were brought closer to the lived reality of the war and introduced as well to the ways that imagination and language struggled to make sense of experiences that often seemed to defy both description and explanation.



It was the first business of the course simply to take in the immensity of the war, the millions who suffered and died and the many millions more whose lives were changed forever by their sacrifices, by their grief, and often by their anger and disillusionment. Exploring Bath and visiting other towns and villages in the course of our ASE activities, we paused always at the war memorials that are at the center of every British town and village, taking time to be sobered by the sheer numbers of the lost and to notice, too, the frequency with which the memorials listed, even in the smallest villages, multiple lost soldiers with the same surnames—brothers presumably, or fathers and sons, uncles and nephews, each clustering of names a sign of a family unimaginably traumatized.

We were helped to imagine those traumas by the power of so much that we read, the writings that sometimes worked to beautify the sacrifice and loss of so many young men, or at least to discover some dignity or meaning in those losses, but that more often found their own purpose and meaning in bitterness and protest. In their different ways both the verse and prose accounts of trench warfare recorded its peculiar awfulness, the enforced passivity of endless months under heavy assault, the strategic



cruelty and idiocy of a war of attrition in which meager gains and losses of territory were achieved only at the cost of tremendous numbers of casualties on both sides.

After reading so many first-hand accounts of the war, we finished the first half of the summer term with Pat Barker's 1991 novel, *Regeneration*, a novel that allowed us to revisit our earlier reading by taking Siegfried Sassoon as its central character—with Robert Graves and Wilfred Owen in smaller roles—and that told the story of his angry protest against the conduct of the war, his treatment for shell shock, and his eventual decision to return to combat as a gesture of solidarity with the soldiers still suffering. Having read Sassoon's and Graves's own accounts of their war experiences, it was fascinating—for both the students and the teacher—to come back at this material again and to re-enact in our lively discussions the push and pull of experience and analysis, of both the immediacies of war and the lasting obligation to make some sense of it.



At the end of our third week together, we took a study trip to the three London branches of the Imperial War Museum. We went to the main museum building in South London and spent several hours working our way through the extraordinary exhibition on the Great War, which conducts the visitor through a well curated sequence of informational displays and videos and usefully contextualized artifacts, all designed both to explain the origins and conduct of the war and to draw the visitor deeply in to the depth and scale of it. The trip was an odd and rich mixture of convivial discovery and sobering re-immersion in the trenches.

Adding to the oddity and richness of the mixture were our other two stops on the tour, a brief and sunny visit to the HMS Belfast, a World War II battleship that the IWM maintains in harbor, and a longer visit to the wonderfully restored Cabinet War Rooms located deep under the Treasury Building in Whitehall in central London. These were the rooms from which Winston Churchill guided the war effort of 1939-1945. And this was the point in the course at which we shifted our focus to this second great war of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and to the ways in which it was both strikingly continuous and strikingly discontinuous with the Great War of 1914-1918.

First under the heading of striking continuities is the brute fact of proximity in time, with only 20 years separating the end of one war from the beginning of the next. At all those

same town and village war memorials that listed the names of the Great War dead, a second list, painfully near the first in every sense, records the names of those who died between 1939-1945. A second great continuity is that Germany was once again the great European enemy, a clear sign that the business of the first war was not yet concluded.

And yet the mood of the Churchill War Rooms, as of most accounts of the British experience of World War II, is quite unlike that of the Great War exhibit. For all its privations and brutalities, the second great war persists in the contemporary imagination as the Good War, the People's War, the war that restored the nation's sense of purpose and of itself. Studying this war, we read only a little of the poetry and prose of soldiers, focusing instead on the much ampler records of the home front. We began with the great speeches of Churchill's first months as Prime Minister, the speeches in which he nerved the nation to war and also rehabilitated a language of noble sacrifice that the first war might have seemed to discredit forever. We also watched and discussed several of the hundreds of movies that were made during the war, movies that combined the independence of artistic vision with the desire—at once heartfelt and propagandistic—to strengthen the nation in its time of crisis by discovering a distinctively British genius for cheerful endurance, for keeping calm and carrying on. We read about the Blitz; we visited Bath's own memorial to its wartime losses and surveyed the sites of buildings that had been destroyed in the bombing; we watched a few of the thousands of World War II movies made since the war that reinforce this heartening image of national resilience and good cheer. But we also spent time with soldier-poets who wondered at the capacities for violence that they discovered in themselves during the war. And we read some quietly revisionist accounts of the home front that noticed the many different kinds of carrying on that were to be witnessed, not all of them calm or cheerful.

It was a beautiful summer in Bath, and I loved the time that I spent there with my students and my ASE colleagues, who formed together a friendly and enthusiastic community of shared experience and learning. It was a particular pleasure for me to teach this subject at ASE, because I was teaching it for the first time and discovering it with my students, and also because we were discovering the British past on British ground and in the midst of the British present. But it was an appropriately disquieting summer, too, re-experiencing with my students the wars that so clearly and awfully did *not* end all wars, and pondering with them the continuing trials of our two nations—the US and the UK—and the freshly unsettled questions of their relationships with Europe, with each other, and with the rest of the world.

## From Bath to *So Long the Sky*

*Mary Kovaleski-Byrnes (Sp01, Mary Wash), now Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Emerson College, reflects on her time at ASE – and where it took her, and her writing...*

When I think back on my time in Bath, I have the same kinds of memories shared by most alums in the pages of this newsletter: I will always count my semester there as among the most formative four months of my life. Everything about that time was inspiring. My housemates at Clarendon became some of my closest friends, and the professors and staff are some of the best people I've ever met. I learned so much, and I had more fun than I could have bargained for.

In addition to all this, my semester in Bath with ASE was also when I learned how to travel. On one of the first weekends, my housemate Kerri came back from the train station with two tickets to Edinburgh, looking for a travel buddy. I jumped at the chance—this was the start of a lifelong friendship (and a lesson in the importance of spontaneity). With all of my housemates, I got the opportunity to discuss how the countries we visited shifted our perspectives and opened our minds to new ideas and possibilities. I also found myself in conversations (usually in pubs and bars) with local people who had no reservations discussing politics and history with me; it was a completely different kind of educational experience. With each of these conversations, I realized how much more I wanted to just keep traveling.

At the end of that semester, Kerri and I put a map of the world on the floor of the living room and promised each other we'd meet up after graduation – in the furthest possible place from home someone might find us somewhat employable. This turned out to be New Zealand. We got work visas, which introduced me to student work exchange programs. From there, I got a job with a non-profit sponsoring international students on work visas to the US, which sent me back on the road again, this time to Eastern Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia.

This is a long way of introducing my book of poetry, *So Long the Sky*, published in May 2018. In short, this book got its very beginnings during my time with ASE. That's not to say any of my writing from that time made it to the book. (There's a special place in heaven for Kieron Winn and anyone else who had to read the poems I wrote in my early twenties.) But the book is concerned with travel, migration, and immigration, and a lot of the poems came out of experiences I had with work I did abroad. My semester with ASE was the precursor to all the travel I did afterward, and to my current job, teaching writing and literature at Emerson College. Having that space for intellectual engagement and travel in the Spring of 2001 was essential for me in starting to understand how I would need to navigate the world with an openness, fearlessness and curiosity if I was going to experience it at all.





# From *So Long the Sky*, by Mary Kovaleski Byrnes

## LIMBIC MORNING

If smell is the strongest sense connected  
to memory, I can find you anywhere.  
A city bus, wet woollen coat –  
and suddenly I'm back, out of all this,  
to your porch swing, lifting over summer's street,  
brown bread rising in the kitchen,  
mothballs in the lilies to ward off rabbits.

Like this you're resurrected to my morning.  
Uproot with you the long cord of your life:  
Carpathian mountains, ocean cradle,  
children huddled in a bed, babies you'd outlive. Wars  
and winters, church bells calling up the hill –  
time enough and never time enough.

