



UNIV

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

Roger Short Memorial Fund Newsletter

Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the Roger Short Memorial Fund, celebrating another very successful year of the programme for Univ students. Also, a warm welcome to the six new Short Travellers who have been awarded RSMF Travel Scholarships for 2012, they join the 39 existing members of this exclusive club!

The Fund. As a brief reminder, and for newcomers to the Fund, Roger Short was a Classics scholar at Univ from 1963 to 1967. Roger was killed in a bomb attack on the British Consulate in Istanbul on 20 November 2003; he was serving as British Consul-General. The Fund has been established in his name by Univ alumni, friends of Roger Short and other well-wishers. The purpose is to finance travel scholarships which enable 4-6 Univ students each year to travel in the summer vacation for study purposes to Turkey and neighbouring countries.



Roger Short in the bazaar 2002. (Photo by David Sykes.)

The dinner. The seventh dinner (the dinners are separately funded) was held in the Alington Room at Univ in May 2011. A record 25 Short Travellers (see below), and 21 other guests attended. Judging by the noise level, a good time was had by all!

During his after-dinner remarks, the Master mentioned that the RSMF is highly valued by the College and has drawn the attention of other Oxford Colleges, none of which offer an equivalent programme. Once again, the Fund was the most popular of the Univ travel awards during 2011, demonstrating the students' interests in adventure off the beaten track. In a number of instances, the trips contribute directly to the students' area of study and provide first hand experiences, which could never be duplicated in a Univ tutorial or in a textbook. The award for best journal was presented to Jesse Simon. His vivid and outstanding work gives the reader the sense of accompanying Jesse throughout his journey.



Short Travellers at the 2011 Dinner, clockwise from top left: Luke Fenwick, Josh Barley, Jonathan Tilley, Lucy Fisher, Alice Morton, Marcel Dietsch, Sam George, Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco, Robin Froggatt-Smith, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Ethan Kay, Rob Phipps, Michael Gibb, Chris Lack, Xiaowei Xu, Andrew Cammish, Oliver Walker, Carys Roberts, Jesse Simon, Amy Ward, Rebecca Green, Sarah Dicker, Beth McDonald, Molly Scott, Joanna Palermo. (Photo by Lois Sykes.)

News: Short Travellers 2012 & The Foreign Secretary receives the RSMF Newsletter

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office organises an annual wreath laying ceremony at their impressive building in Whitehall, to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives while serving as diplomats. The Short family attended the ceremony in November, accompanied by a number of friends. At the reception afterwards, the Foreign Secretary, William Hague, was given a copy of the 2011 RSMF Newsletter. He expressed great interest and commented that currently Turkey features very prominently among his diplomatic contacts.

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



Mount Erciyes, seen on the road from Konya to Nevsehir. (Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco.)

Wahid Amin is in his 2nd year of a D. Phil in Theology. His research focuses on the relation between Greek and Arabic philosophy, with a special interest in how Avicenna's philosophy was adapted for theological purposes. He wishes to travel to Turkey to visit four libraries - in Istanbul, Ankara and Konya - that contain the works of Nasir Al-Din al Tusi, a 13th century Islamic polymath.

Thomas Cole is a 2nd year undergraduate reading history. He plans a 4 day stay in Istanbul followed by a 10 day tour of the Western coast, Canakkale, the ancient city of Troy, Gallipoli, Izmir, Selçuk, Ephesus and Bodrum. His history thesis will be on the applicability of the idea of an 'informal British Empire' to Turkey in the late 19th and early 20th century, and the impact of Turkey on the formation of British foreign policy at the turn of the 19th/20th century. He will be accompanied by Krista Sirola.

Krista Sirola is a 1st year undergraduate reading history. She will be accompanied by Thomas Cole and plans the same itinerary (see above). She has a special interest in the late Byzantine Empire, and in Muslim/Christian frontiers in medieval and early modern Europe, which are likely to feature in her special subjects.

