



UNIV

Roger Short Memorial Fund

An Introduction from Josh Barley - Short Traveller 2011

A military coup, an ambassador's assassination, terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Ankara, Gaziantep and elsewhere... another year where every piece of news from Turkey seems to bring a crashing feeling of despair. Fuel for the headline writers, certainly, fuel for the doom-peddlers – but not, I believe, for the Roger Short Scholarship, an institution which was set up precisely in defiance of headline-grabbing acts of terror. In its best form, the Scholarship deals with the small and not the big, and the permanent rather than the transient – the abundant hospitality of a stranger, the striking fellow-feeling with a student in some far-flung Anatolian university, the bag of walnuts given to you at the side of the road. These are the day-to-day, moving things that operate on a different level from terrorist attacks and in defiance of them. They are the province of the Scholarship, the fondest memories of travellers and the stock of the longer diary entries (which this year, alongside Turkey, ranged as far east as Yerevan and as far west as Oxford). And what does a shepherd in the Kaçkar have to do with the latest political manoeuvring in Ankara or Istanbul? The great heads of Mount Nemrut are silent too.

I am grateful for the Roger Short Scholarship not least because these small reverberations ring on in our lives. I can trace friendships in both Turkey and England (and elsewhere) back to the Scholarship and its accompanying network of enthusiasts, which grows stronger every year. A friend who I met through the Scholarship now lives in Gaziantep and brings me news of daily life straight from the Syrian border. With another friend I recently shared a moonlit walk around Athens. The Scholarship is a balm against the wave of distressing reports from a country which is still, barring extraordinarily bad luck, a safe place in which to travel.

My only visit to Turkey this year was, regrettably, of an idiosyncratic nature - teaching Latin to a young boy on the coast south of Izmir. Barking out verb tables from a sun-lounger beside a swimming pool overlooking the Aegean was some way distant from my own experience as a Short Traveller – in the Kaçkar mountains and their hinterland – but instructive of another sector of the disparate tapestry of Turkish society. And even there, between the Range Rovers and the gleaming yachts, I found room, in Çesme and Alaçatı, for some of the never-failing joys of Turkish travel – lentil soup, tea, lahmacun and a trip to the barber.

Continued over the page.



The tourists may not be going to Turkey in their droves but the Short Travellers will not be put off so easily. The balloons are still flying above Cappadocia, a million glasses of tea are still clinking, and the storks, falcons and pelicans are still making their biannual pilgrimage across the Bosphorus, gracing the planes and sycamores of villages by night. We too must keep going, keep making small connections and keep bringing our enthusiasm to a country that is now centre stage too often for the wrong reasons.

We look forward to strengthening these connections at the Scholarship's annual dinner in May, which brings together not only different nationalities but also different year-groups of the College – not to mention the many benefactors and supporters of the Scholarship – in a unique and always serendipitous way. Last year's dinner was yet another rip-roaring success, with a record number of 31 Short Travellers in attendance. We were fortunate to hear speeches from the Master and Victoria Short among others. The journal competition was won by David Astley, whose hand-written entry charmed the judges, and whose modest, self-effacing acceptance speech charmed the rest of us.

2016 Short Travellers, left to right: John-Henry Charles, Arthur Wolstenholme, Johanna Schiele, Louis Grandjean, Hugh Moorhead and Matt Kinloch



Short Travellers 2017

Rivka Hyland (ST 2017) I am planning to use the Scholarship to go to Istanbul and possibly to travel to Ephesus as well. I study Christian and Muslim interaction in the Middle Ages; my undergraduate thesis focused on Christians living under Muslim rule in 9th-11th Century Baghdad, and my Master's thesis here at Oxford will focus on intellectual exchange in 12th Century Islamic and Christian Spain. Istanbul, in its former life as Constantinople, has been one of the centers of theological production around which I have oriented my studies - Christians living in the Islamic world in the Middle Ages had to understand themselves in relation to the Church in Constantinople, and the Ottoman Empire had to understand itself in relation to the previous caliphates in the Middle East.

A few weeks in Istanbul (and a few days at Ephesus, where in 431 an Ecumenical Council resulted in a reorganization of parallel Christian hierarchies throughout the Middle East) will not only give me access to manuscripts unavailable in any other part of the world, but will, I hope, lend some tangibility to my study of a distant period. I also look forward to spending time in Turkey studying these old intercultural exchanges at a time when a sort of intercultural exchange is taking place between Turkish citizens and refugees from many parts of the Middle East.

