

June 2011

George Nolfi's  
Grand  
Plan

A close-up portrait of George Nolfi, a man with short brown hair and a light beard, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark blue collared shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

Marshall  
Alumni Newsletter

# Editor's Letter

I was deeply gratified to see that your recently requested feedback on the Newsletter was largely positive, but some of you expressed concern that we are spending too much on thick paper and smelly ink. Allow me to reassure you that the Newsletter is produced through the volunteer efforts of Marshall alumni, and that I've got an Internet coupon-focused eye for bargains: our printing costs have never been more than 97 cents per issue. Regardless, we're happy to be responsive and we bring you this next issue printed on slightly thinner paper that costs even less. Rest assured that the lion's share of your dues are going to fund AMS initiatives other than the Newsletter.

You also had a number of excellent suggestions for content that the Newsletter team are considering for coming issues. Many asked for more in the Class Notes section – so please do get in touch with your class secretary to report your own news! Or email us your updates at [newsletter@marshallscholars.org](mailto:newsletter@marshallscholars.org).

Ushma S. Neill, Managing Editor



**Ushma Savla Neill**, Managing Editor

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# News from the AMS

By Bryan Leach

The AMS recently completed an electronic survey of its members, with nearly 600 Marshall alumni responding. The survey results inspired improvements to the online directory that Marshall alumni can use to keep in touch with each other. The Marshall alumni directory now contains information on all Marshall alumni, along with industry affiliations for those who responded to the survey. The directory is now searchable by industry as well as by name. To access the directory, visit <http://www.marshallscholars.org/profiles.html>. If you've forgotten your password, you may email [admin@marshallscholars.org](mailto:admin@marshallscholars.org).

On February 24, Stephen Brusatte (Bristol '06), a Columbia University Ph.D. student affiliated with the American Museum of Natural History, led a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's paleontology department for a group of Marshall alumni and several excited children of alumni. The tour covered some of the enormous private collections of dinosaur bones that are not open to the public and the paleontology lab where fossil specimens are cleaned, prepared, and conserved. Brusatte spoke about the recently discovered tyrannosaur species and new dinosaur evolution theories; described the scientific process of preparing and studying dinosaur fossils; and explained how fossils are discovered and in the US, Europe, and China. Afterwards, attendees retired to a local Irish pub for Bass Ale, appetizers, and interesting company.



Brusatte with fellow alumni at the AMNH



Orszag with NYC Marshall alumni

On March 8, acclaimed alumni Dr. Peter Orszag (LSE '91) gave a lecture on "The Macroeconomic and Policy Environment" at a Marshall alumni event held at the Oxford North American Development Office in New York. Dr. Orszag spoke about the current and projected state of the economy, his views on fiscal and budget policy, and the impacts of increasing political polarization of the House and Senate. Additionally, Dr. Orszag regaled the audience with amusing stories from his time at the White House and as a Marshall Scholar, and spoke about his new job at Citigroup. Dr. Orszag's wife, journalist Bianna Golodryga, made sure to keep him on his toes with a few hard-charging questions and comments of her own. Before and after the lecture, Marshalls socialized over tasty hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and wine.

The AMS continues to host other events across the country. On Sunday, June 5, Marshall alumni in the Los Angeles area will gather at the Getty Malibu for a tour with a museum curator followed by a picnic lunch provided by the AMS. The event is jointly hosted by the AMS and the Gates Cambridge Alumni Association. Please contact Claire Clelland ([ccllland@ucla.edu](mailto:ccllland@ucla.edu)) with questions.

The AMS is pleased to announce that this year's AMS annual meeting will take place in Boston on Saturday, June 11. The meeting will feature presentations by distinguished Marshall alumni, a discussion of current AMS initiatives, and the opportunity to mix and mingle with other scholars. All Marshall alumni are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Lauren Baer ([lauren.baer@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.baer@gmail.com)).

# MR. NOLFI GOES TO HOLLYWOOD



BY SUZETTE  
BROOKS MASTERS

# PERHAPS YOU'VE SEEN THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU

— one of the big Hollywood films of 2011. Matt Damon stars as a rising politician who discovers that his life is following a carefully scripted master plan and that a small army of hat-wearing administrators is monitoring all humans to keep the plan on track. Free will, in the movie, is just an illusion. The man who wrote and directed this film is George Nolfi (Oxford '88).

**G**eorge was raised in Boston and Chicago by two intellectual parents – his mother is a clinical psychologist and his father a scientist and consultant who held various government posts in Washington during George's formative years. Growing up, George visited Congress and the White House with his father and had deep discussions about social science with his mother.

By his own admission, George was a wonky kid. At 10, he was discussing free will and filibusters rather than watching television. In high school, George gravitated towards the social sciences, intrigued by how societies function. He attended Princeton, graduating with a degree in public policy from the Woodrow Wilson School. He studied economics, politics, philosophy and public policy and grappled with all of these disciplines in his undergraduate thesis, which focused on the philosophical and moral issues raised by affirmative action. Halfway through college, George started regularly watching films for the first time and developed a keen interest in the power of film to influence public opinion. He applied for a Marshall scholarship and set his sights on Oxford, with its reputation for intellectual discourse and high concentration of philosophers. He also yearned to travel abroad and explore other platforms for sharing ideas – big platforms like mass culture – increasingly feeling that academia might prove too small a megaphone.

