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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD

Roger Short Memorial Fund Newsletter

An Introduction from Lucy Fisher - Short Traveller 2009

This year Turkey has been thrust into an increasingly central role in some of the most challenging global problems of this century so far: the Syrian civil war and the related migration crisis. Set in that context, the work of the Roger Short Memorial Fund – which has now sent over 60 Univ students to the nation and surrounding region – is more important than ever.

It has been a great pleasure to read both the excerpts from the travel diaries of last year's Short Travellers, as well as peruse the ambitious plans of this year's cohort, which extend from mapping the migrant crisis to visiting the war graves of Gallipoli and exploring the wonders of Cappadocia. Since my first trip to the nation in 2009 – as a Short Traveller – when fellow classicist Alice Morton and I spent a summer clambering through sun-dappled oleander groves to marvel over ancient ruins, my interest in Turkey has tilted towards the geopolitical.

This January, in my role as a political journalist, I accompanied the Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on an official visit to Ankara and Adana province in the south east. In the capital he met with President Erdogan before travelling on to Saricam, a clean and well-equipped camp that is at present home to 12,000 refugees. The trip also took in a civil defence training centre for the Syrian "White Helmets". This Turkish-led initiative prepares Syrian volunteers who act as an emergency response service after devastating airstrikes decimate their towns. The most striking insight I gained from the trip was the extraordinary depth of Turkey's hospitality. It has now accepted almost three million refugees, according to some estimates, and the dignitaries I met spoke with pride of their nation's generous response to the displaced who arrive seeking sanctuary.

Continued over the page.



Short Travellers at the 2015 Dinner, left to right, standing: Jeff Hawke, Geri Della Rocca de Candal, Josh Barley, Oliver Dammone, David Astley, Andrew Cammish, Marcel Dietsch, Rob Natzler, Jonathan Tilley, Joanna Palermo, Stuart Perrett. Seated Carys Roberts, Gabby Savage, Rebecca Ricketts (Green), Krista Sirola, Julia Schollick, Abi Reeves, Ruth Hattersley, Sam Bajpai. Missing from the photo: Tom Cole, Rebecca Elvin, Lizzie German.

News: The Roger Short Memorial Fund

Continued from previous page. Hospitality – in its various guises as a virtue, a duty and a ritual – lies at the heart of Turkish culture. It has been the subject of works by some of the nation's most celebrated literary children, including more recently Orhan Pamuk. Turkey is a vastly complex country and far from perfectly run – the intrigue surrounding last year's two elections, the deplorable crackdown on its media and its highly problematic treatment of Kurds all point to its flaws – but the infamous hospitality of its people is worthy of reflection. I am sure it is a characterisation all Short Travellers will recognise from their own experiences. This year I was humbled to see that this formal host culture extends to refugees fleeing the horrors of war as well as to privileged western students.

As ISIS attacks reached Istanbul in recent months and bombs claimed by various Kurdish militias have struck all over the country, the need for international cooperation and understanding grows ever stronger. Roger Short came to love the country that he first arrived in almost fifty years ago, and the fund in his memory has now helped 63 students to begin their own lifelong relationship with Turkey, this has never been so important. On behalf of all Roger Short Memorial Fund alumni, I would like to thank the founders, the donors, Lord Butler and Sir Ivor Crewe, the two Masters of Univ, who have guided and

supported the Roger Short Memorial Fund since its inception, and Victoria Short, in particular for her hospitality in Istanbul.

The Dinner. We were honoured by the presence of the Turkish Ambassador, Abdurrahman Bilgiç, at the annual dinner in May 2015. In his remarks after the dinner, Ambassador Bilgiç referred to Roger Short as having been a true friend of Turkey, who was loved by all his contacts in the country. Roger's ambition to improve relationships between Turkey and the UK continues to flourish with the Univ travel scholarship programme. In his remarks, the Master described Turkey as providing an inexhaustible inspiration to the inquisitive traveller, with its rich cultural heritage as well as its critical role in the modern world. Travelling in Turkey can be more challenging than in Western Europe, but the educational rewards are very valuable.

The Alington Room was again filled to capacity, with 57 guests, of whom 25 were Short Travellers, past and present. The prize for best journal was awarded to Rob Natzler. He wrote a fascinating account of his adventurous travels through Georgia, describing fortuitous encounters with Israelis, Hungarians, Ukrainians, Kazakhs, Japanese and Americans – none of whom, like him, could be described as "tourists". A selection of the full travel journals can be found in the Fund section of the Univ website.