Oliver Dammone studied Chemistry as an undergraduate at Univ and stayed on for a D. Phil in Chemistry; he is now in his 3rd year. He is interested in renewable energy and wishes to visit Turkey because of its leading position in the solar power industry. He plans to spend a week at the solar company 'Entropy Energy' and then to tour a part of Turkey - the itinerary has yet to be decided - for two weeks by cycle. He will be accompanied by Julia Schollick.

Julia Schollick studied Chemistry as an undergraduate at Univ and has stayed on for a D. Phil in Chemistry; she is now in her 1st year. See the entry for Oliver Dammone for her plans.

Ed Lewis is a 2nd year undergraduate, reading history. He chose University College because of his interest since school days in the Byzantine Empire and the knowledge that, if accepted by Univ, he would be taught by Dr. Catherine Holmes, our Fellow in Medieval History and a specialist in Byzantium. Two of his history option courses are on The Crusades and Byzantium in the 12th century. His planned 15 day itinerary focuses on Istanbul, Thessaloniki and Sofia.

Left to right: An orthodox monk at Sumela monastery, in the Altindere National park; The remains of St John's basilica in Selçuk, close to Ephesus; A neighbourhood in old Ankara, within the walls of the city's Byzantine/Turkish castle. (All Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco.)



Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco writes: Shortly after being granted the Roger Short scholarship, the Spanish embassy in Damascus sent me an email saying that if I dared to enter Syria, my life stopped being Spain's responsibility. After seriously considering the risk (after all, I really wanted to visit Damascus and Palmyra), I took the half-hearted decision of postponing my initial plans to cover the crusader route from Istanbul to Damascus until the situation in the Near Eastern country is settled. Nonetheless, travelling just to Turkey did not make less sense, because during my third year I have read the Special Subject 'Byzantium in the Age of Constantine Porphyrogenitus, 913-59', as well as learning about the rise of the Turks throughout the Middle Ages in Anatolia in different General History papers. There were other major advantages. First, the travelling was easier, as the bus system in Turkey is probably better than the European ones (all buses have A/C... and a waiter). But most importantly, I was able to travel in September rather than July without the staggering heat of the mid-Summer season.

I started my backpacking at the beautiful city of Istanbul. Flooded with excitement, I found myself exhausted

after three days of frantic running around. Having read about the wonders of Constantinople in numerous accounts, I was full of expectations, and I did not feel let down. Places like Hagia Sophia make a 21st century tourist shiver just like the Byzantine writers narrated. Before leaving for the Aegean coast, I had the opportunity of meeting Victoria Short for a drink. Thanks to her advice, some weeks later I did not travel by ferry from Trabzon back to Istanbul as I initially intended. According to her, I would have slept among chickens and other animals – not the most pleasant trip...!

I went down the Aegean coast, starting at Gallipoli province. Here, just out of general curiosity, I spent a day around the Anzac Coves, diving around a 1915 battleship, and at Troy's archaeological centre. Then I moved on to Bergama and its beautiful Hellenistic and Roman settlements, and then down to Selçuk, from where I visited the ancient cities of Ephesus, Priene, Miletus and Didyma. But without time to catch my breath, I went inland, to visit Pamukkale and Aphrodisias, two important Late Roman cities resettled by the Byzantines.

By the fourteenth day of my travelling I was in Konya, a city distinctly

different to everything else I saw in Turkey, with its Seljuq architecture and strong piousness. After that, I went to Cappadocia, where I stayed for four days, visiting the caves, churches and geography in one of Byzantium's most characteristic frontiers. It really helped me visualise the conditions in which Byzantine laymen may have lived outside of Constantinople. Then I travelled to Ankara, staying for a couple of nights at the accommodation provided by the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA). I truly enjoyed the city, its Byzantine citadel and the stunning Museum of Anatolian Civilisations. However, I did not feel very safe: my visit coincided with political unrest, riots, and a car bomb.

