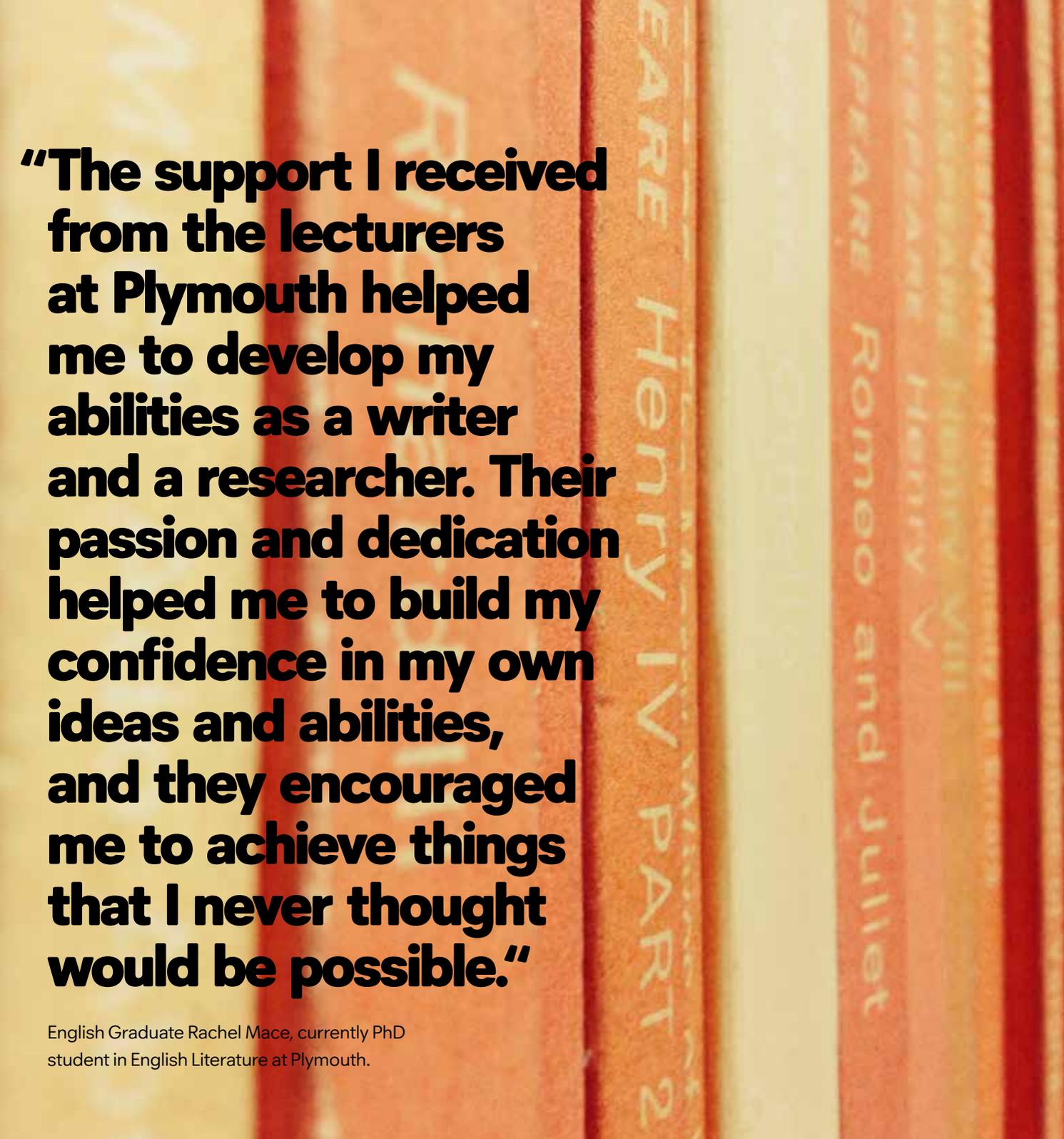


**ENGLISH &
CREATIVE
WRITING
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**

OUR GRADUATES

A silhouette of a graduate in a suit is shown from the back, with their right arm raised and hand open. A black mortarboard cap is captured mid-air, having just been thrown. The background is a bright, golden sunset sky with scattered clouds. The overall mood is celebratory and triumphant.