Tuuli Ahlholm (ST 2017) I completed my undergraduate degree in Classics at the University of Glasgow and was fortunate to be granted the Oxford-Cawkwell Scholarship at Univ for an MPhil in Ancient Roman and Greek History. I am now on the second and final year of my Master's degree and planning to continue to a DPhil at Univ next year. My academic interests lie especially in ancient imperialism, and the social and intellectual history of the Roman Empire. The Mediterranean coast of Turkey was an important cultural and economic centre throughout the Roman antiquity, and it still hosts some of the most spectacular remnants of this most enduring empire in human history: Ephesus, Miletus, Smyrna, Myra, Didyma, Pergamon... My plan is to fly to Antalya and spend a month slowly backpacking my way up the Mediterranean coast, visiting and photographing archaeological sites, and finally finish at Istanbul. This method of traveling will allow me to experience the space and the landscape that determined all the actions and decisions these

ancient people I study took, both big and small. There is immense value in learning to 'see' history in its full 3D context rather than just on the flat pages of a book! I am also very much looking forward to immersing myself in modern Turkish culture and cuisine - the Roger Short Scholarship is my first ever opportunity to travel outside Europe.

Alexios Andriopoulos (ST 2017) I am a final year Philosophy, Politics and Economics undergraduate. Over my time at Univ I have really enjoyed being part of college life from my studies, to the Univ Players, to the football pitch. But now as I come to finish my degree, the Roger Short Scholarship will be a chance to put all these experiences to use in a new part of the world and learn some things which I could never have learned even in Oxford. I will travel with Cameron Cullen, journeying from Istanbul to Georgia to Armenia.

This trip promises to be significant not only to discover a new part of the world, but also to discover a bit more about my own heritage. My family is from Thessaloniki and almost a hundred years ago Thessaloniki became home for thousands of refugees from Istanbul, Trabzon and Cappadocia, Georgia and even Armenia after the population exchange of 1923. I am very excited to have the chance to explore the homeland of so many of my friends and family and see how centuries of Byzantine legacy have been changed and shaped into the region we see today by politics, religion and globalisation.

Cameron Cullen (ST 2017) I am in my final year reading History at Univ. My time at the College has been both memorable and enjoyable and I have taken every opportunity to get involved in college life. I have particularly enjoyed turning out for Univ's sports teams playing regularly for the 1st XI football and the rugby team. I am travelling with Alexi Andriopoulos who is also in his final year at Univ. We intend to start in Istanbul and make our way to the interior of Turkey, specifically Cappadocia; this route should hopefully give us each a taste of the very different sides of Turkey. We will then make our way north, travelling along the Turkish coast of the Black Sea and into Georgia. Finally we intend to venture south towards Armenia, finishing our trip at the capital Yerevan, having visited Lake Sevan (one of the highest fresh water lakes in Eurasia).

Arthur Wolstenholme writes: I'd like to express my extreme gratitude to the Roger Short Memorial Fund and its contributors for allowing me to discover more about Turkey, a country I have always considered of huge historical interest but I now also know to possess incredible natural beauty and a wonderful culture. Without the generosity of the Fund, this trip and all I learnt from it would not have been possible. My trip can broadly be split up into three sections: the west coast, starting in Dalaman and visiting the "seven churches" that received letters in the book of Revelation; Istanbul; and Cappadocia.

The tour of the west coast of Turkey and in particular the seven churches of the book of Revelation was a hugely valuable and eye-opening experience for me, helping me to understand with greater insight the allusions and references made within John's letters to these churches, and in particular some of the cultural context into which he wrote. Having visited these churches, I went into what was perhaps the most moving and memorable part of the trip; visiting a memorial in Gallipoli to the many fallen soldiers, including my great-great uncle, Harry Coops.

I then spent a few days in Istanbul. A highlight of my stay there was time spent with the Anglican chaplain, who kindly took me for lunch one day. Other highlights included visiting some of the many sites of historical interest; in particular Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque. These few days were particularly helpful in coming to understand the thriving and multifaceted culture of Turkey at the moment, as well as some of the ongoing political tensions.