My last stop of my trip was the Black Sea city of Trabzon, far away in eastern Turkey, a place I may not visit again in my life. My trip to Trabzon represented the essence of all my travelling and, I believe, the essence of this scholarship award. It allowed me to discover places that otherwise would only live in my memory through the descriptions of chronicles and historical literature. For this reason I would like to thank the Roger Short Memorial Fund and Univ. I will always be grateful for the opportunity.

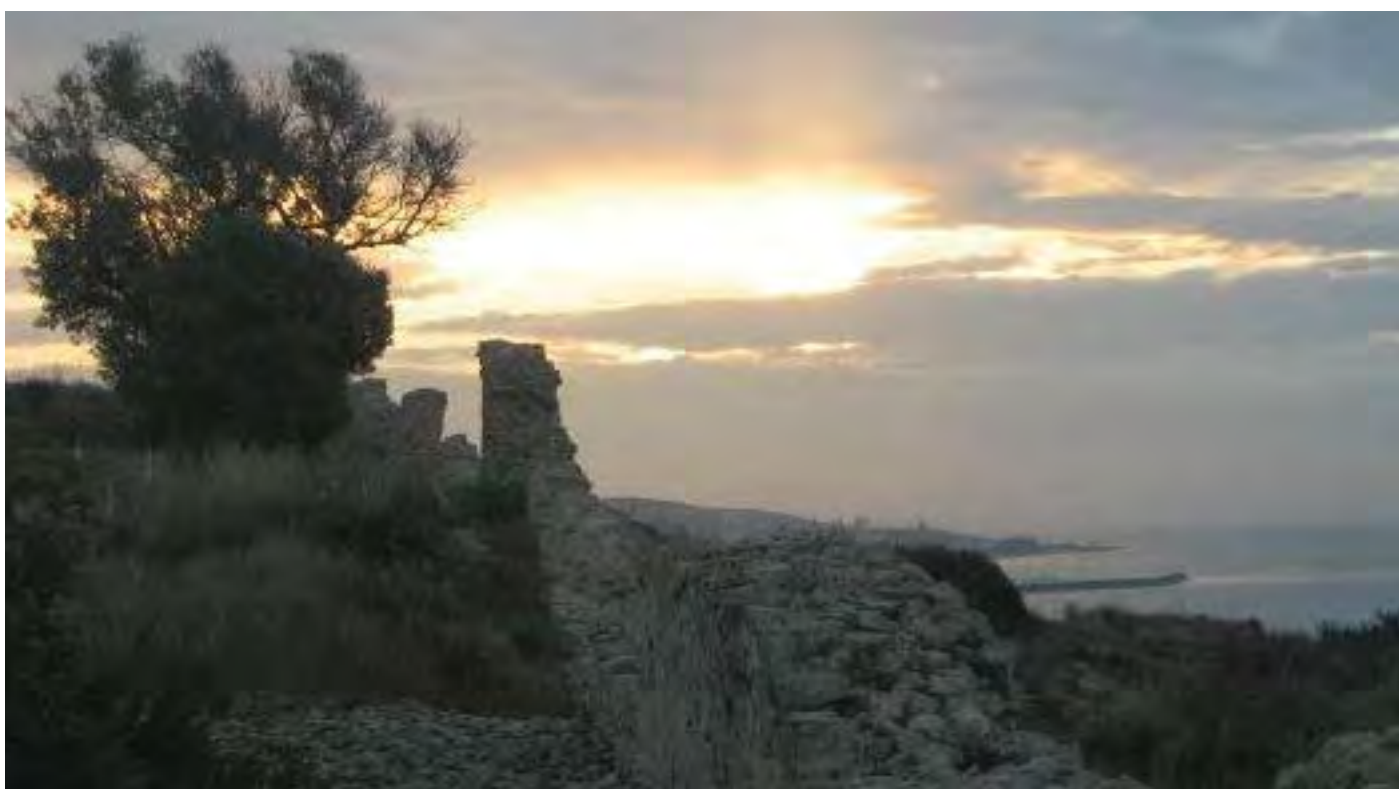


Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco's approach to Anıtkabir (Atatürk's mausoleum at Ankara).

