

ASEICA NEWSLETTER

Association pour le Soutien de l'Enseignement International sur la Côte d'Azur



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HELLO AND GOOD BYE!



International Pic Nic
September 17th

Spelling Bee

For the first time this year, the ASEICA Collège English team organized Spelling Bees in each of the four Collèges of Eganaude, Niki de St Phalle, César and CIV and a grand final, open to all, at International Day on March 19th.

Students first took part in class Bees or quizzes, with the winners going forward to the school finals. These proved to be exciting events with great suspense as students battled it out over various rounds, spelling words as complicated as 'mnemonic', 'ophthalmologist' and 'subpoenaed'.

We had two winners in each Collège as follows:

- Eganaude Elycia Alfonso (4e-3e)
Séverine Le Belle (6-5e)
- César Janice Batista (4e-3e)
Tilly Parton (6e-5e)
- Niki Elias Amatoul (4e-3e)
Colette Zander (6e-5e)
- CIV Elliot Allibert (4e-3e)
Katia Pau (6e-5e)

There was also good turn out for our "open" International Day Spelling Bee, which was won by:

- Erwann (Glen) Millon (4e CIV) 1st,
- Louis Vassaux (3e Niki) 2nd,
- Héloïse Picolet (6e CIV) 3rd.

Well done to all our contestants and particularly to Elliot Allibert, who not only won the CIV competition but produced a fabulous poster to publicize the International Day event.



Many thanks also to the Collège Coordinators and teachers who helped prepare students and organize the various events and especially to Mrs Kiechle our 'wordmaster'. We have some great, confident spellers in the Section and some may now be just a little addicted to Spelling Bees! ■

Karen Jones - Head of Collège English



News from Guidance

One of the features of the ever-changing scene at universities is the increase in courses involving Global Sustainable Development. Warwick University has a whole raft of these cross-faculty courses with the goal of 'enabling you to investigate the contemporary problems that our governments, scientists, philosophers, educationalists and charities are grappling with, and challenge you to explore possible, practical solutions.'

Students will be able to combine courses in GDS with Business or Economics Studies; History; Life Sciences; Philosophy; Politics and International Studies; Psychology; Sociology or Theater and Performance Studies. This is perhaps the new face of the popular Liberal Arts and Sciences programs championed by Holland and now appearing more widely in the UK.

Utrecht University already offers a Global Sustainability Sciences degree, and University College Twente combines Technology with a curriculum based in Mathematics, Science, Engineering and Social Sciences.

The OIB results come out on 5 July **and those wishing to study abroad must bring their *relevé des notes* and their third term bulletins to the guidance office on that day.** Their OIB papers will have been corrected on screen for the first time by teacher-examiners using the new Viatique system, which we all hope will prove sustainable!



Première students might like to consider Belfast as a very reasonably priced alternative: there is a breadth of interesting courses, and Queen's University Belfast (see picture) has a very fine reputation. The cost of living is one of the lowest in the UK, and EU students from countries other than the UK benefit from tuition fees of 3,925 pounds.

As this year's Première students move up into Terminale, they will have priority in the first term next year. They should have asked for three letters of recommendation from Première teachers and be writing their personal statements. They should also check their emails regularly for information such as the UCAS registration sessions. For the US, they need to plan, practice and register for the required SAT tests.

Current Terminale study plans include the US, Canada, the UK, Holland, Italy, Spain, Austria, Ireland, Norway and Australia. News of exactly where they went will be in the next Newsletter.

In the meantime, have a very happy summer vacation! ■

Lesley Scales

Whilst the Brexit vote was astonishing to most of us here, I have already had a number of communications from universities and the Student Loan Company reassuring us that EU students' status and eligibility for the loan will remain the same for this coming year's entrants and for next year's, too. They also hope to keep the status quo beyond this date.

Find your poetry!

Our ASEICA Lycée students and teachers were delighted to host the famous contemporary American poet Martín Espada on May 23rd and 24th.

Mr Espada is one of the poets studied in OIB American sections around the world, and while he travels throughout the USA, this was his first visit to France. He was contacted by two of our students with their creative work based on one of his poems (see the article below), and it was thanks to this communication that he agreed to come to our school.

He performed his poems and also answered questions from students, speaking not only about the process of

writing, but also about how he sees poetry as a way to advocate for "those who have been silenced"; to "humanize the dehumanized".

He spoke to all students in 2nde, 1ere, and Tle, calling on them to find their passions in life and "find [their] poetry!"

