

Oxford Australia Scholarship Fund



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From the Chairman, Oxford
Australia Scholarship Fund



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Scholarship applications or information on how to make a tax-deductible donation to the Oxford Australia Scholarship Fund can be accessed through the Oxford Australia website at <http://rsc.anu.edu.au/oxford>.

First of all, let me thank all the Donors whose generous contributions have made it possible, since the scholarship was first awarded in 1998, for 36 young Australians to read in Oxford with financial support from the Oxford Australia Scholarship Funds.

I am pleased to report that another four Australians will travel to Oxford over the coming year with the support from the Oxford Australia Scholarship Fund. I would also like to thank the British High Commission for their assistance in the selection of scholars and their contribution to the funding of the Chevening Oxford-Australia Scholarships. The Oxford Australia Scholarship Fund also gratefully acknowledges the considerable support to the scholars from their Alma Mater. At present, the Australian National University as well as the University of New South Wales, University of Sydney, and University of Tasmania are providing supplementary funding to their former students.

In honour of Sir Vincent Fairfax CMG, the founder of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and an Oxford graduate, we were very fortunate to receive another generous donation from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation in its 40th anniversary year, 2002. The \$120,000 donation has provided funding for two three-year life sciences research degrees for Australians at Oxford University. We thank the Trustees of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation for their support.

The fund raising by the Friends of Magdalen in Australia for the recently opened Magdalen College Oxford-Australia Scholarship Fund has been very successful and a scholarship will be available when the fund is complete. The continuous efforts of the Friends' Coordinator, the Honourable Ian Wilson, AM, has been highly effective and I thank him for his generous donation of time, money and effort to promote the creation of a named scholarship for the students at Magdalen College.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Stuart McCulloch for his dynamic fund raising on behalf of the University College Old Members Fund. Mr Kwan Hee Lee is the recipient of the University College Scholarship, and his studies are progressing very well as can be seen on the next pages.

The Oxford Australia Scholarship Funds are open for tax-deductible donations and the different funds are rapidly growing. For the academic year 2005-2006, nine scholars will be supported by the fund and we expect to appoint at least another four scholars when the Scholarship Committee meets in the autumn.

The academic backgrounds of the Applicants to the Oxford Australia Scholarship are simply outstanding. We received applications from 55 students this year, 45 of whom had obtained 1st Class Honours. Among the fifteen students short-listed, nine had graduated with a double degree, fourteen had obtained 1st Class Honours and six had received University medals as well as numerous other academic awards.

In June, I was able to meet with eleven of the Oxford Australia scholars currently in Oxford. It was a pleasure to hear of their experiences in Oxford, an opportunity made possible through the generosity of donors to the Oxford Australia Scholarship fund.

incorporating four Oxford Australia Scholarship Funds:

- James Fairfax Oxford-Australia
- Chevening Oxford-Australia

- University College Oxford-Old Members
- Magdalen College Oxford-Australia

James Fairfax Oxford-Australia Scholars



Brenda Tronson

2005 – 2006 Brenda Tronson, from Werombi, New South Wales, graduated from University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Science (Hons).

I have been working full-time in a law firm, and while this has convinced me that I do want to work as a legal practitioner in the long term (probably as a barrister), it has also reminded me how much I enjoyed being a student. So I'm looking forward to returning to student life, for the chance to explore legal problems beyond the bounds of a client's concerns as well as the more flexible hours!

I'll be reading for the BCL at Oxford, and my short-list of preferred subjects includes Comparative Public Law, European Contract Law, Evidence and Remedies. I would like to extend my studies with a one year MPhil, probably in Comparative Public Law. On the extra-curricular side, I'm looking forward to the chance to getting involved in activities different to those I was involved in at UNSW, and perhaps continuing some favourites as well.



Phil Manners

2005 – 2007 Phil Manners, from Armidale, New South Wales, currently in Sydney, graduated from the Australian National University in Canberra with a Bachelor of Economics (honours and University Medal) and a Bachelor of Science majoring in mathematics. Since graduating he has worked at the Reserve Bank of Australia and at the Centre for International Economics. At the first, he undertook research into monetary policy and exchange rates, futures markets and monetary policy in an uncertain world. At the Centre for International Economics he was involved in micro economic issues such as regulatory reform, the impact of trade and investment liberalisation and the assessment of economic policies.

Phil will undertake a Masters in Economics. He plans to focus on the economic framework, exploring issues such as the role of government and the links between consumption and happiness. In his other life, Phil plays nearly any sport and will be running in the Oxfam 100 km challenge in Sydney before beginning his course in October 2006.