Joanna Palermo writes: My travels took me to Cyprus where I spent a month excavating the royal palace of Amathus with the French School of Archaeology near Limassol. Long, hot days were spent on a hill overlooking the Mediterranean with the aim of exploring the workshops and storage facilities that once provided food and luxuries for the royal families ruling the southwestern region of ancient Cyprus. Our labours were rewarded with fascinating finds of Cypriot workmanship in statuary, pottery and jewellery, spanning the earliest period of the palace from the 7th century BC to its abandonment in the 4th century BC.

But not all of my time spent in Cyprus focused on the ancient. The weekends were time to explore the island. I travelled and saw both sides of the border, into North Cyprus and the Republic of Cyprus. Some of the highlights included the ancient city of Paphos, the hamam in Nicosia, the rock music scene in Girne, the Turkish sweet shops of Famugasta, and the beaches along the Karpas peninsula. Cypriot cuisine seemed to be a unique combination of some of the best foods that Greece, Turkey and Lebanon had to offer, with an emphasis on seafood. Thriving and lively towns on both sides of the border contrasted with the imposing barrier of barbed wire, abandoned buildings and armed guards along the Green Line that reminded you that Cyprus was still a place in conflict. Although the news broadcasts each evening featured the heated debate between Turkey and the Republic of Cyprus over offshore oil exploration rights of the Texas-based Noble Energy licensed under the Republic, the dialogue amongst many of the local Greek and Turkish Cypriots that I met on both sides of the Green Line focused more on the tragic situation of the split, the challenges of reconciliation and occasionally, a faint hope for reunification that reflected a certain optimism that accompanied the recent opening in Nicosia of the Ledra Street border crossing in 2008. These experiences were only the tip of the iceberg, and I look forward to getting to know the island better when I return this summer for another field season with the French team at Amathus.

Joanna Palermo, clockwise from top: Me and my trenchmate, Francisco Rivera, excavating a palace wall and storage area, view south from Amathus; Me sitting in a theatre at Ancient Kourion, the Republic of Cyprus; The view from the royal palace of Amathus looking east to the sunrise.



Elizabeth McDonald writes: Sarah and I travelled together to Turkey in March 2011 thanks to the generosity of the Roger Short Scholarships. Our first destination was Istanbul and we spent our time cramming in visits to as many of the sights as we possibly could: the breathtakingly magnificent Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, the ghostly underground basilica cisterns, Topkapi Palace, the old city walls and the beautiful Chora Church, Galata tower (from the top of which we got a spectacular view of the whole of Istanbul and the Bosphorus as the sun was setting), the mosaic floor of the old Roman/Byzantine Palace and the Archaeological museum. We also wandered around the Grand Bazaar and the Spice market, soaking up the wonderful colours, sights and smells. From Istanbul we flew down south to Izmir and then caught a tiny minibus which took us to the town of Selçuk. Selçuk is surrounded by green hills, a contrast to the bustling city of Istanbul. There, we visited the ruined church of St. John on the top of one of the surrounding hills, and walked to the site of the ruined temple of Artemis, once one of the seven wonders of the world. Only one huge column now marks the spot and a stork had happily built his nest upon the top of it. One of the highlights of my trip was visiting the ancient town of Ephesus, a short walk away from Selçuk. I had studied many of the buildings and it was amazing to be able to walk around and see them in real life. We spent our evenings playing backgammon and drinking apple tea, feeling very Turkish! From Selçuk, we took an overnight bus to Goreme in Cappadocia. Cappadocia has one of the most spectacular landscapes I had ever seen. The rock is formed into chimneys, in which the people had once long ago built caves and churches. We were staying in a cave hotel, a fantastic experience. I went on a hot air balloon ride, one of my lifetime dreams, and was treated to a wonderful view of this incredible landscape. We spent a day hiking through the valleys, visiting the Goreme Open Air Museum, an area in which there are hundreds of tiny cave churches with painted walls, and walking further on to the Red Valley and Rose Valley, where the rock is coloured red or pink. Everything looked absolutely stunning. The trees were in blossom and the sky was bright blue. We also went horse riding to an old monastery which had been built as a series of

Sarah Dicker at the Topkapi Palace.