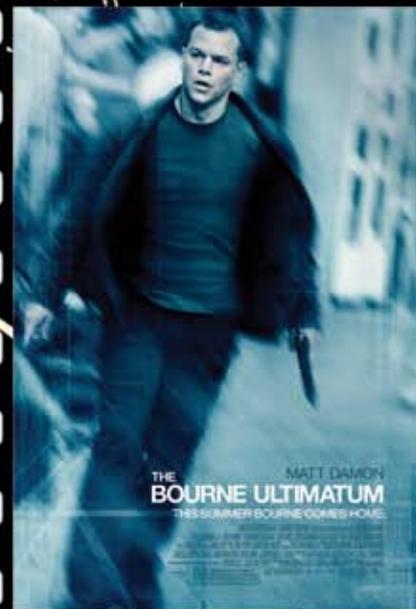
**G**eorge spent three years at Oxford pursuing a doctorate in philosophy, arriving at the end of the Thatcher era just as England was emerging from a prolonged recession. George noted the slower pace of life and the importance of tradition in England, in contrast to America's faster, more chaotic and more free wheeling rhythms. At New College, George met a number of graduate students from the UK and other countries. He formed close friendships and enjoyed the intellectual ferment. He remembers most fondly his extensive travels throughout the Middle East and Europe, especially behind the Iron Cur-

THE SEVEN

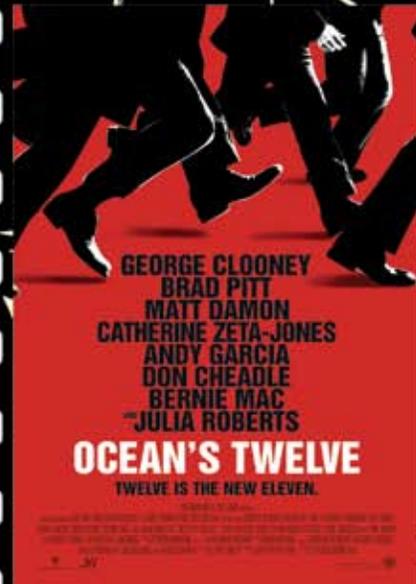
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tain, with Oxford classmates, experiences he found profoundly liberating and enlightening. From all outward appearances, George was on track to pursue an academic career.

But George had other things on his mind and, during his second year at Oxford, wrote his first movie script. “By the time I was in graduate school I realized I loved film. I wanted to see if I could do it myself. Since I was in a doctoral program, not in film school, I tried to write a script.”

This script marked the beginning of the end of George’s academic career and fueled his passion for the movies. He was keenly interested in how movies shape people’s beliefs about all sorts of things, including “how one sees oneself in the world, how one thinks about country, and what true love is.” He wanted to tell good stories, knowing that films “inherently influence values” in subtle ways. While still at Oxford he secured a Los Angeles-based agent and, after a couple of visits to Hollywood, realized that he needed to be based there. Moving to LA was George’s Big Decision Number One.

Still intrigued by ideas, but wanting to transition away from philosophy and towards more rigorous statistical social science research methods, George reconnected with a former Princeton professor who was teaching at UCLA. In the fall of 1992, George entered UCLA’s doctoral program in political science. While there, he completed the coursework for his master’s degree, tutored students to earn money, and wrote more movie scripts. His big break came in 1995 when he sold his first script, *Pathfinder*, in a bidding war, enabling him to pay off his college and graduate school debts. *Pathfinder* was an action thriller about a CIA officer captured behind

enemy lines in Serbia who escapes. This early success led to Big Decision Number Two: leaving academia to focus full-time on script-writing.

Over the years, George’s scripts have covered a wide range of subjects but share some common features. They raise societal issues and comment on politics or government, without being heavy-handed or moralistic. Of the many scripts George has worked on since the 1990s, five have made it to the big screen. The first was *Timeline*, an adaptation of the Michael Crichton novel, which he revised. The second was *The Sentinel*, which he co-produced and wrote the screenplay for. The final three were Matt Damon films. He wrote the screenplay for *Ocean’s Twelve* (an adaptation of a screenplay he had written called *Honor Among Thieves*), co-authored *The Bourne Ultimatum*, and directed and wrote the screenplay for *The Adjustment Bureau*, the recently released film loosely based on a Philip K. Dick short story.

Notwithstanding George’s desire to stay active in the movie business, he is also involved in political communications work, advising politicians, news organizations and government agencies on how to talk about issues in order to achieve desired outcomes. This work relates back to his long-held interest in government, public policy and public opinion. At the moment, he is searching for political common ground, for ways Democrats and Republicans can work across the aisle, since “we are too fractious as a country and more polarized than ever before.” This polarization results in political gridlock, challenging our nation’s very ability to govern and lead. With each political party playing to an increasingly narrow base, there





Nolfi shooting scenes from the *Adjustment Bureau* (this page and facing page).

is less room for compromise and leadership. George fears that America no longer speaks with one voice on important matters such as the national debt, global competitiveness, nuclear proliferation and terrorism. A second topic of interest relates to national security. George wants to improve the engagement and knowledge of the citizenry in national security matters and is a member of the national security committee of the Pacific Council on International Policy. It's apparent that even if George has become a Hollywood player, he remains a politics junkie.

**G**eorge spends most of his time thinking about visual narrative media and social and political issues. What little free time he does have he spends traveling and being physically active. As for his aspirations, George wants to keep "writing and directing my own stuff and develop new material to produce." George explains that

"it takes a long time, often five years or even ten years to bring something from conception to released film, but I really enjoy using whatever storytelling skills and business relationships I've developed over the years to help bring the creativity of other writers and directors to the screen." He acknowledges that Hollywood is a very competitive industry and that sustaining success requires discipline and focus. He has enjoyed gradually expanding his Hollywood credentials from screenwriter to director and producer.

If you've seen *The Adjustment Bureau*, you know that the Matt Damon character fights for the right to pursue his dreams, come what may. Perhaps it's no coincidence that George himself made big course corrections when he left academia for Hollywood and is charting his own way. We'll need to wait to find out the next chapters in George's story. But will we ever know whether they were all part of a grand plan?