Matthew Kinloch writes: In April 2016, thanks to the support of the Roger Short Memorial Fund, I was able to visit a number of locations in eastern Turkey, Georgia and Armenia. As a student reading for a PhD in Byzantine History, the trip was unforgettable, and important for me both academically and personally.

My trip was in two parts. First, I travelled to eastern Turkey and Georgia with a friend (and fellow Byzantine History student). Starting at Trabzon with a Turkish colleague we stayed at the University, which we used as a base for visiting a number of museums as well as several fortified and monastic sites in the mountains (including Sumela – see photo – and Hagia Sophia). Despite a busy academic schedule, we still found time to support our host in the Humanities Faculty football team in their grudge match against the Maths Department.

From Trabzon we travelled along the coast and crossed into Georgia. There we made a number of visits to key medieval sites. The Roman fort and subsequent medieval town, Gonio, just across the border was a particular highlight. After Gonio, we visited Batumi, Kutaisi, and Tbilisi in quick succession. We were particularly interested in the manuscript and icon collections in museums in each city. The highlights included the manuscript collections and frescos in Kutaisi and the patriarchal treasury and national museum in Tbilisi. After, our appropriately academic enterprises we spent a half day in Tbilisi sightseeing and visiting some friends who work on Georgian History in Oxford.

The second part of the trip started after we took the bus to Yerevan in Armenia where we joined a group of twenty-six faculty and students from Oxford for a research trip in Armenia, which I had organised and led personally as the president of the Oxford University Byzantine Society.

The highlight of my trip in Turkey has got to be the time spent exploring Cappadocia. Cappadocia has the perfect blend of stunning natural beauty and fascinating historical sites, most especially those related to early Christian history. The most memorable experience in Cappadocia was the early morning hot air balloon trip. The views of the whole region and of the sunrise were breathtaking. Time spent in Cappadocia was probably the most interesting from an academic perspective as well. With its multiple caves and other hiding places, Cappadocia became something of a refuge for Christians fleeing persecution from the 4th Century onwards and exploring these church buildings brought the experience of early Christians to life in a new way.

It was an immense privilege to travel in Turkey. I gained not only an appreciation of the context of early church history but also a greater understanding of the thriving Turkish culture.

Etchmiadzin Seminary Choir (photo from Matthew Kinloch)



The next ten days saw us visit almost every significant late antique and medieval site and museum in Armenia (apart from those in Nagorno-Karabakh). At each site either the local excavator, a local academic, or a member of our group showed us around the site and presented on its academic significance. There were so many unbelievable monasteries that I became quite blasé about them. We also saw a number of other archaeological sites, including the important Persian city of Dvin, where the Princeton-based excavator explained that season's (as yet unpublished) exciting excavation results.



Sumela Monastery, north east Turkey (photo from Matthew Kinloch)

A final mention should go to our colleagues in the Armenian church, who graciously welcomed us throughout the country. Most memorably at the Catholicosate seminary at Echmiadzin, where the current student choir performed for us. I would like to thank the Roger Short Memorial Fund again for supporting my research trip.

John-Henry Charles writes. On my first day as a graduate of Univ, I got on my bicycle and rode south from Oxford. As I took my first pedal strokes, I didn't really know where I'd end up, Brill or Baku, and I really didn't care. I was surrounded by my friends in a peloton riding through the Chilterns and all I could think about was how privileged I'd been to have shared time with these people.



Left: leaving Oxford, right: arrival in Edirne (photos by John-Henry Charles)

Once the peloton of friends dropped off, I had more time to think about where I was going and what I was doing. I had a bike, a tent, financial support from the Roger Short Memorial Fund to explore Turkey and time commitments to keep at Univ's Chalet in the Alps and on a yacht called Amorgos in the Aegean. I knew I had three months to follow whatever road I wanted to along the way and that, alongside my periods of solitude, I would be joined for sections by friends and family, and the final push from the Aegean would be with partner in crime, Johanna Schiele, another of this year's Short Travellers.

In the end, my peddling brought me to the steps of the Selimye Mosque, an Ottoman masterpiece in Edirne, 400km west of Istanbul. I'd covered 3500km of European roads by bike, 80km of Alpine hiking tracks by foot, and 300km of the Aegean Sea by wind.