That summer day I asked you, *When your husband  
died, what happened then?* You said, *Good Riddance*,  
without looking at the child,  
maybe thinking I was old enough  
to glimpse the deep mine of your truths.  
Summer buzzed around us. Your eyes stayed  
on the mountains, and I said nothing,  
breathed in mothballs, wanted lilies.

Today you're giving me another chance.  
You've brought what's far beyond your grave:  
vague scents of loam, your mother's country.  
Dirt under nails, rose-petal rosary  
between fingers. Who were you then?  
You can't tell me, only whisper words  
in a long-lost tongue, and in my mind I hang on  
to your steady housedress, your hands  
pulling cucumbers, holding a bucket, painting a fence.

# Coast to Coast

*Kate Hay (Su12, W&M) recounts a cross-country hike that proved more than she bargained for.*

'It's basically a pub crawl across England. We'll hike a little during the day, explore the English countryside, then trade stories in the pubs with locals until the wee hours of the morning.'

'Say no more, we're in.'

So began our family adventure of hiking Alfred Wainwright's Coast to Coast trail across northern England. Spoiler: it turns out a leisurely stroll through the hills followed by nights spent in excess drinking at pubs was not an accurate description of said hike.



The tradition of the trail has you pick up a pebble on the beach of St. Bees, on the western side of England, carry said pebble (literally) across the country, through 13 days of the Lake District National Park, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and finally the North York Moors National Park, before ending your grand adventure by throwing your pebble into the waters of Robin Hood's

Bay on the eastern side of England. After which, so the tradition goes, you raise a celebratory pint with your fellow outdoor enthusiasts at Wainwright's Bar.

The hike sounded so wonderfully literary, so impressive, such a worthy accomplishment to bring up, casually, at dinner parties and cocktail hours to indicate how enviable and worldly one's life is. Always the snob, I felt compelled to complete it merely to attain bragging rights for the rest of my natural life.

But here's the thing. In reality, you have to carry that darn beach pebble through countless miserable bogs, up hill after hill after hill, down valley after valley; even up a waterfall, and then up a few more waterfalls (who knew that waterfalls could even be *walked up?*), before finally – if you are fortunate enough to make it at all – arriving at Robin Hood's Bay, and promptly hurling that much-hiked pebble back into the sea, having transported it from one coast to another. After which, you realize that you have just spent nearly two weeks of your life *hiking*, receiving as your only thanks 16 painful blisters (or, in the case of my sweet Mama, a foot broken in five places), all in the name of taking a pebble on the adventure of its lifetime.



Oh, did I mention that there was no GPS, only a *book?* (Yes, you read that correctly, you are hiking across a country armed with...a book.) And not just any book; a book that was written in the 1960s by one Alfred Wainwright, a loner who disliked people so much that he took to hiking the rural countryside with the sole purpose of being far away from the rest of humanity. Alfred, or 'that damn Wainwright', as we took to calling him, hand drew maps, then scribbled such ever-so-helpful hints as 'take a left at the largest tree' as the sole means of

direction. In our case, this direction led to a full-on family screaming competition, in the middle of a barren field, as to which tree would have been the largest *nearly 60 years ago*. We evidently chose wrong, because before long we were up to our knees in yet another bog.

At least there were the pubs to look forward to, you say. Oh wait, no. Because by the time you arrive at the pub, after a solid 8 - 10 hours of hiking, you are so hungry and exhausted that forming comprehensible words, let alone complete sentences, is no longer a skill you possess. Instead, you point at what you want on the menu, and stare off into nothingness while your brain and body rebel against the will to live. Instead of sociable drinking and lively conversation with locals, we sat at a table sequestered unto ourselves and ordered from the bar according to the difficulty of the day: one pint for an easy day, two for a challenging day, and whiskey for days we wanted to surrender to oblivion and the sheer difficulty of That Damn Wainwright's trail. Our family motto became, 'I am so glad that we are doing this, I would recommend this to literally no one'.



On day 10, with three days left of the hike, we woke up to the realization that mom had broken her foot the previous day. I suppose to normal people, stopping a cross country hike because your foot is broken in five places would seem instantly reasonable. I come, however, from highly competitive stock. My mother would reluctantly accept the inevitable only after tying her hiking laces as tightly as possible so that 'the broken pieces would stay still', and falling into a pile of pain on our hotel floor. This left just little ol' me (at 5'1") to finish the trail with my much taller, and much longer-legged brother and dad. This meant, in brief, that I spent the next three days trying to keep the guys in eyeshot, all the while cursing the memory of Alfred Wainwright in short-legged solitude; then running to catch up to them when they had all but disappeared.



But we made it. After 13 straight days of tears, threats of never speaking to one another again, laughter, cursing, silence, strength, pain, conversation, getting lost, making trail friends, feeding cows and horses, feeling broken, feeling complete, breaking bones, and stuffing our shoes with newspapers to try to soak up the bog water. We made it.

We threw our pebbles into Robin Hood's Bay, discussed the anti-climactic nature of it all, downed our pints, and headed to Bath.

Since returning to the States, we tell stories of our coast to coast hike whenever possible.

# Tea, Terrorism, Sheep and 7-hour Theatre

by Jennifer Kibbe, Associate Professor of Government, Franklin & Marshall College, PA



In the fall of 2017, I had the uncommon luck of being the first F&M faculty member to spend an entire semester with ASE, teaching a regular semester class (rather than a 5-week summer course). All of my colleagues who had taught the summer course universally raved about Bath, so much so that I figured my expectations *had* to be too high. And yet, the whole experience managed to meet, and even exceed those expectations. When I look back and try to assess why, these are the things that come to mind.

It was an incredible opportunity to, in effect, study abroad as a professor. Needless to say, I don't get to walk past Bath Abbey on the way to class in my regular life. Like the students, I resolved to immerse myself in the experience as much as possible, which ended up including everything from watching a Bath rugby game to hearing Handel's *Messiah* performed at the Abbey—both fascinating in their own way. Since it was also part-sabbatical for me, this was a precious chance to take a break from my home environment and clear my head, metaphorically speaking. Living in a new place helped me see both my teaching and my research through fresh eyes and, in fact, prompted a new connection between the two. And when I needed literally to clear my head, there was the joy of walking around Bath, finding new architectural marvels around every corner or, up in the hills surrounding the city, finding sheep around (most) every hedgerow.

My class was called *Understanding Global Terrorism*; and while I teach a version of the course at home for first years, the semester in Bath was a chance for me to teach it as an upper level political science class. This afforded me the luxury of using more sophisticated material. The students were a fun mix of some I already knew from F&M, and others who hailed from other colleges. All approached the class with refreshingly open minds. My favourite part of every week was hashing out the material with students each Wednesday morning, seeing who would have the most surprising take on it, or ask the question that would manage to stump us all, leading to further inquiry.

Another key element of the experience was the incomparable ASE staff. While they were all busy providing an amazing educational, social, and cultural experience for the 45 students that semester, they now had to deal with this random American faculty member to boot! But whether it was discovering new restaurants in Oxford, or playing pool in pubs closer to home, they all made me feel incredibly welcome. I always looked forward to toodling upstairs (so...many...stairs!) after class to join everyone for tea at Nelson House. They never managed to convert me to adding milk to my tea, but they definitely convinced me of the value of a daily cake ritual!





On one level, several of our trips were a little weather-hexed. The day we met the bus to go to Stonehenge, I think we all had a clue what we were in for when we saw Rob sporting his full-length oilskin duster, complete with fedora. My pictures of that day all feature rain coming down on a striking diagonal. And there was, of course, our classic hike in the Brecon Beacons, replete with broken down bus, dense fog, and wind that nearly swept a couple of us over the ridge. But what I loved about both trips was that the staff (Emma, Rob, Andrew, Jonathan, Melissa, Su, and Lucy) was unfailingly humorous and upbeat. Of course, they knew to bring rain pants. But following their lead, the students rallied impressively, buoying me along the way. Both trips ended up forging a valuable camaraderie and, yes, I'm sure it was not *just* because they both concluded with dinner at a warm pub.



