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Author Biographies

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Biographies



Rachel Anderson. Rachel Anderson officially became an ODU alumnus in August of 2014 with a Bachelor's of Arts in History. She took the "Paris/Auschwitz" Study Abroad in her final semester as an undergraduate. Since then, she has been working for an environmental waste management company as well as volunteering as a recreational pre-teen girls' volleyball coach. Any extra time is dedicated to independently studying her favorite historical subjects, especially 20th- century dictatorships, and improving her research capabilities so that when she decides to go back to school as a graduate student, she will be ready to hit the ground running.



Brett Bebber, Ph.D. Brett Bebber is Assistant Professor of History at Old Dominion University, where he has taught for three years. His research and teaching interests include the histories of racism, empire, and human rights in Britain and Europe. He occasionally teaches on the Holocaust and memory studies as well. Dr. Bebber has taught several short-term study abroad courses to England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Poland, Austria, and Germany, with a variety of different students and programs.



Steven D. Bell. Steve Bell is the Director of the Office of Study Abroad at Old Dominion University. In this capacity he oversees ODU's international exchange, faculty-led and affiliate Education Abroad programs. Mr. Bell has 20 plus years of International Education professional experience in U.S. higher education. In addition, he has been a Fulbright Scholar to Japan, a Rotary Scholar to Mexico, a Baden-Württemberg Seminar Scholar to Germany, and a Peace Corps Volunteer in Yemen. Mr. Bell is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Higher Education at Old Dominion University. Additionally, he holds a Masters in International and Intercultural Administration from the School for International Training, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and in English from St. Olaf College.

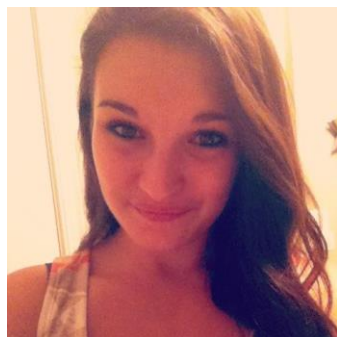


Raven Bland. Raven Bland is a sophomore majoring in History. Before her Study Abroad experience, she was planning to major in nursing even though she had an unashamed passion for history. A few weeks after her return from the Paris/Auschwitz Study Abroad, she received her acceptance into the Nursing program. Because of the competitive acceptance rate into the

program, everyone she knew was ecstatic about the decision. But Raven had other thoughts. The memories of her Study abroad experience had changed her life and she could not ignore interest in history any longer. She declared her history major and is now on a path to live out her spring break experience for the rest of my life through the art of public history, creative writing, and travel.



Jackson Blaschum. Jackson Blaschum is a senior history major and military leadership minor at Old Dominion University. He is from Virginia Beach and upon graduation he will be commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy and as a student naval flight officer with aspirations to enter the tactical aviation community. On a free day in Paris while on the “Paris/Auschwitz” Study Abroad, he asked Andrea Schlabach to marry him. She said “yes,” and they will marry in October of 2015.



Ciara Clark. Ciara Clark is a sophomore majoring in Medical Technology. She intends to graduate with her Bachelors of Science and continue on to medical school where she will pursue a career in Pediatrics. She enjoys riding horses and learning new things, and always tries to stay busy. Her favorite things to study are chemistry and anatomy, and she tutors in these subjects for the Student Support Services at ODU. She has a true passion for traveling and has never outgrown her childlike wonder of new places and experiences. She looks forward to more Study Abroad experiences here at ODU as she works to fulfill her dream of traveling the world.



Suzan Czoschke. Suzan Czoschke retired from the Navy in 2012 and decided to pursue her History MA because she has always had a keen interest in the backstory or the “how we got here”. An avid traveler, her study-abroad trip brought an extra dimension to her studies, and helped her decide to focus on the Holocaust for her MA exams. Suzan and her husband, Curt, have four wonderful children, and recently became grandparents to a beautiful baby girl.



Nichole Delasalas. Nichole Delasalas is in her senior year with a major in history. She has been accepted into the history graduate program at Old Dominion University. She is currently an intern at the Virginia Beach Central Library in their archives department. She hopes to establish a career in

Washington D.C. at the Library of Congress or the National Archives. Her most important role in life is being a mom to her four-year old daughter, Savannah.



