

HUE 2021

QUARANTINE AND BEYOND



BAKE IT 'TILL YOU MAKE IT!



ARTICLES AND DESIGN BY ZACH BISHOP

During quarantine in the Beachley Manor, the HUE students quickly learned that routine was one of the keys to prevent cabin fever, so when HUE Director Lauren Knight organized an in-house British Bake-Off, students eagerly got into pairs to begin planning recipes.

Rising juniors Sadie Alexander and Cole Davis paired up and made a delicious traditional wedding cake. "Our cake had a regular buttercream frosting with almond flavoring," said Alexander. "I found the recipe on Pinterest, and Cole and I just had fun with it."

Every afternoon, the kitchen became a hub of activity. People came in to throw around ideas for presentation, to taste the batter, and to jam along to the tunes of whichever pair was baking that day.

"We all got to know each other when we baked together," said Alexander.

Along with the cakes, Lauren prepared dinner and lunch every day, introducing the group to delicious British cuisine. The menu included cottage pies, chicken curry, and chipolatas, along with other homestyle classics like lasagna and tacos. One night, she organized a dinner and Bingo night over Zoom, and even invited the students' parents to join the virtual game. With her famous cottage pies, everyone was feeling lucky.

Just like the food, the time in between adventures was good for the soul. "I was expecting it to be terrible, but it was really fun," said rising junior Cole Davis. "The time to really relax after going hard for three weeks in Italy was so needed."

Alexander agreed, "I think we had a lot of time to reflect. It was a good time in between where we reflected on the amazing things we did in Italy while also anticipating the amazing things to come in the UK."

For rising junior Keller Montgomery, it was the family-like atmosphere that set time in quarantine apart. "Living with 20 people in the same house for 10 days, we got really familiar with each other really quickly," said Montgomery. "After this trip is over, and we all go our separate ways, it's going to be crazy to think back and be like 'Wow, I lived with those people. And we made it work.'"

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

WRITTEN BY ZACH BISHOP

As the HUE group has grown closer as a family, the Jones family of Ben, Ellen, Aubrey, and Stella have done nothing but speed up that process through their kindness, openness, and solidarity to each other and the students that surround them. The relationship that Ben and Ellen specifically have with International Programs and Harding is a defining part of their story, and their history has made this trip that much sweeter.

Dr. Ellen Jones and Associate Professor of Theater Ben Jones met at Harding and began dating when they were at HUF in 1995. “We were dance partners in the homecoming musical in 1993 our freshman year; the show was *Funny Girl*,” said Dr. Jones. Shortly afterwards, the two signed up for HUF. “We were already dating when we went to HUF together in 1995, and our relationship just grew from there,” said Ben. Little did they know that, 24 years later, and after the uncertainty of a pandemic, they would be showing their children the place so special to their relationship.

Before ending up on the HUE 2021 roster, the family had originally signed up for HUF Summer 2020, but when that trip fell through due to the outbreak of the pandemic, they had to improvise. “After HUF 2020 was cancelled last year, Audra Pleasant and the International Programs office did everything they could to get the students and faculty placed in another program,” said Ben Jones. “When they created a summer program for HUE, that opened up the perfect opportunity for my family.”

The timing and itinerary of HUE fit so perfectly into the family’s plans that they didn’t even have to compromise their original plan to spend time in Florence. “It worked out that HUE got to go to Italy for three weeks, which was amazing because I got to show my daughters the Bible school in Florence, which is where Ellen and I lived for two years,” Ben said.

After incredible experiences and bonding time in Florence, the Jones clan began to shift their attention to the London shows on the West End.

“Our first show that we saw in London was *Mousetrap*, the longest running play ever,” said Aubrey. “In London, the shows are high quality to where you lose yourself in the story. It was incredible.”