# **Marshall** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gastronomic Adventures**



*In a previous issue we asked readers to tell us about their gastronomic adventures during their Marshall years. Below we present a selection of the stories we received.*

*If you have your own Marshall story to share, food-related or otherwise, please write us at [newsletter@marshallscholars.org](mailto:newsletter@marshallscholars.org).*

# Traditional Dining

By Wallace Kaufman (Oxford '61)

“You must come to dinner at Brasenose Wednesday night,” my friend at that college insisted. John Cobb, now a London psychiatrist, during our Oxford years had become my guide to England’s best beer, cheeses, pubs, and music. He had to know if I would come because unlike the usual supper where a student would sign out if not intending to be present, on this particular night, students who would eat in hall had to sign in. The reason was that the night’s 18th century menu required diners who could separate the sense of smell from the sense of taste. The appearance of jugged hare on the college menu meant most students would eat somewhere else. We signed in.

I will skip the details and proceed to instructions for preparation. The next year, when John and I lived in digs in Osney Town with three other students, we prepared our own jugged hare. You can find many variations on the Internet, and I note that none I’ve seen use the traditional curing time.

On High Street the Oxford market often had fresh killed game hanging in the meet stalls and we had no trouble finding a large hare. The corpse was entirely intact except for a few holes in the head made by shotgun pellets. Back at our brick row house on South Street we wrapped the head in heavy paper to keep out flies and other bugs, and we hung the hare in a little outdoor closet next to our outdoor privy, both dark and cool places.

Three weeks later we retrieved the hare. That flat stale heavy odor of old death hung around it. We skinned it, saved the black goey blood along with the heart and liver. We cut the meat into small pieces and sauteed them, sealing in the flavor. The blood, liver and heart, we put into a stew pot with a glass of port wine, carrots, onion, potatoes, celery, and cloves. (Students of history might know that cloves and other spices became popular in Europe partly to mask the odors of well-aged meat.)

After a few hours of slow stewing we added the meat. The smell of death hung in the air throughout the preparation.

When we sat before the dish at the table, the smell of death rose from the dark thick dish with its steam. The stew, however, was rich and hearty.

While I understand the reasons why present recipes do not ask the user to hang the hare for three weeks, that traditional method I would call holistic, reminding all diners that death is the necessary precursor to consuming any dish with meat.



The Dead Hare, by Wenceslaus Hollar, mid-17th century

# Homecoming: England, Summer 1960

By Harold Branam  
(Leeds '59)



Harold Branam (Leeds '59),  
painted by Sandy Branam

*Addio, Italia, addio,*  
fat fresh peaches after pasta and veal,  
the mandolins playing,  
*Cellini's Perseus* and *Botticelli's Birth of Venus*,  
the girls at Marina di Ravenna,  
Dante's tomb,  
the breezes on Palatine Hill,  
and the Renaissance sunlight.

After Mt. Blanc's feral brightness  
the fields of France unroll  
into a neoclassical garden.  
But coming up on Britain  
we see a solid wall of fog  
pushing into the Channel:  
"London weather, rainy and foggy."

That night on the West Riding Express  
the Leeds United fans celebrate victory.  
Drunk, wearing silly hats, waving pennants,  
the British even in their unrestraint  
follow closely prescribed patterns.  
Insular convention is comforting,  
another wall of fog to shut out  
the bright continental abyss.  
"Tea with or without, Love?"

The rocking motions  
of the overheated train and the sounds  
of English being spoken again  
lull us off. When we awake,  
the landscape is familiar:  
blast furnaces and slag heaps  
under mercury-vapor lights,  
tendrils of smoke and fog  
curling over the moors.

Leaving Leeds Station,  
the celebrants give a last few  
muffled whoops in the smog. The taxi  
creeps forlornly up Chapeltown Road.  
At Grange Terrace we get out,  
feel our way to the door.

Next morning, the weather has not changed.  
While rain and leaves pelt the window,  
we light the gas fireplace,  
brew a pot of tea,  
and fry some fat thick British bacon.

# Food for Thought

By Nicholas T. Hartman (Cambridge '03)

When thinking back to thoughts of food during my Marshall days, I found myself thinking more about the events and conversations surrounding the food than the food itself.

One of the earliest such memories occurred during the preparations for our class's first annual Thanksgiving dinner. Each geographic concentration of scholars was assigned one part of the meal to supply and Cambridge, typically, got the desert course. Rather than tackling this task independently, several of us decided to get together the morning of the dinner and prepare a selection of deserts. Bryan McLaughlin (Cambridge '03) had put together a collection of good recipes and with that we all headed off to Sainsbury's.

For reasons that have since escaped me, one of us stumbled across this foreign substance called lime cordial and felt it would be an appropriate substitute for the Florida Key lime juice that we couldn't find for our Key lime pie. As recent transplants to the UK, none of us were quite sure what lime cordial was but it was green and claimed to be intensely lime flavored so we bought a rather large bottle.

Meanwhile back in one of the King's College student kitchens, which by that point I had learned to call by their proper Cambridge term "gyp-room," one of the other recipes called for "boiling a can of condensed milk in the can." Upon walking into the room I immediately dove to the floor as visions of a Daily Mail headline "American scholars maimed by exploding can of CONDENSED MILK!" flashed before me.

As it turns out, someone, who shall remain anonymous, placed the unopened can directly onto the hob's burner rather than into a pot of boiling water. Fortunately, the can had yet to heat up and we were able to complete our preparations without involving the Cambridgeshire Constabulary's bomb squad.

Meanwhile, the complex chemistry that occurred upon combining lime cordial with the remaining ingredients for a Key lime pie resulted in a partially solidified green goo that resembled the slime that I remember Nickelodeon always dumping on people, but it was surprisingly tasty.

With our panel of deserts completed we then shifted to the task of transporting this spread to Goodenough College in London. Riding up in Russell Square station's elevator we stumbled across another group of Americans who immediately asked where the Thanksgiving party was, and we all exchange wishes for a happy holiday. To this day I distinctly remember the clearly uncomfortable look on the face of the Londoners in the elevator upon observing two groups of people who didn't know each other striking up a spontaneous cordial conversation.