Left: Turkish sunset right: leaving Athens with Johanna (photos by John-Henry Charles)



If you want to hear about all the adventures I had or the sights I saw along the way, come to Dubai or Riyadh where I now work and send me a message because the stories fill an evening. I share one of my favourites here because there's a word limit and it strikes at the essence of the trip:

Near the Greek-Bulgarian border in the mountains near a small town called Komotini, Johanna and I were befriended by a local tavern owner called Theopolis who took us in for the night. He spoke limited English but insisted on providing us with a bed, giving us meal after meal supplemented by his rich herb collection and plying us with his homebrewed Tsipouro. Merry from festivities, he insisted on driving us to his pomegranate farm where, having survived the journey, we all spread our arms wide and pretended to drive planes amongst the branches. He gave us pomegranates to keep and smash on the floor for NYE. We packed these in our bags then cycled on, hungover, over the hills into Bulgaria. Now, on the streets of Warsaw, where Johanna and I spent New Year, lie the smashed remnants of pomegranates.

The generosity of strangers was what made the ride special: from simple hellos to shared meals to opened homes, I'll never forget the warmth of the people I met on the road. So if you want a deal: I'll owe you a frosty beer in Dubai every time you wind a window down to give a lift to a hitchhiker or wave to a cycle tourer. (Just never tell the recipient you're doing it for the beer, let them remain wide-eyed and optimistic like me).



Johanna Schiele writes: "Those mountains aren't that high. Look at the height profiles on Google maps, that's nothing!" This is a short story about underestimating the friendliness of Bulgarian farmers and Turkish cycle shop owners, the size and extension of the Greek mountains, the number and cunningness of wild dogs in Eastern Europe and the scars left there by the financial crisis. It involves: two bikes, a tent, more than a litre of suncream, getting fleas, Greek alcohol, five border crossings (three of which where absolutely unnecessary), monasteries and mosques and the generous support of the Roger Short Memorial Fund.

When John-Henry Charles and I started cycling north from the Peloponnese in September last year, we didn't really have a plan for where we wanted to end up. Istanbul was a rough aim, providing direction, but otherwise we simply wanted to stop at every place that looked interesting, detour as much as we felt like and try to really get to know the countries we were travelling through.

Cycle touring is ideal for a journey without much direction: You travel at a pace fast enough to not get bored of the same landscape but also slow enough to feel part of the region you are in, and to recognise gradual changes in ways of life, language or food. For example, Ayran is a yoghurt drink popular in Eastern Europe, the North Caucasus, the Levant region and even Afghanistan. It goes under multiple names (Ayran, Doogh,

Dhalle, Tan, Shinena) varying by region and origin of the host that serves it. The further east you get, the more salty Ayran becomes: while we would still have it with muesli in Southern Greece, it became absolutely unfit for breakfast once we've reached the Turkish border.

Just as Ayran changed along the way, so did my feeling of whether I was still in Europe: Turkey, Eastern Greece and Bulgaria - all formerly part of the Ottoman Empire - are fascinating because they are a melting pot of European and Ottoman history, Islam, Christianity and ancient cults, EU signs and Soviet charm. The only constant along the way was the friendliness of the people. They let us pick fruit on their fields, shower under their garden hoses, invited us for dinner or to spend the night at their place. Next year or whenever time allows, we have promised Engin, a lovely bike shop owner who hosted us in Edirne, to return to his place and go further east from where we have stopped our ride last October.

After all, it was the many unplanned and slightly misjudged situations that led to an amazing summer - and this is ultimately what travelling should be for: talking to people you would never meet at home, challenging your ideas of how the world looks and what people are like elsewhere, feeding your curiosity and making you stay open-eyed and open-hearted. Thank you again for the support!

Hugh Moorhead writes: For three weeks over August and September 2016, Louis Grandjouan and I were fortunate enough to travel around Turkey, Georgia and Armenia as Short Travellers. We tried to strike a balance between visiting more notable (Istanbul, Cappadocia) and more remote (Svaneti, Yerevan) places in this region, as well as dividing our time between the urban and the rural. The Turkey leg of our trip comprised several days spent in each of Istanbul and Cappadocia. Given the spate of bombings already that year, and July's failed military coup, the country we encountered was one in a state of uncertainty. There was little evidence of the warm Turkish welcome that we had been told about beforehand, and the people with whom we interacted were polite and helpful, but not especially warm. On our final morning, Victoria very kindly took us for breakfast, showed us her beautiful apartment and was able to provide an invaluable inside track into the state of the nation, which helped both of our understanding a great deal. Having been enchanted by both the glittering history of Istanbul and the stunning geology of Cappadocia, we could only hope upon our departure that the nation's slide into autocracy would soon be halted.

