

GORDONSTOUN AMERICAN FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER
2017

Welcome to the 2017 Gordonstoun American Foundation newsletter. It has been a great pleasure meeting so many OGs, GISS and friends of Gordonstoun at the two functions we held in Los Angeles and most recently in New York. Thank you all for joining us and to those who responded to the invitations. The Los Angeles dinner was held in a local Italian restaurant with a relaxed atmosphere and it enabled

OGs and GISS to get together and catch up with their news and news from Gordonstoun. The New York reception was very well attended and those present were able to meet Lisa Kerr, the Principal of Gordonstoun who was invited to join the GAF board meeting and to speak to guests at the reception. We were all delighted that Lisa could spare the time in her very busy schedule to join us and hope that it won't be too long before she visits the US again.



We would like to introduce and welcome our two new GAF Board members - Andrew Beaton (left) (75) and Theodor Bruening (right) (02) - we look forward to working with them and to their contributions to the GAF. We would also like to thank Alexandra Jackson for her support and contributions to the GAF, Alex has retired from the GAF Board, but we do look forward to seeing her at future GAF functions.



DOUG HENDRY - HENRY HOTCHKISS TROPHY FOR SAIL TRAINING 2017

Doug has been involved in Sail Training on board "Ocean Spirit" throughout his Gordonstoun career. He first sailed in 2012 as a Year 8 student and quickly established himself as an enthusiastic crew member and dinghy sailor. He then sailed as part of the 8080 crew the following summer, playing a very full part in this landmark voyage around the UK in celebration of Gordonstoun's 80th birthday. In 2014, Doug completed his Year 10 Voyage earning praise from the Skipper who recommended him for more challenging voyages. He took up this offer in 2015 when he joined the crew of "Ocean Spirit" for that summer's Tall Ships' Race to Norway and Denmark when the vessel won both Line

Honours and First in Class in the race series. Doug then returned to the boat in 2016 for his Year 12 STV when he was awarded a Distinction for his hard work and leadership. He completed his time at Gordonstoun in the summer by sailing with "Ocean Spirit" to Spitzbergen in the High Arctic, by which time he will have sailed an estimated 4750 miles on board. It is perhaps no surprise that Doug is now considering a career as a sailing professional. He thoroughly deserves to be awarded the Henry Hotchkiss Trophy in recognition of his constantly reliable contributions as a crew member and watch leader on board "Ocean Spirit", and for his dedication to Sail Training over the last six years.



NEW YORK



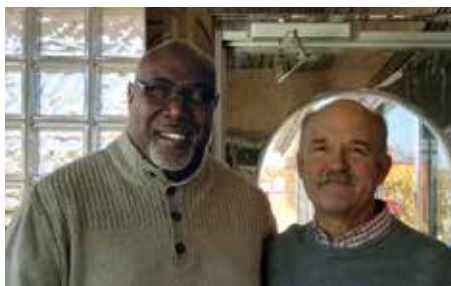
LOS ANGELES

From Crispin Etherington, The Annapolis Trust in Washington DC

On a plane trip back to the USA from the UK in 2001, I met the son, (Ruaraidh Thomas (87) - now a Governor of Gordonstoun) of the former Director of the Gordonstoun International Summer School - James Thomas. I was familiar with the high standards of Gordonstoun but was unaware of the Summer School, its full range of academic courses, creative arts and recreational programmes. As Chairman of the Annapolis Trust, a non-profit trust that provides scholarships to first generation, low income students to attend college and university, I felt that participation in the summer school would provide a tremendous opportunity for scholarship recipients to expand their horizons, develop international friendships and to learn about and understand other cultures.

Upon returning to the US, I was contacted by Jenny Needham, the newly appointed Director of the Gordonstoun International Summer

School, who whole heartedly supported the prospect of sending a couple of students to Scotland each summer. The program received the support of Reggie Broddie, President and CEO of the Annapolis Trust and so began the task of selecting the two students who would attend the first summer camp the following year.