For the following year's dinner I found some inspiration in a shop window that had intricately shaped multi-colored cookies on display. This gave me the idea to make the US and UK flags out of two large sugar cookies.

I made a test batch of cookies to perfect the recipe and then the day before the dinner prepared red, white, and blue dough and carefully shaped it into the two flags.

In its raw state the concept worked beautifully, but what I had failed to take account of was the fact that when things bake they tend to expand quite a bit. The end result tasted great but looked, admittedly, a bit ridiculous. The Union Jack turned into a mutant red starfish with three extra arms, but it was too late for a redo so I stuck with it. (I assure anyone who by now is scrambling for an excuse to not attend a future dinner party at my place that my culinary skills have since improved significantly.)

Finally, one of my most influential food memories was of the daily afternoon tea at the Biochemistry Department. In our lab group, attendance at afternoon tea was mandatory and if you didn't attend you better have had a good reason. It very quickly became clear to me that these daily gatherings weren't so much about the tea break as they were about the opportunity for everyone in the group to take a moment out of our busy schedules and sit around a table and talk.

While some days we discussed anything but science, on many other days it provided a quick impromptu forum to work through any current problems with experiments or other issues around the lab. There's always a phrase floating around in science that says something like "an hour in the library can save you weeks in the lab." I soon discovered that a 15 minute tea break could do the same.

Now, spending most of my time inside businesses rather than inside the lab, I often think "we could solve a lot of issues if we just instituted mandatory tea at half three." I've yet to propose such an idea, but stay tuned.



# Reflections on the Marshall Experience

By Kelly Storrs  
(SOAS and LSE '09)

The inaugural print issue of the AMS Newsletter featured a group photo of the class of 2009 as they prepared to embark for their journey to the UK. Now, six quarterly issues later, most in this group are preparing to wrap up their UK studies. To bring our coverage full circle, one member of the class of 2009 reflects on her UK experience as she prepares to return to the US.



I woke up one morning in October 2009 with an entire week in front of me and a grand total of six hours of scholastic obligations. It hit me then that my Marshall experience would be an adventure in discovering two foreign cultures: the UK and myself. I could not imagine finding activities to fill the hours in the day, but fill them I did – first with an excess of sleeping to make up for nine years of swim practices at four or five thirty in the morning.

By November my body was ready to face the world and as much of the little UK sunlight I could absorb; it was then that I began to really embrace my time in the United Kingdom. My Marshall scholarship experience has been a story of personal growth and friendship. At graduation from the Naval Academy, I knew my capabilities but not who I truly was. I have used these last two years in London to develop and deepen new passions, interests, and knowledge of myself – and most importantly friendships.

Going from the history department at the Naval Academy to London's School of Oriental and

African Studies (SOAS) to focus on international studies and diplomacy was the most abrupt culture shock I imagine I will ever go through. (Although returning to the Marine Corps in a few months might be equally abrupt.)

If you have never been to the SOAS campus, let me give you a quick sketch: the entire grounds are between two buildings. On any given day there are ten or so tables set up, each one with students championing a cause, with a permanent one set up to protest the war in Afghanistan. The students are eclectic in dress and vocal about their interests, albeit sometimes a bit out of touch with the world outside protesting and SOAS. I fell in love with the institution the moment I stepped into its wonderful, colorful, and passionate universe. Transitioning from the Naval Academy, where I did my best to conform in dress, hair, and behavior, to SOAS, an institution that values individuality like none other I have seen, I knew I had found a special place. I could not have valued one experience without the other.

I was plucked from classrooms with over 99% Americans all striving for the same thing, a commission into the US military, and dropped into lecture halls with students from every populous continent. During our first program meeting at SOAS, we were asked to introduce ourselves to ten people sitting near us and share our first political memory. My group had students from ten different countries with memories ranging from tragic bombings to my personal vignette, the Lewinsky scandal. (I can't say I'm proud that that was my contribution.) International studies took on a different meaning and flavor in a truly international classroom.

My time at SOAS introduced me to public international law, the subject I would go on to study during my second year at the London School of Economics (LSE). Surrounded by lawyers from all over the world, notably two who helped write the Kenyan constitution, I learned from first-hand practitioners, both my classmates and professors. Again I saw my interests branch when I took my first gender class,



At the Lyceum Tavern in London (from left) Kelcie Ralph (LSE '09), Kelly Storrs (SOAS & LSE '09), Michelle Parlos (LSE '09), Sally Liu Baxter (LSHTM '09) and Emma Wu (UCL '09).

International Human Rights of Women. That class was another culture shock as I found myself among twenty women, rather than with nineteen men as sometimes happened at the Academy.

While my academic interests broadened from history to international studies and further to women's human rights, the Marshall scholarship experience is about so much more than academics, as all Marshall alumni know. It is about letting your hair down, quite literally in my case, and making friends across the pond. Somewhere along the way I met the precocious 5-year-old from my childhood who always picked out more books at the library than she could carry home. I was now the 22-year-old who had to go to Waterstone's twice a week. Any less, and I would still be trying to take home more books than I could carry – much to Emma Wu's (UCL '09) dismay at the growing piles stacked around our flat.

I collected hobbies like I used to collect keychains. Aside from a renewed interest in reading fiction, a few hobbies, such as quilting and walking everywhere I go, have stuck. More important than skill development was learning that I could do activities just because I enjoyed them. Every moment of my life need not be focused on realizing some grand design for my future; living in the present is just as valuable.

While I am moving back to the US and the Marine Corps soon with a greater understanding of who I am, the most lasting and valuable takeaways from my two years in the UK will be the friends I have made both among my fellow scholars and at the dog park.

