



ROTHERMERE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
AMERICA'S HOME AT OXFORD

Rothermere American Institute 2014-15 Travel Awards: Recipients' Reports

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Robert Blackwell, undergraduate in History and Politics, St Catherine's College

Dissertation title: 'President Kennedy's Press Conferences'

Award given for archival research at the Kennedy Presidential Library and the Library of Congress, Washington DC

Back in April 2013, at a special seminar on the polarisation of American politics, Lawrence R. Jacobs (University of Minnesota) delivered his paper on 'going public' strategies as an expression of executive power. He argued that presidents should avoid using the media to secure their legislative goals, citing 'going public' as an inefficient and potentially harmful use of executive power.

My undergraduate dissertation seeks to explore this proposition using the presidency of John F. Kennedy. Did JFK's innovation in staging the live, televised press conference enhance his executive power? Did the administration consider the impact of public appearances by either JFK or Robert F. Kennedy in legislative battles over domestic steel prices, civil rights, or even in the foreign policy sphere?

Thanks to the generosity of the Rothermere American Institute and its benefactors, I was able to embark on an eighteen-day research trip to Boston and Washington D.C. in August 2014. One of the aims was to secure primary data that would move my dissertation away from the descriptive, qualitative aspect of the 'New Frontier' presidency. I wanted to ensure that the dissertation could

quantitatively measure the ‘impact’ of a Kennedy move into the public eye, assess the response from the public and – perhaps even more importantly – from his many detractors on the Hill.

The first half of my trip was spent in Boston, where I was given access to the administration’s papers by the wonderful staff in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. While in the research room, I was able to uncover documents relating to the Kennedy media strategy both as a candidate in 1960 and subsequently as president. This will enable me to track the evolution of thinking as Kennedy moved from senatorial offices, through the campaign trail, to the White House. I also uncovered a number of contemporary news stories from around the country, which will prove very suitable for quantitative word analyses back at Oxford. More importantly though, I discovered that the White House Press Department kept weekly records of the correspondence sent to the president from members of the public. This ‘real-time’ information will enable me to track the public’s response to each appearance Kennedy made in the media. At the end of my time in Boston, I spent a day in the Presidential Museum, where exhibits on Kennedy’s relationship with the media yielded valuable information.

Before returning home, I was able to access material located in the archive of the Library of Congress. After reading a news story in Boston concerning a GOP report into Kennedy’s relationship with the press, I discovered the transcripts from the congressional hearings held in 1963. These led to Republican accusations that the administration was guilty of “news management” and that the president had increased the scope of executive power beyond that permitted by the Constitution. Although it seems the final report was never published, the impact of such accusations will be crucial to my dissertation.

I would like to thank the RAI Travel Grants Committee for their consideration and the benefactors of the RAI for their generosity in facilitating such a rewarding and productive trip.

DOCTORAL AND MASTER’S AWARDS

Joshua D. Carpenter, D.Phil. student in Politics, St. Hilda’s College

Thesis title: ‘Tyranny of the Minority? Why Some Voters Lay Dormant in the Deep South’

Award given for surveys and interviews in Birmingham, Alabama

Citizens who choose not to vote are an important, and unjustifiably overlooked, subset of the American electorate. These non-voters are crucial to understanding the political context of the

South and consequently, America's political landscape. Alabama's comparatively low voter turnout among less affluent voters is not atypical. The literature suggests that income level is strongly correlated with voter turnout. This persistent gap in political participation between the rich and the poor is referred to by some scholars as 'income bias', yet there is limited research on the effects campaign contact on targeting low-income voters for mobilization.

Substantively, this research endeavours to create a better understanding of how low-income voters are informed, persuaded, and mobilized to participate in elections. To begin to answer these questions, a research project executed a mixed-methods approach to analyse the 2014 election for Governor in Alabama. At stake in this election was whether the state would choose to expand Medicaid as outlined under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The decision about whether or not to expand Medicaid is the responsibility of the Governor of each state. The Republican incumbent strongly opposed Medicaid expansion and the Democratic challenger made expansion a central pillar of his campaign. Studies estimate that 331,000 people, all of whom are voter-aged, would directly benefit from expansion by receiving health coverage. These people are said to be living in the 'Medicaid Gap' and of these more than 300,000, less than a third were discovered to be registered voters.

In cooperation with the campaign of the Democratic candidate for Governor, I designed and executed a randomized get out the vote (GOTV) field experiment across the four major metropolitan areas of the state. Additionally, I put forward a design innovation in choosing the message for the field scripts by first deploying a survey experiment. Finally, the research benefitted from qualitative insights taken from 30 interviews of low SES Alabama voters.

