

# RSMF

## The Roger Short Memorial Fund Newsletter 3: April 2010



The third issue of the Roger Short Memorial Fund newsletter is delighted to report that there are now 34 Short Travellers, past and present. The newsletter has grown thanks to overwhelming enthusiasm from travel scholars. We hope that this enthusiasm will continue to build a community of intrepid and investigative travellers from Univ, in memory of Roger Short.

**The Fund.** As a brief reminder, and for newcomers to the Fund, Roger Short was a Classics scholar at Univ from 1963-1967. While serving as British Consul-General, he was killed in a bomb attack on the British Consulate in Istanbul on 20 November, 2003. The Fund has been established in his name to finance a travel scholarship programme. Each year, this programme enables 4-6 Univ students to travel to Turkey and neighbouring countries for study purposes over the summer vacation.

**The website** for the Fund can be found in the Societies section of the Univ Old Members website at [www.univalumni.org](http://www.univalumni.org). This provides access to the previous two newsletters, which document the previous Short Travellers and their areas of study. There are also links to a selection of their journals.

**The dinner.** The fifth RSMF dinner, held at Univ in April 2009, was presided over by the new Master, Sir Ivor Crewe. Fittingly, the pre-dinner drinks were held in the Butler Room, as it was Lord Butler who first agreed that Univ would administer the Fund, established by Univ alumni, friends of Roger Short, and other well-wishers.

The Master revealed that the RSMF was the most popular of all the summer scholarships offered at Univ. He mentioned the diversity of the reasons for travel, engaging with Turkey both ancient and modern, and that many of these experiences have been described as life-changing.



RSMF Dinner 2009. Clockwise from top left: Sir Ivor Crewe, Victoria Short; Rebecca Green, Katie Battle (guest from the U.S.A.), Lucy Fisher, Alice Morton, Carys Roberts; Theo Papaioannou, Kate Purcell, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Michael Gibb; Anna Oldmeadow, Carys Roberts.

**Marcel Dietsch** is in his 2nd year as a D. Phil student in international politics, with a special interest in the political economy of energy. He is conducting research on the cooperative policies of gas-exporting countries and their impact on gas-importing countries. Turkey is one of his case studies because it imports 93% of its gas (predominantly from Russia) and is intimately affected by the strategies of the gas-producing cartels. Marcel will use his award to visit Istanbul and Ankara to visit libraries, gather data and interview diplomats in the Turkish Foreign and Economics Ministries and business executives at Turkey's state-owned BOTAS Petroleum Pipeline Corporation.

**Samuel George** is a 1st year undergraduate reading PPE. He wishes to explore Turkey's rich past in order to inform his understanding of present-day Turkey, visiting the main cultural sites of Istanbul as well as Ephesus. As someone brought up and educated in New Zealand, he has a special interest in the Dardanelles, where so many Australian and New Zealand troops lost their lives in World War I. He plans to visit the ruins of Troy, the battlefields of Gallipoli and the small historic city of Edirne, home to many wonderful relics of the Ottoman Age. He is travelling with Molly Scott.

**Christopher Lack** is a 2nd year undergraduate reading PPE, who plans to study Middle Eastern politics next year. He wishes to visit historical sites in Istanbul and North East Anatolia, but the emphasis of his trip would be on meeting local people in order to get a feel for modern Turkish culture and attitudes to politics. He plans to make use of the website [couchsurfing.com](http://couchsurfing.com), which puts visitors in touch with local people, often enabling them to stay in local houses. He says, on the basis of a similar trip he undertook last year in Syria, that "if you have actually been to a place, studying it academically becomes much more interesting and it is easier to remember facts and understand issues if one has a feel for their context".

He is travelling with Xiaowei Xu.

