

C D D GIBBS PRIZE (1ST OVERALL)
FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN EXAMINATIONS FOR THE HONOUR SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY
H O BECKIT PRIZE FOR THE BEST PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY DISSERTATION
MET OFFICE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP AWARD FOR THE BEST CLIMATE SCIENCE DISSERTATION



THOMAS CATON HARRISON

HERTFORD COLLEGE

My geography interests in a nutshell:

I studied Physical and Environmental Geography, and for options I took Climate Change and Variability, Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation and Complexity. I went for Geography to pursue its breadth, but in the end became fascinated in particular by climate science. My dissertation is on in-situ observations of dust-emitting winds from the Fennec Campaign, and their representation in a reanalysis.

What I enjoyed most about Geography at Oxford:

The dissertation was my favourite part, but in general the enthusiasm of tutors, lecturers and other students alike is infectious.

What's next?

I am currently on a summer placement at the Met Office, and will soon start an MSc in Applied Meteorology at the University of Reading.

C D D GIBBS PRIZE (2ND OVERALL)
FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN EXAMINATIONS FOR THE HONOUR SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY
J C A MELDRUM ESSAY PRIZE FOR AN EXCELLENT INDIVIDUAL OPTION ESSAY

FRASER ECCLES

CHRIST CHURCH

My geography interests in a nutshell:

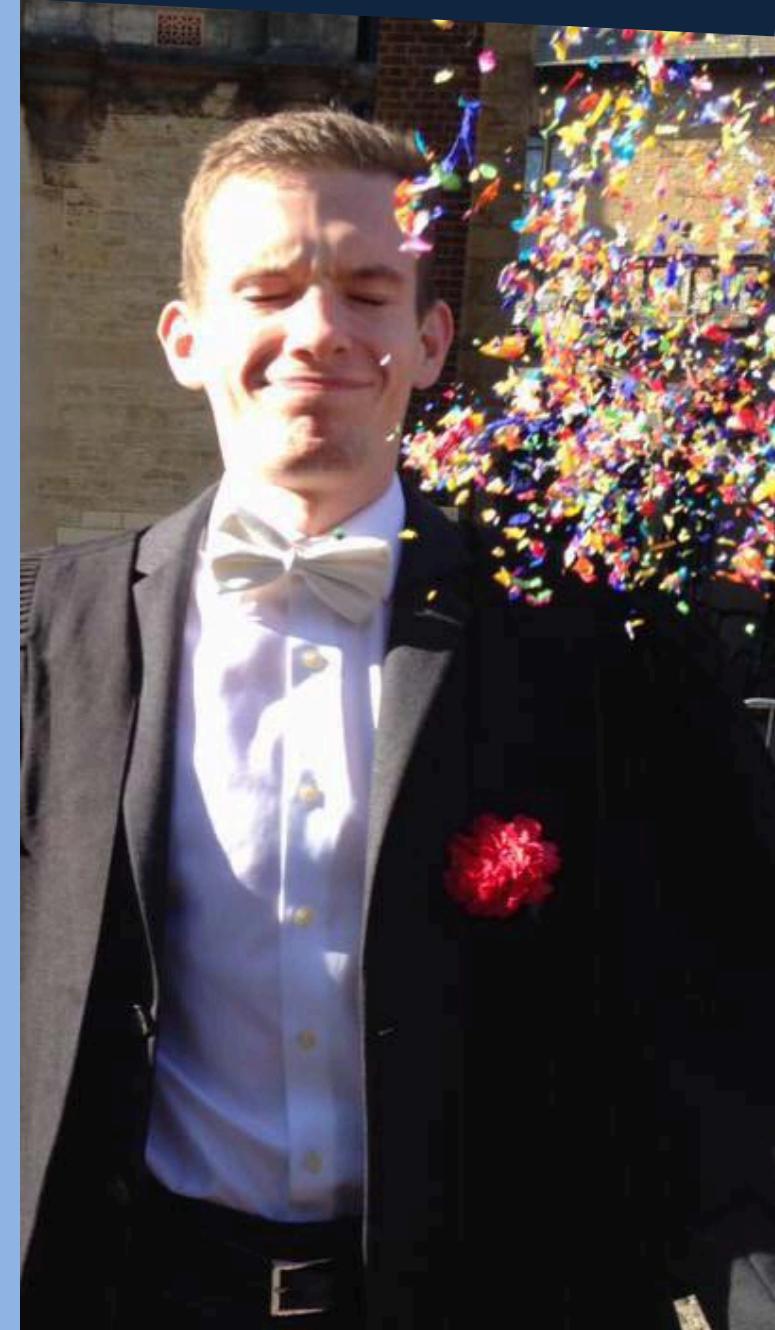
After studying the optional unit Geographies of Nature, the interdisciplinary field of 'animal studies' remained a particular interest for me. Relations between humans and animals have historically often been overlooked or generalised within the social sciences. Nevertheless, the breadth of contemporary work within this field means that it frequently and often unexpectedly overlaps with other components of the degree course. My extended essay was a brief review of a previously anthropocentric literature finding fresh application to animal populations: Michel Foucault's concept of 'biopower'.