For more information visit:
www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses



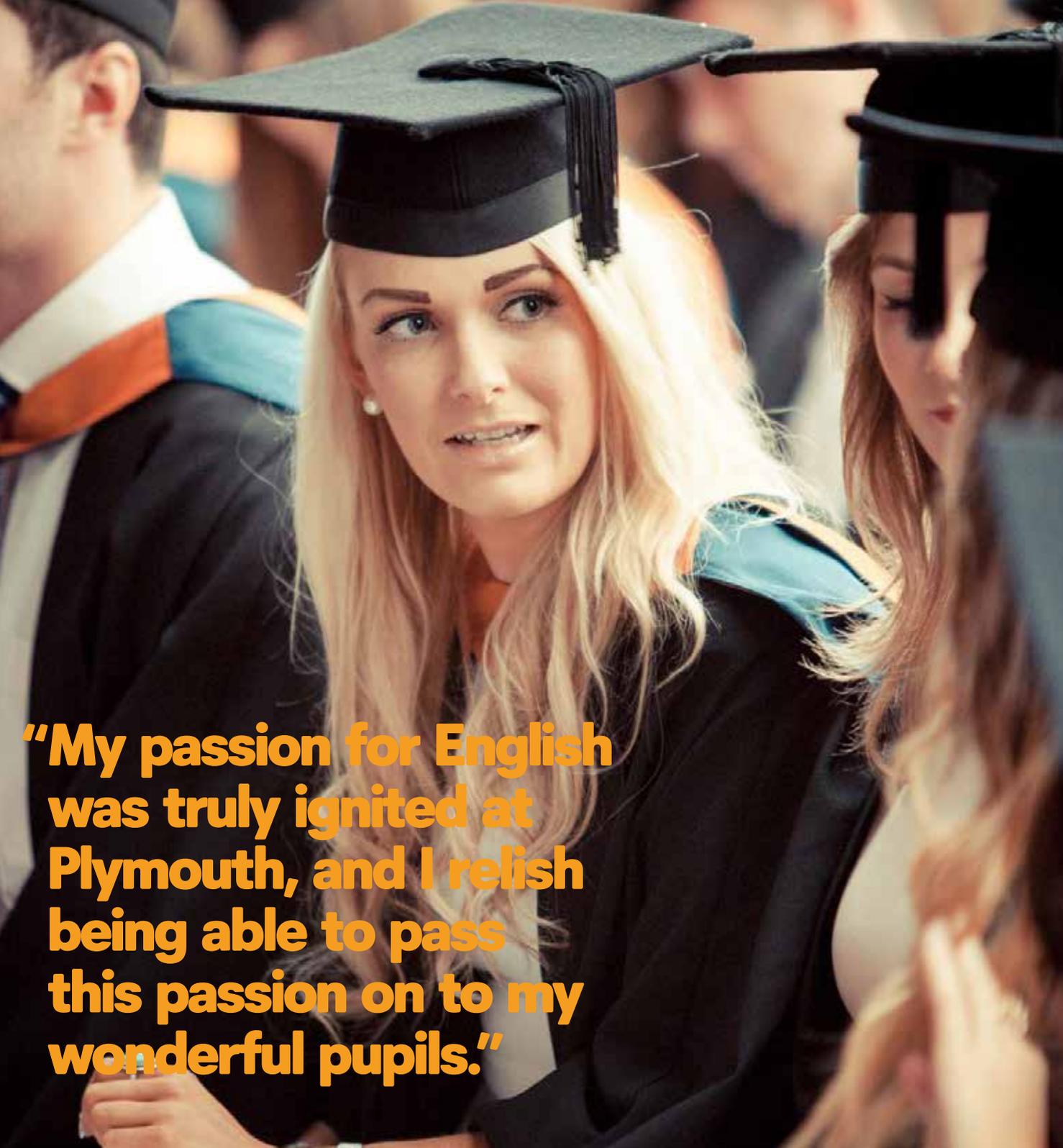
“The support I received from the lecturers at Plymouth helped me to develop my abilities as a writer and a researcher. Their passion and dedication helped me to build my confidence in my own ideas and abilities, and they encouraged me to achieve things that I never thought would be possible.”