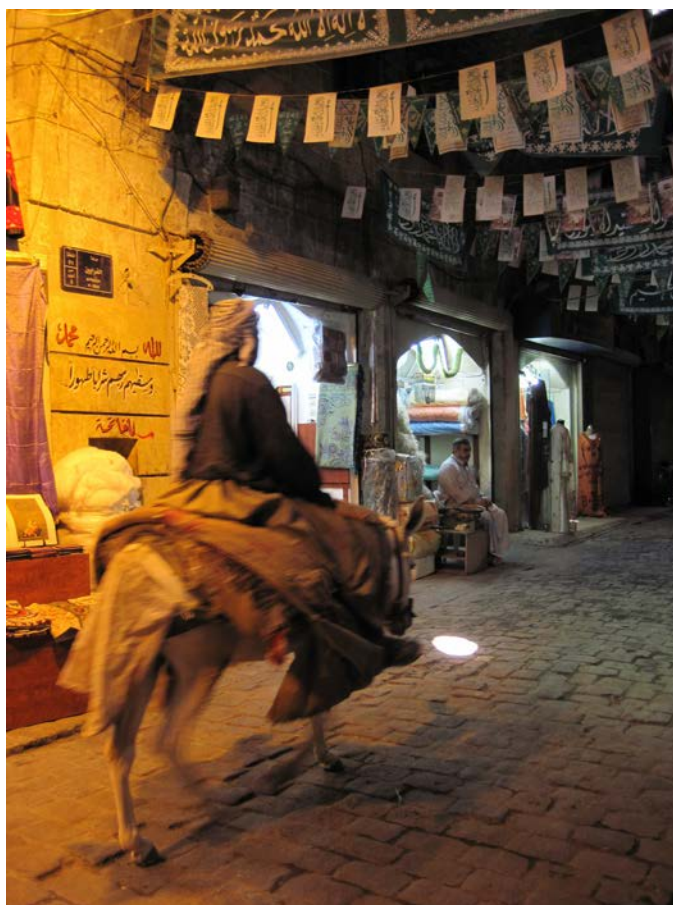
**Molly Scott** is a 1st year undergraduate reading PPE. She will use her travel award to visit some of the main cultural sites of Western Turkey and to inform herself better about the politics of Turkey to add another dimension to her study of comparative government, be

from Rome to Constantinople. Istanbul and the whole of Asia Minor plays a pivotal role in his study. He will use his award to obtain a physical sense of the world he is studying, starting his three-week stay in Istanbul, and then visiting various important urban sites, including Ephesus, Pergamon, Miletus, Aphrodisias and Sagalassos.

**Amy Ward** is a 2nd year undergraduate reading History, with a special interest in the Byzantine Empire and its co-existence with Catholic Europe in the medieval period. She will use her award both to visit many of the classical sites of ancient Turkey and to gain a better understanding of medieval Turkey. Her visit will begin in Istanbul and extend to Troy, Ephesus, Catalhoyuk, Trabazon in North Eastern Turkey and the 'fairy chimneys' of Cappadocia. The award, she says "will give me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity not simply to visit another country and experience a new culture, but to truly immerse myself in this culture for a longer period of time".

**Xiaowei Xu** is a 2nd year undergraduate reading PPE, specializing in development economics. She plans to visit some conventional tourist sites such as Safranbolu and

hike in the Kackar Mountains but, she says, "the emphasis of the trip will be on getting a feel for the country as a whole. We want to appreciate the differences in lifestyle, culture and political attitudes as we go from the cosmopolitan West to the traditional, underdeveloped East, and further gain an understanding of how these vastly different groups view each other and their relation to the country as a whole". She has a particular interest in microfinance (she founded the student-run consultancy Oxford Microfinance Initiative last year) and its importance for the alleviation of poverty and wishes to find out more about potential resistance to it in South East Turkey from the perspective of Sharia Law. She will be travelling with Christopher Lack.



Kate Purcell: In the Aleppo Souq, Syria.

cause the PPE course is limited by a Western-centric focus on the UK, France, Germany and the United States. She is particularly interested in the distinctive republican tradition of Turkey and in the changing dynamic of Turkey's relationship with the West, and the likely consequences that the eventual success of its bid to join the EU might have on its culture and politics. She plans to anchor her visit in Istanbul, with travel to other sites (e.g. Ephesus) and to Thrace. She is travelling with Samuel George.