What I enjoyed most about Geography at Oxford:

In my (excruciating) personal statement, I wrote that I wanted to study a subject that was varied and had a great deal of contemporary relevance. Happily, the course offered exactly that!

What's next?

I'm spending summer working in a hotel in South Africa's Free State, before moving to London in the autumn to begin a job with the Civil Service. I hope to find equivalents to all the Oxford clubs and societies that I never got around to joining, despite loyally subscribing to their mailing lists for four years. After a year or two, I plan to return to university for a Masters in public policy.



C D D GIBBS PRIZE (3RD OVERALL)

FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN EXAMINATIONS FOR THE HONOUR SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY

H O BECKIT PRIZE FOR THE BEST PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY DISSERTATION (RUNNER-UP)



DAVID CROWHURST

KEBLE COLLEGE

My geography interests in a nutshell:

During my time studying Geography at Oxford, I developed a particular interest in meteorology and climatology, taking the optional FHS papers 'Climate Change and Variability' and 'Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations'. I used a Self-Organising Map algorithm in my undergraduate dissertation to assess the validity of CMIP5 climate model projections of daily rainfall in East Africa for the first time, and completed a small research project in Tenerife to assess the relative importance of planetary, synoptic and mesoscale controls on daily wind speed and direction. I also particularly enjoyed the Environmental Geography paper, which provided me with the conceptual grounding to understand the ways in which the complex physical geography that I studied in other papers interacts with wider management concerns 'on the ground'.

What I enjoyed most about Geography at Oxford:

The most inspiring part of the Geography course at Oxford was the ability to learn from and have tutorials with some of the leading experts in your field, and challenge and critique their views on the subject! The common bond with other geographers also allowed me to form geography friendships that will last a lifetime.

What's next?

I am moving on to study a one year Masters course in Meteorology at the University of Reading. This course will allow me to build more technical understanding of meteorology that I could potentially use in a future DPhil project!

H O BECKIT PRIZE FOR THE BEST PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY DISSERTATION (RUNNER-UP)

TIMOTHY BAXTER

ST HILDA'S COLLEGE



My dissertation in a nutshell:

My interest in biogeomorphology led me to undertake a dissertation assessing the potential of mussel beds (*Mytilus edulis*) to act as bioprotective agents on a mudstone shore platform in South Wales. Using original techniques, I analysed the influence mussel beds have on near-surface temperature extremes and variability, rock hardness, and water movement. The study involved a combination of fieldwork analysis and laboratory simulations. The results of my dissertation present some of the first empirical evidence of mechanisms by which mussels may protect intertidal rocks.

What did you enjoy most about Geography at Oxford?

I enjoyed studying Geography because of the variety of interesting topics that I was able to engage with on a week to week basis. This variety, which ranged from learning about the history of the discipline to the mechanisms of East African bi-annual rainfall, revealed aspects of the discipline that I had previously not considered. I particularly liked how studying Geography challenged me to determine and analyse connections between seemingly different and obscure topics. By developing a geographical way of thinking, I have been able to continue my interest in the subject outside the lecture hall.

What's next?

Next year I will be starting work as a Maths teacher in a secondary school in central London through the charity Teach First. Teach First places graduates from top universities in schools in underprivileged areas.

A J HERBERTSON PRIZE FOR THE BEST HUMAN GEOGRAPHY DISSERTATION (JOINT WINNER)
J C A MELDRUM ESSAY PRIZE FOR AN EXCELLENT INDIVIDUAL OPTION ESSAY



LUCY CLARE LONG

MANSFIELD COLLEGE

My geography interests in a nutshell:

A product of a six-week data collection period, my dissertation looked at the dynamics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Botswana in connection with contemporary knowledge on youth geographies in Africa. Through a grounded approach with various qualitative methods involving young people, health professionals and a range of youth organisations based in Botswana's capital city Gaborone, my aim was to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of HIV/AIDS in Botswana that recognises the significance of HIV as more than just a health issue.

What I enjoyed most about Geography at Oxford:

I really enjoyed the diversity of the Oxford Geography course and freedom to explore your own intellectual interests through the options courses. When I applied I had no idea that I would be writing essays on everything from desertification to the geographies of love.

The winning essay:
'To what extent do you think that boredom is a problem for Modern India?'

What's next?

I'm taking a year out to travel, with intentions to eventually pursue work in an international development related field.