One of my favourite parts of the semester was Oxford Week. I knew to expect punting—and was not disappointed (I'm hoping my student Chris still has his fashionable boater)—but I wasn't sure what else to expect. Who knew the sonorous church bells Sunday morning would lead to a 3-hour bell-a-thon?! Thanks to Lucy, my class also had a fascinating guest speaker that week. Ben Sawyer, who spent several tours with the British military defusing IEDs in Iraq and Afghanistan, injected an invaluable 'boots on the ground' perspective into our semester-long examination of terrorism, giving us a vivid explanation of the political economy of insurgents' IED choices. It was insightful but intense.

Luckily, exploring Oxford turned out to be the perfect form of decompression. The museums, the architecture, the Colleges and their beautiful grounds were all wonderful, but the highlight for me was the tour of the Bodleian Library. The incredible image of Duke Humfrey's library and those amazing books, chained to the shelves after hundreds of years, still gives me a chill now. And there was, of course, the other, equally effective mode of Oxford decompression: the Thursday night, full-on Harry Potter Style dinner, followed by the games of skill (yes, skill!) in the Univ Bar.

Another highlight for me was spending three days in Stratford-upon-Avon and getting to see four plays by the Royal Shakespeare Company. There was considerable disagreement among the group as to their personal favorite, but mine was by far the two-play sequence of *Imperium*, based on Robert Harris' Cicero trilogy. Was it a lot to see seven hours of theatre in one day? Yes. It was a little like endurance theatre-going—you needed to plan your snack and exercise breaks strategically. But, as achy as I got at points, the drama was so engrossing and well-done that by the end of the seven hours, I really didn't want it to end.



This is an apt way to describe my entire semester—I *really didn't want it to end*. Whenever I run into one of the F&M students who was there, we always lament how much we miss Bath and ASE. I think we all feel that we were incredibly fortunate to have had the experience of living in such a unique city for a semester, and to have been a part of such a wonderful programme. It was certainly one of the highlights of my professional life.

Now, for my next phase: figuring out a way to get back there!

# New ASE Faculty Profile: Matt Alford, UK Media Tutor

Hello! So I'll tell you a bit about myself, even though at school the only time I dropped to a C grade in English Language was when they told us to write an essay about "Me". I was only 14 at the time so, unsurprisingly, felt I had precious little to say. I'll give it another try now and see if I can do a bit better.

Talking of school, that was a place I felt very much siphoned into *analytical* subjects. Then, as an adult, I realised I had always been really rather more inclined towards creative work and drama. Consequently, although I studied Political Science as an undergraduate, ever since that point I have simultaneously been taking a slow and rickety track into the world of entertainment. My base remains the Politics department at the University of Bath, where I teach part-time, but I have also ended up as a sessional and guest lecturer in a very wide range of subjects in the arts and humanities at several universities, notably Birmingham, Bristol, and Portsmouth.

Following my PhD, I began to investigate an obscure and seemingly wild allegation that the CIA had murdered a Hollywood movie producer. I ended up hiring a cameraman, going to Los Angeles, and meeting the producer's colleagues and family. My resultant documentary feature film and novel, *The Writer with No Hands*, tells the story of my investigation. The documentary premiered in 2014 at Hot Docs festival, Toronto and received three wins and eight further nominations at festivals worldwide. A TV edit of the movie began selling to national platforms in 2018.

I have maintained my more traditional political research, too. I recently worked, for example, with an archivist to acquire large quantities of documentation from the US government using the Freedom of Information Act. We have been able to show that, by any measure, major national security organisations like the CIA and Pentagon have been ten times more engaged with Hollywood entertainment than any scholar had previously shown. This means that the military industrial complex exerts a clear, secretive, and demonstrable influence over the political orientation of major movie franchises, including Marvel.

In 2018, I took a research trip to the Department of Defence's film archive in Washington DC, which resulted in a new preface to the foreign language translations of my debut book *Reel Power: Hollywood Cinema and American Supremacy* (Pluto Press, 2010). I have continued to write journal



pieces on both this archival work - and on Noam Chomsky's propaganda model, which was the subject of my doctoral thesis.

I am skeptical about traditional publishing in academia. My 2017 book *National Security Cinema: The Shocking New Evidence of Government Control in Hollywood* was co-researched, written, and printed within 9 months and was only available online – but still sold 2,000 copies in the first year. It's not exactly the ticket to untold riches, but self-publishing means I can produce books much more quickly and with greater control. In 2018, it took just six months to conceive, write and publish my latest collaborative book *Union Jackboot: What Your Media and Professors Won't Tell You About British Foreign Policy*. I now use this book with my UK Media students at ASE.

Following the documentary film project, too, I have been increasingly interested in working on stage. A director from the University of Lincoln is working with me to adapt *The Writer with No Hands* for theatre, and to train me as a sort of make-shift actor. Earlier this year I spent a few nights on the New York open mic stand-up comedian circuit and I have been gigging regularly around Bath and Bristol.

I feel I can legitimately call myself a writer and performer, now, although realistically there are some areas – music, especially - where trying and failing has not been sufficient to cover for lack of ability!

I think by meshing entertainment and politics in lots of different ways, I am doing enjoyable and worthwhile projects; and it makes for interesting and unique classes, which is something ASE has supported and encouraged wonderfully.

There. I'd give myself a B grade at least, anyway.





# Creative Grief

by Moira Johnston (Au15, Wellesley)

I fell in love with the city of Bath. That's an age-old sentiment for the majority of students who come through ASE, and I know that I am no different when I wax poetic about how the semester and the city changed me.



You know the drill. I knew I wanted to come back to England—ideally back to Bath. I figured I'd try for a Masters degree in Creative Writing. I applied to four programmes, Bath Spa University included. My mind was made up even before I heard back from the other three.

Everything was on track. I thought my life had some elegant order to it and I started feeling untouchable. But that's always how it goes just before everything gets torn to pieces.

Grief compels people to do odd things and act in odd ways. It affects you in waves, and it clouds your brain until you don't know which way is up. The closest analogy I can think of are those highly trained fighter pilots who fly through a patch of fog so dense they can't see a thing. The on-board computers tell them where the horizon is, and they think they're flying straight and keeping on the flight path, until they come out of the fog and find they're upside-down, and miles from their destination.

You're not supposed to lose a parent when you're twenty-one. There isn't any preparation for it, but suddenly you have to grow up faster than you ever thought possible. After my dad died, I didn't stop talking about him. My eagerness to jump into something distracting and immersive kept growing when I moved back to Bath.

I began my Masters avoiding grief - and my father - as much as I could. That lasted one month. My manuscript tutor asked what I wanted to write about, and I had no other ideas. I hated the thought of writing a memoir because I'm only twenty-three, and I have so little life experience. But we began to reframe the idea: I wouldn't write about myself, I would write about growing up with my father.

I was scared grief would darken the year, that I wouldn't be able to remove myself enough from the event to enjoy my life in England. I was spending so much time writing about him, and talking about him to anyone who would listen, I became known in the pub as 'the girl who sits on her laptop and cries.'

Finally, I realized I could lean on the city itself. It took time for me to recognize that my need for Bath comes from one of the things it's most famous for: the architecture; and the beige-ness of the stone. The visual neutrality of the city let me impress my own personality and feelings onto it, and it reflected them back to me. I stopped longing to tell my dad all about my manuscript, and how I was adjusting to life abroad. He knew my relationship with the city from two years before, and he knew it would never change.

I don't feel at home in Los Angeles, in New York, or in Boston. I felt at home in Bath because I made it mine.

I can't wait to come back.



My father was an addict. I grew up not entirely knowing what that meant, only that he couldn't drink alcohol. But that's all I thought it meant. I didn't know there were other parts to it, that 'addict' was a really big, umbrella word.