The dog park, the source of the majority of my British friends, taught me the ritual significance of the weather as a conversation opener. I also learned how the British in-

At The Little Lam Hot Pot in London's Chinatown (from left) Kelly Storrs (SOAS & LSE '09), Kuong Ly (Essex '09) and Emma Wu (UCL '09).



fused humor, or should I say humour, into every line. From Denise's stories about being the oldest of eleven children growing up on an Irish farm to John's personal accounts of the changes in Covent Garden over the fifty or so years that he has lived there to Carey's struggles with the UK primary school system for her two children, my friends at the dog park helped me understand more about the daily life, struggles and triumphs of people living in the United Kingdom. They showed me how an unlikely group of people with a passion for dogs uniting them can keep a park open to off-lead dogs in the face of government pressure to close. They were patient as I struggled at first to understand their accents and supportive as I trained a puppy for the first time. When I return to the US, I am certainly going to miss the daily strolls around and around the quarter-mile of Lincoln's Inn Fields and the friends who made buying a dog in the UK one of the best choices I made while in London.

All else aside, my Marshall experience has been defined and enriched by my fellow scholars. Although there are too many memories to recount and friends to give "shout outs" to, I learned from and value every fellow scholar with whom I have spent time in the UK.

When we were all gathered for the first time, as fellow Marshall Aroop Mukharji (LSE '10) described in the last issue, I felt that connection that comes with common experience even though we came from institutions scattered all over the US. We knew that each person standing in the lobby of the Hotel Palomar had skipped out a bit on "real college" (as we like to call it at the Naval Academy) to put a few extra hours into that research paper or lab report or prepare little more for that class discussion. We had all crammed as much into the past four years as possible from academics to sports, extra curriculars, and volunteering. It was comforting, inspiring, and intimidating at first to be among such energetic, dedicated, and intelligent peers.

My fellow scholars, now closest friends, have been the backbone of my entire experience in the UK. During the first dinner party at our flat, I learned, much to my embarrassment, the importance of providing a vegetarian option. I mistakenly passed off chicken stuffed with spinach and garlic butter as a vegetarian dish, forgetting that the "vegetarian inside" was wrapped in an entire chicken breast. Rishi Mediratta (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine '09) was too polite to call me out on it, and upon realization later in the evening at my horrible mistake I was mortified. Thankfully, aside from being brilliant, my fellow Marshalls are also gracious and forgiving.

From pub crawls around London, trips within the UK and even a few to Europe and beyond, Marshalls were always there making the times memorable. As a class we learned that a Marshall reception rarely includes dinner, but always includes large amounts of wine. Even though our class lost a large number back to the US after the first year, we remained close through email chains (whose wit and cleverness could take up an entire article themselves), a wedding (Sally Liu Baxter, LSHTM '09), and chance meetings during trips back home. I know the friendships formed in the UK will carry over as most of us trickle back to the US, while a few continue to make the UK their homes. I could not have hoped for a more genuine, enlightening, or entertaining group of scholars to share this experience with.

At this point all I can do is thank those who made this experience possible and enriching: my fellow Marshalls, mentors, family, and the Marshall Commission and all those affiliated with it. I am truly blessed to count myself among the Marshall alumni and am already looking forward to alumni gatherings.



In London's Covent Garden (from left) Stephen Parlos (married to Michelle Parlos '09), Dan Roberts (Imperial '09), Rishi Mediratta (LSHTM '09), Emma Wu (UCL '09), Max Kleiman-Weiner (Oxford '09), Michelle Parlos (LSE '09), Richard Lin (Oxford '09), Kyle Checchi (LSE '09) and Kelly Storrs (SOAS & LSE '09).

# Scholars Visit Number 10

By Emma Wu  
(UCL '09)

On January 21, I was among the 24 Marshall scholars who visited 10 Downing Street, the headquarters of Her Majesty's Government and the home of Prime Minister David Cameron. (The PM was unfortunately away on business in Oxford, leaving our Oxonians to wonder if their caravans had crossed paths on the M40.)

After blocking the pavement and filing through security, we attended a Q&A with Dr. Richard Freer, Defense and Foreign Policy Secretary. Dr. Freer was refreshingly candid, responding openly (under the Chatham House Rule) to questions about WikiLeaks, student protests, and women's roles in the military. Meanwhile, we also admired the artwork, personally selected by the incoming administration, including an Alice-in-Wonderland-esque portrait of Queen Elizabeth I and works by English artist L.S. Lowry.

Following coffee and tea, we were led on a tour around the residence. In the White Room, we saw the uncomfortable-looking chairs where the PM chats with foreign dignitaries, including President Obama. Other highlights included sitting in a £4 million chair and towering over William Pitt the Younger's 200 year-old desk, at which Neville Chamberlain penned a letter to Hitler in the 1930s.

We also followed the line of portraits of previous Prime Ministers down the Grand Staircase; only when we were all crowded on the staircase did our guide point out its seeming precariousness, as the Grand Staircase was built with a cantilever design without any visible supports. One tidbit of entertainment trivia: filming for *Love Actually*



was not allowed inside the real Number 10, so instead artists were brought in to make sketches of the building for the construction of a replica.

Finally, the tour ended in the hallowed Cabinet Room, the seat of the British government's decision-making. Sitting around the boat-shaped table, we felt a hush of gravitas come over us – or maybe it was the soundproof doors separating us from the rest of the house. Dr. Freer and our tour guide entertained us with hilarious stories of foreign dignitaries, particularly the gossip-worthy antics of a certain Italian politician.

Our visit to Number 10 was capped off by a photo session in front of the shiny black door. The general consensus among the Marshall Scholars was that this whole experience was fascinating and quite special. We truly appreciate

the Marshall Commission's efforts to introduce us to aspects of UK politics and culture.



Marshall Scholars in front of 10 Downing Street following their tour at the famous address

## 1960

### Patrick Henry

patrick1939@gmail.com

In September 2009, **David Campbell** attended a gala in New York City celebrating Brasenose College's 500th anniversary. "For one night Sotheby's was done up as the BNC Dining Hall," David writes. After a legal career in New Orleans, David is now the owner and operator of Little River Bluffs ([www.littleriverbluffs.com](http://www.littleriverbluffs.com)), offering private accommodations in a secluded nature retreat on the Little Tchefuncte River between Covington and Folsom, Louisiana (New Orleans Northshore). For decades, David has been active in preservation — of historic buildings, and of rivers and natural lands, from the threat of suburban sprawl. He recently hosted the Oxford-Cambridge Society of Louisiana at Little River Bluffs.