English Graduate Rachel Mace, currently PhD student in English Literature at Plymouth.

What the future holds

English and Creative Writing graduates take diverse and exciting career paths. The range of professions our graduates pursue include journalism and the broadcasting media; publishing; primary, secondary and Further Education teaching; public sector management; PR and marketing. Others have followed their interests in English and Creative Writing through MA and PhD study leading to academic and research careers. The fact that our graduates work so successfully in such a variety of fields is testimony both to their intelligence and determination, as well as to the versatility and ethos of our programme.

Dr Rachel Christofides
Head of English and Creative Writing
School of Humanities and Performing Arts
Plymouth University



"My passion for English was truly ignited at Plymouth, and I relish being able to pass this passion on to my wonderful pupils."

Abigail Croot
SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Since leaving Plymouth University in 2012, I completed a second course at Plymouth University, a PGCE in Secondary Education. Both of these degrees have led me to a teaching post in sunny Somerset, teaching years 7-13, covering English, Media Studies and English Language and English Literature at A-Level.

I am really enjoying the job, and my degree at Plymouth University has fully prepared me for it: without the degree I would not feel confident to answer the very insightful questions that my sixth-form classes throw at me daily! My passion for English was truly ignited at Plymouth, and I relish being able to pass this passion on to my wonderful pupils, many of whom are now considering studying English at University level after hearing about my experiences at Plymouth.

Julie Doyle
READER IN MEDIA AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

I am a Reader (Senior Lecturer) in Media at the University of Brighton. I studied BA (Hons) English at Plymouth University in the 1990s. The course was a fantastic and unusual mixture of theory and creative writing which inspired me to pursue an academic career, having previously wanted to work in the fashion industry. I remember being quite daunted at first with the prospect of writing creatively, but the structured links between critical theory and writing styles, and the exploration of this through creative writing, made this aspect of the course really enjoyable.

I was particularly drawn to cultural and feminist theory taught on the course, so after graduating in 1996, I went on to study for the MA Sexual Dissidence and Cultural Change at the University of Sussex, where I stayed to complete a PhD in English and Cultural Studies in 2001. In the same year, I got a full time job at the University of Brighton as Lecturer



My research interests are environmental and climate communication, and media representations of gender class and the body. I teach visual culture, media representations of science and technology, and environment and media. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the English degree completely transformed me as a person and my career aspirations, inspiring me to want to teach and write critically about social issues. I wouldn't be where I am now without having studied English at the University of Plymouth.



MEDIATING CLIMATE CHANGE



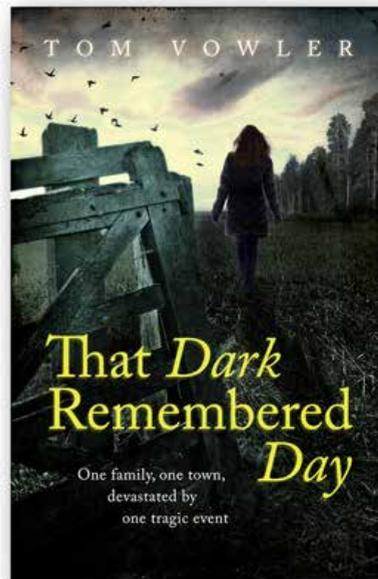
Julie Doyle



Tom Vowler

WRITER

Since completing an MA in Creative Writing at Plymouth in 2008, I have signed with the prestigious literary agency A.M. Heath and have gone on to publish a collection of short stories and two novels. I am now an associate lecturer and PhD student at Plymouth, as well as co-editor of the literary journal Short Fiction, which is published annually by the English Department. My forthcoming novel is titled *That Dark Remembered Day*. More at www.tomvowler.co.uk