**Jesse Simon** is in his 3rd year as a D. Phil student in history. He is a student of Late Antiquity, looking specifically at the built environment around the time when the focus of the Roman Empire was shifting



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## Short Travellers Past: 2009 Diary Extracts

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Alice Morton writes: Thanks to the Roger Short Memorial Fund I was able to travel with Lucy Fisher to Turkey this summer. We had a great time backpacking across Western Turkey, meeting locals and enjoying the delicious food, sunshine and scenery. I most enjoyed seeing incredible classical sites relevant to my degree. In Turkey I was able to see very clearly why certain settlements had developed the way they had, some defensive cities being positioned in impassable mountains, others were important military and trade cities by the sea.

For me Termessos was definitely the highlight. Termessos was a Lycian fortress town on the top of Gulluk Dagi, the Roseate Mountain. The ruins have never been properly excavated or restored but are in relatively good condition. The mountain top position of Termessos was a great protection for the fierce people who lived there, the Pisidian Termessians. Alexander the Great abandoned his attempt to capture the city in 333BC, while the Romans chose to accept Termessos as an independent ally in 70AD rather than engage in a prolonged invasion. It was also the centre of the deadly conflict between Alexander's generals Antigonos and Alcestas, following his death.

We found Termessos equally difficult to get into! Termessos is relatively unvisited compared with the more popular Side, Aspendos and Perge. There are no direct transport links and the National Park is about 25km outside Antalya. When Lucy and I first arrived in Antalya we boarded a local bus, asking for Termessos, but ended up at Duden. Duden is a set of small waterfalls on the edge of Antalya, popular with the locals, but not quite what we were looking for. We had many offers from friendly young Turkish men to drive us on the back of their motorbikes but we weren't insured for that. Instead we made a second attempt the next day, taking a municipal bus to the bus station on the edge of Antalya and then a second bus which let us jump out at the turning point to Termessos. Finally a taxi at the bottom of the Termessos National park took us the last 9km up the mountain. We were rewarded by being totally alone on the site, scrambling over the ruins of tombs and temples. From the theatre, perched

on the edge of a cliff, we could see all the way to Antalya and the sea. Lucy sketched the view, while I read about Alexander's encounter with Termessos in Arrian. It takes about four hours to fully explore the ruins of tombs, temples, the council chamber, houses and the theatre.

After Antalya we travelled up the coast visiting more well-known and



Lucy Fisher: Didim, Turkey

expansive sites; Pergamum, Miletus, Ephesus, Troy among others. However these were teeming with tourists and not nearly as picturesque. We spent our last week in Istanbul exploring the wonderful city and Mrs Short kindly showed us the fantastic views from her apartment and told us about her experiences living in Turkey. I am very grateful to the all those involved in the Roger Short Memorial Fund for a truly incredible month which enriched my studies and was a lot of fun.

Lucy Fisher writes: In pursuit of Classical fulfilment, Alice and I backpacked around Western Anatolia for a month. After a fourteen-hour bus journey, our travels commenced and melting in the heady heat of Antalya, we forged across to various sites, glorying in the history of the ruins therein. The ancient city of Termessos, located atop a mountain crag, proved to be the apogee of our wanderings in my view. We whittled away hours in utter solitude clambering over fallen columns around the charmingly overgrown 4km site. The sunshine had a beautiful golden quality that day and the breezes flustered round us as we descended into the cliff top theatre, which was situated against the dramat-

ic backdrop of the spiky peaks of the Taurus Mountains.

We charged up the coast, stopping off at every major, minor and roadside site. Oleander-embellished Olympos was a highlight, with its tree-house accommodation and sun-dappled ruins draped in vines. I was similarly impressed by the great stade of Perge, which called to mind gladiatorial combat

and lion fighting. I can only go on to list the wonders we saw: the magnificent temple at Didim; the formidable, sprawling site of Pergamum; the spa of Asclepion; the friezes at Aphrodisias – the Florence of antiquity – all were truly sublime. Alice and I shunned the reductive historical accounts and trite descriptions of the Lonely Planet and instead relied on a charming turn of the twentieth century classical guide book – sadly now out of print – for eloquent and lucid narration. Indeed, we even went so far as to recite – in the original of course – passages from our favourite classical authors pertaining to whichever location

we happened to be in. The manner in which this was conducted was, I assure you, very much tongue-in-cheek.