## 1962

### Pamela Perrott

pamelaperrott@comcast.net

Following a brief sojourn in the US after his Marshall years, **Clarke R. Slater**



CLARKE R. SLATER

spent the rest of his life in the UK. He was on the staff of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology for five years and then moved to Newcastle University where he eventually became its first Professor of Neuroscience. Although he formally retired six years ago at 65, he has been busy since then working on a book about the neuromuscular junction, the focus of most of his research. In addition he continues an active musical life, playing cello in a number of local groups. He and his wife enjoy their life in a small village outside Newcastle and make occasional trips to the US to visit their two children in Wyoming and Illinois.

## 1965

### Catherine Weir Parker

CWeir@coloradocollege.edu

**Carol Coryell Mock** writes, "During retirement, I enjoy breeding daylilies in the back yard of our house in Saint Louis, Missouri. After 15 years of hybridizing, I have registered four daylilies with the American Hemerocallis Society. The most vigorous is a tetraploid, Supreme Tangerine. I also help out Sara, our daughter, by looking after our three grandchildren (5 to 14 years old). Grandparenting is grand!"

"My work history has been a crazy quilt. After a Ph.D. from University College London (research on Nzema, a Ghanaian language), Richard and I spent two years at the American University in Cairo before moving to southwest Missouri, buying a rocky Ozark farm, and teaching at Southwest Missouri State University. Occasionally I went to the hinterlands of Mexico to do 'salvage linguistics' on a dying indigenous language, Chocho. This led to teaching in the Programa de Etnolingüística in Pátzcuaro for one and half years. Later, I worked in Bolivia and Costa Rica as a translation consultant for the United Bible Societies. After 1990, I acquired master's degrees in theology and librarianship, taught English composition, undergraduate Spanish, and worked as a high-school librarian."

## 1966

### Diana Coogle

dcoogle@uoregon.edu

Since his Marshall years, **Bill Broyles** served with the Marines in Vietnam, started *Texas Monthly Magazine*, worked as editor of *Newsweek*, co-created the TV series *China Beach*, did a bunch of journalism and a book about going back to Vietnam, climbed some high mountains, and wrote or co-wrote screenplays for movies like *Apollo 13*, *Cast Away*, *Polar Express*, *Unfaithful*, and *Jarhead*. Bill writes, "I've got five great kids and now live in Santa Fe. I still ski double black diamond runs until the last snow melts. I'm working on some more books and may even tackle one about Oxford, so those Marshall days are still with me. I've greatly enjoyed reading about all the accomplishments of my Marshall cohort. Makes me proud!"

## 1969

### Will Lee

leewill@yu.edu

**Robert A. Oden Jr.** retired this past year as president of Carleton College, a position he held since 2002. Oden's leadership transformed Carleton on many fronts: leading the faculty in the College's first systematic curriculum review in nearly 50 years; emphasizing global issues and increasing Carleton's international student population over sixfold; leading multiple sustainability initiatives including the construction of the first college-owned-and-operated utility-scale wind turbine in the United States.

Rob writes, "What I most enjoyed at Carleton was the college's sense of humor although I tested it mightily during my final months there. Students, faculty, and staff awoke early one spring morning to find the College's central Green crowded with construction equipment, surrounded by drawings of the new Administration Building that would dominate the green, and besieged by bullet points indicating how many trees would

need to be cut down and how many cars the building's parking ramp would accommodate. As the angry crowd gathered, I suggested they check their smart phones for the date. It was April 1."

Rob now has returned to Hanover with his wife Teresa to continue research in ancient Near East languages, history, and religion. Between meetings of eight nonprofit boards, he also takes advantage of more opportunities for fly-fishing.

## 1972

### Jon Erichsen

erichsenjt@cardiff.ac.uk

**Lawrence Wilkinson's** life is changing. He's still in San Francisco, where he's lived for over 30 years, and his work continues to be a mix of the scenario planning that he helped pioneer (mostly these days for NGOs, though he still does some corporate counseling)

and entrepreuneuring (more social ventures and not-for-profits these days than the for-profits of the past couple of decades). However, he's about to become an empty-nester. His daughter, Nora, starts at Harvard in the fall. Lawrence would love to be in better touch with old Marshall friends; he's easily reached via [www.lawrencewilkinson.com](http://www.lawrencewilkinson.com).

On returning from England in 1974, **Barry Fujishin** and his wife, Margaret, purchased and began operating a small farm in Eastern Oregon. Twenty-five years later, they have a 350 acre row and seed crop operation and are farming

in both Oregon and Idaho. When their youngest of two boys graduated from high school, they decided to do something different. He became the Alumni Director at the College of Idaho, the college from which he, Margaret and their two boys graduated and now is the Director of Development. Margaret has been director of the local public library for 21 years. Their older son is a winemaker, owns a winery and teaches winemaking full time at the local community college.

Their younger son is working on a Ph.D. in Latin American history at the University of Minnesota.

## 1976

### Carol Lee

cfdjs@earthlink.net

**Gene N. Peterson** M.D., Ph.D. is an Associate Medical Director at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle. After 17 years in private practice and a decade as a director of a malpractice insurance company he returned to UW in 2002 to spend the second half of his career working to educate a new generation of healthcare professionals whose day-to-day work involves quality and safety practices. He lives with his wife Sarah, a child therapist, in Edmonds, Washington and has two children, aged 21 and 18. He still loves travel and recently returned from a journey to South Georgia Island and the Antarctic Peninsula.