Elizabeth McDonald's panorama in Cappadocia.



interlinking caves in the rocks. Overall, our whole trip was a wonderful experience. It enabled me to see many sights which were linked to my studies as well as giving me many wonderful memories of some spectacular places.

Sarah Dicker writes: Beth and I went to Turkey last April for two weeks and had an incredible time. Having navigated four different transport systems to get to Sultanahmet we spent the next five days wandering around Istanbul, often getting hopelessly lost and spending far too much on both apple tea and Turkish delight (particularly as the art of haggling was lost on me). Having visited the Hagia Sophia on our first morning (which I'd been dying to see, as I had studied the Emperor Justinian's building regime the term before) we spent most of our first day attempting to see inside the Blue Mosque, which took quite a few tries as we somehow managed to time every attempt during daily prayers. However, after finally getting in and, afterwards, wandering down to the seafront to explore the remains of the Byzantine Bucolian Palace, we felt like we'd made some progress in terms of getting to know the city. The highlight of our time in Istanbul was probably visiting Chora Church; not only did this involve a ferry ride up the Golden Horn but the frescoes and mosaics preserved within were absolutely incredible, and we definitely owe Mrs Short a big thank you for advising us to go!

Next stop was Selçuk, which included visiting the Basilica of St John and the single column remaining of the Temple of Artemis. Most importantly (for Beth at least!) was the day we spent wandering around Ephesus; I probably learnt more about classical architecture in one day than I'll learn in the rest of my life, but it was fascinating to see the scale of the town and especially the mosaics and wall paintings preserved in the terraced houses.

The overnight bus ride to Cappadocia was probably less of a high, even though we were impressed by the Mercedes Benz seats and the hourly trolley service. We spent the next few days in Goreme, exploring the strange but beautiful landscape and enjoying the novelty of staying in a room hollowed out of a 'fairy chimney'. The Goreme open air museum was fascinating and Cappadocia will forever hold a place in my memory as the location of my first horse ride – maybe not the most appropriate setting considering the mountainous terrain and the fact that we had a 12 hour journey the next day, but the aches and pains were worth it for the spectacular panoramas and hidden monastery that our cowboy tour guide led us to.

Turkey was an incredible experience and one which I hope to repeat again very soon. Being able to actually visit the sites and monuments which I've studied throughout my degree was truly beneficial, and I'd like to thank all the donors to the Roger Short Fund for such an amazing trip!

Josh Barley writes: My time in Turkey was a whirlwind of different experiences, all of which left a great impression on me. I expected this from the great sites, of course – Ayia Sofia in Trabzon, Georgian churches in Yusufeli, the Seljuk medreses of Erzurum, Aghtamar on Lake Van, the Isak Pasa Palace, the ruins of Ani, and the Selimiye Mosque in Edirne being the ‘big names’! – but I found no place or person to be without interest. Most of what I came across was so phenomenally interesting that it was, and is, difficult to comprehend it all.

In the semi-tropical north east, where I began (after a short sojourn in Istanbul!), I was preoccupied by questions of cultural identity (and, in equal measure, by tea). The ‘Rum’ speakers, who live in the vicinity of Trabzon and speak (or rather, spoke) a language related to Greek, are a paradigm case for the small ethnically diverse groups in this area, which testifies to its immensely complex history. Partly by a great stroke of luck, and partly by some carefully planned gezmek-ing (this might be clearer if you read my journal!), I found myself in the thick of these few people, interspersing their Turkish with old Greek phrases. As a linguist, this was one of the most rewarding experiences of the trip.

(But it was not just these Rum that I met there: this area is a jewel-box of different cultures, to be unlocked! I met the red-tasselled Laz, who are famous for being bakers and seafarers, as well as the Hemsin, who sing their few remaining folk songs near the Georgian border. It was particularly interesting to see this diversity against the backdrop of Turkish nationalism that pervades

this area: I frequently found myself wondering whether I was witnessing the final fragments of fading cultures.)