I knew him sober, and I was told I was lucky. I was also told that being addicted to drugs and alcohol meant that you were always labeled as an addict, but my dad never really called himself that. He stuck with 'alcoholic.' I think because it never sounded as bad or as severe. He also never used past-tense when referring to his alcoholism, even though he didn't go to meetings, he was still technically in recovery; apparently, you're always in recovery, the process is not as linear as I thought. We never talked about it. All I knew of my father's alcoholism was that he drank a lot a long time ago, and then checked himself into rehab at the Betty Ford Clinic just past Palm Springs. I don't even know how long he was in there, or how he paid for it, or what made him check himself in voluntarily. He once told me that it was just one of those things he knew he had to do. I never knew how to ask him about it. He wasn't necessarily being secretive, and he was very open with me about addiction and how severely alcohol can impact your life, but he would use stories about his other friends to make his points.

One afternoon when I got home from school, we were both standing in the kitchen with a bag of chips, adding avocado to our favorite salsa for an after-school snack.

'We had this guy come in to talk to our class today about drug education,' I leaned back against the counter and threw a tortilla chip down to our Springer, Astro. 'He was asking us all to do that thing where we close our eyes and raise our hands to answer weirdly confidential questions, you know?'

'Mmhm,' he nodded with a mouthful of spicy guacamole.

'One of the questions was asking us if we've ever held someone's hair back while they puked from drinking too much, and then had us all open our eyes to see who raised their hands, and then he just starts going off on how all these girls with their hands up are enablers!'

My dad cocked his head, 'Well technically he is right.'

'Wait, really? Cause I thought that was pretty intense to call a bunch of sixteen-year-olds 'enablers' in front of our whole grade and our teachers,' I tossed Astro another chip, and Grace and George—the two Sheepadoodles (a cross between a sheepdog and a poodle and an absolute terror of a breed)—bounded in when they heard the crunch.

'I think the point he was getting at was that you'd be making the person feel better in the moment, which would make them think that you'll always be there to hold their hair no matter how drunk they get. So they'll keep getting drunk because you'll be there to clean them up.' He looked down at the dogs and then back up at me, 'Why are you wasting chips on the puppies? These are the good, farmer's market chips!'

'Sorry, sorry! I'll use the shitty ones.' I brushed crumbs from my hands and got a half-empty bag from the cupboard.

'But does that make sense? About the hair-holding?'

'Yeah, that sounds a lot better than what he was trying to say,' I nodded.

'Good. What did he say about drugs? Or was it just about addiction in general?'

'He said they're fun and to do them often, preferably during the school day,' I laughed through a mouthful of chips and salsa. My dad rolled his eyes and chuckled.

'Uh-huh, sure he did.'

'He told us all about the dangers of basically everything. The main takeaway was to not do drugs.'

'Well shit, I've told you that, Kiddo!' He laughed again, 'I've done pretty much every drug under the sun, except for heroin. That shit will absolutely fuck with you.'

'And the others won't!'

He smiled knowingly. 'They absolutely will! Alright, look, here's your Drug Education Part Two: the only drug I will ever allow you to do is pot. You can absolutely smoke pot. The worst thing that can happen is you might get a little buggy and eat everything in the fridge, but a little weed never killed anyone.'

My father was giving me advice on drugs. Cool.

'Yeah okay, this is normal,' I looked at him like he was insane. I couldn't tell if he was kidding.

'I'm totally serious! You just have to be really careful that you're getting it from a reliable source, because people are getting really creative about what they lace pot with these days.'

'Ooh, yeah that's another thing that guy said! Apparently there was this guy who got sold some cheap weed, and it was laced with PCP and he freaked out and ended up trying to rob some store? It ended in a police chase and he got shot over a dozen times before he even noticed he was bleeding out in the street.' I realized halfway through the story that my perky tone of voice didn't match up with the outcome of the story.

'Christ,' he muttered and shook his head. 'Plenty of guys I knew on the road kept overdosing. It's scary stuff. Just promise me you'll be careful?' He looked up from the dogs and searched my face.

'I know, Dad. I know to steer clear from all of that crap.'

'Good. Because you know you have a higher chance of being an addict with me as your immediate parent?'

I nodded.

'Just another downfall of being a Johnston!' He said cheerily.

As lighthearted as our conversations about alcohol were, they still scared me. I built a soap box for myself and proudly stood on it, telling the (few) people who offered me booze in high school that my dad was an

alcoholic so I'm much more likely to become an alcoholic if I start drinking before I'm twenty-one. I stayed on this soap box during the first two years of college. I was a real thrill at parties.

Standing in the kitchen felt much different since he died. Elaine had changed up the living and dining room after the memorial in January of 2017, but the kitchen was unchanged. The ashes were gone—as far as Elaine knew. Stella and Hannah had stopped by to help me repack my suitcase, hiding the remaining ashes in a sweater under all my other clothes. Their voices drifted through the kitchen from the family room. I wouldn't be back in this kitchen, in this house, for another month. The hearing would be in September, and I would have to fly out from New York a few days early to go through my dad's storage unit.

I walked to the doorway of the family room where Stella was sitting on my suitcase while Hannah attempted to zip it closed.

'In-N-Out?' I asked, hopefully.

'Fuuuuck yes, girl, let's go.' Stella jumped up from the suitcase, much to Hannah's dismay.

'Stella, I wasn't—'

'Eh, we'll do it later. I'm fucking starved.' She grabbed her sweatshirt from the arm of the sofa and stood at the foot of the two steps, looking up at me as I laughed at Hannah.

'Yeah don't worry about it, just move it to the side so it looks like it's packed and done.' I gestured over to the corner of the room. Hannah sighed and pushed it across the floor.

I swiped the keys to the Honda from the wooden hutch next to the front door. Even the noise of the keys clacking against each other reminded me of my dad getting ready to leave the house with me to run errands or get dinner or go camping. George and Grace were in the back office with Elaine and Aimee, while Astro had lingered in the house with us.

'Whoever sits in the back gets to hang out with the dog,' I announced. I called his name and he came clattering around the corner and stuck his nose between the door and the frame. He had been perpetually confused since November of 2016, when my dad never came home after Thanksgiving.

Hannah sat in the back with Astro, and as soon as I started driving, he pawed at the window and I rolled it down so he could stick his head out in the wind. I had Stella play DJ, and I opened the moon roof. It was golden hour. I turned right off of my street and onto Palms Boulevard, the sun illuminated all the flecks of dust and dirt on my windshield. When I was younger, my dad would take that exact moment to spray it down with the wiper fluid. It was impossible to see for several seconds while he was still driving, and I would always question why the hell he chose that specific moment. He would always give some answer about how he would forget when the glare went away.

Stella made some noise when the sun hit her eyes, and she lowered the visor flap. I hit the wiper fluid and grinned as I continued down the road, unable to see for several seconds.

That Honda was my dad's before it was mine. It was a forest green, with vanity plates that spelled out 'GR8SNDZ.'

'It says "Great Sounds"!' He exclaimed when I first questioned the license plate after he got it for the car, over a decade ago. 'Because I'm a sound mixer!'

When I started driving it at eighteen (I was a little slow to start the driving process), Hannah had made some joke about the plates and how it sounded weirdly sexual. I reminded her that she drove a car that looked like an aged marshmallow, so she couldn't really talk. The drive through Mar Vista and down to the Costco complex where In-N-Out sat took all of seven minutes. We chose the drive-through so we could go to the beach and watch the sunset. I hadn't done anything that stereotypically Californian in a long time.