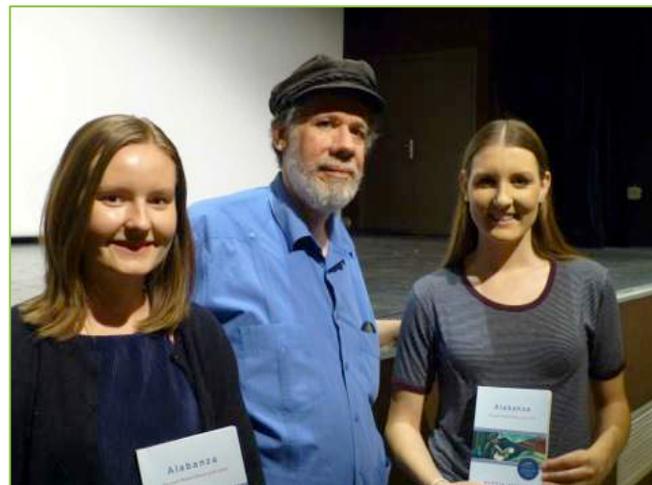
Martín Espada is a lawyer and an English professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has published extensively and has been awarded an American Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. His most recent collection of poetry is "Vivas To Those Who Have Failed" (2016), a tribute to his father. □

Kristi Defrasne Head of Lycée English

How it all began

First we would like to thank Mrs Eyrard, who was our Première English teacher last year. She insisted we express our creativity and she put forward the idea that we email our film to Martín Espada. Last year Mrs Eyrard had given us an assignment that consisted in an oral analysis of one of the Urban Voices poems on our OIB program, but she wanted us to add a creative twist.

As we were deciding which poem to choose, one of them caught our eye. It was Martín Espada's "Alabanza: In Praise of the Local 100" which we were particularly attracted to because it evoked the brutal tragedy that occurred on September 11th, 2001. We saw that it discussed the horrific event in a very particular and different angle.



Like many of Martín Espada's poems, this one revealed the story of the people who are forgotten, the voiceless, in particular the invisible people who died that day in the World Trade Centre. We believe this is a particularly important and relevant theme, especially at the moment with the immigration crisis in Europe. ...



How it all began

This is also a poem filled with beautiful and striking imagery, and we wanted to bring to life what we saw in our minds when we read it. Thus, we stitched together images in order to create a short film, and we accompanied it with Erik Satie's piano piece "Gymnopédie n°1" which we felt was befitting.

We wanted the film to retain its inherent sadness yet still stay hopeful, which are the emotions we felt when reading "Alabanza". Indeed, the short film we made is simply our interpretation of certain particularly powerful lines in the poem; you may understand the poem differently than we did. Nevertheless, the project was a pleasure to create and the entire experience of meeting Martin Espada was exceptionally insightful. ■

Terminale students
Fiona Meads and Lucie Martin

You can see Fiona's and Lucie's one-minute film using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/file/d/OB6tRpMFLgMPWbmRtbEI0SGZIVDg/edit?usp=drive_web

You can also see Martin Espada's interview with the American national news channel PBS in the Smithsonian Museum (Washington DC):

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/a-sons-poetic-tribute-to-his-fathers-fight-for-civil-rights/>

In Praise of Local 100 For the 43 members of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 100, working at the Windows on the World restaurant, who lost their lives in the attack on the World Trade Centre .

Alabanza Martín Espada

Praise the cook with the shaven head and a tattoo on his shoulder that said *Oye*, a blue-eyed Puerto Rican with people from Fajardo, the harbor of pirates centuries ago. Praise the lighthouse in Fajardo, candle glimmering white to worship the dark saint of the sea. **Alabanza.**

Praise the cook's yellow Pirates cap worn in the name of Roberto Clemente, his plane that flamed into the ocean loaded with cans for Nicaragua, for all the mouths chewing the ash of earthquakes. **Alabanza.**

Praise the kitchen radio, dial clicked even before the dial on the oven, so that music and Spanish rose before bread. Praise the bread. **Alabanza.**

Praise Manhattan from a hundred and seven flights up, like Atlantis glimpsed through the windows of an ancient aquarium.