News: Robert Natzler 2015 Journal Winner

Rob Natzler writes: It was my first time east of Vienna. Tbilisi sits in a mountainous bowl, the dusty modern city surrounded by 11th century churches and spotted with lush rose gardens. To the west, the medieval capital of Mskheta lies between the forks of a river confluence, under the watch of Jvari monastery, site of the 4th century national conversion. A single high lonely stone chamber encloses the wooden cross raised upon the holy rock, the unpainted walls murmuring softly from the hilltop wind.

Gori is further west still, its homes still marked with bullet wounds from the 2008 siege. Occupied by Hungarian peacekeepers, it is the nearest point to the acropolis of Uplistsikhe, an Iron Age cave city left desolate in the middle of a more recent desert, its pillared caverns dusty and cracked.

I got to Svaneti on the Russian border by marshrutka and night train. Squeezed between Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the alpine region has been secure for almost a decade. Semi-nomadic cattle herds move between the drystone watchtowers of the valleys to the wooden chalet-huts in the high pasture, where the backdrop of glaciers echoes with the clamour of cow-bells. There is a half-built road to Ushguli, its path broken increasingly by waterfalls and scree falls until at last it decays into a dirt track through the highest valleys. At Mestia they are building an airport, and as I arrived had just begun carving out the first ski slopes on the wooded hillsides.

I paid tribute to Queen Tamar's old battlegrounds at Khertvisi and Vardzia, and whilst staying with some Georgian students heard the legend of her seven gravediggers and their seven graves. Her father, David the Builder, expelled the Turkish occupier, but it was his daughter Tamar – Tamar the Great – who repelled Iranian invaders and reestablished the Byzantine royalty in a new capital at Trebizond. At Posof I hitch-hiked into Turkey with a truck driver, the crusader-crossed flag of Georgia contrasting sharply with Turkey's white crescent on its sea of blood.

Ani near Kars was like a medieval vision of the apocalypse, a great Silk Road city now just crumbling walls and rubble, dotted with a few broken churches, and flanked by border posts – one side Turkish, the other, Armenian. Kars' population fell by more than half in 1923. According to my taxi driver, the Armenians just set fire to their homes one night and left, spontaneously. My hosts were unbelievably generous, and their baklava was amazing. Goreme was predictably gorgeous, all Greek cave-churches and multi-layered underground cities. In Istanbul, it was the tomb of Suleiman the Magnificent that struck me the most. This shaded tomb was the resting place of the great sultan who had besieged Vienna and almost brought the Holy Roman Empire to its knees. Here, laid in pomp and splendour in the midst of the appropriated capital of the East, his burial place felt a fitting end to a journey that had begun by the statue of David the Builder, sitting on his horse overlooking the last Christian remnant of old Byzantium. A historical pilgrimage, it is a route I wholeheartedly recommend.

Colossus of Atatürk (photo by David Astley).



Short Travellers 2016

John-Henry Charles (ST 2016) John-Henry Charles is a 4th year reading Earth Sciences. He plans to cycle to Ankara from Oxford on a roundabout route which will involve a stop-off at Univ's chalet in the Alps, a sailing trip to the Cyclades and time exploring Istanbul. John-Henry will be joining the Boston Consulting Group in the Middle East next year. He therefore hopes to use the ride and his time in Turkey to learn more about the Near East in order to better understand and frame the region to which he will be moving. He will be cycling from Athens to Istanbul with Johanna, another of this year's RSMF scholars.

Louis Grandjouan (ST 2016) and **Hugh Moorhead (ST 2016)** Louis Grandjouan is a 3rd year reading Law and Hugh Moorhead is a 4th year reading Classics. Louis hopes to enter the Foreign Office, and has a particular interest in Turkey and its role within the Middle East. Hugh is keen to explore the influence of the Romans on the country. Together, thanks to the Roger Short Memorial Fund, they will begin their journey in Istanbul, before heading to Cappadocia and exploring this beautiful region. From there, they will head along the Black Sea coast into Georgia, where they will hike in the Tusheti region and spend a few days in Tbilisi. The final stop will be Armenia, and the culturally rich city of Yerevan.