Eloise Scotford

2004 – 2006 Eloise Scotford, from Sydney, graduated from the University of Sydney with a combined science/law degree and a University Medal in Law in 2001. Since graduating she has worked as an associate for the Chief Justice of Australia and is currently lecturing in Property Law and Equity at the University of New South Wales. She will undertake a Bachelor of Civil Law in Oxford, pursuing interests in equity, contract, intellectual property and European Union law. As a volunteer, she also provides legal advice at a homeless shelter in inner Sydney. Other interests include tennis, reading, horse-riding and she is a fluent French speaker.

Eloise was awarded the Eleanor Sophia Wood Postgraduate Research Travelling Scholarship from the University of Sydney to supplement her living and travelling expenses.

James Fairfax Oxford-Australia Scholars



Mark Thomson

2003 – 2006 Mark Thomson, from Adelaide, graduated from the Australian National University with two first class honours degrees and University Medals in Latin and English Literature. He began a Doctor in Philosophy (DPhil) in Classics, specialising in Late Antiquity, in particular St Augustine and Late Antique Religious Polemic, at Keble College, Oxford in 2003.

I have been working for the past eighteen months on a text known (wrongly) as the "Scriptores Historiae Augustae." This is a collection of thirty emperor biographies traditionally attributed to six authors writing during the reigns of Diocletian, Constantius and Constantine. It has long been recognised that these biographies were the work of a single author, who wrote around the turn of the fifth century, almost one hundred years later.

My thesis will advance a variety of hypotheses, which explain what might otherwise appear to be a crass and arbitrary imposture.

I will argue that the S.H.A. is not a forgery in the accepted sense of the word; indeed, the term "forgery" carries with it a range of anachronistic connotations. The author of the S.H.A. adopted a syncretic view of Roman history, emphasising the continuity between different periods, and articulating his ideas through etymologies, genealogies, rhetorical comparisons and topographical conceits.

The collection is full of hidden meanings. The traditional attributions of authorship, apparently spurious, obey a meaningful pattern, and the names of the six traditional authors are Latin puns. The S.H.A. contains an elaborate griphus, or literary puzzle, which can be solved by reference to a passage in the sixth satire of Juvenal.

Many of the confusions associated with the S.H.A. arise from accidents in the manuscript tradition, and it is possible to restore aspects of the autograph on the basis of internal evidence. The collection, in its earliest state, would have bridged the gap between two extant texts: a fact which may explain its perverse dedications to long dead emperors. These insights will, I hope, permit the first genuinely literary appreciation of a much maligned work, the subject of acrimonious debate amongst ancient historians.

In a distressing footnote to an otherwise happy year, it was widely suspected, even by those in positions of authority, that I had written the series of satirical newsletters that briefly disturbed the dogmatic slumbers of "Bleek House, Oxford." Nothing could be further from the truth. I have been, I repeat, far too busy unmasking the pseudepigrapha of the fourth century to author any of my own.

2003 – 2006 Simon Baptist, from Hobart, graduated from the University of Tasmania with a combined science/economics degree and first class honours and University Medal in Economics in 2002.

I am about to complete my masters thesis, entitled 'Technology and Substitution in Asian and African Manufacturing', as well as completing course work in Public Economics and Mathematical Economics. I am investigating manufacturing firms in Ghana and South Korea, with the aim of understanding the differences between the two so as to aid the development of firms in the developing world.

I have also been appointed a lecturer in Economics at St Peter's College, where I am teaching first year economics. Next year I will continue researching in a similar area and convert my MPhil into a DPhil. Outside of study, I have been on the committees of the Australia-New Zealand Society and the New College MCR, as well as enjoying lots of travel around the UK, running and playing Korfbal (a Dutch version of Basketball) for the University.



Simon Baptist

Chevening Oxford-Australia Scholars



Catherine Eakin

The Chevening Oxford Scholarships are funded jointly by the British High Commission and the Oxford Australia Scholarship Fund and are available for one year of study at the University of Oxford.

2005 - 2006 Catherine Eakin, from Kempsey, New South Wales, graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws degree with first class honours in 2001. Catherine will read for a Masters degree of Bachelor of Civil Law at St Johns College. Since graduating Catherine has worked as a tipstaff to a Supreme Court Judge in NSW and is currently employed in a financial services and corporate advisory practice. At Oxford, Catherine intends to pursue her interest in comparative corporate regulation, with a particular focus on market and business regulation and policy.

Catherine has been involved in the provision of pro bono advice to CanTeen (the Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer) and in various mentoring programmes. Other interests include music, theatre and fun-runs.