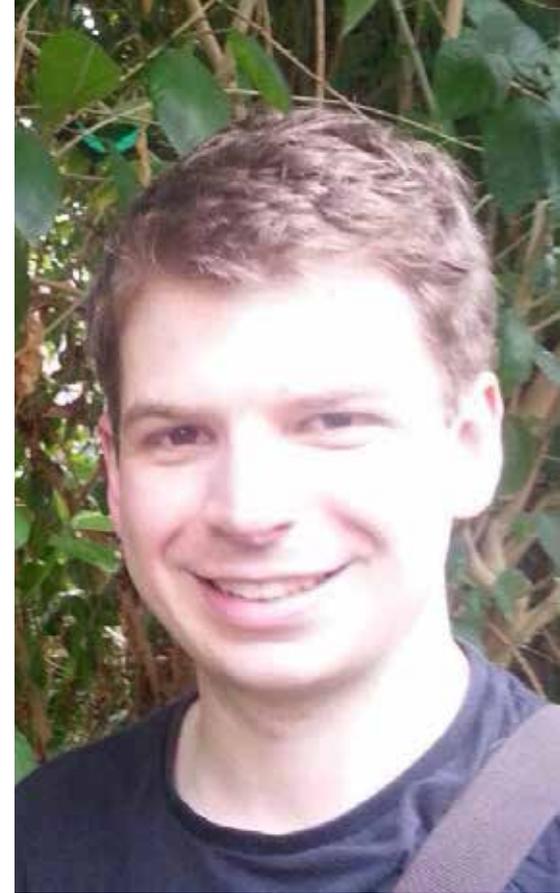


Liam Harkin

MARKETING EXECUTIVE
AND WRITER

I graduated from Plymouth University's English course in 2012. Truly enriched by my time there, and with a strong end result, I was nonetheless facing the 'real world'. In fact, the year or so following graduation was filled with a wide variety of valuable experience in many professional sectors. Throughout the first six months I improved greatly at representing myself in interview and on the page, at showing why I should be hired, and what I had gained from my curricular and extra-curricular education.

The hard work of applying finally paid off, and I got a competitive Fundraising/PA internship for Dalkey Archive Press in London, Dublin and Copenhagen. A contributing factor in my securing the internship, the interviewer told me later, was my unconventional cover letter, and my work as Fiction Editor



for INK, Plymouth University's student literary magazine. This I think highlights the importance of involvement in University activities outside of the classroom.

Since the end of my internship I have found it much easier to gain interviews for graduate and caliber jobs, and have worked at a non-fiction publisher in Oxford as a Marketing Executive. I also write Fiction and have set up an online experimental literature journal, breadlesscrust.co.uk.

Jane Atwill

**NEWS EDITOR AT
RADIO PLYMOUTH**

Since graduating from Plymouth University in 2007 with a degree in English, I have been working in local radio and am currently the News Editor at the commercial station Radio Plymouth. The media opportunities in and around Plymouth really helped: during my degree course I volunteered at Hospital Radio Plymouth and gained as much work experience as possible with other radio stations and newspapers.

After graduating I volunteered with a temporary radio station, Freesound, at the Arts centre on the Barbican. Through this I made connections at BBC Radio Devon and began producing packages for their Plymouth breakfast show. I then gained freelance work with Exeter FM (now Radio Exe) and consequently, my first full time job in Radio Journalism. In 2010, I joined the newly launched Radio Plymouth and was soon promoted to News Editor. I am now in charge of news output.



My degree helped me with many aspects of my job, as we often have to look through long and complex documents and try to turn them into plain English! The ability to put yourself across clearly is also vital. My advice to anyone interested in a similar career would be to get as much work experience as possible during your course!