I feel my travels have ignited what I imagine will be a long lasting love affair with Turkey. The history and culture captivated me; the delicious food provided only further inducement to return. I met so many warm and charismatic characters, and even thrilled at occasionally having cause to flee the snatches of a few dubious ones. Istanbul was enchanting – a sensory overload of spices, scents, sounds and colours. The bustling streets packed with the bellowing of hawkers contrasted strikingly with the quiet and slower pace of life in the countryside. Furthermore, the romance of the muezzin intoning the call to prayer and the minarets puncturing the skyline added a sense of exoticism to the Westernised atmosphere of some areas of this bipartite city. Pipeline dreams to return there for an extended period of time have since been formed.

I had an utterly wonderful time in Western Anatolia. Thank you once again to the Short Family and everyone at the Roger Short Memorial Fund for facilitating my travels.

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Kate Purcell: A mural at the Palestinian camp Neirab, outside Aleppo. Many displaced Palestinians wear the key to their homes around their necks.

**Kate Purcell writes:** After completing the Bachelor of Civil Law at University College, Oxford in July 2009, I was fortunate enough to travel through Greece, Turkey and Syria with the assistance of the Roger Short Memorial Scholarship. I traced the difficult path taken by many asylum seekers each year in reverse, from the oft more imagined than real sanctuary of 'Europe' first presented by Greece, across Turkey to the harsh desert camps of Syria, home to many stateless Palestinians. My travels brought home the seriousness of the sacrifice that giving up one's homeland remains, even in the direst of situations, the struggle of the journey and the depth of the disappointment and despair that follows a failure to protect when protection is due.

While my study and work in international refugee law and human rights law provides the academic context for my travels, the journey allowed me to engage with the people and experiences that – despite being both the subject and object of the law concerned – are often sidelined or forgotten. The asylum seekers who cross the harsh desert borders of Syria endure a lack of recognition and even

the most basic of human rights in Turkey, and survive a dangerous crossing to Greece by either the night sea or the land-mine scattered region of Evros. The result is often detention in harsh conditions followed by return to the persecution that drove them, despite all to be lost in the hope of little gain, from their homes.

While it is difficult to relate the breadth and depth of the personal impact of this experience, its central lesson can perhaps be distilled as the imperative that empathy and humanity must underpin the law. The great beauty, indeed, majesty, of the natural world in Greece, Turkey and Syria, as well as the astonishing kindness and insight of so many of their people, provides the glowing background against which the hardship and suffering of asylum seekers, the stateless, the internally displaced and many nationals is thrown into sharp relief. Yet this too encourages significant hope in the prospect of positive change. The words of Syrian poet Mahmoud Darwish express poignantly how the deep sense of loss and yearning for home familiar to so many refugees may yet be underpinned by great resilience

and hope:

I come from there, I return the sky to its mother when for its mother the sky cries, and I weep for a returning cloud to know me.

I have learned the words of blood-stained courts in order to break the rules.

I have learned and dismantled all the words to construct a single one:  
Home.

I Am There  
Mahmoud Darwish  
Palestinian Poet, 1942-present

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the family and friends of Roger Short and to all those involved in developing and maintaining this important memorial to a great scholar and diplomat. The experience is one that I will never forget and one that would not have been possible without the generous support of the Roger Short Travel Scholarship.

I am currently undertaking a PhD in law at the University of Cambridge, looking at the implications in public international law of loss of territory and displacement resulting from climate change. My focus is on the interests and rights of those displaced.





Luke Fenwick (clockwise from left): Ankara, Turkey; Kyrenia harbour, northern Cyprus; the Green Zone in Nicosia, Cyprus; the northern coast of Cyprus from the palace at St. Hilarion castle.