Following a chaotic border crossing into Georgia, we spent about 10 days there, visiting the extraordinary seaside resort of Batumi, the bohemian capital Tbilisi and the stunning mountain region of Svaneti. Svaneti has only been 'open' for tourists for the past decade or so, and the beautiful mountain vistas and hikes which we experienced more than explained the Georgian government's decision to promote the region, and were a great highlight of the trip.

On our return from the mountains we took a rather entertaining night train into Armenia, in order to spend a final few days in Yerevan, the capital. This is a city which feels neither



Hugh Moorhead in the valley which leads up toward the Ushba Glacier, Svaneti
(photo from Hugh Moorhead)

Russian, European nor Arab, and so has a rather unique feel to it, doubtless helped by the bizarre and frequently incongruous modern art with which they city has been decorated. The most sobering moment of our trip was had here, when we visited the Armenian Genocide Museum, and came face to face with a genocide which still, a century on, has a profound effect on the nation's mindset, and of which we in the West are woefully ignorant.

Louis and I were both agreed on our return to the UK that we had had a marvellous trip, learning plenty about the region and experiencing a healthy variety of different places and cultures. We are extremely grateful to the Roger Short Memorial Fund for the support it provided for this endeavour- thank you!

Louis Grandjouan writes: Thanks to the Roger Short Memorial Fund, Hugh Moorhead and I travelled from Istanbul to Yerevan via Kayseri, Göreme, Trabzon, Batumi, Tbilisi and Mestia.

The days we spent in Istanbul made me aware of how much more I wanted to see of it, and how much I was missing. I have therefore decided to go back and live in the city for a more extended period of time - a year or two, depending on what I can find to do there.



Our destinations were all very different from one another, and in hindsight it was the jarring contrasts between them I enjoyed most. Kayseri was a fascinating counterpoint to Istanbul: as conservative and austere as Istanbul was cosmopolitan and bustling. Crossing from Trabzon into Batumi, in Georgia, was entertaining in a different way. Where Trabzon felt serious and industrious, Batumi sparkled in a charming, albeit in a rather seedy way. From Batumi we headed via Tbilisi to Mestia, a town tucked away in the High Caucasus on the border with Russia. Here I was surprised to find more foreigners - particularly Israelis and Russians - than in Batumi. Batumi was filled with

newly built high-rise hotels, casinos and beach bars, but had no tourists. Mestia was filled with tourists but had not a single hotel. We then went down to Tbilisi for two days, which had the relaxed, festive atmosphere of capital cities during summer holidays: big groups of Georgians wiled away the evenings on the terraces of the city's wine bars. We did the same, and it felt like a brief holiday within the holiday.

From Tbilisi we took a night train to Yerevan. We were very warmly welcomed. Whenever we sat down in a café someone would stride up and say, with a wide smile: "Welcome! But what are you doing in Armenia? Holiday? Why?" But the core theme of our time in Yerevan was Armenia's ongoing conflict with Azerbaijan over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. The two countries have been at war over the issue for the past 25 years, but earlier in 2016 serious fighting had flared up for the first time in a decade. References to the conflict popped up in the most surreal places - in, for example, the literature handed to visitors at the Modern Art Museum and the Charles Aznavour museum.

We returned to London via Istanbul, where Victoria was kind enough to take us out to eat and share her thoughts on the turmoil in Turkey. It has been an immense privilege to join the community of Short Travellers, and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to go on what has been an extraordinary trip. I look forward to hearing the many stories of future travellers.

Clockwise from left: mountains at Mestia in the Caucasus, Yerevan train station, a city street in Yerevan (photos from Louis Grandjouan)



Rebecca Ricketts (née Green) (ST 2006): We have just welcomed a new arrival to our family. William Henry Ricketts was born on 15th February, weighing 8lb 3 ounces. He is absolutely wonderful and I'm looking forward to introducing him to everyone.

Anna Oldmeadow (ST 2006): I'm still in Canberra, at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. I'm spending 2017 learning Farsi before heading to Tehran in 2018 as Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy there.

Oliver Walker (ST 2006): My wife and I are expecting our first child in April - everything else seems pretty dreary by comparison!