The Jones sisters love to see shows with their parents. “Seeing shows with my family is one of my favorite things to do because we’re such theatre people,” said Aubrey. “We’re usually on the same page about how we felt about the show, but we notice different things.” Aubrey and her sister Stella explained that things like staging, production, music and acting are always topics of discussion and reflection. “I’ve learned a lot about theatre from seeing shows with them,” said Stella.

To put a cherry on top, HUE is also Aubrey’s senior trip, making it a very special moment for the family. “The timing of this trip has been perfect because this was Aubrey’s last chance to go on a family vacation before she started college,” said Ellen. “Graduation is usually a bummer for the mom, but this trip made it less of one because I knew Aubrey and I were going to hang out all summer.”

Aubrey agreed. “It’s less about the travel for me as it is the fact that we’re all doing it together as a family.”



DAY TRIPS: OXFORD AND BATH

WRITTEN BY ZACH BISHOP

Before students settled in London, HUE's itinerary took them to Bath and Oxford. Beginning in Bath, students explored the Jane Austen museum, immersing themselves in the splendors of the Regency Period. The Roman Bath museum was also a must-see; there, students eagerly dived into the history of Britain's origins with the Roman Empire. In Oxford, the city of dreaming spires, students explored the streets that Tolkein and Lewis would have walked, with HUE director and Oxford graduate Tyler Knight as their guide. The two towns were perfect for introducing the group to British culture, and were a good stepping-off point for their adventures in London.



NOT ALL WHO PUNT ARE FOOTBALLERS

WRITTEN BY ZACH BISHOP

British vocabulary can be confusing for Americans at times. Fries are called chips, cotton candy is called candy floss, and candy is called sweets. In Oxford, punting has nothing to do with American football, but rather is an activity where you ride a long and narrow boat while using a long metal pole to steer it.

The history of punting is very interesting, and it was one that HUE got to step into. More than 100 years ago, Oxford student John Anderzej Rivers and two of his peers started a yearly punting race called "the Piste" on the river Cherwell. They became the first victors in 1913, and since then many Oxford students have taken up the sport, the best of them being none other than J. R. R. Tolkien.

How special was it, then, that several students, in a humble attempt to earn some culture points for humanities class, got to try their hand at the sport with such deep connections to Oxford history. As an added bonus, it ended up being a favorite among the group.

Senior Garrett Smith had a great time as his group's chauffeur. "It's kind of like Oxford's version of kayaking in Colorado, except instead of paddling, you have a long metal pole that you push off the bottom of the river with and to use as a rudder," said Smith.

Rising sophomore Emma Myhan loved the experience as well. "While Garrett was doing all the steering work, the rest of the boat got to feed the ducks," she said. "At one point I counted 12 beside the boat. It was so fun." One thing students quickly realized was how hard it was to steer the boat with untrained hands. "We barely missed a few bushes, and at one point we even came close to hitting another boat. But hey, we still had fun," said rising junior Cole Davis.

Smith agreed. "There were lots of people out, so I very quickly didn't feel so bad about our lack of skill because there were a lot of people on the water that were struggling with steering just as much as we were."

If there's one thing for sure, it's the incredible feeling of being connected to an activity that was loved by so many of Oxford's finest. Who knows? Maybe some students happened to be in the very waters that inspired parts of Tolkien's "Shire." Not all who wander are lost, indeed.



THREE TIMES THE TROUBLE!

WRITTEN BY ZACH BISHOP



When asked what people would miss the most about their time at HUE, some people said gelato, others the sights, but one thing that was close to the top of the list was the presence of three, wonderful children. HUE Directors Lauren and Tyler Knight were kind enough to share their kids, Viola age 8, Harrison age 6, and Edith age 4, with the group of 19-22 year olds. They all carried their own strong and unique personalities, and accompanied the group on the majority of the most iconic trips.

Rising junior Asher Patton remembers his first interaction with the kids. "When they first came to visit, we were in the HUF villa. I didn't say 'hi' or anything that day, it was kind of all Haley and Covi in the beginning."