Lucia Paulis

**MARKETING COMMUNITY
MANAGER (DIGITAL MEDIA)**

After graduating from the Plymouth University in September 2012, I began a six-month internship as Social Media Officer for the UK's largest crowdfunding network, Crowdfunder.co.uk. Crowdfunder is a platform that helps projects and businesses raise money using their community and are created by award-winning digital media company, KEO digital.

I am now Community Manager for Crowdfunder and during my 14 months with the company, I have been involved in lots of exciting campaigns and worked with many great projects. This includes, launching a Crowdfund Cornwall campaign, helping local businesses to raise money, working with River Cottage, helping schools to crowdfund for fruit trees. What is even better is, Crowdfunder are supported by Plymouth University, so the connection to where I studied was really beneficial when I applied for the role.



I am very glad to have had the opportunity to study English at Plymouth University as it has enabled me to begin a career in digital media.

Abigail Edge

DIGITAL JOURNALIST

I studied BA English at Plymouth University, graduating in 2008. Equipped by the course with skills that are vital for any journalist, I began my career as a local news reporter on Plymouth's *Herald* newspaper and later won *The Guardian's* Scott Trust bursary to study for a postgraduate diploma at City University in London, one of the world's top journalism schools.

In addition to writing for *The Guardian*, I have worked as digital publisher of the Bristol Post website and group online editor at Midland News Association. Over the last seven years I have covered all sorts of stories – from the Joanna Yeates murder trial to the Bristol riots, the outbreak of swine flu and a story about a cat with six toes.

I specialise in online news and social media, and was recently named one of 50 top female innovators in digital journalism. I am currently technology editor at Journalism.co.uk.



Abigail McMahon

ASSISTANT EDITOR AT
SUMMERSDALE PUBLISHING

I graduated from Plymouth University in 2010, having very much enjoyed my course, so much so that I really wanted to get a job I loved that related to English. I soon got three months of work experience with a publishing company. They wanted to know a little about my previous jobs, some about my course and a lot about my work on Plymouth University's literary magazine, INK. My three months were extended to four, and then



I moved on to temporary work at another publishing company. This time they were interested in my work experience, and again, everything I'd done on INK.

I am now in my second year working for the company I did work experience for, Summersdale Publishers, in what is unequivocally my dream job – Assistant Editor on the gift, humour and travel lists. I find myself doing anything from writing clues for filthy crosswords to selecting the cutest photos of fluffy kittens, to editing inspiring narratives of women who run away with their families to become surf queens. It's wonderful.



Hannah Kelly
DESK EDITOR AT PUBLISHERS
DAVID AND CHARLES

In the second year of my time as an English and Creative Writing student at Plymouth, I started to work on the university's literary magazine, INK. Through that, I found my calling. By my third year, I was Editor in Chief of the magazine and undertook two different work experience placements at publishing houses.

I had always volunteered to proofread friends' essays and CVs to feedback on mistakes or ways to improve them, and this, combined with the work on INK and placements, confirmed a career as an editor was for me.

After graduating I was offered a permanent editorial job with David & Charles, a non-fiction book publisher based in Devon. In two years I had worked my way up to Desk Editor and had commissioned four new



books. My role involves overseeing the whole book process from the initial book idea right through to sending the book to print. I'm really passionate about my editorial job; I like its variety and the satisfaction of holding a finished printed book that I have desk edited and helped to create. I would not have got here without studying English and Creative Writing at Plymouth and getting involved in INK.

INK

The University of Plymouth
Student literary magazine
2012



Rachel Nafzger

DEVELOPMENT AND
OPPORTUNITIES COORDINATOR
AT BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY

Studying at Plymouth University represented a wealth of incredible opportunity to me. It started with me as a very nervous Fresher far away from home and ended with me carrying the 2012 Olympic flame through Plymouth's streets as well as graduating with a 2:1 in English and Creative Writing.