Alexander Phipps

2005 - 2006 Alexander Phipps, from Canberra, graduated from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Arts degree (History/Politics) with First Class Honours and a Bachelor of Law degree with First Class Honours and a University Medal. Alexander will read for a Masters level qualification of Bachelor of Civil Laws at St Edmunds Hall.

Alexander's extra curricular activities and interests include writing and reading, as well as tennis, cricket and swimming.

University College Old Members' Scholarship



Kwan Hee Lee

Past Australian scholars of University College at Oxford fund the University College Scholarship. This year the University of Sydney has also provided generous funding to supplement the scholarship as the successful recipient, Kwan Hee Lee, is a graduate of the University of Sydney.

2003 - 2006 Kwan Hee Lee, from Sydney, graduated from the University of Sydney with a double degree in Science and Electrical Engineering with first class honours and University Medal in Engineering.

The past 12 months could be best described as a crescendo. Having arrived in Trinity Term 2004, I spent the first term settling into my new surroundings. Since then I have kept myself busy preparing for my experiment - which involved spending most of the summer machining custom designed components for the experiment. Persistence was rewarded in October when I finally started on my experiment. Since then I have made good progress, with several interesting results that will be published in the coming months. Hence, the next 12 months will also be a busy time - to take advantage of the momentum.

Besides my research, I also served on the MCR committee as the OUSU Representative. This appointment came to conclusion last term. Also, I have been trying to learn to play croquet in my spare time.

Sir Vincent Fairfax Life Sciences Scholarship

A donation of \$120,000 was made in 2002 by the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation to celebrate its 40th anniversary year. In the honour of Oxford graduate and founder of the foundation, Sir Vincent Fairfax CMG, this donation has provided funding for three-year life sciences research degrees for two Australians at Oxford University.

The two scholarship holders, Mr Jonathan Lo and Mr Jason Wong, have been very successful in their studies, as can be seen below, at the same time as they are enjoying the stimulating and challenging student life of Oxford.



Jonathan Lo

2003 - 2006 Jonathan Lo, from Melbourne, graduated from the University of Queensland with a first class honours degree and University Medal in Engineering in 1996 and a Master of Engineering Science in 1998. Based at Balliol College, he is working in the Medical Vision Laboratory, specialising in the area of diagnostic medical analysis, such as tumour detection and disease localisation. He has also been awarded a full Clarendon Fund bursary from the University of Oxford to assist with his university and college fees.

I have enjoyed another great year in Oxford. I have made some good progress in my research, with one paper accepted for a major international conference and another one submitted. I am working on developing computer algorithms for early breast cancers detection using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Currently, my effort is put into trying to extract physiological information out of the images. Besides my research, I have enjoyed a great tennis season last summer (and looking forward to the coming one!). I have also tried to exercise a bit of my business muscle, and entered the Oxford Business Plan competition



Jason Wong

2003 - 2006 Jason Wong, from Sydney, graduated from the University of Sydney with a first class honours degree in Bioinformatics in 2002. Based at Linacre College, his DPhil research will involve the development of a computational tool intended to help the understanding of genomes.

Over the past year, my D.Phil has been most stimulating. My research has led me to learn and investigate a wide range of artificial intelligence methods in solving problems in proteomics. In collaboration clinical research groups in Ireland, I have had the opportunity to apply computational methods in an attempt to detect disease specific biomarkers that may be used to diagnose important diseases such as schizophrenia.

In non-academic areas, I have been elected as the treasurer for the graduate chemistry society, Catalyst, for the past year. Most recently, I have been chosen to captain the chemistry cricket team in this year's inter-departmental cricket competition.

Over the next year, I hope work towards completing my D.Phil and following this, to pursue a post-doctoral research position at a leading laboratory in my field of research.

Past Scholars



Andrew Battisson

2004 - 2005 Andrew Battisson, from Canberra, graduated from the Australian National University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree with first class honours in 2002. He has read for the Masters degree of Bachelor of Civil Law at St Anne's College and is looking forward to putting his new knowledge to good use.

After graduating from the Australian National University, Andrew practised in the fields of litigation and takeovers, and securities law in Sydney. At Oxford he has pursued his interest in these areas and the developing relationship between commercial law and improving compliance with human rights.

Andrew also won a scholarship from the international commercial law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer to supplement his Chevening scholarship.

2004 - 2005 Jodi Gray, from northern NSW, graduated from the Australian National University with a combined science/law degree in 2002 with two first class honours in science (Psychology) and law as well a University Medal in Law. Before leaving for Oxford, Jodi was working as a solicitor in Sydney, She was also working as a volunteer for the international humanitarian law section of the International Committee for the Red Cross. Jodi undertook a Bachelor of Civil Law with a focus on public international law including the law of war and international human rights, comparative human rights, international dispute resolution and conflict of laws.