Patton continued, "The next day, I saw Zach playing with the kids in the basketball court, and I went over to play too, and that's how we met. I just remember Harrison being nuts; I mean, all of them kind of are. I didn't do anything to get their attention, but they just chose me to be the one that they picked on and punched and played with. It's been fun though. I definitely think that I'm good with small children."

From that first introduction at the villa on through the remainder of the HUE experience, everyone had a chance to get to know the kids. Viola, Harrison, and Edith did pretty much everything with the students — bus rides to San Gimignano, walking tours in Rome, and, best of all, spontaneous trips to the gelato shop in Scandicci. During these trips, Tyler Knight has noticed his kids' adoration of the students. "They've loved every second of it. We're just lucky to have so many people on the trip that like to spend time with them and play with them."

The impact the kids had on the group as a whole was very evident, especially in educational environments. "Their hearts and minds were so full, and they were always eager to share what they had just learned or were in the process of learning," said Crain. "I can vividly remember walking through the works of the Duomo Museum and seeing Harrison walk around with Asher, looking at and talking about the environment around him."

The most intentional time the group had with the kids was quarantining with them in Beachly Manor. "I honestly would have been bored in quarantine without them," Patton said. "Every five minutes it seemed like Harrison would grab my arm and ask to play foosball, or Edie and Vi would want to play 'jail.'" Several hours were spent playing with the kids, and while some were better at it than others, the entire group shared the responsibility to keep them entertained.

One activity that was especially fun to do with the kids was baking. "I remember one time, when Hannah and I baked a Texas sheetcake for the Great British Bakeoff, the kids helped us," said Asher. "It was hilarious; we had them all crack an egg, and Viola cracked it and missed the bowl. Hannah, the kids, and I were just dying laughing at the egg on the counter for a long time."

After all the games, laughter, and family time, quarantine eventually came to an end. Once the students began their journey into the wider UK, their time with the kids became less prevalent. "I've already thought about what it's going to be like when we leave to go back to the States, and it's going to be sad leaving the kids," said Patton. Crain agreed. "The impact they each made on our group was very positive. There have been moments where the group has felt a little stressed, but those sweet kids made sure that we all were still smiling and laughing."

No matter where HUE 2021 may go, they will always remember the Knight kiddos. "They're honestly incredible, but out of the three, Edith will probably take over the world; she'll be a girlboss when she grows up," said Patton. "In all seriousness, they'll all be so well-cultured and well-rounded when they're grown, having lived in England their whole lives. Wherever they end up, they're going to be awesome."

Crain remembers the small moments with the kids most of all. "Over quarantine, I was an early riser, so enjoying a slow breakfast and game of cards with them was always an ideal day," she said. "The snuggles from Edith are the coziest, the jokes from Harrison are actually hilarious, and the sweet talks with Viola are something to be treasured."



HUE 2021 would not have been the same without Viola, Harrison, and Edith.



HUE JUNE TIMELINE



June 1

Quarantine begins. Activities included bingo nights, Great British Bake off between students, British movie nights, and even some birthday celebrations!



June 11

Students depart from the manor to Bath. Students embarked on several individual adventures, including one close encounter with a swan!



June 13

Students depart from Bath to Oxford. HUE director Tyler Knight gave a walking tour of his alma mater, and students participated in Oxford activities like high tea and punting.



June 15

Visit to Blenheim Palace. Students spent all afternoon on the grounds, taking in the beauty of the lakes, flowers, and wildlife.



June 17

Students got oriented to the tube system in London by participating in a tube scavenger hunt.



June 20

Visit to the Tower of London. Students got to see over 1000 years of British history, including highlights such as the Crowned Jewels exhibit.

June 25

Students embarked on an incredible walking tour around London that focused on its Christian roots. Afterwards they had high tea... on a double decker bus!

June 28/29

Students went on several individual adventures on their free time, including trips to the London Zoo and the London Eye.