Reggie Broddie and Crispin Etherington

William Hill and Artina Mann, both from Annapolis, Maryland were the first students to partake in the summer school in 2002 and with the exception of a short break, students have participated in the summer

school for the last fifteen years funded from the Colonial Challenge Cup, a non profit which supports education and private individuals.

Gordonstoun has changed the lives of every student for the better. Be it the adventure of sailing or rapelling; drama, introduction to the creative arts or just the experience of meeting young people from around the world, the experience has had no parallel. Our first students: William Hill returned in 2004 as a camp counsellor, graduated with a degree in Business Communications from Howard University and is now employed as a banker with Bank of America and Artina Mann graduated from Morgan State University with a Mathematics Degree and is employed by the Howard County Public School system as a Mathematics teacher.

Crispin Etherington
Chairman
Annapolis Trust

MEMORIES OF A GORDONSTOUN GROUPIE

As a lifelong leftie I am fundamentally predisposed to be strongly opposed to private medicine and private schools. But Gordonstoun...well it is a bit different. It may be the pupils, who are relaxed and confident, perhaps because of the wide outdoor curriculum with its expeditions and voyages on the school's own ocean-going yacht, "Ocean Spirit of Moray".

On my first visit to Gordonstoun in October 1988, one girl expressed her new found independence to me: "The choice to finish the food on my plate, or not, was finally mine."

I stayed with James Thomas - known to all as Mr T - and very nearly experienced the notorious cold shower as he had forgotten to turn on the water heater.

This was also the first time I met James' PA, Jenny Needham. Ms Needham to me - I was quite frightened of her then. Not so now, despite the dizzy heights she scaled in her Gordonstoun career.

The Spartan life, which so impressed the Duke of Edinburgh as a pupil, has been relaxed but tradition dies hard. Runs may not be compulsory but a 13-year-old girl told me: "Somehow the staff are filled with energy and are only too pleased to see you do a cross-country run, or race over the obstacle course."

In order to refresh Gordonstoun's reputation, the school introduced an annual prep school challenge which allowed young people to sample the reality of Gordonstoun life. One year, a group of Bosnian refugee children were invited to take part. A highlight was a low flying Buccaneer aircraft. The Bosnians dived under the hedges for cover...

One of the main benefits of my relationship with James was when I was chair of governors at Mottingham Primary School, south London. For three years, I took a dozen or so Year 6 pupils for a weekend to the international summer school. We travelled by train, pretty lively on the way up, but very peaceful on the way back as the children were fast asleep, exhausted. Perhaps more importantly, the children had changed over the weekend, becoming more assured, more confident.

Part of the weekend was a run over the army-style obstacle course which ended with a crossing of the school lake on two parallel ropes. Mottingham's deputy head was about to tell the kids that they did not have to make the crossing if they did not want to, James turned to the children to tell them that here was their chance to prove the truth of Gordonstoun's motto *Plus est en vous* -

More is in you. The children responded magnificently, all crossing the lake successfully.

When I first became involved, the head was Michael Mavor, who made a lasting impression on me when he had three changes of clothes during the day, one for morning service in the chapel, one for the rest of the day and casual jacket and trousers for a drink in the pub.

David Tytler
Former Education Editor of The Times of London



CALEB LEWIS

I could say that my time at GISS was great, awesome, amazing but those words can't really explain how great this International Summer School really was. It is a life changing experience that I wish every kid could have. From all the great things that we got to do there like kayaking down rivers or gorge walking up canyons to cliff jumping into deep blue waters. This was without a doubt the greatest trip I've ever been on. The bonds that we made there are like making new family members. I can honestly say that I have made family from all over the world. From the Middle East to Russia to South America I will always have the bonds that we made in Gordonstoun. The first day that I arrived, the people there all had big smiles on their faces. They were so excited to begin the summer school. It was literally bursting out of their faces. It is normally kind of strange going to new places and meeting new people