Jodi Gray

The year in Oxford seems to have flown by. I have, as expected, focused on international law and human rights and am finding all the subjects I am studying fascinating. The small group tutorials (a characteristic of Oxford study) are proving to be both challenging and rewarding. There is much to absorb from an academic standpoint in Oxford with regular seminars on timely international law issues presented by leading practitioners, policy-makers and academics throughout the world. I am feeling very privileged to be in such a setting and learning a great amount. Aside from the academic, Oxford also provides through its collegiate system a great opportunity to become involved in new sports. I took up rowing in first term and rowed in the Christchurch Regatta for novices - and novices we were! It was all a lot of fun. In Spring, I turned to cricket and enjoyed breaking from my studies with the bat and ball occasionally.

2003 - 2004 Sophie Rigby, from Canberra, was awarded a Bachelor of Economics degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree with first class honours from the Australian National University.



Sophie Rigby

I studied for the BCL at Christ Church in 2003-2004. The experience of studying at Oxford, with its tutorial system, is truly unique. The BCL well deserves its reputation as the most rigorous postgraduate taught course in the common law world, and it is immensely rewarding to have completed it. I am returning to Sydney to private practice where I hope to be able to use the knowledge and skills I have acquired over the past year.

2003 - 2004 David Tomkins, from Sydney, was awarded a Bachelor of Commerce degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree with first class honours from the University of Western Sydney. He read for a Bachelor of Civil Law at Jesus College.



David Tomkins

This year in Oxford for the BCL I have studied Jurisprudence & Political Theory, Constitutional Theory, Comparative Public Law, and Intellectual Property Rights. I have found the comparative analysis inherent in these subjects to be particularly beneficial as the insight gained from comparing how different legal systems address the same issue can then be applied in the Australian context. I am sad to be leaving Oxford at the end of this academic year but am looking forward to the challenges of the future. I have unexpectedly been given the opportunity next year to study at Trier in Germany for a year. This presents a wonderful opportunity to build upon what I have gained from my time in Oxford before returning to Australia to put to use what I have learned, hopefully in the area of public policy.



Sarah McCosker

2002-2003 Sarah McCosker After completing the BCL in 2003 I undertook the M.Phil in Law, writing my thesis on the relationship between international law and diplomacy in international dispute settlement. I finished the M.Phil in 2004, and have extended my research into a D.Phil, which I aim to complete at the end of 2006. Since 2003 I have been working as the Assistant Dean of Brasenose College, a position I will also be holding until Trinity 2006. Over the past year I have enjoyed complementing my studies with work as a legal research assistant at the Law Commission of England and Wales. I am enjoying my work as an Editor of the Oxford University Commonwealth Law Journal (2004-2005), following on from my role as an Assistant Editor of the journal the previous year. I have been actively involved in Oxford's pro bono law scheme since 2002, and am currently the Chairperson of the scheme, Oxford Pro Bono Publico.

On the non-academic front, I have enjoyed competing for my college in rowing, singing in the Oxford University College choir and doing some acting in the Oxford University Dramatic Society. Also keeping me busy is my role as an Executive Director of a new Oxford think-tank, the Oxford Council of Good Governance. Next year I am looking forward to teaching international law in the Oxford University Foreign Service Programme, and to working as a college tutor of international law while completing my doctorate.



Corin Throsby

2002 - 2005 Corin Throsby, from Sydney, graduated with the University Medal in English Literature from the Australian National University. She then worked as a journalist at Fairfax for two years before starting a Master of Studies in English at Somerville College, which she completed with a Distinction. She is now a Senior Scholar at Hertford College, in her second year of a DPhil in English, and has published articles on Lord Byron, Joseph Conrad and literary responses to the sinking of the Titanic. She is writing her thesis on Byron and the birth of celebrity culture in the Romantic period. When not chained to a desk in the Bodleian, she has been performing in student theatre productions, taking hip-hop dance classes and learning to speak Italian.

2002-2005 Nicholas Apostoloff, from Canberra, graduated with a Masters degree in 2005, a University Medal in Engineering in 2000 and a Bachelor of Information Technology in 1998 from the Australian National University. He began his DPhil in October 2002 at Brasenose College, specialising in Computer Vision.