**Luke Fenwick writes:** After some discussion in Oxford, a friend, Daniel Armanios, and I decided to examine the social and political realities of the partition between Northern and Southern Cyprus through the case study of water. We procured many interviews through the help of an interested Italian senator and the Northern Cypriot government (TRNC). In all, Daniel and I were in Cyprus from 7-16 July and Turkey (Istanbul and Ankara) from 16-22 July. What we found was that the truly fascinating political consideration is what Turkey does with the water it will pump into water-scarce Northern Cyprus from 2012. Turkey owns the pipeline and the water that flows through it. It therefore holds all the cards. Moreover, Turkey has ostensibly acted unilaterally in the design and placement of the pipeline as the relevant Turkish Cypriot authorities have no idea the project is even a serious undertaking and not a propaganda stunt. The possibility exists that Turkey could hold the TRNC over a barrel as it can stop the flow of water at will. This would increase the reliance of the TRNC on Turkey – if one maintains that it is not already a Turkish satellite. Turkey could also conceivably extract concessions

from the Republic of Cyprus in exchange for water and thereby heighten tensions and obscure any hope for a resolution. On the other hand, with an enlightened policy Turkey could foster good-will between the TRNC and the Republic of Cyprus and supply both with life-giving water. Such a confidence-building measure could be a first step towards a lasting solution to the Cyprus partition. We shall wait and see.

My most vivid recollections and memories from the trip, however, concern not so much the knowledge acquired but the people I had the privilege of meeting. I shall tell one story of many. Thanks to the introduction of Victoria Short I had arranged to meet with Metin Menir, a prominent journalist and Turkish Cypriot, now resident in Istanbul. He was engaging though cynical about the prospects of a settlement back in his homeland. He also knew much about the water situation in Cyprus and in fact knew the CEO of the company tasked with the construction of the water pipeline from Turkey to Northern Cyprus. He offered to put me in touch and provided me with contact details. We met this man, Ishak Alaton, on our final day of the trip. I called several days in advance

to ask formally for an interview. Alaton had a very easygoing telephone manner and, upon hearing our last names Fenwick and Armanios, he dubbed us Sandwich and Harmonious. We fixed the time and date and after spending a couple of days in Ankara we flew back into Istanbul on the morning of the meeting. Alaton, a Sephardic Jew who emerged from obscure and poverty-stricken beginnings, is the chairman of the board of Alarko Holdings and according to Forbes worth \$350 million. Somewhat nervous, we were ushered into his spacious and plush office overlooking the Bosphorus from the European side. Family pictures proliferated, a wide screen television dominated one corner with leather couches yawning, paintings lent culture and books were sorted to shelves. Alaton sat behind his desk in a breezy white short-sleeve shirt. He turned with a smile and greeted us as Sandwich and Harmonious. Enormously charismatic, he answered or attempted to answer our questions with what seemed like absolute candor. He offered us coffee and/or water and joked that both were the 'same price'. Noting that I'd finished the water his secretary had provided, he said with a laugh: "Luke, can we please exchange our glasses?" He actively engaged with us and was interested in what we have done and intend to do with our lives. Finally, I questioned Alaton on how one negotiates the uncertainty of doing business amongst the significant corruption and the often conflicting interests of the political, religious and military authorities within the Turkish polity. His answer was accompanied with a chuckle and a smile: "Why it's an advantage! It makes for a thrilling life, an adventure, and I wouldn't have it any other way." I wrote immediately thereafter in my diary in the taxi from Alaton's office to Atatürk airport on 22 July, the day we left Turkey: "Feeling of subtle, surpassing, accepting, invasive happiness...tears of joy. Fleeting but nevertheless a moment of inspiration."

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## Short Travellers Past: 2009 Diary Extracts

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**Carys Roberts writes:** In July 2009 I touched down in the Middle East with the task of getting home again overland. The next three months would be packed with more new sights and experiences than I could have comprehended: some terrifying, others wonderful, all exhilarating.