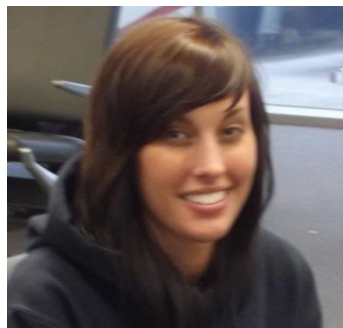
Sherry Dixon. Sherry Dixon is a junior attending Old Dominion University, majoring in history and minoring in religious studies. It was on the trip abroad, studying the Holocaust in France and Poland, that she decided to minor in religious studies. She is very interested in how different religions around the world have interacted throughout history and continue to interact today.

One of her other major interests is photography, which I had ample opportunity to practice while in Europe. She was the Dr. Finley-Croswhite appointed photographer on the trip! Her post graduate plans are to continue her education in graduate school and hopefully to become involved in museums both inside and outside the United States.

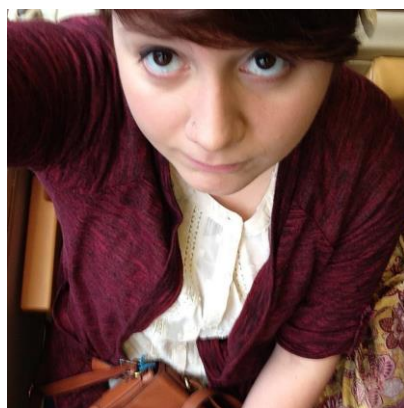


Annette Finley-Croswhite, Ph.D. Dr. Finley-Croswhite is a French historian with an interdisciplinary focus on religious violence. She works on both the sixteenth and the twentieth centuries, particularly during the period of the French religious wars, 1562-1629 although most recently she has worked on political violence in France leading up to World War II. In 2011

she began attending seminars at the United States Holocaust Memorial's Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies to advance her understanding of the history of the Holocaust, and she has developed a number of Holocaust-related courses inclusive of the Study Abroad, "Paris/Auschwitz."



Stephanie Hawthorne. Stephanie Hawthorne graduated from Old Dominion University in 2013 with a BA in history and minors in English and Political Science. She has since continued her undergraduate interest in studying the Holocaust by enrolling in ODU's graduate program in history. She is currently in her second year where she is a Graduate Teaching Assistant and is working on a thesis focused on the maritime history of the Holocaust. She is looking forward to future research and internship opportunities in the hopes of fulfilling her academic interests in a professional career in history.



Lauran Henderson. Lauran Henderson is a senior from Virginia Beach majoring in history. She works as a part-time cashier and petcare associate at PetSmart. She enjoys travelling and just returned from a semester abroad in England studying medieval history at the University of Leeds. Overseas her research was mainly focus on magic, monsters, alchemy, and superstition during the High Middle Ages, but her other interests in the field of history include Holocaust history and early 20th-century American history. In her limited free time, she enjoys drawing, reading, video games, and her puppy dog, Indiana.



Julius Lacano. Julius Lacano is a History graduate student at Old Dominion University, but at the time of the Study Abroad he was finishing up his senior year at ODU. A Floridian by birth, Julius now calls the Commonwealth home after settling here at the conclusion of ten years of service in the United States Navy. He is a graduate of Tidewater Community College and Old Dominion University with a BS in Political Science. He is also politically active in the community, a strong supporter of the State of Israel and a firm believer that education about the Holocaust is the key to preventing another horrific episode in human history.



Bobby Melatti. Robert "Bobby" Melatti has made a second career of attending college classes while maintaining his position as the Program Director of Beachevents, the City of Virginia Beach's event contractor. He graduated High School in 1966 and on a 100.00 bet enrolled in T.C.C. in 1982. In 2011, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from ODU and is currently studying for his Masters in History. He is a former Chairman of the Arts and Humanities Commission, City of V.B. as well as a

retiring School Board member. He has always been a champion of the arts in education and continues to advocate for as many options as possible for secondary students. He and his wife Eva reside in Virginia Beach with their granddaughter who they raise together. "I remain a life-long champion of continuing education. It is the single most important ingredient in the complex recipe for overall satisfaction."