After Oxford, **Josh Friedman** returned to Harvard for his J.D. (*magna cum laude*) and M.B.A. (Baker Scholar) degrees. He started his career at Goldman Sachs in New York in 1982, later



BARRY FUJISHIN

moving to Drexel Burnham Lambert in Los Angeles. In 1990, he founded Canyon Partners LLC, where he continues to be co-chairman and co-chief executive officer. Canyon is a leading global alternative asset management firm which specializes in credit-oriented investment strategies and manages approximately \$20 billion in assets for institutional investors. Josh and his wife, Beth, are also active in a number of non-profit and

charitable activities. They live in Los Angeles with their three sons, aged 20, 17 and 12.

**Jane Hawkins** has spent her years since her Marshall on research mathematics. Currently a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she has also worked at SUNY Stony Brook, Caltech, Duke, and Berkeley. Her research focuses on chaotic behavior of dynamical systems, and she has given invited talks in England, Australia, South Korea, Poland, Spain, Austria, and other countries. She moved to North Carolina with her mathematician husband Michael Taylor; Jane and Michael have a daughter who studies applied math at Columbia. Their family vacations are split between Maine and the North Carolina coast.

## 1981

### Suzette Brooks Masters

sbrooksmasters@gmail.com

**Jerome "Jay" M. Levi** received an M.Phil. from Cambridge in 1981 and returned to California where he worked in the wholesale travel industry designing and leading tours to out of the way



LAWRENCE WILKINSON

places in Mexico. He attended Harvard several years later to pursue a doctorate in social anthropology. In 1993, he began teaching in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he has been ever since. He currently chairs the department. "In that same year, I also got married, and although the marriage ended in divorce, we have a wonderful son, Max, who was fourteen in October and has all the athletic ability that his father never did." Jay continues to be interested in the indigenous peoples of Mesoamerica and the Southwest and every other year directs an off-campus study program on the Maya in Guatemala and Chiapas. Recently, Jay was hired by the World Bank as a consultant for their project on "Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development." Next spring and summer Jay will be in Jerusalem as a Visiting Research Fellow at Hebrew University. "I'd love to reconnect with people if they are ever in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area or Jerusalem next year."

## 1985

**Song Tan**  
sxt30@psu.edu

**Karen Van Dyck** received her D.Phil. in Medieval and Modern Languages specializing in Modern Greek literature from Oxford in 1990. She is now the Kimon A. Doukas Professor and director of the Program in Hellenic Studies in the Classics Department at Columbia University in New York City. Karen is currently on sabbatical in Thessaloniki, Greece, where she was studying when



KAREN VAN DYCK

she applied for the Marshall in 1983. She writes, "I fondly remember when a little man from the British Embassy arrived at my door with his black briefcase to deliver a letter from the Marshall Commission announcing my fellowship. I am ever grateful for this support that allowed me to spend my life translating and writing about Greek poetry."

## 1991

**Stanley Chang**  
sschangca@yahoo.com

**Andrew Oros** was awarded a Japan Foundation Abe Fellowship to study prospects for trilateral US-Japan-China security cooperation based at Beijing and Keio Universities in 2010-11. He is happy to guide fellow Marshalls to the latest drinking and dining establishments in these cities: just contact a\_oros@yahoo.com. His co-authored book, *Global Security Watch: Japan*, was published by Praeger Press in September 2010.

## 1997

**Jessica Sebeok**  
jessica.sebeok@gmail.com

**Lane Greene** published *You Are What You Speak: Grammar Grouches, Language Laws and the Politics of Identity* with Random House in March. The book has been reviewed by the *New York Times* and other leading newspapers, and Lane has been traveling all around the country for readings and media events.



ANDREW OROS

## 2001

**Megan Ceronsky**  
mceronsky@gmail.com

**Jordan Joseph Wales** writes, "I was married to the lovely Kathryn (née Easter) in June of 2007 and we welcomed our first child, Gregory, in September of 2009; these two are the joys of my life. I continue work on a doctoral degree in theology at the University of Notre Dame and have begun to write a dissertation on St. Gregory the Great's theology of sacrifice.

Although I think fondly on my time in Britain, I have not yet found myself missing the cheese and mayo sandwiches."

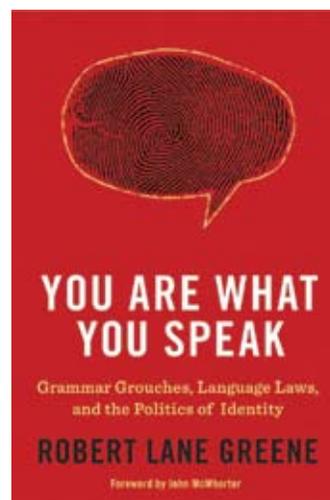
**Karen Feigh** disappeared into the murky world of engineering graduate school only to emerge seven years later with her doctorate, a job and a husband. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Georgia Tech's School of Aerospace Engineering where she specializes in cognitive engineering and human factors of aviation systems. Karen is married to Brian German, who is also an assistant professor at GT. Karen and Brian currently have no children or pets,

preferring instead to pour all of their pre-tenure spare income into their century-old bungalow. The guest room is available to any Marshall scholar in need of accommodation in Atlanta.

## 2002

**Esther Freeman**  
esther.freeman@gmail.com

I recently met up with



**Ben Heineike, Josh Goldman** and **Courtney Peterson** in Boston. Ben and his wife Amy were on their first trip back to the East Coast after moving to San Francisco from Annapolis, Maryland. Ben has left active duty, and will be beginning a Ph.D. at UCSF in their Integrative Program for Quantitative Biology. He has not quit the Navy cold turkey, however, and is still serving as a reservist with the Office of Naval Research.

### 2003

**Michael Aktipis**  
aktipis@gmail.com

**David M. Foxe** continues to practice architecture primarily out of the Boston office of the multidisciplinary firm EYP, and he has recently been working for the United Nations on the design and engineering of renovations and upgrades to the UN headquarters in New York City. He teaches modern architecture and preservation history at Tufts University this spring, and looks forward to hearing from other Marshalls in design, planning, and engineering.