I began in Beirut, writing for the English-language newspaper *The Daily Star*. A friend and I stayed in a YWCA near the seafront, and gradually got to grips with the Arabic culture around us. Working for the paper I had the opportunity to interview everyone from academics to a local road-sweeper, and gained a fantastic insight into Beirut life. After Lebanon we travelled to Syria, where the cultural mood shifted again. Syria felt more alien than Lebanon had; the familiar restaurant chains had been replaced by emerald green mosques and beautifully intricate Damascene houses. Again I had the opportunity to talk to such a range of people, and learn about the culture and history of the country.

We stayed for a few nights in Jordan with Palestinian friends, which was a brief respite from the challenges a culture such as Syria's poses for western female travellers, before I parted from my friend and ventured alone to Turkey. My reception in Turkey was warm and hugely welcoming; Ufuk and Necip, who I had approached through a contact at the Oxford Turkish society, treated me as an old friend. They showed me all the local sites in Gaziantep and introduced me to the neighbourhood. I was surprised by the immediate difference in landscape, attitude and custom between Syria and Turkey, and in many respects much relieved! My hosts were kind and generous, and I could not have asked for more. When Ufuk finally put her worries aside and allowed me to leave, I travelled to Istanbul, where I stayed with Devrim, a young woman running the education consultancy Oxanima. I really enjoyed seeing such a different but complementary side to Turkish life, and loved the vibrancy of Istanbul as a city. I spent a very enjoyable evening with Victoria Short, and was interested to compare notes on Turkish culture and politics.



Carys Roberts: A cafe at Galata Bridge, Istanbul.

I was regretful to have to leave Turkey, but also hopeful with the knowledge that I would return. My hosts had given me a true welcome to their country and introduction to its intricacies. Although I had learned a lot I also left with a sense that I had barely scratched the surface of Turkey. I was keenly aware that the common Western perception of the country as a melting pot of East and West is far too simplistic for a country so rich and diverse, and that there is far more to learn academically but also by travelling and working more extensively in the region, which I hope to do.

I wish to thank Victoria Short and all supporters of the Fund for offering me the opportunity for such a fantastic and enriching trip, and hope that the Fund continues for others in the future.



Carys Roberts: Istanbul at night, taken from Eminönü.



Kate Purcell: a bedouin girl playing on a swing between two crumbling pillars in the sun-beaten remains of a great palace.



Kate Purcell: the Baron Hotel, Aleppo. It was here that King Faisal declared Syria's independence.

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## Short Travellers Past: Short Travellers' updates

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As each year passes, there are new additions to the ranks of Short Travellers and their collective experiences as recorded in their journals. A successful trip can be a result of serendipity, or careful planning, but in both cases, interacting with local people is a critical part of the experience. Listing suitable contacts and organisations could be of benefit to future travellers. If anyone is interested in co-ordinating such a project or other 'Club' activities, please contact David Sykes (dcsykes@aol.com).

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**Theo Papaioannou (2005)** Having graduated with a D.Phil in Archaeology I embarked on a career in university administration. I am currently employed at the School of Geography and the Environment in the University of Oxford, where I assist in the administration of the undergraduate degree in Geography. This is a varied and demanding role which has given me substantial experience and on-the-job training. For the future I hope to continue working in university administration, eventually specialising either in student recruitment, admissions, development or something along those lines. On a personal note, I recently proposed to my girlfriend and we are now planning to get married at University College chapel in September 2011.

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**Oliver Walker (2006)** Since visiting Turkey under the scholarship I've finished my MPhil in Economics and carried on to read for a doctorate in the area of Decision Theory at Univ. I'm due to finish this by the end of the summer and plan on finding work as an economist very soon afterwards! I've stayed in touch with a lot of the friends I made in Turkey and I returned to Istanbul in 2008.

**Anna Oldmeadow (2006)** I submitted my DPhil at the end of 2009 and will graduate in May. I haven't moved too far from Univ though - I'm now working at the Oxfam International Secretariat, which is based all the way in North Oxford! I'm part of a project to streamline how Oxfam delivers programs by moving to a single management structure. With 14 Oxfams and 3000 partner organisations in 85 countries there are a lot of challenges, but it is really interesting and enjoyable work.