Nicholas Apostoloff

My research interests include detecting occluding objects in images using statistics learnt from natural images. Currently, I am working on an application called video matting that is central to the special effects in both the film and television industry. In any situation where actors are extracted from footage to be later composited onto an artificial or alternate background, accurate separation of the actor and the background is vital. In 2004, I presented this work at the IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition and am returning this year to present my latest results. My future plans after completing my DPhil include continuing researching and publishing in computer vision, but to also see some of my work used to solve real-world problems by working for an industrial research laboratory.

Outside of academia I have rowed for the Brasenose College 1st VIII in several regattas, winning the Oriel regatta in 2003. Perhaps the most enjoyable experience at Oxford is the opportunity to meet so many interesting people from all over the world and from all different academic backgrounds.

2004 - 2005 Naomi Hawkins, from Brisbane, graduated from the University of Queensland with degrees in science and law and a University Medal in Law in 2002. She pursued a Bachelor of Civil Law degree with a focus on commercial, comparative and intellectual property law.

Naomi also received a funding supplement from the University of Queensland to support her scholarship

I have undertaken a Bachelor of Civil Law, studying Competition Law, Conflict of Laws and Evidence. I have greatly benefited from the excellent teaching in these areas at Oxford, and from interaction with a highly motivated and intelligent peer group. Additionally, the support and direction from the law tutors at Magdalen College has been invaluable.

I have enjoyed the more social side of Oxford, and Magdalen College life. Involvement in the MCR committee, chapel, rowing and music has made my time in Oxford most rewarding. The opportunity to meet and make lasting friendships with people from all over the world, not just in my field of law, but also in areas as diverse as theoretical physics and musicology, has been most rewarding.



Naomi Hawkins

Past Scholars

2001 – 2004 Patrick Porter read Law and History at the University of Melbourne from 1995 to 2000 and has a first class honours degree in history. He was awarded a DPhil in Modern European History at Magdalen College, having completed his MPhil with distinction.

2002-2003 Daniel Piggott graduated from the University of Queensland with first class honours and University Medal in Law. He completed the Bachelor of Civil Laws with distinction.

2000-2003 Garry Bowen won the University Medal for Theoretical Physics at the Australian National University in 1999. He completed his DPhil in Physics in 2003.

1999-2002 Benjamin Kelly read Ancient History and Law at the University of Sydney from 1995 to 1998. He completed his D Phil in Roman History and returned to Australia in 2002 to take up a lectureship position at the Australian National University.

2001-2002 Kathleen Hutson has a science and arts degree from the University of Melbourne. She completed a Masters of Studies Historical Research (Medieval History) at the University of Oxford.

1998-2001 Dale Smith read Law and Arts at the University of Melbourne and was the recipient of the first James Fairfax Oxford-Australia Scholarship to be awarded. He completed a DPhil in Law at Oxford. He has now been appointed to a lectureship position in Law at Monash University. He submitted his doctoral thesis in June 2004.

2001-2002 Laura Dawes has a first class honours degree in mathematics and statistics from Murdoch University and was awarded a University Medal in Science. She completed a Master of Science in Economic and Social History, specialising in the History of Science

2001-2002 Hoi Trinh has a double degree in Arts and Law from the University of Melbourne (1990-94). He has worked as a solicitor with refugees since 1997. He completed the Master of Studies in Forced Migration course at Magdalen College on an Oxford-Chevening Scholarship.

2000-2001 Matthew Harding read Law and Arts at the University of Melbourne from 1992 to 1997. As a Chevening Oxford Australia scholar, he completed a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL).

2000-2001 Chester Brown read Arts and Law at the University of Melbourne graduating with a double first in 1997/1998. As a Chevening Oxford Australia scholar, he completed a BCL at Oxford. He was subsequently awarded a Menzies Scholarship, and studied for a PhD in international environmental law at the University of Cambridge.

1999-2001 Patrick Mackerras read Mathematics for his Bachelor of Science degree at the Australian National University from 1994 to 1997 before gaining a James Fairfax Oxford-Australia Scholarship to Christ Church College, Oxford. He studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE).

1999-2001 Jonathan Pearlman read Art and Law at the University of New South Wales gaining a BA (Hons) and LLB. Jonathan was the first to be awarded a special scholarship sponsored by University College Old Members in Australia. He completed an MPhil in modern English literature.

1998-1999 John Cheong Lee read Art and Law at the University of New South Wales from 1992 to 1998. He completed a Masters degree in International Relations in 1998 on an Oxford-Chevening Scholarship, at University College.

1999-2000 Sacha Moran read Arts and Law at the University of Sydney from 1992 to 1997. He studied for the BCL at Oxford in public and private international law.

1999-2000 Kimberlee Weatherall read Law and Arts at the University of Sydney from 1993 to 1997. She completed the BCL degree at Magdalen College.