After we got our food, I continued straight down Washington Boulevard until we hit Ocean Avenue and Venice Beach. I loved bringing that car down to the beach. It just looked right with the beige of the sand and the polluted blue of the sea. We sat in a parking lot with all the windows rolled down, and I reached to text my dad to ask him if he wanted us to pick anything up for him for dinner. Tears came easily to my eyes and flowed freely onto the burger in my hand. He should be sitting in the passenger seat eating In-N-Out's grilled cheese—their only vegetarian option that came with a hefty side of judgement from the pimply high schooler taking the order. He should be cracking mild jokes about people walking by, feeding Astro the occasional French fry. He shouldn't be dead.

Stella rubbed my arm and Hannah made some joke about being uncomfortable in the presence of tears. I laughed. Stella turned up the volume and selected a Beach Boys song. Hannah unveiled her vape pen from her pocket and tried to blow smoke rings.

'Here,' she passed it up to the front seat where Stella made a cooing noise and grabbed it. I remembered my dad's strange, quasi-rule: 'You're only allowed to smoke pot.'

'Yeah fine, gimme,' I shimmied my fingers as Stella was done taking a long hit from the pen. It was prescription, it was fine.

We finished our burgers in silence. Astro shuffled about in the backseat until he finally curled up next to Hannah, his face resting on the arm of the car door.



# New ASE Faculty Profile: Mandy Horlock, Acting and Directing Tutor



When Jim Brown (ASE's *Creating a Drama* and *British Theatre History* tutor) introduced me to ASE and the opportunity to teach on the *Acting for the Stage* Course, I was at first intrigued and later amazed by this unique cultural studies programme in Bath – the city adjacent to own my home city of Bristol.

Jim is a theatrical colleague. Together we had previously co-ordinated The Writers' Forum, a professional Writers group based at the Tobacco Factory Theatre in Bristol. After 25 years working as a professional actress on both stage and screen, (and just six as a mother!) I relished the new Directing and Dramaturgy opportunities the Forum presented. Jim had noted my passion and correctly supposed I might find equal enjoyment working with the creative young talent that arrives on the ASE programme.

Utilising my own industry experience and creative practise, I aim to expose my students to the British theatrical experience. In the *Acting for the Stage* seminar classes we study technique, and especially that of the late and truly great Cicely Berry, Voice Director to the Royal Shakespeare Company. Her exercises are particularly useful when approaching the uniquely British form that is Restoration Theatre, and have proven to be a revelation to many of the American Theatre Majors on the programme. They are also accessible to those working on Restoration texts for the first time – before donning the wigs, hose and corsetry of the period and showcasing their British accents and witty repartee to their flabbergasted peers at the semester's end. (I have been secretly practising my American accents too!)



In the European spirit of 'play' (*Le Jeu*) and 'complicity' in theatre we also develop devised original works. Memorable examples include a darkly comic ghostly cat lady story evoking the style of magical realism, and an anarchic, action-packed, screwball-biography of a comedian whose death is his last joke.

Teaching Acting and Directing weekly tutorials at ASE has allowed for in-depth one to one practise with those students, while at the Theatre Summer School, we have created a company atmosphere, meeting daily and developing skills through an ongoing rehearsal process. In Summer '18, ASE's Theatre School students excelled in a powerful, moving performance of *Pink Mist*, a contemporary British verse drama about soldiers returning from Afghanistan.

Co-teaching with American professors on the Theatre Summer School means I get to learn some new stuff, too, which is good for my personal development and professional practise.

Wearing my directing hat, I continue to champion new writing in our profession and am currently directing a project which has been through a lengthy research and development phase with actors. With a little luck, it might just hit the stage in in time for my next cohort of Acting students to 'grade' my work in their performance review journals!



# Ode to Wine

by Sara (Harenchar) Levinson (Su08, Gettysburg)

How delightful is the feeling of wine!  
The first taste and then  
the slow gulps,  
the way it fills the cup and  
delights my nose,  
and slowly how it  
replaces anxiety  
with beauty,  
and how funny all the jokes become!  
How the simplest people become so damned  
*interesting!*  
How I can't get enough of their banter!  
  
How it warms the insides and  
how beautiful the music and laughter  
that lingers in my ears,  
how good the air feels,  
how careless and irresistible each gesture!  
How long and endless the night – and yet,  
Here ends the bottle of wine.



**Originally published in *Last Call: The Anthology of Beer, Wine and Spirits Poetry* (World Enough Writers, 2018)**

# ASE's Nelson House Campaign

*For more than 250 years, Nelson House has stood proudly in Bath, an important piece of the city's history - and ASE's home.*

**Now we need your help to preserve it.**

**Since ASE's first semester in 1989, Nelson House has been the Programme's permanent home. We are proud to have welcomed so many students, faculty and friends – including you - through that elegant green front door.**

Our glorious Georgian building has seen countless hours of teaching, study and vigorous discussion; not to mention daydreams in the Library, friendships built over cups of tea in the common room, and laughter in the courtyard garden. So many memories, for all of us, have been made here.

Of course, Nelson House stood proudly in the centre of Bath long before any of us were around to appreciate it. Most famously, at the turn of the eighteenth century, 2 Pierrepont Street was home to a physician, under whose roof Admiral Lord Nelson chose to recuperate between naval battles during his visits to Bath. The building is a unique and important part of the World Heritage city's history.

***More than 200 years on, ASE needs your help to make Nelson House (please pardon the pun) 'shipshape' once again!***

The golden stone of Bath is notoriously soft, and prone to damage from the elements. We urgently need to repair and clean the stonework, replace and paint the windows, and fix the roof. The work will require specialist craftspeople and equipment and needs to take place no later than the summer of 2020.

**For the first time in its 30-year history, ASE is launching a campaign to help fund this vital restoration work.**

**We are asking our alumni, faculty and friends to help raise \$50,000 towards the estimated total cost of \$120,000.**

**Please help us secure the future of Nelson House, preserving ASE's home for many more years of history and memory-making by making a donation of \$250 – or whatever you feel able to afford.**

Thank you for your support!





# To make a gift to the campaign

You can give online at <https://www.studyabroadbath.org/alum/NelsonHouseCampaign>, making your gift using PayPal.

**Alternatively, you can donate and take a U.S. income tax deduction**, by giving a single gift to the **British Schools & Universities Foundation** (Federal I.D. Number 13-616-1189), a charitable organization approved by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of their Code.

You can do so by card online at <https://www.bsuf.org/donate>. Whilst your donation is made to the BSUF, **you should express "a preference for Advanced Studies in England"**. Such preferences are respected by the Foundation, but all grants are made at its sole discretion, as required by the I.R.S.

Note that the BSUF work with the payment service 'Network for Good', who deduct a 3% charge from all gifts made online. There is no charge applied to checks sent directly to the BSUF.

You may also give by check, using the donation form, which is available at <https://www.studyabroadbath.org/alum/sites/default/files/A4%20Donation%20Form.pdf>. Again, the form expresses "a preference for Advanced Studies in England" but your check should be drawn to the order of the **British Schools & Universities Foundation**.