A J HERBERTSON PRIZE FOR THE BEST HUMAN GEOGRAPHY DISSERTATION (JOINT WINNER)



AMELIA DAVY

ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

My dissertation in a nutshell:

Inspired by concerns raised by a number of geographers regarding the spatial preoccupations of non-representational theory, my dissertation centres around time. I analysed first-hand accounts of the Vietnam War to explore the ways in which time is implicated in the experiences of American soldiers in Vietnam, reflecting upon how temporal experience might be conceptualized and identifying areas for future enquiry.

What I enjoyed most about Geography at Oxford:

Studying geography at Oxford allows you the freedom to follow your interests whilst being exposed to areas of the discipline you might otherwise have bypassed. I started the course with a clear vision of the areas of interest I planned to specialise in, only to find myself captivated by topics I had no prior knowledge of. Additionally, I value how the course is geared around re-evaluating assumptions that underpin many forms of knowledge that might be associated with mainstream geography. As a geography student you learn never to accept anything at face value.

J C A MELDRUM FIELDWORK PRIZE FOR AN EXCELLENT PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK REPORT

LAURA NEILSON

JESUS COLLEGE

My fieldwork project in a nutshell:

I particularly enjoyed the physical and environmental geography aspects of my degree. My fieldwork project examined whether rocks' aspect relative to the sun was a significant determinant of the amount of weathering they experienced.



What I enjoyed most about Geography at Oxford:

I really enjoyed the wide range of options that were available, which allowed one to pursue his or her own niche areas of interest. More importantly the tutorial system was ideal for one to learn effectively. My tutors were ever so ready to provide invaluable guidance and reply my incessant email inquiries on dissertation matter even over the holidays! I would say that my tutors are what I'm going to miss most when I leave this place.

What's next?

This year I am doing a PGCE in Secondary School Geography teaching at the University of Cambridge.

J C A MELDRUM FIELDWORK PRIZE FOR AN EXCELLENT PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK REPORT



JOSHUA O'SHAUGHNESSY

KEBLE COLLEGE

My fieldwork project in a nutshell:

My fieldwork in Tenerife examined the how the trade winds interact with the topography of the island, local diurnal heating and synoptic scale pressure systems. This involved learning to track helium-filled balloons with a theodolite as they were carried away by the wind, a technique known as pibal. The sunny seaside setting made up for the early starts! More generally, this was an excellent chance to learn how to put together research projects and devise suitable experimental techniques.

What I loved most about Geography at Oxford:

Studying geography gave me an entirely new way of seeing the world, from understanding the processes that shape landscapes and cause climate change to grasping the complexities of debates on Arctic resources and successful biodiversity conservation. As well as this, I loved the chance that Oxford geography gave me to both study existing interests in ice ages, climate change and geopolitics and engage with entirely new topics, particularly biogeography and heritage science. Geography forces you to question your existing understanding and also grapple with new materials, sources and methods – from the philosophy of Foucault to mapping analysis with ArcGIS.

What's next?

I'm commencing an MSc in Risk at Durham University in October, studying the management of risk in society as well as the physical processes of environmental hazards.

**J C A MELDRUM FIELDWORK PRIZE
FOR AN EXCELLENT HUMAN GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK REPORT
J C A MELDRUM ESSAY PRIZE FOR AN EXCELLENT INDIVIDUAL OPTION ESSAY**

EMMA NELMES

MANSFIELD COLLEGE

Fieldwork – “Deconstructing the exhibition: An investigation into the representation of Greenland in post-colonial Copenhagen” Departing from Said’s (1978) argument that the West’s representation of the world was an integral part to its domination over colonial subjects, this fieldwork uses the representation of Greenland in three museums/institutions across Copenhagen as a lens through which to interrogate traces of Denmark’s colonial dominance over Greenland despite the formal dissolution of Greenland’s colonial status in 1953.



Submitted essay – “Tracing the gendered Arctic: an investigation into the gendering of Arctic discourse and contemporary geopolitics” This essay examines the imaginative geographies of the Arctic produced through Arctic exploration and reproduced in contemporary geopolitics. Specifically, it looks at the gendered themes evident in ideas of the Arctic as an exotic space of adventure, virility and, more recently, a space in need of protection.

What I enjoyed most about Geography at Oxford:

Although a cliché, I enjoyed the breadth of topics the course allowed us to cover – friends from other subjects were perplexed (and jealous) that I studied incarceration as well as Arctic igloos and African borders. However, the best thing about studying geography was the people we learnt with; no other subject made cross-college friends to the extent that geographers did. Fieldtrips, the friendliness of geographers and a relative lack of contact hours are to thank for that!

What’s next?

I’m taking a year out to ‘live the geography dream’ – travelling around Australia, New Zealand and South America as well as living in the Alps for 5 months (as a chalet girl). After that its time to enter the real world as an Analyst at Deloitte Consulting.