Matthew Kinloch (ST 2016) Matthew Kinloch is a second year DPhil candidate in Byzantine history. His doctoral research is directly involved with the intersection between historical depictions of politics and architecture in the thirteenth century Byzantine. Thanks to the generous support of the Roger Short Memorial Fund he will be able to travel in north-eastern Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia to further his research and better understand the modern states which are fundamental to the current state of academic research in the

area. In Georgia and Turkey he will work alone, while in Armenia he will be part of the Oxford University Byzantine Society's research trip to Armenia, which he has organised personally as the president of the society. The OUBS research trip consists of a group of 28 Oxford and affiliated researchers, who will visit and analyse over 40 archaeological sites.

Johanna Schiele (ST 2106) Johanna Schiele is a 2nd year reading PPE. She is mainly interested in International Relations, especially politics of the Middle East and the wider region, as well as in environmental economics. Johanna will cycle from Athens to Istanbul, depending on the political situation closer to time via Macedonia and Bulgaria. Wanting to pursue a career in journalism and having had multiple work experiences with German television and newspapers, she now hopes to build up a portfolio in English as well. She wants to use her travels to publish reports and a blog, especially in connection with the current migration crisis in Europe.

Arthur Wolstenholme (ST 2016) Arthur Wolstenholme is in his 3rd year at Univ. Having studied Physics and Philosophy for a year and a half, he changed degree course to study Philosophy and Theology. While in Turkey he hopes to visit many sites of theological interest, including the 7 Churches in the Book of Revelation, the sites of the major Ecumenical councils and Cappadocia, the home of many of the most influential theologians in the early Church. As one of the few countries with both a secular constitution and a population over 95% Muslim, Turkey is also of great interest in the study of contemporary religion and Arthur hopes that through conversations he can gain a greater appreciation of the role of religion within contemporary Turkish society. He also hopes to visit his great- great uncle's grave in Gallipoli.

Trotsky's Mansion, Büyükdada,



Bas Relief, Holy Cross Cathedral, Akdamar Island; (photos by David Astley).



Jeff Hawke writes: I spent two weeks in Turkey on the Short Memorial travel scholarship in September 2015. I need to begin by expressing my thanks to the Short Memorial Fund and Univ for this scholarship, as I wouldn't have been able to make the trip without this support.

I planned my trip to take in as much of the country as I could within the time I had available as a DPhil student, particularly focussing on understanding the history and experiencing the natural environment. Growing up in New Zealand, my only prior understanding of Turkey as a country and culture was from learning about my country's involvement in the Gallipoli campaign against the Ottoman Empire in the First World War. Needless to say, these significant events in New Zealand's short history form only a very, very small part of Turkey's – after all, the first humans arrived in New Zealand around the same time Univ was founded.

As I was time constrained, I hired a rental car for a one-way trip as this was much more time efficient and meant being able to go to places which are otherwise difficult to access – particularly areas where I wanted to go hiking, or some of the less frequented ruins.

This route went down the Aegean coast, visiting Greek and Roman ruins; then across the southern coast up to Cappadocia, ending in Ankara. All up this was a 2200km journey over nine days, followed by a final five days based in Istanbul.

There were many highlights on the trip. I particularly enjoyed seeing some of the famous Greco-Roman ruins in the flesh. Walking through some of the quieter ruined towns on the Aegean coast is a surreal experience. The grandeur and scale of their towns is something which needs to be experienced. It was fascinating to see first hand the effects of environmental change on some of these ancient cities, which dwindled and faded as these once coastal towns became landlocked.

The diversity of natural scenery was another highlight. Turkey has stunning coastlines, mountains and rolling steppes. I was able to fit in a number of day hikes during my trip, including carefully scaling the cliffs in Kelebekler Vadisi (Butterfly Valley),