*(The BSUF may take a few weeks to let us know about your donation. If you decide to give please drop us a line at [alumni@asebath.org](mailto:alumni@asebath.org) so we can thank you right away.)*



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Stephanie Mullervy (Spring 1999)	Mike Rix (Long-Standing ASE Tutor and Friend of ASE)
Maggie Myers (Summer 2013)	Heather Rodino (Spring 1999)
Leslie Nolen (Spring 1996)	Peter Rooney (Autumn 1995)
Ryleigh Nucilli (Spring 2010)	Jim Rossi (Autumn 1992)
George O'Har (Summer Tutor and Long-Standing Friend of ASE)	Sheila Ruffin (Summer 2006)
Allison O'Neill (Autumn 1999)	Michael Rusignuolo (Autumn 1992)
Ashley Owens (Spring 2016)	Ben Russell (Spring 1997)
Elizabeth Palmer (Summer 2010)	Mary Sasso (Spring 2007)
Casey Parker (Autumn 2016)	Gregory Schafer (Spring 2009)
Ann Parks (Spring 1991)	Sasha Schechter (Autumn 2010)
Timothy Peltason (Summer Tutor 2018 and Friend of ASE)	Tom Seabrook (Autumn 2010)
Matthew Pisarcik (Summer 2015)	Jesse Siegel (Autumn 2014)
Maeve Pistrang (Autumn 2007)	Josh Slifkin (Autumn 1990)
Halley Posner (Autumn 2016)	Heather Smith (Autumn 2011)
Lester Powell (Spring 1999, Summer 1999)	Victor Smith (Summer 2009)
Prescott Jones Ltd	Paul Soltis (Autumn 2014)
Jennifer Preston (Autumn 2005)	Molly Southwood (Autumn 2001, Spring 2002)
Mark Rasmussen (Autumn 1990)	Nadine Steffan (Spring 1991)
Mark and Jennifer Redman (Spring 1991)	John Stevenson (ASE Tutor and Long-Standing Friend of ASE)
Marcia Reinauer (Spring 2005)	Alex 'Dale' Stockdale (Summer 2009)
Laura Reindl (Autumn 2007)	Logan Tapscott (Autumn 2012)
Alexis Reynolds (Autumn 2001)	Amy Taylor (Autumn 2007)
Kathryn Reynolds (Spring 2008)	Krystal Thomas (Autumn 2005)
Kathryn Reynolds (Spring 2008)	Cullyn Thomson (Autumn 2010)
Emma Richardson (Spring 2016)	Courtney Tkacz (Spring 1998)



Jennifer Tuxford (Spring 2010)	Alison Welz (Spring 1995)
Lauren Vazzano (Autumn 2006)	Paige Whidbee (Autumn 2013)
Kerri Vensel (Autumn 2000, Spring 2001)	Abigail Whitaker (Summer 2006, Summer 2007)
Ellen Volker (Autumn 1998)	Sue Willard (Spring 1998)
Meara Waxman (Spring 2018)	Elizabeth Williams (Spring 2012)
Stephen Weber (Summer 1998, Autumn 2000, Spring 2001)	Doug, and Mariah Wilson (Spring 2013)
Amy Weidner-LaSala (Autumn 1999)	Amy Yarcich (Spring 1993)
Amy Weintraub (Spring 2007)	Emily Zerr (Spring 2006)
Melissa Welch (Autumn 1996)	

And a special thank you **to Mike Ruiz (Spring 1998, H&WS)** for his generous gift of **\$10,000.**

In recognition **we have named the Seminar Room** (on the ground floor of Nelson House) **in his honour** for the next five years.

The Nelson House Library and Staircase are still available for naming...

**It is not too late to give!**

We are still accepting donations via PayPal or through the British Schools and University Foundation. See our [Giving Page](https://www.studyabroadbath.org/alum/nelsonhousecampaign) (<https://www.studyabroadbath.org/alum/nelsonhousecampaign>) for more details.

## Thanks to all the alumni who helped us out at the fairs and recruitment trips in 2018 and '19, including:

### **Skidmore**

Maddie Elliott  
Steph Santoro  
Michael  
McDonald  
Connor Batsimm  
Sophie Heath  
Juni Ahari  
Emma Griffin  
Max LoSardo

### **Washington and Lee**

Cecilia Weingart  
Ellie New

### **Providence**

Rory O'Brien  
Sara Conway

### **Bates**

Sarah Lamie  
Katie Stone

### **Boston College**

Walker McAllister

### **Bowdoin**

Sally Rose Zukert  
Beto Wetter

Dakota Griffin

Jared Cole  
Hannah Conn

### **Wellesley**

Kate Madsen  
Sarah White  
Sam English

### **University of Rochester**

Sarah Gallagher  
Anne Merideth

### **Williams**

Breelyn Karno

### **Denison**

McKenna Ross  
Sam Rice

Khalil Bentley

Anna Wojeski

Talia Zeiger

Brooke Stiles

Sophia Menconi

### **Clark**

Callie Wuttke

Alyssa Pelletier

Caroline Daley

Rachel Lloyd

### **Gettysburg**

Ian Farber  
Brodie Edgerton  
Julia Wall  
Will Thompson  
Mark Urban

### **Lycoming**

Maryam Esmat

### **Hobart and William Smith**

Alex Kerai

### **Bucknell**

Dean Patterson  
Emily Pursel  
Ericandro

### **Franklin and Marshall**

Morgan Phillips  
Samantha  
Friedlander  
Alec Hersh  
Hannah Berman  
Maeve O'Brien

Coral Bello-Martinez

### **Mary Washington**

Maddie Morris  
Erick Boscana

### **Meredith**

Danielle Hines  
Abigail Wickes  
Aidyn Truesdale

### **St Mike's**

Shayna Guild  
Kim Morsheimer

### **Providence College**

Alyssa Pelletier

### **Oberlin**

Elizabeth Altier  
Kathleen Leonard  
Clair Wang  
Alison Schmitt  
Megan  
McLaughlin  
Kyra McConnell  
Kathryn  
Blessington

### ***Special thanks to:***

*Alex Kerai* – for his work on the videos on our website

*Maddie and Joe Anthes, and Anneke Demarest* – for their generous contributions to the alumni scholarship fund

*Liz McKenna* – for her work in organising 2018's reunion in DC

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

# They Came To Bath

## March 2018



**Kate McNamara** (Sp10, Wells)



**Macy Smolsky** (Au15, Wells)  
studying for a Masters in Drama at  
University College, Dublin.



**Ellen Volker** (Au98, Bucknell) with husband Ben.



**Alex Faccibene** (Au14, F&M),  
Coordinator at the Writers'  
House at F&M.

## April 2018



**Jennifer Litman** (Sp94, F&M) with family.

**Ben Russell** (Sp97, Skidmore) attending a reunion of the online comic community The Warren Ellis Forum.

**May 2018**

**Emily Cranfill, Elizabeth Emery and Rachel Podber** (Sp14, Gettysburg, Sarah Lawrence College and Boston University) all visited together. Emily Cranfill currently works for the State of Indiana, Elizabeth Emery works for Blue Sky Studios, an animation film studio. They have just released 'Ferdinand' in December and are currently working on 'Spies in Disguise'. Rachel Podber is in California and has adopted a greyhound she has called Linley.

**Hannah Lewis** (Sp16, Rochester). Hannah has been studying for a Masters in Archaeology at Exeter here in the UK, but will soon be applying for PhD positions in the US.



**Kelly Key** (Su09, Mary Wash)



**Olivia Furino** (Au17, Simmons)

**June 2018**

**Ashley Owens** (Sp16, Meredith) and **Caitlin Connelly** (Sp16, Gettysburg)



**Wen Juan Huang** (Su04, Binghamton)



**Sasha Schechter** (Au10, Oberlin)

**Warren Rochelle** (Summer tutor Su07 and Su13, Mary Wash')

**Alyson Bingham** (Au96, Oberlin)



## July 2018

**Gardner Campbell** (Summer tutor Su00 and Su03, Mary Wash) with his wife Alice

**Alyson Bingham** (Au96, Oberlin)



**Lee Blaser** (Au07, Gettysburg), with husband and parents, celebrating mum's significant birthday with a European trip.

**Virginia Atkinson** (Au01, Mary Wash')



## August 2018

**Jess Shapiro** (Au16, Skidmore) visiting as she waited for her students to arrive from the States. She spent six months as Program Assistant for IES Abroad.

**Hannah Lewis** (Sp16, UofR) was back again! She visited with her mother, after graduating with an MA in Archaeology from Exeter University.



**Ben Lally** (Au98, Sp99, BC) and **Becky Lally** (Sp99, Skidmore) with their girls Sophie and Violet.

## October 2018



**Niki Rokicki** (Su14, Gettysburg). Niki is working for Harlequin books in NYC. They print 'romance' novels (the sort of thing that gets turned into Hallmark Channel movies), and she is quite fond of the cowboy series...