Although the results are still being evaluated, it appears that canvasser contact may have had a statistically significant impact on the level of voter information. Qualitatively, it was evident that many people living in the 'Medicaid Gap' were not aware there was a gap, much less that they were living in it, despite the fact that their opportunity to obtain healthcare access was effectively on the ballot in the form of a Gubernatorial candidate.

The RAI Travel Award enabled me to travel the state and establish the infrastructure to canvass nearly 8,000 homes in a two-week period. Additionally, I was able to spend time in a number of communities where many residents were living without insurance. As a graduate student, I feel very fortunate to have conducted a survey and field experiment for my thesis since they require such considerable resources. Without the benefactors of the RAI, this research would have been difficult, if not impossible, to complete.

Jane Dinwoodie, D.Phil. student in History, Lincoln College

Thesis title: 'Beyond Removal: Indians, States, and Sovereignties in the American South during the Long Nineteenth Century'

Award given for archival research in the National Archives, Washington DC

My doctoral research explores the histories of those Native Americans who remained within the American South following the Indian Removals of the 1820s and 1830s, particularly focusing on negotiations between non-removed indigenous polities and the United States. The RAI travel grant allowed me to make a much-needed trip to collect primary documents towards the end of my first year of this research. I would like to thank the Institute and its benefactors for this award.

I travelled to the National Archives in Washington DC in late June and early July 2014. During a two-week trip, I consulted the papers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs: the branch of federal government historically responsible for dealings with indigenous peoples, usually called the Office of Indian Affairs before 1947. In particular, I explored microfilm copies of the correspondence which the Office received during the nineteenth century. A core source base for my dissertation, these documents provided vital insights into negotiations between the US state and non-removed indigenous peoples, and the ways in which non-removed Indians shaped realities of Southern sovereignty across the century.

Owing to time constraints, I decided to focus my attention for this trip on the Cherokees: a key group that I intend to investigate in my thesis. I explored a range of sources spanning from the early 1820s through to the mid-nineteenth century. Although astonished by the volume of post-removal Cherokees I encountered, I looked particularly for a group known as the Oconaluftee (or 'Lufty') Cherokees, who took personal reservations under 1817 and 1819 treaties with the US, and went on to avoid Removal. Over the course of my trip, I was able to see how individual Cherokees – beyond the oft-explored elites – negotiated with the United States across a turbulent period in Southern history, and how state officials interpreted their ongoing presence and claims to sovereignty.

However, the documentary record also contained many silences. Traditionally interpreted by historians as a lack of evidence, I aim to use these silences as a basis to explore what the US state overlooked or misunderstood about non-removed peoples. I found repeated instances where non-removed Cherokees simply did not appear in these federal records, and where officials misunderstood – or simply could not see – groups who retreated into difficult terrain such as woods or mountains. These gaps also provide important insights into non-removed Cherokees' own perspectives. The officials' observations and silences reveal moments when indigenous peoples chose to approach the federal government and, just as importantly, the occasions on which they deliberately chose to avoid it.

This trip has been invaluable to my D.Phil. research. By visiting D.C., I have been able to begin unearthing untold stories from well-used sources, furthering my overall aim of exploring how indigenous stories can fundamentally change the ways we think about the American South, sovereignty, and the state. I am immensely grateful to the RAI and its benefactors for the funding which enabled me to access this material.

Nadia Hilliard, D.Phil. student in Politics, St. Antony's College

Thesis title: 'The Accountability State: US Federal Inspectors General and the Pursuit of Democratic Integrity'

Award given for interviews in Washington DC

In the summer of 2014 I was fortunate enough to receive a generous grant from the RAI that permitted me to complete the final research for my doctoral dissertation on US federal inspectors general. My thesis, 'The Accountability State: US Federal Inspectors General and the Pursuit of Democratic Integrity', was submitted in October.

The thesis is a hybrid of institutional political science and political theory, and focuses on a recent development in the American state: the emergence of the Inspector General (IG), a figure lodged within the bureaucracy that provides a partial source of accountability in the mushrooming administrative state. There are IGs in nearly all departments and agencies in the US federal government, and they have grown steadily in number since 1978. In brief, I argue that although IGs are frequently ineffective, they can and have proved to be significant contributors to the democratic health of the American state. My argument places the IG directly into debates within Democratic Theory about the source of effective remedies for anti-democratic tendencies in modern representative democracies (in particular having to do with the administrative state and the bureaucracy). I demonstrate that under certain circumstances, the IGs can not only provide both fiscal and moral accountability, but also enhance other prerequisites for democratic health, including transparency, information dissemination, opportunities for citizen participation and support of the public sphere. My thesis provides a detailed empirical account of a much-neglected institution (the IG), and suggests how this institution is altering the locus of authority in the American political arena.