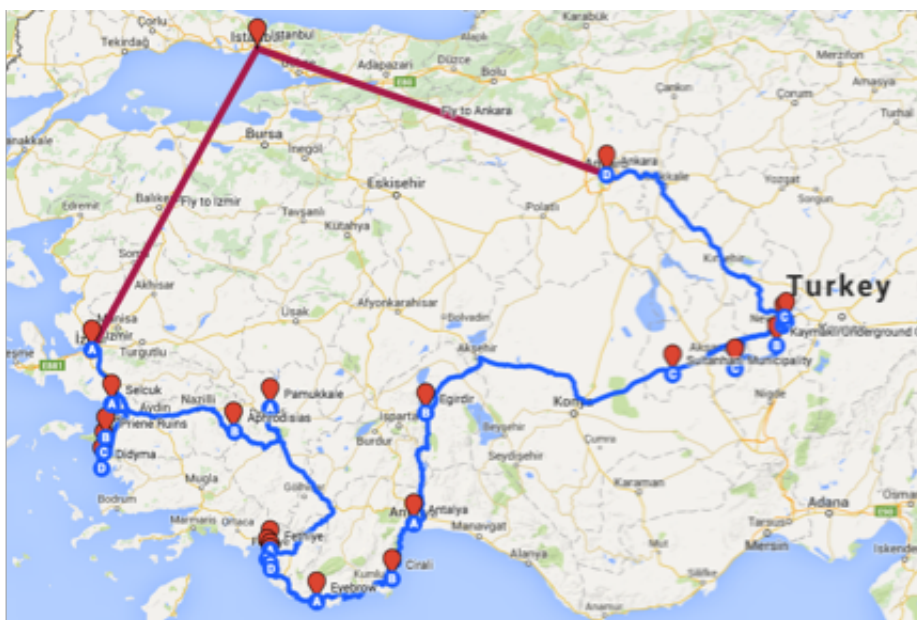
walking along the coast near Cirali, and discovering frescos in the churches in the Ihlara Valley.

Being immersed in Turkish culture for two weeks was a crash course in new foods and cultural norms. I'm slightly better at bartering now, and I have a well stocked pantry of spices for my own attempts to recreate Turkish cuisine. The diversity of architecture was just as impressive as the cuisine. The segments of Hittite ruins in the museums are very different yet just as impressive as the Ottoman legacy in Istanbul, and these two categories only cover a fraction of history. This architectural layering was particularly notable in the Kaleiçi in Antalya: Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk, Ottoman, surrounded by modern Turkey.

Visiting Turkey thanks to the Short scholarship was a very memorable experience. I gained a deeper understanding of the country, culture, people, and landscape, and news articles about Turkey have a new significance to me as a result. Turkey has firmly made my list of favourite places to visit, and I look forward to travelling through new parts of this wonderful country in the future.



Anticlockwise from top: turkish flag in flower beds (photo by Jeff Hawke); Jeff Hawke's itinerary; Cappadocia (photo by David Astley).



David Astley writes: For five weeks in September and October of last year I travelled around Turkey, following a kind of rectangular, 4500km long path. And now, in dreary Lancashire, I flick through my hundreds of photos and find it hard to summarise and highlight such a rich trip in a few hundred words.

Like most, I started in Istanbul, splitting my time between the sites and Biennial for over a week. The Museum of Innocence and Chora Church are what I remember most fondly from the city of seemingly endless fascination. Exploring the Biennial, from Pamuk's Beyoglu to Trotsky's Büyükdada, revealed a greater depth to Istanbul and wonderful exhibitions from Ed Atkins, Cevdet Erek, Walid Raad, Esra Ersen, to name a few. Leaving Istanbul, I spent a week primarily visiting three of the many ancient sites that mark the Aegean coast. I was, perhaps naively, surprised by the striking differences between Ephesus, Hierapolis and Aphrodisias, each presenting a style of ruin, beauty and wonder.

In Central Anatolia I travelled from the Egirdir to Cappadocia via Konya. On the lakeside I ate wonderfully, sampling every preserve crafted by the hostel owner's mother and gorging on the crisp fish fresh from the lake. After a fix of walking and swimming, I arrived in Konya on the evening of Eid al-Adha, the city silent. My experience of the city would oscillate between hectic and quaint – joining the pilgrims in silent admiration of the incredible mausoleum and wandering the empty streets during their prayer time. Before leaving, I joined the other orientalist for the transfixing and odd experience of a recreated sema ceremony at the cold, new amphitheatre. In Cappadocia I walked for five days through the alien landscape, getting happily lost each of those days amongst the canyons, chimneys and frescoed hollows.

A little against my will, I chaperoned two old Chinese ladies from Göreme to Malatya and through to Mt. Nemrut. The incredibly burial site of Antiochus I, king of the otherwise forgotten Commagene, was fittingly accompanied by a storm. The crumbling heads illuminated in a bizarre fashion to a chorus of thunder, a dramatic touch that I'm sure Antiochus would approve of. I arrived in Van in the company of two Dutch men (with whom I would spend the rest of my time in Turkey) and was returned to reality. Syrian children desperately wandered the PKK graffitied streets, army trucks ominously passing by. Outside the city, I toured the cinematically located sites – the Urartian castles, Kurdish fortresses and the Holy Cross Cathedral of Akdamar Island, whose history is a microcosm of 20th century Turkish-Armenian relations.