Praise the great windows where immigrants from the kitchen could squint and almost see their world, hear the chant of nations: *Ecuador, México, Republica Dominicana, Haïti, Yemen, Ghana, Bangladesh.* **Alabanza.**

Praise the kitchen in the morning, where the gas burned blue on every stove and exhaust fans fired their diminutive propellers, hands cracked eggs with quick thumbs or sliced open cartons to build an altar of cans. **Alabanza.**

Praise the busboy's music, the *chime-chime* of his dishes and silverware in the tub. **Alabanza.**

Praise the dish-dog, the dishwasher who worked that morning because another dishwasher could not stop coughing, or because he needed overtime to pile the sacks of rice and beans for a family floating away on some Caribbean island plagued by frogs. **Alabanza.**

Praise the waitress who heard the radio in the kitchen and sang to herself about a man gone. **Alabanza.**

After the thunder wilder than thunder, after the booming ice storm of glass from the great windows, after the radio stopped singing like a tree full of terrified frogs, after night burst the dam of day and flooded the kitchen, for a time the stoves glowed in darkness like the lighthouse in Fajardo, like a cook's soul.

Soul I say, even if the dead cannot tell us about the bristles of God's beard because God has no face, soul I say, to name the smoke-beings flung in constellations across the night sky of this city and cities to come. *Alabanza* I say, even if God has no face. **Alabanza.**

When the war began, from Manhattan to Kabul two constellations of smoke rose and drifted to each other, mingling in icy air, and one said with an Afghan tongue: *Teach me to dance. We have no music here.* And the other said with a Spanish tongue: *I will teach you. Music is all we have.*



News from the Yearbook Team

We're happy to announce that this year's books have been distributed to every student in ASEICA.

We're unhappy to announce that the baby photo of Mrs. Bethell is actually Mrs. Gardner... isn't she cute? Mrs. Bethell thought so, and wasn't offended in the slightest at our error...still, our apologies!

We're pleased to announce the theme
for 2016-2017
Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité

Yes, an "all things French" theme... in honor
of the 225th anniversary of the Marseillaise!

So, artists, you have plenty of time to start thinking of cover designs for next year... They keep getting better and better. This year's cover was a digital entry. If you have not tried this medium yet, give it a try. Regardless of your preference for ink, oil, pastels or pixels, think bold, clear colors and an 'uncluttered' design. Please do TRY AGAIN! The theme will be re-announced at the *rentrée* and a flyer with more details will be distributed.

Deadline October 7th - voting to take place
before the All Saints' Holiday

Thank you ■

Ms. Syran, on behalf of the Yearbook Team

Trip to London in April

This April, a class of Seconde students were taken on a trip to London organized by Mrs. Yuill and Mrs. Collord, in order to explore many of London's theater venues. On the trip, they saw four different performances: the well-known musical *Wicked*, Shakespeare's *A Winter Tale*, *The Suicide* a comedy and a one man show performed by Mikel Murfi : *The Man in the Women's Shoes*.

The Seconde also had the opportunity to visit Goldsmiths University, in which they were given an acting and improvising workshop and a tour of the facilities. The 3rd and 4th days in London were dedicated to an all day theater workshop directed by Mark Short and Nigel Boyle. They worked hard at The Poor School in Kings Cross to perform their take on Francis Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.



Upon their return, the students watched highlights of their trip to London with a commentated picture and video evening presented by Thomas Hill.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip, it's many activities, and the big theater productions that it had to offer. ■

Thomas Hill and Davia Franceschini



Trip to London in May

This year for the fourth consecutive time, a group of première students spent a long weekend in London for a theater-based study trip. Accompanied by Mr. Mitcham and Mrs. Jones, the group stayed in the new YHA South Bank hostel near Canada Water.

The first thing to say is that although this was further out than the Saint Paul's hostel, it had the distinct advantage of being in a green and leafy suburb near a small lake and a canal system on which nesting facilities had been provided for a variety of different birds, some of which we could see. It was also quieter and less frantic than its big brother at Saint Paul's. Three plays were proposed this year, with a view of giving all of the students a range of theater experience.

First up was the Disney production of *The Lion King*. This story, roughly based on that of *Hamlet*, was remarkable for the staging, with literally breath-taking sets, ranging from desert plains to elephant graveyards to a high cliff. The animals too were extraordinary, with the stampeding wildebeest particularly spectacular.

Next up was the new Globe production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This dazzling production involved a number of changes; Helena became a man, the production used electric lighting, there were many references to modern media, and the story of *Pyramus and Thisbe* was genuinely comic – the Wall made of cereal boxes was excellent!