## November 2018



**Amy DiMattia** (Su97 & Au98, BC) visited with her husband John.

**Beth Wolly** (Sp99, Mary Wash) visiting with her husband, Mark.

**(Anna) Mayze Teitler** (Au16, Georgetown) popped over from Oxford, where she is studying for an MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

**Phoebe Bumsted** (Sp16, Bowdoin) visiting friends she made at Bath Uni's Salsa Society!



### December 2018

**Virginia Atkinson** (Au01, Mary Wash') came by again on her way home after promoting her new book - *Equal Access: How to Include Persons with Disabilities in Elections and Political Processes* - in London!



**Staci Stocklos** (Au02/Sp03, F&M) caught up with the ASE team over a drink or three in The Huntsman after Final Tea!

### January 2019

**Melissa McClaugherty** (Sp18, Wells) was our first visitor of 2019!

### February 2019

**Dabney Rice** (Sp13, F&M), living in Dallas and working for Dupree Miller

### March 2019

**Laura Ostrowsky (formerly Block)** (Sp16, Bowdoin) visited whilst presenting a paper on her Masters research to Cambridge University.



**Sarah Finlaw** (Sp13, BC) came by, and flicked through our extensive collection of photoboard from semesters past.

### April 2019

**(Anna) Mayze Teitler** (Au16, Georgetown) was back, this time with **John Quinn** (Au16, Bucknell) whilst on their Spring breaks!

### May 2019

**Nick Radmer** (Sp17, Denison) came by. He's looking for work in the literary department of a theatre company.

**Lexi Ednie** (Au17, F&M) was heading off for a gap year in Australia following her graduation.

**Samantha Payne** (Sp13, William & Mary) is a grad student at Harvard.

### June 2019

**Laurel Wilson** (Sp18, Gettysburg) passed through. She is currently studying for a Masters in Library and Information studies at the University of Pittsburgh. She visited as we were cleaning the houses ready for the Summer students!

**Isabella Moore** (Su18, Simmons) dropped by. She's another graduate looking for work; this time in publishing or writing, or possibly completing grad studies.

So is **Mallori Sorensen** (Su18, Mary Wash'), Isabella's classmate, who also popped in in June.

**Megan Minogue** (Au05/Sp06, BC) was in the city leading a group of High School students around England



**Alex Wolf** (Sp18, Gettysburg) came by.

**Jennifer Kretschmann** (Sp99, William & Mary) is working in New Orleans, whilst **Laurie (Claing) Austin** (Sp99, William & Mary) is in Kansas City, working in the Truman Presidential Library.

### July 2019

**Maggie Smith** (Au10, HWS) couldn't quite make it. She puts her whole career path down to her internship at Donald Insall. She is now the Preservation Planner for the city of San Francisco.



### August 2019

**Campbell Halligan** (Sp12, UofR) is at Tufts' Center for STEM Diversity.

**Karen Schwartz** (Au1991, Bates)

**Breelyn Karno** (Au18, Williams) got an honourable mention in the L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future competition.

**Abigail Winston** (Au17, Gettysburg) visited having just finished an internship at the National Air and Space Museum

**Nick Papazian** (Su17, Skidmore) brought **Sarah Stephen** (Su17, Mary Wash') back to Bath (see their love story elsewhere in this edition).

**Jes Lyons** (Sp13, Wells).



### September 2019

**Bev Kippenahn** (Su15, Mary Wash') and **Dana Winston-Day** (Su15, Wells) are both in Bath, studying Classical Acting and Performing Shakespeare at Bath Spa.

### October 2019

**Emily Pursel** (Sp19, Bucknell)

**Mae d'Amico** (Su14, Mary Wash') and **Niki Rokicki** (Su14, Gettysburg) visited together. Mae is a tax lawyer in Oregon.

**Laura Masterson** (Su05, Skidmore)



**Siouxie Easter** (Summer Tutor Su14, Su15, Su16, Wells)

### November 2019

**Courtney Good** (Au17, Wells) is doing postgraduate studies at Goldsmith's, University of London.

**John Tolley** (Sp18, Wells) is also studying here in the UK, this time at Reading University, taking strategic studies.



**Andrew Kerr** (Au92, William and Mary) (pictured here with Bev and Dana w, who popped in again) dropped by.

### December 2019

Another UK graduate student, **Morgan Phillips** (Au17, F&M) is, studying in International Relations at Oxford Brookes.



# Alumni News Updates 2018/9

**Helene Schneider (Sp91, Skidmore)** completed her second term as Mayor of Santa Barbara, CA in January 2018 and is now Regional Coordinator for the US Interagency Council on Homelessness. She would encourage any alum to come visit California and say hi!

**Christen Braun (Au00, Bucknell)** has been choreographing and directing musical theatre productions (in addition to teaching high school English) for 15 years. Recently she had the pleasure (and challenge) of working with her golden retriever, Molly, who made her stage debut in a production of *Annie*. Molly stole the show.

**Virginia Atkinson (Au01, Mary Wash)** was awarded Mary Washington's Outstanding Young Alumni Award in June 2017 and is currently Inclusion Advisor at the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, with a forthcoming publication on election access observation due out this autumn.

**Kim Gould (Au01, H&WS)** and husband welcomed Mia Sophie Leese (*pictured right*) into the world in June 2018.



**Erin Dewey Gilmore (Au01, Skidmore)** had a baby boy, Aiden Dewy Gilmore (*pictured left*), on July 11th 2018.

**Jessie Hilb (Su03, BC)** has had her first novel published by Clarion Books / HMH; *The Calculus of Change* is a contemporary young adult fiction, and has received critical acclaim from ALA Booklist, School Library Journal, Kirkus, and the Jewish Book Council.



**Kathryn Anne Stewart (Su03, Skidmore)** married Andrew Heim in a morning garden ceremony in Cape May, NJ, in May 2019.

**Anika Walker (Au03, Hampton University)** is newly promoted to Education and Disability Manager for Greater Norwalk HeadStart in Norwalk, Connecticut.

**Karen (Harvey) Jarrett (Au03, H&WS)** is now a mother of two amazing kids, and a third-grade teacher outside of Los Angeles, CA.



**Geordy Johnson (Sp04, Washington and Lee)** and wife Carter welcomed a son – George “Dean” Johnson IV (*pictured left*) on November 8<sup>th</sup> 2018. The family reside in Spartanburg, SC.

**Sarah (Kirchoff) Mossey (Sp05, HWS)** and husband John are excited and thankful to announce the birth of their son Martin (*pictured right*) on November 26<sup>th</sup> 2019.



**Shane Dunn (Au '05, Summer Intern '07, Cornell)** (*pictured right*) and his wife, Elizabeth Bernardi, welcomed their second child, Eleanor Miriam Dunn, on October 13, 2019. Eleanor joins big brother Liam who was born in August 2017. Shane began a new job in April 2019 as Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Brandeis International Business School in Waltham, MA. He and Elizabeth, who works at the corporate headquarters of Liberty Mutual Insurance, also purchased their first home in Roxbury, a neighborhood in Boston, MA. Shane would love to hear from ASE alumni in the Boston area or others in education at [sdunn321@gmail.com](mailto:sdunn321@gmail.com)



**Lucia Brockway (Sp06, Bucknell)** and husband had their first baby; a boy of 9lb 7oz, named Bennett (mostly after Lucia's favourite literary character Elizabeth Bennett!) They live in Brooklyn, where Lucia works as a High School teacher.

**Sheila Ruffin (Su06, Hampton)** (*pictured right*) created her own company in January 2018. The Soca Yacht Club offers yacht vacation packages to the British Virgin Islands with a Caribbean Carnival twist.