In Kars, this relationship was witnessed again. Ani, the ancient capital of Armenia, straddles the gorged border, its ruins sitting amongst barbed wire and lookouts. We explored alone, only the rustle of the grass and wind beaten churches whispering. The red and black ruins of Ani are what I remember most fondly of my trip, even with the lingering annoyance of some nationalistic archaeology.

Heading back west, we drove through the Georgian Valleys for three days to a soundtrack of near exclusive techno, stopping to admire the incredible views and feats of 10th and 21st century construction, the churches and David Magistros and Çoruh River dams. The most fantastic structure, however, was the 22-metre tall 'Colossus of Atatürk', who sternly looks down upon Artvin and his disintegrating cast that sits amongst the rubbish of his

carpark. In Yusufeli, on our way back to Erzurum, we learn of the bombings in Ankara inside a silent café, our gazes fixed upon the same repeating clip. In Erzurum, we boarded the 22-hour Eastern Express. The attack and the upcoming elections dominated my conversations with the Kemalist chef on board, a man who bitterly repeats the same phrase: 'He's a mo*****er.'

The glass had been replaced by the time I reached Ankara train station but the military and police still blockaded the square. With only 10 hours in the capital, I rushed from the wonderful Museum of Anatolian Civilizations to the utterly bizarre and beautiful Anıtkabir before wandering the bustling streets of Kızılay to the sound of protest close by.

When I flick through my photos, the amazing sites and vistas flash past my eyes. But there is an element of my trip missing – the wonderfully friendly people. Those who helped me, were curious about my presence ('Why are you here?' was a common question east of Cappadocia) and flashed big grins whenever I mispronounced the simplest of Turkish phrases all brightened my five weeks in Turkey immensely. I am so thankful to the Roger Short Memorial Fund, all its Trustees and the College for making this journey and these interactions a possibility.



Top to bottom: Mt Nemrut; Pamukkale/Hierapolis
(photos by David Astley).

Stuart Perrett writes: The generosity of the Roger Short Travel Scholarship allowed me to travel to Northern Turkey, up into Central Bulgaria and down through Greece in September 2015. The following is a highlight from my travel diary.

Edirne is one of the most Northwestern cities in Turkey, less than 20 kilometers away from Turkey's borders with Bulgaria and Greece. The third capital of Ottoman Empire from 1363 to 1453, and because of this it boasts the most impressive Selimiye Mosque built by the famed architect Mimar Sinan. Edirne was charming in a way that Istanbul's sheer size prevented it from being. The city hummed with activity and a busy market on the Saturday. The Selimiye Mosque simply towered above its surroundings and was truly (and I record here my physical response and not just cliché) breathtaking. The city itself is famed for its oil wrestling; a tournament that has taken place continuously for over 650 years.

The local delicacies of Ciger tava and Cacık, were surprisingly delicious. Deep fat fried lamb's liver served with yoghurt and cucumber as well as a seemingly unnamed spicy sauce.

The challenge of travelling across the border into Bulgaria became apparent: due, I suspect, to the intensifying Syrian crisis (in previous months groups of refugees had gathered in Edirne before attempting to travel into central Europe) there were no direct buses leaving Edirne into Bulgaria, and there had been no trains leaving north from Istanbul. Luckily the brother of the owner of the hostel gave up the necessary information. After hitchhiking to motorway service station close to the Border, I would be able to catch an international bus heading to Sofia, and it would drop me off in Plovdiv (my planned destination). I was told the bus would arrive at around 11 that evening, it would pull up on the hard shoulder and stop briefly in front of the petrol station.

I arrived at the place where the bus would (hopefully) pick me up at around 8pm. Behind a small petrol station, and beyond an empty concrete car park, stood a supermarket and motel complex.

Waiting for this unofficial bus was a bizarre event. I sat on a picnic table, with several Turkish families sat nearby eating kebabs. However, we were completely surrounded by several hundred armed police; each one with sub-machine guns and gas masks. The motel most probably served as a base for the police who were preventing Syrian refugees from crossing into Bulgaria; those young men off duty were wearing tracksuits and flip-flops, with

automatic pistols tucked into their waistbands. I was shocked by this casual brandishing of weapons as policemen, both on-duty and off, chatted over cigarettes, coffee and kebabs.

