





When glass artist-turned-entrepreneur **Anne Rushing '03** reminisces about GPS, her stroll down memory lane feels more like a marathon.

"I was insanely overinvolved. I was editor of the yearbook, co-editor of *River Review*, I ran tech for the musicals. I was in Select Ensemble and Candlelight Chorus and the glee club and the handbells and the science club. I did way too much. I didn't sleep very much. But I loved it! I wanted to do everything that I had the chance to do." A Renaissance woman, if you will? "More like jack-of-all-trades, master of none," she laughs.

At Centre, Anne double majored in history and art, traveling abroad her sophomore year to study at England's University of Reading. When she returned stateside, she enrolled in her first glassblowing course and was hooked. "With glassblowing there's so much going on that you can't get distracted or bored; it really holds your attention, so it's perfect for someone [like me] with ADD because you're sitting there thinking 'what's the

Making Art Accessible

By Katherine Giles '96

At GPS, Anne's demanding academic schedule left little room for art classes. Instead, she nurtured her creative instincts on her own time ("because you can't really do AP calculus on your own") and volunteered at the Hunter Art Museum's summer camps. There she met Tommy Spake, a local glassblower who steered her toward Centre College in Kentucky. As fate would have it, Centre's admissions counselor was GPS grad Susan Hawkins Johnston '78, whom Anne credits with helping her find her place in the college world.

Hard work, an adventurous spirit, and a willingness to ask for favors are all characteristics that led to Anne's entrepreneurial success.

temperature of this right now, do I need to be heating right now, where are my tools...? You're thinking all of these

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Anne Rushing, lower right, surrounds herself with women on her Pop Up! Scotland team who know how to have fun.

Take advantage of free and low-cost resources offered through your local government, university, or non-profits.

Find the right people to work with and learn the difference between a friend and a business partner.

Pay a lawyer to draw up the paperwork required to protect your intellectual property, your trademarks, and anything else you can't afford to lose.

Words of wisdom from Anne Rushing '03

The seed for Anne's future business was planted during her second year of grad school. "We had to put together a one-day event, a case study of something that related to our practice [but was] an area that we might need work on. And I realized that as much as I knew about making glass, I didn't know much about the exhibition process." She decided to create a pop-up gallery, but in a public place: a glasshouse at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. Her hard work, adventurous spirit, and a willingness to ask for favors – "it's amazing how often people say yes when you ask them" – helped to make the event such a success

that the RBGE invited her to stage a month-long exhibition for that summer's Edinburgh Festival.

Suddenly what began as a class project had transformed into something more. With help from the university's Launch.ed program, Anne drafted a business plan and set about planning the festival exhibition, all the while finalizing her MFA and its accompanying degree show. "I don't know why I thought it would be a good idea to start a business while I was finishing a degree. Luckily, it all worked out... though once again I didn't sleep very much!"

The result was Pop Up! Scotland, a not-for-profit venture dedicated to "bringing art to unexpected places." By hosting exhibits in public venues such as shopping malls, pubs, and parks, as well as in rural communities, the organization seeks to combat cultural poverty by making art accessible, providing artists with larger audiences, and sparking creative inspiration.

In 2014, Anne was one of four awarded an entrepreneur-in-residence position through Launch.ed, complete with a salary that allowed her to give up her part-time job at an Edinburgh cheese shop ("The staff discount was killer. So delicious!") and devote herself full-time to Pop Up! Scotland. Soon after, the fledgling organization won the inaugural Social Enterprise Award in the Converge Challenge, Scotland's premiere business competition, netting 7,500 pounds to fund its programs.

Of course, there have been hard lessons along the way. "I'm a person who wants

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to make everyone happy all the time. I've had to realize: Everyone is not going to like you, you're not going to get along with everyone, and that's going to be hard to handle, but I'm learning." And though juggling a growing business with her glasswork is difficult, this Renaissance woman credits her supportive family and her GPS foundation with much of her success. "How to deal with people and a lot of being independent and thinking that I can go for things comes from being at GPS and having really great teachers who let us be a little bit weird and crazy and supported our individuality."

different things and looking at the piece you're working on and thinking about your movements because you have to be aware of other people in the studio. It's almost like a dance."

Graduation brought Anne home to Chattanooga, where the former sorority treasurer worked for three years as a bookkeeper for area businesses, honing her glass skills in her off-hours. Accepted to Boston's School of the Museum of Fine Arts, she changed course when a phone call from acclaimed artist Stephen Powell, head of Centre's glass department, drew her back to Kentucky for an intensive graduate assistantship. Just one year later, after a whirlwind admissions process, Anne packed her bags and headed back across the pond to pursue a master's degree from the University of Edinburgh's glass program. Unlike the Italian-influenced American glass tradition, which is "extremely technically precise, but a little over the top," Anne was drawn to the "subtle, simple, more refined" Scandinavian tradition taught in Scotland.

What's next for Anne? Planning a film festival held at the University of Edinburgh and in pubs around the city... and transforming Pop Up! Scotland's early triumphs into a regular salary! Until then, she offers this advice to budding entrepreneurs: "Go for it! I'm not saying quit your job and just do that [one thing] all the time, but you have to realize it's not going to happen if you just spend an hour here, five minutes there." Yes, failure is possible. But it's not the end of the world. "If you go for something and you fail – even if you fail *hard* – you're not going to starve to death. You may lose your savings, you may have to move in with a friend or your parents for a month or so, you may have to take a job you don't really want to build back up your savings. But at least you can say, 'I made a go of it and it didn't work out and I don't regret that.'" ■



"My maternal grandmother was one of the most influential people in my life," says Anne. "She was very supportive and showed me how to be independent. She passed away while I was in Scotland, so my degree show sculpture, fragile crystal-line boats representing vessels of memory, was very much my dealing with the grief of losing her."

about the author Katherine Giles '96

COLLEGE AND DEGREE
University of Georgia '00
B.A. English literature

FAVORITE BOOK

"I read books for a living. I cannot possibly answer this question."

GPS IN FOUR WORDS OR LESS

"My launch pad."

IF YOU COULD START A BUSINESS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"A perfumer who could bottle the scent of books."



Anne "schmoozes" at the opening of "To the Nth Degree," a shopping mall exhibition of photography, textiles, video, sculpture, painting, printmaking, jewelry, and glass.