Thanks to the generosity of the RAI's benefactors, I was able to conduct a host of interviews with bureaucrats and journalists in Washington, D.C. in June and July 2014. These interviews were conducted predominately with members of the inspector general community, but also included journalists and members of the State Department. The resources provided by the RAI travel grant

permitted me to fly to the US and contributed to the travel and lodging costs once I arrived. Interviews were crucial to the project because so far, no monographs have been published on the topic of IGs since 1993. Writing the recent history of the IGs was very much an original project insofar as there are no existing accounts of their development. It thus depended nearly entirely on primary source documentation and interviews to contextualise the information in the bureaucratic documents.

Amongst the information gathered in the interviews were accounts of plans within the IG community to expand the IGs' role as law enforcement officials by partnering with the FBI and state and local police forces to share information. This development pushes the boundaries of the original purpose of the IGs and raises questions about the state's co-option of existing institutions to deploy as part of its security apparatus. The interviews provided me with insights into the development of the IGs that would have been impossible to achieve in the absence of a research trip.

Louisa Hotson, D.Phil. student in History, Corpus Christi College

Thesis title: 'Scholarly Solutions: American Political Science and the challenge of Democracy, 1870-1970'

Award given for archival research at the Special Collections Research Center at the University of Chicago

My doctoral thesis explores an important transformation in the public role of American political science. Between 1880 and 1945, political scientists in the United States provided an invaluable resource to presidents and bureaucrats. Most famously, in a moment of national crisis, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established an advisory committee of three political scientists with whom he consulted on the structure of American government. The year was 1936 and the recommendations that these political scientists proposed formed the basis for the creation of the Executive Office of the President three years later, an act which profoundly affected the subsequent history of American government. And yet, by the 1970s, much had changed. The study of public administration had become a separate sub-field, and the discipline had a less direct and demonstrable impact on political affairs. Defining the moment, political science became replaced by economics as the policy science par excellence and, in so doing, greatly diminished its capacity to play a useful role in the forging of American public policy.

My research relies on consulting communications, written memoranda and other writings of selected American political scientists. This material is central to my research because it helps me to understand the animating concerns and preoccupations of scholars, shedding light on how and why

the scope, nature and purpose of the discipline changed so permanently and profoundly. The RAI travel award enabled me to access such material, funding a trip to the United States in September 2014.

My month-long trip began at the Regenstein Special Collections Research Centre in the University of Chicago. I spent two weeks looking through the papers of, among others, Charles E. Merriam, Harold Gosnell, Leonard D. White and the Chicago Department of Political Science. I was gratified to find in these papers justification for a central theme of my thesis: the close relationship between the discipline of political science and government in the first half of the twentieth century. I discovered that political scientists in their personal letters and diaries suggested an engagement with government planning which I believe to be under-studied in historiography and abandoned by practitioners.

Being in and around the university buildings was fascinating in itself. I was able to locate the engravings I had read about, such as a quote etched into the south-facing side of the University's Social Science Research Building, 'If you cannot measure your knowledge it is meagre and unsatisfactory'. There were other design features that I had not read about, such as figures of famous social scientists etched alongside the entry point, and stone bridges linking buildings designed for the humanities and social sciences.

In the third week of September I left Chicago for Washington DC and the American Political Science Association archives, housed in George Washington University. The staff were very helpful, but, as I had anticipated, the archives themselves were mostly unprocessed. This made the decision as to which boxes to view a difficult one: I knew that I would only be able to consult around 20 out of over 200. Nevertheless, through luck and some informed guesswork, the material I unearthed turned out to be valuable. Finding transcripts of an APSA 'oral history project' proved particularly important. And, as I hoped, I discovered information on the movement of the association in mid-century which answered some questions regarding its role and status at this time.

I returned to Chicago for the final week to complete the last segment of research in the Regenstein collection. Overall, the month that I spent in Chicago and DC was an incredibly valuable one. I set out in the hope that I could gain some insight into the lives and concerns of political scientists. I came back with a rich collection of letters, memoirs, and other writings which have given me a fuller picture of the discipline as it developed. Since returning I have presented various aspects of this research. In Michaelmas term I presented to the RAI Politics Seminar. In the Christmas vacation, I delivered a paper to the American Politics Group conference in Manchester, as part of a plenary panel on the history of the discipline. And, in Hilary term, I delivered papers to the RAI Postgraduate History Seminar and to my college's SCR-MCR lunchtime seminar. More importantly, I hope that discoveries from this trip will strengthen the argument of my thesis: that

scholars ought to take the historical context of the discipline far more seriously than they currently do. I really appreciate the opportunity to undertake this trip and am tremendously grateful to the RAI benefactors whose generosity makes the travel awards possible.