At around 10pm, the uniformed policemen were picked up by three unmarked, white coaches and on their way. My own bus arrived, amusingly given the nature of its stop, exactly on time at 11pm. The driver checked my passport and within an hour the bus was being ransacked by both Bulgarian and Turkish border guards.

The lengthy process at the border delayed my arrival in Plovdiv. However this inadvertently resulted in perhaps my fondest travelling memory: sitting in the café of a music school overlooking the Roman Theatre of Plovdiv, with the Balkan mountains in view beyond and behind the porticos of the Theatre's marble stage. Drinking espressos, I felt relieved to have made it across the border in one piece, and pleased with my navigation from Plovdiv bus station to the Old Town along dark, empty streets at 5 o'clock in the morning.

I would like to thank all those involved in the Roger Short Scholarship for the wonderful opportunity to visit Turkey and its neighbouring countries; I simply would not have been able to explore this part of the world without the fund. A special thank you goes to Victoria Short who was so hospitable and especially enjoyable company one evening in Istanbul (in addition the view of Istanbul from her apartment roof in the European quarter is 'postcard perfect' as they say).

Sultan Ahmet Mosque (photo by Stuart Perrett)



News: Past Short Travellers

Rebecca Ricketts (née Green) (ST 2006): I'm now leading a transformation and change team at BT, focusing on key projects such as the acquisition of EE. I was fortunate enough to do a lot of travelling last year, spending time in Iceland, Brazil, Argentina and New Zealand. I'm hoping that 2016 will be another great year for travel. I am also still making time for my two horses (and sometimes my husband!)

Andrew Cammish (ST 2006): I'm still enjoying working in the Real Estate Disputes team at Burges Salmon in Bristol primarily working for commercial land owners, lenders and property managers. Outside of work, I am very happy to say that my wife, Abby, and I are expecting our first child in July – sleepless nights await!

Geri Della Rocca de Candal (ST 2007): Since last year, Geri has slowly continued

with his post-doctoral research, which will soon bring him to travel to Greece, for the best part of March and April 2016, cataloguing early printed books in monasteries and small local libraries throughout the whole Hellenic countryside, islands included.

Over Christmas 2015 he has travelled solo to Burma, while in summer 2016 he plans to travel to Kazakhstan and

Western China, trailing the part of the Silk Road bordering the northern side of the Taklamakan Desert.

While recently reading Giosafat Barbaro's report of his Venetian embassy to Persia in 1471, Geri realised that, past Adana, in Southern Anatolia, in his '07 itinerary with Ethan Kay and Ben Drury he was travelling along the same itinerary of the Venetian ambassador and his party: Adana [Adana], Orphe [Urfa, i.e. Edessa], Merdin [Mardin], Asancheff [Hasankeyf]. These two parties only really split when the convoy was raided by the Cordi [Kurds] in the Taurus range, at which point the Short Travellers greeted the Venetian ambassador farewell, and headed North, while he proceeded towards Persia. In the following weeks the Short Travellers were spared from further raids, presumably because they were carrying neither spices nor gold. No Short Traveller was harmed during the production of this chronologically dubious anecdote.

Lucy Fisher (ST 2009): I'm still at The Times reporting on British politics, with a growing sideline as a talking head for the BBC and Sky News. The general election and rise of Jeremy Corbyn made 2015 a thrilling time to be a political journalist and the EU referendum is among the exciting landmarks expected this year.

My love of Turkey endures and a long weekend in Istanbul last June gave me the chance to introduce my boyfriend Theo to the country and to catch up with Victoria and Thomas. Over rosé on the roof terrace at Soho House (a rather glamorous afternoon!), our conversation turned to the darker subject of the refugee crisis engulfing Turkey, on which Victoria provided much expert insight. I had the chance to learn more for myself in January when I accompanied Philip Hammond, the Foreign Secretary, on a reporting trip to Ankara and then to a Syrian refugee camp and a civil defence training centre in Adana, in the south east.

Kate Purcell (ST 2009): I completed my PhD in Law at the University of Cambridge in 2013. My thesis was awarded the Law Faculty's Yorke Prize. Since graduating, I have held research fellowships at the University of New South Wales and, more recently, at the University of Technology, both in Sydney, Australia.