Having completed his time in Camp Lejeune — and a deployment to Afghanistan — as an infantry officer with the 6th Ma-

rines, **Aaron MacLean** is being sent to Annapolis, where he'll be teaching English at the Naval Academy beginning this fall. All passers-by are more than welcome to contact him at aaron.macleam@gmail.com.

**Seth Johnston** has returned to Oxford this year where he is completing a D.Phil. in international relations.

### 2006

**Dan Weeks**  
dmweeks@gmail.com

**Alex Nemser** writes, "In the last few years, I have coursed around the world composing and performing poems. I performed, with other poets, or musicians, or unaccompanied, at the Bowery Poetry Club in Manhattan, the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka, art galleries in London, lofts in Montreal, street corners in Michigan, East Coast house parties, and an underground theater in Baltimore." Most recently, Alex has appeared as his alter-ego Moshe Feldstein, a charlatan rabbi in incantation trance, whose words emerged when his heart was in an all-time chaotic knot. Alex says, "My travels have confirmed for me that each human is a portal



AARON MACLEAN

tal of access to the infinite, and art is for me a way to enable this part to find momentary, longed-for clarity. I am

now living in Boston, and am at work on a video in which I give birth to myself." Check out Alex's performances as Moshe Feldstein here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HoweUpsc9A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HoweUpsc9A).

### 2007

**P.G. Sittenfeld**  
pg.sittenfeld@gmail.com

**Ross Baird** sends the following cheerful news: "Jen Kyle Baird and I celebrated our wedding in Atlanta at the end of February. It was the best day of our lives. We were incredibly lucky to have fellow Marshalls **P.G. Sittenfeld, Tom Clarke, Marc Gustafson, Karim Smither,** and **Dan Hemel** there, as well as my old Oxford roommate Spencer Witte. I daresay it might have been more fun than the Royal Wedding!"

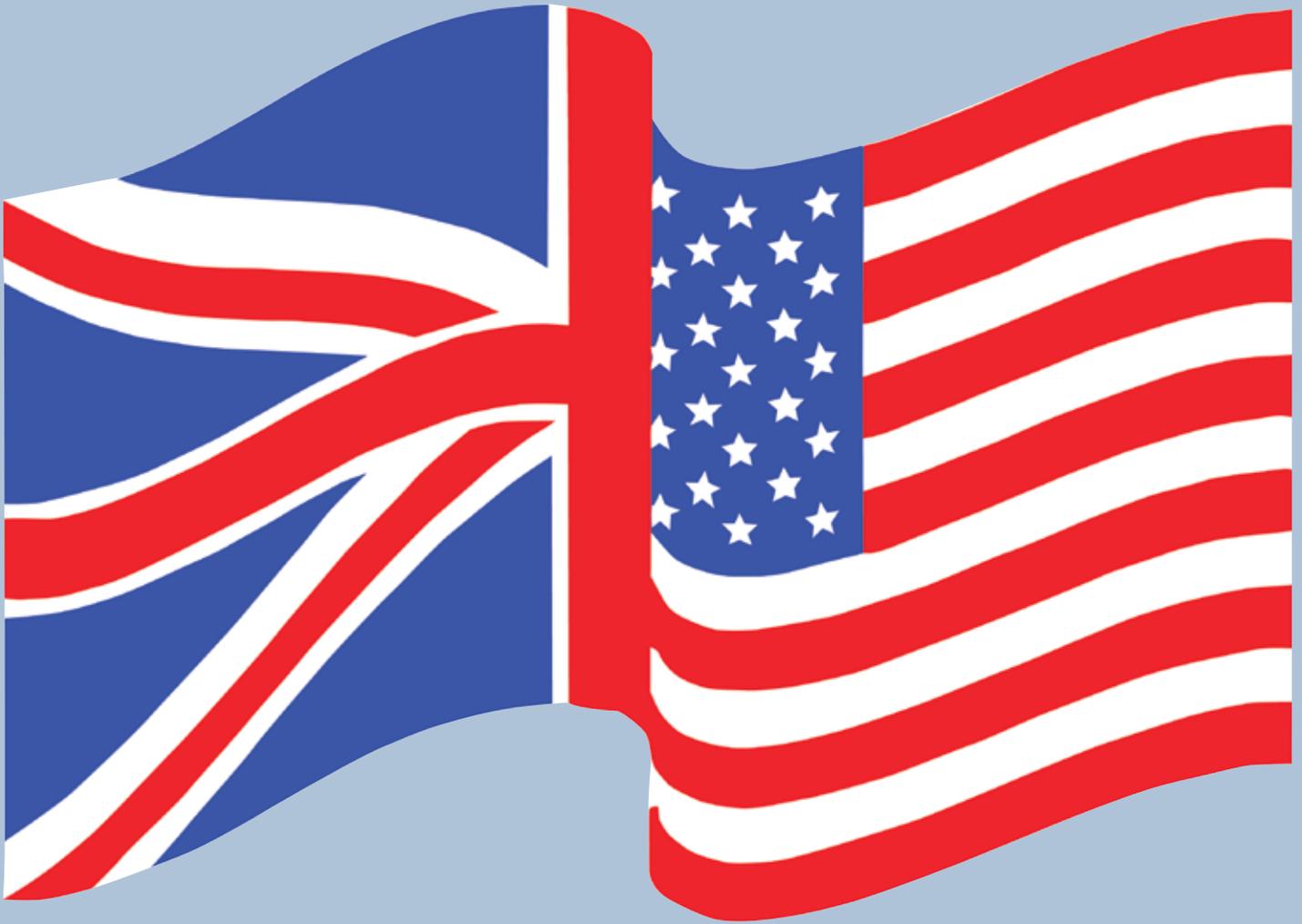


ROSS BAIRD AND  
JEN KYLE BAIRD

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