but for some reason it wasn't. The way the people there made the atmosphere feel was unlike anything I've ever felt before. They made everything there feel like home with a little Scottish spice. We were divided in to clans for activities and at the end of the summer school a trophy was awarded to the clan with the most points. Sadly, my clan, the Stewarts did not win. But it was still fun to be a part of the competitions. Clan means family and that has stuck with me ever since. I made a necklace with Scotland's flag on one side with the word clan under it and on the other side the U.S.A flag with the word family under it and gave it to my mom when I got back home. In Gordonstoun, I did things that I never thought I would do like eating haggis



or even sailing on a boat for three days. The things that Gordonstoun offers are things that can't be done anywhere else. The last day at Gordonstoun was one of the saddest days of my life, it felt like I had known the people I had met all my life. One of my close friends there had to leave at 2:00am in the morning so we stayed up to see him off. It was hard to see him go because he was the first to leave. When it was my turn to leave, I gave everyone the biggest hugs I could - then I got on the bus. As the bus pulled off I started to cry. I tried to hold the tears back but they just kept coming. So, the way I feel about Gordonstoun is that it has changed my life forever and I can't thank the people that made it possible for me to go there enough. This trip is something that I want to remember forever so that one day when I have a family I can send them there as well.

GAF SCHOLARS GAF SCHOLARS GAF SCHOLARS

Thank you so much for granting me the gift of the opportunity to attend Gordonstoun International Summer School. I cannot begin to explain how much this means to me. My experience at GISS was absolutely life changing. I had the best summer possibly imaginable. Not only had I the best summer of my life, but changed for the better myself.

Every day seemed to last a whole year of fun. Each trip felt like it lasted a lifetime.

Every day was a new adventure.

We had classes like art, music making, theatre, sports, dance, technology, rock climbing, and swimming. I really love and have a passion for art so art class was amazing because I could do what my heart desired. For academics, I had creative writing and I got to write a short story. I even performed a solo in music making which is something I'd normally never do, but this camp really boosted my confidence. Technology was also really enthralling. I've never done anything like it before. I made a candy dispenser which was really cool but the best part is that I designed and



brought to life a customized heartfelt necklace for my sister for her birthday. I was pushed to try new things at this camp and I'm so glad because it's really opened my mind to the possibilities of this world. Something I really enjoyed were options. I got to do horse riding & go-karting - which were new to me being a city dweller. The beauty of the countryside on horse back and the thrill of racing on the kart track. What has to be my favorite part of this whole trip was going on expedition to Kilbowie. It really gave our Clan, Stewart, the chance to bond even more than we were bonded before. We were a large family by the end. I did absolutely extraordinary things I thought I'd never do in my lifetime. We did coasteering, which is basically suspending yourself across a rope over a gorge. Speaking of gorges, we went gorge walking, which happened to be my favorite. The last full day we went kayaking on a beautiful river. It was absolutely amazing. Then for the next 3 days we sailed the west coast of Scotland. It was

so interesting to learn how sailors live while out at sea. We got to have all sorts of fun too. For example, we linked our boats together and all of us meeting at one for a movie night or having dingy races or spotting seals. I'm so glad I got to earn my sea legs.

After returning to Gordonstoun it would soon be time for our departure, which I wasn't looking forward to. I enjoyed and appreciated the last days as much as I could. We had athletic clan competitions. I swam 4 races during the water sports competitions. Then we had dance and play competitions - those were my favorite. I made life-long friends with the amazing kids I met, the girls in my house especially. Every single person I met, touched my heart. We've been in contact every day since. On the last night we had our final dinner. At the end of dinner there were awards and to my surprise I won two! To top off our last night, we had a final disco. It was my happiest and saddest time during my GISS experience. The next morning we departed for our flights. Again, Thank you Gordonstoun American Foundation for enabling me to have the best summer of my life.

TRINITY BROWN

GISS 2018. Dates: Course I 6th July - 30th July. Course II 13th July - 6th August. www.giss.org.uk