**Mary Sasso (Sp07, BC)** (*pictured left*) married David Lukemire on August 11 2018 in Doylestown, PA. Celebrations were joined by her 18 Northampton room-mates **Anna (Kotopoulos) Tzinis, Kara Sharkey, Bridget McElroy, Lauren Boston, Liz Kocienda and Caitlyn Raftery.**

**Regina (Toto) D'Avella (Au07, F&M)** and husband Chris would like to announce the birth of their daughter Elise Adeline (*pictured right*) in May '18. Regina and her family live in Philadelphia, PA, where she is a Fellow in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Regina dreams of bringing her husband and daughter to Bath!



**Hannah Wertheimer (Sp08, Denison)** is in San Diego, starting a new job as a technical editor for an environmental consulting firm.

**Sara (Harenchar) Levinson (Su08, Gettysburg)** and husband Drew have moved back to Pittsburgh, PA after six years in Los Angeles. Sara is now Strategic Account Director for LivePerson. Arianna Huffington published an essay of hers on [Thrive Global](https://www.thriveglobal.com), and her poem 'Ode to Wine' was recently published in 'Last Call', an anthology of beer, wine and spirits poetry (we've included it elsewhere in this newsletter).

**Katie Moulton (Au06, BC)** has been awarded a 2019 Tulsa Artist fellowship, funded by the George Kaiser Family Foundation. The one-year renewable fellowship provides a \$20,000 unrestricted stipend, housing, studio space and other opportunities for a growing community of artists and writers brought to Tulsa from around the country.



**Michaela (Schneier) Boller (Sp09, Bates)** and husband Matt welcomed Luke Austen Boller (*pictured left*) into the family on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**Joe (Su09, Gettysburg) and Maddie Anthes (Su09, Denison)** had a son, Grayson Joseph Anthes (*pictured right*), on September 4<sup>th</sup> 2018.

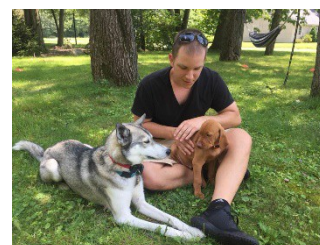


**Sarah Blumig (Su09, Gettysburg)** recently moved to Durham, NC and is now Director of Annual Giving at Duke University's School of Nursing.



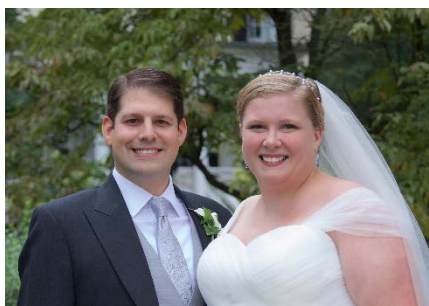
**Lizzy Abel (Au09, BC)** married Andrew Bruckner (*pictured left*) in July 2018 at Whitby Castle in Rye, NY. Living in Boston, they fell in love over a mutual appreciation of tea and the UK. Andrew had studied in Oxford in the same semester but, although their paths may very well have crossed at Univ or on the High, they didn't actually meet until September 2015.

**Dan O'Brien (Sp10, BC)** (*pictured right*) is now in his sixth-year as a 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Social Studies teacher in Shrewsbury, MA.



**Jess (Marshall) Halsall (Sp10, Gettysburg)** began teacher training this year.

**Alicia (Pepe) Carney (Sp10, Gettysburg)** married Brendan Carney on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2018. **Brenna English-Loeb** was a guest.



**Tom Seabrook (Au10, William and Mary)** married Dr Bryn Elizabeth Whiteley (*pictured left*) in Leesburg VA on the September 8<sup>th</sup> 2018. They are now living in Charlottesville, VA.

**Christina Paladeau (Au10, William and Mary)** married in October 2019, and three of the four bridesmaids were friends she met at ASE: her maid-of-honor was **Meghan Schneider**, who lived with her at 18 Northampton, and **Meggi Yates-Berg** and **Tina Russell (née Valluzzi)** who lived in 21 Northampton were bridesmaids. They all became fast friends shortly upon arrival in Bath (actually Meghan, Tina and Christina met at the airport on their way there), Christina went on to live with Meghan and Tina in Boston after college, and now they've helped celebrate her wedding!

**Emily Hessney Lynch (Sp11, Rochester)** and husband Tim adopted two rescue dogs, Ellie and Rigby (*pictured right*). Emily has also started her own business – 'Serve Me The Sky Digital' - offering writing, social media strategy and digital marketing services.



**Rob Magnuson Smith (Creative Writing Tutor Au12, Sp13)** is currently Senior Lecturer and the co-Director of Creative Writing at Exeter University. His second novel *Scorper* was published by Granta in 2015.

His short fiction has appeared in *The Literarian*, *Guillemot Press*, *The Greensboro Review*, the *Guardian*, *Granta*, and the *Australian Book Review*. It has been anthologized (History Press), audio recorded (by actor Jeremy Irons), awarded the Elizabeth Jolley Prize (2015), and longlisted for the *Sunday Times* EFG Short Story Award (2016). He spent this summer on an Arctic Circle Residency, sailing the waters around Svalbard on the Tall Ship Antigua!

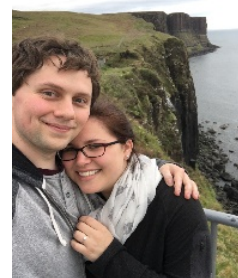




**Hanna Bertoldi (Sp13, F&M)** (*pictured left*) began as Collections Database Coordinator at Notre Dame's Snite Museum of Art in June 2018, and has moved to South Bend, IN.

**Lola Mendeloff (Sp13, Denison)** got engaged to Corey Mannington the Isle of Skye in April 2019 (*pictured right*).

**Mariah Wilson (Sp13, Gettysburg)** and her husband Doug are celebrating the birth of their daughter Amelia, born on November 18th 2019. They are very much in love with her!



**Katharine Varga (Sp14, Rochester)** is about to graduate with an MFA in Playwriting from Ohio University

**Ali Bunis (Sp15, Williams College)** is living in New York City, and is working at Tor/Forge Books, an imprint of Macmillan, publishing mainly science fiction, fantasy, mysteries, and thrillers.

**Annalise Torcson (Sp15, Tulane University)** was awarded an MPhil in Irish Writing at Trinity College, Dublin. (*See her reflections on Bath, and Ireland elsewhere in this edition*).

**Starling Irving (Au15, Bowdoin)** is living in Brooklyn, working for the fashion blog [Man Repeller](#), 'enjoying city life and bringing a little vintage flair to the fashion industry'!

**Jules Sebock (Sp17, Gettysburg)** is working on the production of an online literary magazine featuring poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, and photography, called Nightingale and Sparrow. She would welcome submissions from other alums - <http://nightingaleandsparrow.com/submissions/>

**Connor Batsimm (Sp17, Skidmore)** is now working as an Editorial Assistant for the Boston Guardian newspaper.

**Eileen Yee (Au17, Georgetown)** starts medical school last autumn.

**Bethany Thomas (Su17, Mary Wash')** gave birth to her daughter, Katarina Andie on May 23rd 2019 (*pictured right*). She just turned 6 months old and is the light of Beth's life! Beth also moved back home to Florida and got a job at Florida State University College of Law teaching law students proper grammar and writing skills. It's been a big year.



**Jackie Capita (Su17, Rochester)** will be coming to the University of Leicester to pursue a Masters in Victorian Studies next September. She has just moved to DC to join her partner and is now adjusting to the big city after Rochester. She notes that the seasons are slower to change!

**Sarah Tan (Su 2017, Williams College)** moved to Nanae, Japan, where she has taken up the post of Coordinator of International relations for the Nanae Town Government.

**Khalil Bentley (Su18, Denison)** spent a semester abroad in Cuba, doing undergrad research at the University of Havana.

**Luke Lauchle (Su18, Wells)** was back in the UK almost as soon as he left, acting as a TA on a theatre trip to London.

**Kieron Winn (long-standing ASE Creative Writing tutor)** is to take up residence as the first poet in residence at Rydal Mount, William Wordsworth's home.