My research is in the field of international law—I look at thought and practice

relating to statehood and territory, as well as various dimensions of refugee movements. So while I haven't been back to Greece, Turkey, or Syria since 2009, these are places I spend a lot of time thinking about. The Palestinian refugee camp I visited near Aleppo no longer exists. Those who survived its occupation by armed groups will be among the more than four million refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries, including Turkey. Or they may be among the seven and a half million people who are internally displaced in Syria. Among other things, travel can prevent such statistics from having an anaesthetic effect. It's devastating to know that lives you have walked amongst have been so broken. But to really think of those lives is also to refuse despair.

Jesse Simon (ST 2010): Since completing his doctoral thesis in 2012, Jesse has been living in Berlin working primarily as an opera critic and freelance editor. He returned to Turkey (Samsun) for a week in October of 2014 — his first visit since going there in 2010 as a recipient of the RSMF.

Sam George (ST 2010): I am in my third year as a management consultant at Bain & Company, doing a diverse range of engagements from oil and gas in the North Sea to work for the New Zealand government insurance arm. The spirit of the Roger Short Fellowship lives on - after travelling to Turkey in early spring last year, I also travelled to Iran in April; since then, I have joined the Iran Society in London and follow developments with much interest at this time of great change. A Univ friend (Christy Davis, Philosophy and Psychology 2011) and I are planning a return trip to Iran and Lebanon.

I continue to follow my interest in education and in particular in education technology; I have recently joined the UK fundraising arm of my old school board as a Trustee, as well as set up an initiative to encourage employees at Bain & Company to become governors of state schools in the UK.

Ed Lewis (ST 2012): I'm currently living in London and pursuing a career in Exec Search. Last year I had the opportunity to go to Istanbul with work so I have been keeping in touch with my Turkish inclinations. I have also recently succumbed to nostalgia for my degree and joined the Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies which organises regular events

and conferences in the field.

Josh Barley (ST 2011): Having finished my MA in Modern Greek at King's College, London, in September, I spent the Autumn travelling around the region of Epirus, on the border of Greece and Albania. I am now working towards a book about the area (something not dissimilar from a Roger Short travel diary!) and keeping myself afloat doing Greek translations.

Tristen Naylor (ST 2013): I'm still in Oxford where I am now the Lecturer in Diplomatic Studies, teaching the MSc degree that I did seven years ago when I first arrived at Univ. I'll be in this post until 2017.

Lizzie German (ST 2014): After finishing my Chemistry degree at Univ I went to Imperial to do a Masters in Sustainable Energy and now I work for a sustainable energy consultancy firm in London.

Robert Natzler (ST 2014): Over the last year, I've been able to travel to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, starting with a short week in the Ferghana Valley before moving along the old Silk Road to camp in the Karakum desert. I managed to get out of Ashgabad to ride up to the demilitarised zone on the Turkmen/Iranian border. I'm a poor rider, but I was escorted by a fire-eating Russian riding instructor who so visibly enjoyed wielding her crop that I think my posture was as close to flawless as it has ever been before or since!

My research in Ghana has pretty much come to an end, sadly, although the project goes on (and I faintly hope that the standard of living surveys I gathered might be of interest to some future slum historian). I'm now based in Edinburgh, where I'm doing research and analysis for an Emerging Markets investment fund at Baillie Gifford. It's much colder than West Africa, but every day is stimulating, and I feel that I am learning almost as much about the workings of modern politics and economics as I did at Oxford.

I'm taking Persian lessons, and am currently planning a (non-work) trip to Iran for the spring. Hopefully I'll be able to get in before various elections destabilise the region again!

We've got elections coming up in Scotland too, and America is going to be providing a diverting side show all year, so all in all - who says PPE students have to stop after graduating?

Short Travellers: Honours in 2015

The University College Record listed the following academic honours:

Odette Chalaby (ST 2015) awarded a first in PPE and also the Harold Wilson Prize for the best performance in PPE finals.

Tristen Naylor (ST 2013) awarded a D Phil.

Abi Reeves (ST 2014) the Kramer Prize for her major contribution to College life.

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).



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.

The organisers are particularly grateful to Robin Froggatt-Smith (ST 2008) for taking on the task of producing this, his eighth, newsletter. The organisers also thank Marion Hawtree, the Master's PA, for all her support in administration of the Fund and organisation of the annual dinner.



Top to bottom: border between Turkey and Armenia; playing football in Çatak, south of Van (photos by David Astley)