Andrew Cammish (ST 2006): Over the past year we welcomed our daughter, Evelyn Anne Cammish, into the family. Since arriving in June we have enjoyed watching her grow and develop. We do however sometimes miss the days when she wasn't quite as mobile and baby-proofing was not mandatory! We have not yet arranged a first trip to Turkey but the little one has already experienced her first flights as we visited Lisbon in March so it won't be long before we brave the longer flights! Work-wise in November I was promoted to Associate at Burges Salmon and continue to specialise in commercial real estate disputes.

Geri Della Rocca de Candal (ST 2007): I am continuing my work on early printing as an ERC Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Bodleian Library. This has led me to travel to many European countries, and Greece in particular, cataloguing the early collections of monasteries and small public libraries. This summer I will travel on the northern route of the Silk Road bordering the Taklamakan Desert, in Western China, the ideal continuation of a travel initiated ten years ago in Anatolia and the Caucasus, thanks to the RSMF. I am very honoured to attend my tenth annual dinner in a row.

Lucy Fisher (ST 2009): I am very excited to say that last autumn I became engaged to Theo and we are set to be married in Sussex in September. That major item of personal news dovetailed with a rather explosive year for political news, which I cover as a correspondent at The Times.

After reporting on the shock Brexit result, two party leadership contests and a change of administration, I recovered in time to hotfoot it Washington DC to cover Donald Trump's inauguration.

Kate Purcell (ST 2009): I am still a research fellow at the University of Technology, Sydney, though I live in the beautiful Blue Mountains to the west. My research examines the legal concepts of statehood and territory and their relation in international law. I am working on a historical study at present, which means a lot of time in the archives. I will be travelling for some time next year to continue my research, but in the meantime I am enjoying the sandstone cliffs and mallee heathland of the area where I grew up.

Xiaowei Xu (ST 2010): Last summer I travelled to western Kazakhstan by cargo ship from Baku, to visit the vast plateaus of Mangystau and the underground Sufi shrines (and lots of oil towns along the way). I also went hiking in the 'Accursed Mountains' in Albania with my fellow Short Traveller Chris Lack shortly before his wedding. The mountains lived up to their name when an overzealous host and poor map-reading skills left us scaling a cliff edge in a thunderstorm - an experience that quickly cured Chris of any wedding jitters! I'm now spending a year in India with the Gates Foundation, working on the Foundation's first ever gender equity strategy. I'm looking forward to learning some Hindi and exploring the country.

Josh Barley (ST 2011): I have continued to wander around the Mediterranean and Balkans over the last year, visiting familiar territory in Italy, Greece and Turkey, and taking my first steps in Serbia and Macedonia. I am working on the selected poems of the Greek poet Michalis Ganas in English translation, and slowly making headway with my own book about his homeland, Epirus. With all attempts at settling in England failed, I have turned to Athens as my permanent base.

Ed Lewis (ST 2012): Having joined a leadership advisory firm shortly before the last annual dinner, I have begun a postgraduate course in Psychology to complement the work I'm doing. Enjoying getting back to studying and spinning plates.

Oliver Dammone (ST 2012): I'm still trying to ride my bike but have less time these days. I've spent the last three years working for BAE systems in their cyber security practice. Currently organising a return trip to Turkey...

Julia Schollick (ST 2012): I successfully defended my DPhil thesis in January 2016 and have since started working for the technology consultancy company BAE Systems Applied Intelligence only an hour West of Oxford in Gloucester. After eight years in Oxford, it's nice to be close enough to come back regularly and visit old stomping ground, particularly as fellow Short Traveller Oliver Dammone and I are planning our wedding. I did a month of wonderful solo travelling in Australia before I started work, going to Sydney, Tasmania, Perth and a remote part of WA called Coral Bay. I look forward to my next opportunity to travel.'

Tristen Naylor (ST 2013): In 2016 I was named Most Acclaimed Lecturer in the Social Sciences at Oxford and I continue in my post as Lecturer in Diplomatic Studies at the University. I have also just launched a new company, Diplomatic Solutions, a consultancy which advises businesses and charities on international politics and aims to boost their 'diplomatic capacity' on the world's stage.