Emma Needham. Emma Needham graduated from Old Dominion University in December, 2014 as the Top Scholar from the College of Arts and Letters with a major in Interdisciplinary Studies and an emphasis in elementary education. She will begin her Masters in Elementary Education in 2015 and will then go on to

her PhD in Urban Education. She is a devoted member of the Jewish community in Newport News, Virginia and at her temple, Rodef Sholom in Hampton, Virginia. Emma's participation in "Paris/Auschwitz" was fully funded by the first Study Abroad Scholarship offered for Holocaust education at Old Dominion University. The Study Abroad had a tremendous impact on her life.



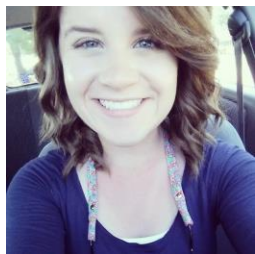
Chelsea Patten. Chelsea Patten is a senior at Old Dominion University graduating December 13, 2014. Her major is International Studies with a minor in political science. She was born in Yokosuka, Japan, raised in Norfolk, Virginia. She has lived in both Chicago, Illinois and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her goal is to work as an intelligence analyst within the government or a private contractor.

She enjoys traveling, especially abroad, and she hopes to continue seeing the world. Her hobbies include running, hiking, cycling, or any other endurance sport. Her experience on the Paris/Auschwitz trip was unforgettable, irreplaceable and she strongly values the opportunity she was given to take part in such a serious and important learning experience.

Ross Patterson. Ross Patterson is a second year graduate student in Old Dominion University's history program. His primary area of interest is twentieth-century American military history, predominantly the European Theater of Operations in the World Wars. He has spent many years engaged in various aspects of this field, to include amassing a large personal collection of artifacts, publishing my undergraduate thesis on the American intervention into Russia, 1918-1920, and volunteering at institutions such as the Army Transportation Museum, the Virginia War Museum, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps' restoration facility. He is in the process of beginning his thesis on the fighting in Italy from mid-1944 until May of 1945, with the end goal of pursuing a career in the field public history following graduation.



Andrea Schlabach. Andrea Schlabach is now a senior at Old Dominion University where she will finish her education career with a major in History, receiving her secondary level teaching licensure as well. At Old Dominion University, she has remained active in the community as a founding member of Kappa Delta Sorority. She is also a member of the honorand service society, Sigma Alpha Lambda, and she participates in the Student Virginia Educators Association. Upon graduation, she plans to begin her career as an educator wherever the Navy takes her soon-to-be husband. She and Jackson Blaschum got engaged in Paris on the Study Abroad trip.



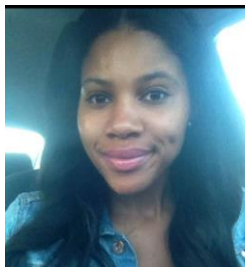
Tonya Schmehl. Tonya Schmehl is a junior pursuing a double degree in history and women's studies. She is a member of Honors College and a member of the Diversity Institute on campus. She was recently accepted into the 5 year BA/MA program to pursue a Masters in Humanities. She would also like to obtain a separate Masters in history and eventually pursue a Ph.D. In her spare time she likes to travel and spend quality time with her family.





Thomas Tucker. Thomas Tucker is currently a senior at Old Dominion University majoring in history with a minor in foreign languages. Born in Princeton, West Virginia, he grew up in Dinwiddie, Virginia. Upon graduation he plans to travel abroad to study foreign languages. Thomas took “Paris/Auschwitz” to gain a better understanding of the Holocaust through the victim’s eyes and gained

so much more. The trip was a powerful experience for him because it opened his eyes to the many injustices that occurred in history and are continuing to occur in society today.



Stephanie Walters. Stephanie Walters is a second-year graduate student in the History Department at Old Dominion University. She ultimately hopes to obtain my PhD in history and go on to teach at the college level. She is fascinated by history so she often visits museums and reads historical research journals. She has many interests outside of history that include painting, reading fiction and motivational speaking. She counsels youths on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse on weekends and is an active member in her community.