Our final play was Pinter's *The Caretaker*, with Timothy Spall playing a wonderful role as Davies. Darker, more intimate, more based on dialogue, this was a complete contrast to the other two plays and showed a more sinister and realistic picture of modern life. Here the emphasis was on the acting and the delivery, both of which were superb. It has often struck me that the title of 'caretaker' is deeply ironic – the old man is taken care of at first, but then thrown out at the end. In what sense has he been taken care of? Or as *Lady Macbeth* might put it, has he been provided for?

There was a little time for shopping and visiting included, and the visit to the Globe theater was followed by a workshop by a dynamic young man which concentrated on the play *Hamlet* which all of these students will be studying in their final year of OIB. We also had time for a walk around the Tower of London – and the traditional fish and chips for supper!

I hope to be able to organize a similar trip next May and look forward to the opportunity of taking a new set of students to enjoy a reasonably-priced theater weekend in London. ■

Robert Mitcham



ALMA Theater Screenings

We are extremely lucky to have a fully equipped digital cinema at the CIV and for the second year running our college and Lycée students were able to take advantage of this to watch and critically appraise screenings of some of the plays we study in the Section.

Lycée students enjoyed performances of Tennessee Williams: **A Streetcar Named Desire** from London's Young Vic, and a Globe Theatre production of **Macbeth**.

In college, some of our 3e students saw Arthur Miller's: **A View from the Bridge** in a Young Vic production directed by Ivo Van Hove, that is now thrilling audiences on Broadway, and all 3e students attended a play version of John Steinbeck's: **Of Mice & Men** starring James Franco.

Some of our 4e were able to see the award-winning National Theatre production of **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time**. This is a challenging play, but one that our students viewed with maturity and obvious enthusiasm for the fine performances and brilliant set.

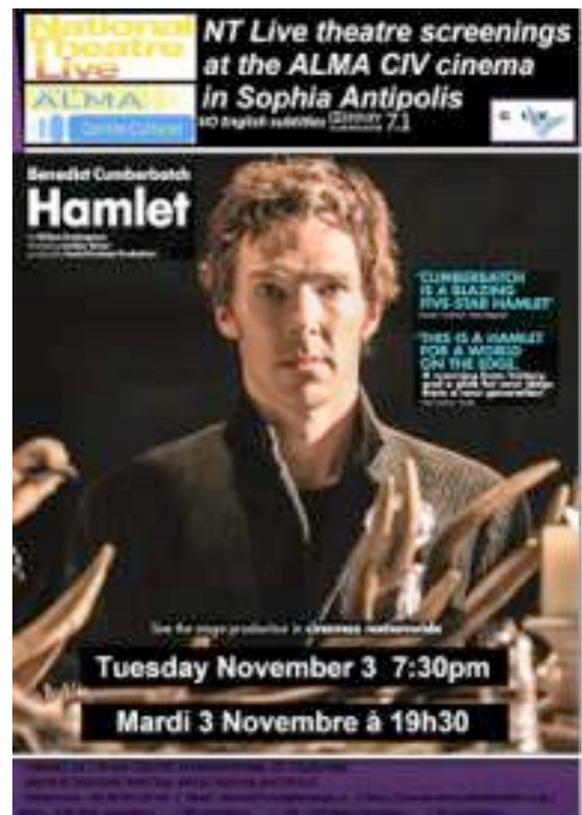
Finally, at the beginning of June, all two hundred 5e from the four colleges attended a Globe Theatre production of their set Shakespeare text **A Midsummer Night's Dream**.

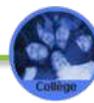
The cheers, laughter and applause in the final scene made it all very worthwhile. Shakespeare certainly came alive for our young people!

Aside these daytime performances, throughout the school year the ALMA Cultural Association has also provided a full evening program of theater screenings open to the general public. These have included a National Theatre production of **Jane Eyre**, 'Shakespeare's **The Tempest** from the Globe Theater and, the undoubted highlight of the year, Benedict Cumberbatch's **Hamlet** which played to a packed cinema audience back in November.

Thank you to the ALMA and to the teachers, accompanying parents and Collège Directors who make these theater adventures possible. If you would like more information or have suggestions about future theater screenings, please contact: almantlive@orange. ■

Karen Jones





College Theater Shows 2015 - 2016

The Head of Theater Ms. teachers: Ms. Defrasne, Mr. Mitcham, Ms. Syran, Mr. Williams and Ms. Yuill were extremely impressed this year with the students' commitment to their rehearsals and with their excellent performances on the two show nights. Student talent really shone!