After the mist and mountains of the north east, I went south through Erzurum to Lake Van. The lake itself was unforgettable, as was Ararat and Ani. I finished by taking the train from Kars to Istanbul, before making my way to Greece via Edirne (perhaps the most memorable place of the whole journey, and the one to which I am most anxious to return). Really, it was all unforgettable, and most of the sights and tastes and smells are still clinging to me (metaphorically and literally, since I still have some Turkish soap, but that’s a trivial point...). Please read my journal, which is an attempt to capture all the many delights of my journey, and is a tribute to the great generosity of the Roger Short Fund, to whom I am indebted for all my adventures.

Josh Barley on the Black Sea Coast, in Rum territory;
Below, Josh with a semaver in Trabzon.



Short Travellers Past: Academic Honours in 2011

The University College Record listed four Short Travellers being awarded Firsts in the 2011 Schools results: Robin Meyer (ST 2008), Lucy Fisher (ST 2009), Carys Roberts (ST 2009), Xiaowei Xu (ST 2010). In addition, D.Phil.s are listed for: Edwin Nissen (ST 2005), Nariman Skakov (ST 2008), Luke Fenwick (ST 2009). And Bachelor of Civil Law: Kate Purcell (ST 2009). Congratulations to all!

Short Travellers' updates

Anna Oldmeadow (ST 2006): I am still working on international affairs in the Australian civil service, focusing particularly on East Asian issues over the past six months. I'm terribly sad to be missing the dinner again this year, and hope that next year I find myself back in England at the opportune time!

Rebecca Green (ST 2006): I'm working at BT as a Business Partner supporting the Finance, Strategy and Commercial Products teams. In more exciting news, I've recently got engaged and am getting married in June 2013. Outside of work, I'm also still finding time (just about!) to ride my horses, and I'm hoping to go to Sicily in the summer.

Oliver Walker (ST 2006): I've been dividing my time between Oxford, where I am a stipendiary lecturer at Corpus Christi College, and London, where I am a post-doctoral researcher at the LSE, having *finally* submitted my D.Phil thesis last October. In the summer I took an adventurous trip round Central Asia, visiting Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran, and speaking some (alarmingly rusty) Turkish along the way.

Andrew Cammish (ST 2006) Since graduating from Univ in 2007, I've opted for a career in law and in September I will qualify into the Dispute Resolution department at Burges Salmon LLP in Bristol. I am hoping to return to Turkey in the very near future to further explore the areas that Becky Green and I visited in 2006.

Ethan Kay (ST 2007): I am currently based in Montreal as a Sauvé Scholar, where I'm writing up my D.Phil dissertation. My research examines corporate-NGO partnerships that retail smokeless cookstoves to people living in poverty in India. I'm also helping two social enterprises commercialize their technologies in the developing world: BioLite, a smokeless cookstove manufacturer, and Eyejusters, an Oxford-based self-adjustable eyeglass manufacturer. Dissertation writing has afflicted me with a serious bout of wanderlust - I wish I were back in Turkey right now.

Jonathan Tilley (ST 2007): I am currently winning my journalistic spurs working for the trade press as a news reporter at Haymarket Publishing. Having done stints on Planning magazine and Windpower Monthly, I am now working for Horticulture Week.

Robert Phipps (ST 2007): Rob is currently running a summer school and doing some consultancy work.

Geri Della Rocca de Candal (ST 2007): By the time the RSMF Dinner takes place this year, Geri will have finally submitted his thesis. Now that he is part of the Oxford landscape (and of the College furniture), he has little or no idea about what lurks in the outer world.

Olivier Holmeý (ST 2008): Last year I pursued my keen interest in the ancient history of the Near East by completing a Masters in Mesopotamian Archaeology at the University of Cambridge. Over the course of that degree I was fortunate enough to take part in an excavation in northeastern Syria. Unfortunately, recent developments in the region cut the season short and it is unlikely that one will be able to enter the country any time soon. I do hope to return to Turkey very shortly though, which will be an absolute delight as I have not been since my first Roger Short funded journey there in the summer of 2008. In the meanwhile, I am enjoying some time away from academia and have moved to Germany, where I am now attending classes at a German language school.