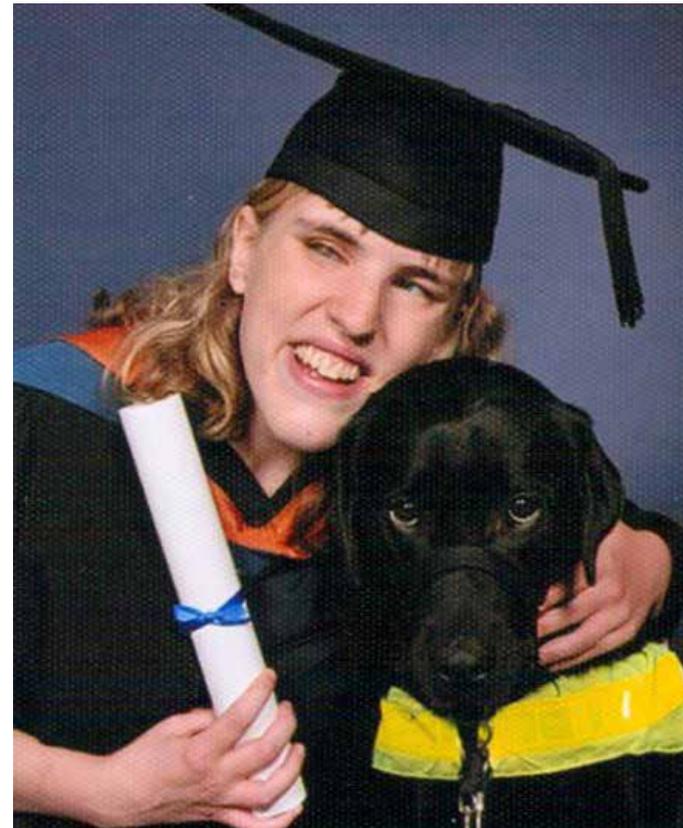
I had done a lot of voluntary work with local schools and charities. The aftermath of my work as a student Olympic ambassador saw me speaking at a number of different conferences such as the Whitehall Civil Servants conference and the FACE education conference. I also travelled a bit, including accompanying a group of Chinese school children on their school trip round Austria where I was there to teach them about the concept of "disability" and share my own experience of how to embrace it.



Finally my persistence with the job market paid off and I managed to secure a full time position as Development And Opportunities Coordinator at Birmingham City University Students' Union. Here I am responsible for creating and leading a variety of different projects and opportunities for students to gain valuable employability skills, building strong relationships between the University and external organizations as well as being a mentor and trainer for student committees of societies and sports clubs.

I can safely say that my time at Plymouth has helped me obtain my ideal job: working to help students make the most of their University experience just as Plymouth helped me make the most of mine.

"My time at Plymouth has helped me obtain my ideal job."





Toby Cadenhead

YOUTH WORKER

When I graduated from the English and Creative Writing course in September 2011, I didn't want the course to end, as studying had been such an amazing experience!

I continued volunteering with a Youth Project in Torpoint where I'd been for about a year, and soon knew that Youth Work was what I wanted to pursue. I enrolled onto an MA in Youth and Community Work and afterwards got a job working as a Youth Support Worker – and it's been absolutely brilliant!

The skills and knowledge I picked up on the English and Creative Writing degree at Plymouth were vital to my success and helped make me a better youth worker.

The course gave me the confidence to work in new ways and talk to new people, while allowing me to pursue my creative interests. The structure of the course allowed me to learn time management, but also to adapt to the needs of my situation (such as being in the library more the week before a deadline!).

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**“I would not have
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Plymouth University.”**

Graduate Hannah Kelly, Desk Editor at
Publishers David and Charles

For further information please visit plymouth.ac.uk/courses,
contact us via telephone on +44 (0)1752 585858,
or email the Admissions tutor for English Programmes,
Dr Annika Bautz, on annika.bautz@plymouth.ac.uk