Also, it was great to watch five very different plays in terms of themes/storyline; all five were a success. Bravo to the creative Club teachers and their wonderful actors!

Many thanks to all parents and staff members who support ASEICA theater work in many, many ways.

Many thanks and congratulations to Mr Duffy and his fabulous technical team 'Tech Crew' of lycée students who worked really hard on every ASEICA show this past year.

They created sets, props, ran lighting and sound, carried out backstage work, etc. These students are the first on show nights to arrive and the last to leave, having to carry many things back to the tech room and do endless tidying late at night.

They are brilliant, dedicated students. Thanks also to Ms. Yuill who supervised Tech Crew for the last few shows.

Ms. McGrath - The Head of Theater

Happy summer! More shows next academic year!





Reflection on her Primary school years

by Juliette Petit CM2 3 Collines

I hope you'll remember

I hope that you will remember the time when we were young,
happy in the playground we didn't matter,
It sounds so beautiful, almost like a song,
It was just like a dream, as soft as a feather.

We were all so perfect friends, with all of our defects,
Our life was like a following of Birthdays, with joy and cakes.

We were all so pretty, we were all so funny,
When I think of us on my cheek flows a tear,
But all of those years of happiness disappeared as fast as a deer,
So I hope you will remember all of those years,

But don't be sad because it has finished, be happy because it happened,
And if you feel you're going to cry, think about the song of the Cucumber Pie.

All these moments passed with you, at the sea, at the pool, at the theatre show too,
All these people who cared for us, and got us ready for secondary school,
Everybody loved our class, even if we were not always obeying the rules.

So don't be sad because it has finished, be happy because it happened,
And if you feel you're going to cry, think about the song of the Cucumber Pie.

News from Collège César!

The first students from College César to complete their four years of International Section. Well done to them all!



Trip to Oceania

On June 18, 32 American section Seconde students accompanied by Mrs. Bethell and Mrs. Syran left to Australia and New Zealand for the first part of their exchange. All the best for their stay! We look forward to welcoming their correspondents from end November – early December.





Hello and Good bye!

To all who are leaving this summer and all who arrive, we greet you with a poem by Arthur O'Shaughnessy, zoologist and poet. Ode, Music and Moonlight – 1874.

*We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams,
Wandering by lone sea-breakers
And sitting by desolate streams;
World-losers and world-forsakers,
On whom the pale moon gleams:
Yet we are the movers and shakers
Of the world for ever, it seems.*

*With wonderful deathless ditties,
we build up the world's great cities.
And out of a fabulous story,
we fashion an empire's glory.
One man, with a dream, at pleasure
shall go forth and conquer a crown.
And three, with a new song's measure
can trample an empire down.*

*We, in the ages lying,
in the buried past of the Earth,
built Nineveh with our sighing
and Babel itself with our mirth.
And o'erthrew them with prophesying
to the old of the New World's worth.
For each age is a dream that is dying,
or one that is coming to birth.*

Very warm thanks to Mrs. **Marie-Claude Lemonnier**, *Responsable administrative et comptable*, for over ten years of great work in the administrative team of ASEICA. We hope you will enjoy a good start of retirement and look forward to hearing your new adventures!

Thank you and all the best to **Mrs Alison Cummings**, History-Geography teacher, returning to Ireland after almost five years with us. Let's hope our paths will cross again!

Mrs. Kiechle is leaving the Collège English team this summer after 23 years teaching with ASEICA at the CIV, Collège de l'Eganaude and Collège César, where she was also Collège Coordinator for three years. We thank her for all her calm dedication over those years. Throughout her ASEICA career, she has maintained a strong belief that all students can succeed; she has nurtured and encouraged them and so many have grown in confidence as a result. We wish her and her husband well in their retirement, both here and with their family in the United States.

Thank you, Mrs. Kiechle!



After nearly 25 years of service at ASEICA and the CIV, **Mr. Gallagher** is retiring at the end of this year. After starting his teaching career in his native east London, Rob spent time teaching in Africa, Greece, and Switzerland before laying down deeper roots here in the South of France. Rob has taught history and geography for the OIB and IB programs and has led the MUN club since he arrived in the early 1990s. Rob has been an inspiration to literally thousands of students and the entire ASEICA community will miss him dearly. Have a wonderful retirement Mr. Gallagher -- you've earned it!!