**Douglas Gilman (2006)** Since finishing my MPhil in International Relations at Oxford in 2007, I have relocated to New York for work as an economist with Goldman Sachs. I am a member of the firm's Global Markets Institute, and primarily research issues at the intersection of capital markets and economic development. During my time in Turkey, I researched the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, related provisions of customary international human rights law, and corporate responsibility at

the intersection of these two arenas. In March I competed in the 2010 Endagin Ski Marathon in St Moritz, Switzerland, with a great friend from Univ College, Heinrich Nax.

**Gabby Savage (2006)** I'm working in London as a journalist for the drinks business magazine. This involves plenty of opportunities to satisfy my travel bug, with trips ranging from Bordeaux and Navarra to Hungary, the Douro valley and even Mexico.

**Rebecca Green (2006)** Rebecca is working as a project manager for BT in their Strategy and Forecasting team. In terms of travelling, She recently spent a month in Cambodia and is currently planning a trip to India.

**Andrew Cammish (2006)** At present I am studying the elective element of my Legal Practice Course at Nottingham Law School. I am also preparing to take part in Swimathon 2010 in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. In September I am looking forward to starting my training contract with Burges Salmon LLP in Bristol.

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**Robert Phipps (2007)** Is pursuing a career in film and television and in his spare time is working to set up a summer school in Oxford. He still remembers the trip to Turkey as one of the highlights of his time at Univ.

**Jonathan Tilley (2007)** Jonathan Tilley graduated in 2008, and is now working as a journalist, currently as a reporter for Planning, the journal of the Royal Town Planning Institute. He hopes eventually to work in international affairs journalism, and is particularly interested in the Middle East and central Asia.

**Ethan Kay (2007)** I am in Bombay, India this academic year as a Fulbright Scholar. I am conducting D. Phil. fieldwork on market-based poverty alleviation in rural India. My research is focused on the effectiveness of corporate-NGO partnerships in improving living standards in villages in Maharashtra, India. I have also been studying Hindi, learning to Bhangra dance, and improving my photography skills. I am looking forward to returning to Univ in the fall to complete my dissertation.

**Geri Della Rocca de Candal (2007)** Geri Della Rocca de Candal is currently completing his D.Phil. in history of early printing. In the past months he travelled to Tunisia and to Central America, particularly on an archaeological Maya route across Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. He is still planning a travel from Tbilisi in Georgia to Tashkent in Uzbekistan, a route which would basically connect the two last travels in the area.

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**Michael Gibb (2008)** After graduating from the B.Phil (Philosophy), Michael remains at University College and is now reading for a D.Phil (Philosophy). He maintains a close interest in the ethical and political issues he explored while interviewing Abkhaz communities in Turkey, and earlier this year helped organise a small monitoring mission to observe the Presidential Elections in Abkhazia.

**Rob Ballingall (2008)** I'm presently taking a PhD in Political Theory and Canadian Politics at the University of Toronto. At the moment, I'm doing coursework in the history of political thought and developing the groundwork for a dissertation on the potential contributions of the Socratic School to contemporary theories of liberal education. As for my future plans, well I'm one of those poor saps shooting for one of the ever dwindling tenure-track spots in Political Theory!

**Robin Froggatt-Smith (2008)** Since leaving Univ I have worked as a financial journalist and visited Ethan Kay on the way to north-west India. I haven't left the Near East behind, however, I have worked as a subeditor on two monographs for publication – on Parthian Nineveh and Levantine mosaics in the Late Roman period.

**Olivier Holmey (2008)** In Southern Turkey, thanks to the Roger Short Scholarship, I spent 2 months working in an excavation organised by the University of Chicago. This experience has been so inspiring that I now plan on studying the archaeology of the Ancient Near East as soon as I have finished my bachelor's degree, hopefully eventually going on to do a PhD in that field.

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**Appreciation.** Thanks again to all donors. It is your support which has made the travel scholarships possible.

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