Robert Natzler (ST 2014): I'm still working at Baillie Gifford in Edinburgh, where I'm currently part of the team of stockpickers working on the UK market. The work is fascinating in itself, and is additionally stimulating me to continue reading around economic theory and history. I'm keeping up with my Farsi lessons, and last spring was able to enjoy a month driving round central/northern Iran. This autumn I'm likely to be spending some time in Egypt (although I stress, not the Sinai) - if anyone has any advice or contacts in the area they'd like to share, I'd be thrilled to be contacted on robert.s.natzler@gmail.com.

Stuart Perrett (ST 2015): After reading for an MSc in Sociology at Oxford last year, I will be starting a PhD in Sociology at New York University this September, continuing my research on the quantitative analysis of social identities and attitudes. Before my PhD begins I will be a research intern at the London-based think tank Demos.

David Astley (ST 2015): I have recently moved to London and I am beginning to realise how horrible the day-to-day pollution is.

Samvartika Bajpai (ST 2015): I'm currently working in London as an Analytics consultant for railways, quite a different world from when I studied History at Univ - my most exciting work-related travels are now to glamorous Milton Keynes. I am hoping to move to Italy or Greece next year for further study, so heading in the right direction (quite literally)!

Odette Chalaby (ST 2015): I am currently undertaking a Master's in Near and Middle Eastern Studies with Arabic at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London. As part of this I spent three months last summer in Amman, Jordan studying at Qasid Arabic Institute. I study the politics and modern history of the region, and have learnt a tremendous amount more about Turkey!

John-Henry Charles (ST 2016): Fresh-faced from graduating and my Short Traveller adventure, I've now been in work

for four months with Boston Consulting Group in the Middle East. I still try to get outside, have adventures in the region and be in sailboats as much as time allows.

Louis Grandjouan (ST 2016): I have moved to London to train as a lawyer, the prospect of Brexit having interfered with past plans. But this is an insurance policy: I am looking at ways to move to Istanbul for an extended period of time. Other plans related to the region multiply apace - I am organising a trip to Lebanon, and hope to return to Georgia this year.

The University College Record listed the following academic honours:

Louis Grandjouan (ST 2016) awarded a First in Jurisprudence and also the Alan Urbach Prize, for the highest mark in the Jurisprudence paper. John-Henry Charles awarded a First in Earth Sciences. Geri Della Rocca de Candal (ST 2007) and Julia Schollick (ST 2012) were awarded DPhil's. In addition, Odette Chalaby (ST 2014) while studying for her Master's in Near and Middle Eastern Studies represented SOAS in the 2016-17 season of University Challenge. Congratulations to all!

Roger Short Memorial Fund Travel Journal. The journal prize is awarded at the dinner each year. A bound copy of each journal is kept in Univ library. Previous winners are: Theo Papaioannou (2005), Andrew Cammish & Rebecca Green (2006), Ethan Kay (2007), Robin Froggatt-Smith & Olivier Holmey (2008), Carys Roberts (2009), Jesse Simon (2010), Josh Barley (2011), Edward Lewis (2012), Tristen Naylor (2013), Robert Natzler (2014), David Astley (2015).

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 for donating via Gift Aid, with tax advantages for donor and recipient. Alternatively, please contact: William Roth, Director of Development, University College, Oxford, OX1 4BH, Phone: +(44) (0) 1865 276986, Email: william.roth@univ.ox.ac.uk

Appreciation. Many thanks again to all donors to the Fund. The Short Travellers are very appreciative of the unique opportunities made possible by the Roger Short Memorial Fund travel awards.

Special thanks goes to Robin Froggatt-Smith for his tireless commitment to this, his 9th, newsletter. The organisers also thank Louise Wright, the Master's PA, for her administrative support and organisation of the annual dinner.



The 2016 dinner: 30 Short Travellers. From the back row, left to right: Julia Schollick, Jeff Hawke, John-Henry Charles, Oli Dammone, Rob Phipps, Andrew Cammish, Stuart Perrett, Josh Barley, Louis Grandjouan, Matt Kinloch. Second row: Joanna Palermo, Johanna Schiele, Molly Scott, Sam Bajpai, Robin Froggatt-Smith, Sam George, Oli Walker, Marcel Dietsch. Third row: Xiaowei Xu, Tristen Naylor, Lizzie German, Beth McDonald, Odette Chalaby, Gabby Savage, Rebecca Ricketts, David Astley. Kneeling: Arthur Wolstenholme, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Ed Lewis, Hugh Moorhead (missing from the photo: Rebecca Elvin).