Michael Gibb (ST 2008): Michael Gibb is currently working as a Lecturer in Philosophy at St Hilda's College, Oxford. He also works with a number of NGOs active in the Middle East and is getting married in University College this summer.



Tea on the Bosphorus ferry in Istanbul, from Anna Morgan.

Robin Froggatt-Smith (ST 2008): I live and work in London, with regular walking on the U.K.'s South West Coast Path keeping me fit (and imitating the Lycian Way). This year I'll visit another frontier in the shape of California: any recommendations encouraged!

Carys Roberts (ST 2009): I graduated in July 2011 and completed an internship at the Institute for Fiscal Studies over the summer. Since October I have been working for the Social Mobility Foundation as an Employer Relations Officer and E-mentoring Coordinator, following on from my involvement with the Univ Ambassador Scheme. I haven't managed to travel since finishing, but I recently started taking Arabic classes in preparation for my next trip.

Lucy Fisher (ST 2009): After a summer spent schlepping solo around the Balkans, I ended up in golden Stamboul again for a month. It was a wonderful surprise to bump into dear Victoria beneath Galata Tower and always a pleasure to see Master Thomas. Eschewing reputable employ and any prospect of \$\$\$, I decided to become a journalist and am now a junior foreign reporter at the Sunday Times.

Sam George (ST 2010): After a more relaxed second year, I am now approaching Finals for my PPE degree, focusing primarily on Microeconomics. Last summer, I completed a 10 week internship with Credit Suisse in their London offices in the U.K. Investment Banking group. I'm planning to start full time work there in July 2012 after a job offer on the back of the internship. Hilary will be a busy term for me, with the return of the Univ Revue (a comedy night put on by Univ students, which is being revived by the Univ Players), the Varsity Water Polo match in 6th week, and an Oxford vs. Cambridge polo match (the horse sort) in Dubai over Easter.

Jesse Simon (ST 2010): Jesse Simon devoted much of 2011 to finishing his D.Phil thesis. He finally submitted it in the first weeks of January 2012 and is now awaiting his viva. In the interim he is devoting his efforts to a variety of writing related projects while simultaneously attempting to break into the highly competitive academic job market.

Staying connected. Facebook: Unfortunately, early in 2011 Facebook deemed it appropriate to archive the original RSMF group, thereby losing the connection with the 29 Short Travellers who had joined this group. A new Facebook Roger Short Memorial Fund group has been established; all Short Travellers are encouraged to join – it is a good way to remain connected as the Short Travellers move onward into their post-Univ lives.

LinkedIn: Carys Roberts has established a Roger Short Memorial Fund group on LinkedIn. All Short Travellers are also encouraged to join the group on this professional network.

Donations. To make a donation to the Fund, please visit the website described above at <http://univalumni.org>, where a donation form can be downloaded. Please note the facility of donating via Gift Aid, with tax advantages for donor and recipient.

Alternatively, please contact:

Heather Ebner

Director of Development

University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH

Phone: +44 (0) 1865 276986

Email: heather.ebner@univ.ox.ac.uk

Appreciation. Thank you to all the Fund donors. The Short Travellers are very appreciative of the unique opportunities made possible by the RSMF scholarships.

The organisers would also like to express their sincere thanks to Robin Froggatt-Smith (ST 2008) for taking on the task of producing this, his fourth, RSMF newsletter; and to Marion Hawtree, the Master's PA, for her work towards organising the annual dinner and liaison with the College.

Clockwise from top left: The cupola of Pammakristos Church, Istanbul; Church of the Holy Wisdom in Trabzon; Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco in the Zelve Valley, Cappadocia; Valens Aqueduct, on Atatürk Boulevard, Istanbul. (All from Rodrigo Garcia-Velasco.)