Sebastian Huempfer, D.Phil. student in Economic and Social History, Green Templeton College

Thesis title: 'The political economy of U.S. trade policy since the 1930s'

Award given for archival research in Boston, Connecticut, New York, Delaware, Michigan and Indiana

I have recently returned from a six-week research trip to the United States, conducted as part of my DPhil in Economic and Social History. This research trip would not have been possible without the generous support of the RAI and its benefactors, and I would like to express my gratitude for the award.

Over the course of the six weeks, I visited eight libraries and archives: the Hagley Museum & Library (Wilmington, DE), Columbia University's Rare Book & Manuscript Library (New York City, NY), the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives (Madison, WI), the Bentley Historical Library (Ann Arbor, MI), the Detroit Public Library (Detroit, MI), the JFK Presidential Library (Boston, MA), Harvard Business School's Baker Library (Boston, MA), and the Osborne Library at the American Textile History Museum (Lowell, MA).

In total, I digitised several thousand pages of archival material. The vast majority of these are records of chambers of commerce and other business associations. In addition, I found personal papers of several key business leaders and government officials, as well as transcripts of oral history interviews, press clippings and government records.

These documents offer new insights into the political economy of US trade policy after World War II. In particular, they show how the fear of growing economic competition from the Soviet Union and the EEC, as well as new economic opportunities created by decolonization, changed the debate about trade liberalisation over the course of the 1950s. The idea that Western Europe had to be stabilised through greater US demand for European exports held sway across economic interest groups in the late 1940s and early 1950s. As Western Europe prospered and the US balance of payments deficit increased during the 1950s, this consensus collapsed. Trade policy again became a hotly contested issue among America's economic elites. While export-oriented industries demanded the government's support in opening new markets, protectionist industries such as New England's textile manufacturers railed against foreign competition.

I am looking forward to presenting the full results of my research at the RAI. I am grateful for the generous support of the Institute's benefactors, without which I would not have been able to explore so many collections. Spending time at the archives is one of the most exciting and enjoyable aspects of writing a DPhil in History, and I greatly appreciate the opportunities I have, in this respect and many others, as a doctoral student at Oxford University.

H. Horatio Joyce, D.Phil. student in History, St Cross College

Thesis title: New York Clubland: A Social and Architectural History, 1879-1920

Award given for archival research in New York City

The Rothermere American Institute Research and Travel Award provided crucial support for my first site and archival research for my thesis on the rise of club life in New York City in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The number of social clubs in the city grew from about half a dozen in the first half of the nineteenth century to at least two hundred around the turn of the century. My research hinges on the question of what social function this unstudied institution served for the American elite. Scholarly investigation, I argue, has been hampered by the question of definition, the difficulty of how to study an organisation whose primary interest is the creation and perpetuation of a sense of place. Thus my research combines elements of social and architectural history: exploring the design narrative of the clubhouses and producing a prosopography of their architects and their clients. The leading club architects of the period, the New-York based firm of McKim, Mead & White (active 1879 to 1909) and their corpus of more than twenty club projects form the focus of my research.

I concentrated my month-long visit to New York on identifying individual clubhouses for use as chapter case studies. First, I spent a week at the Avery Architectural Library at Columbia University looking through the personal papers of Stanford White. White was the principal partner in nearly all of the firm's clubhouse commissions, and was himself an inveterate clubman and founding member of two clubs whose quarters he also designed. I then moved to the New-York Historical Society for two weeks to begin work in archives of McKim, Mead & White, which is believed to be the largest of its kind in the United States. As such, I devoted my time there to reconnaissance work: noting the whereabouts of potentially relevant material and documentation gaps. Third, I spent my final week completing a dozen site visits to clubhouses, including extant examples by McKim, Mead & White, as well as their contemporaries and students. These visits allowed me to do site-based research on design features that are not readily apparent from plans and photographs (e.g. plan circulation and decorative details), and also to liaise with club archivists and curators.

This trip has, as I hoped, allowed me to identify six McKim, Mead & White-designed clubhouses for use as chapter case studies, based on the strength of their archival documentation. But an equally valuable and unexpected take-away came from observing the buildings in use during my site visits; almost all continue as clubs with few alterations. It became clear that while McKim, Mead & White helped to create a world unto itself—‘clubland’—it was a world internally differentiated by a number of important factors. Understanding these factors and their relation to the built environment has become an important emphasis in my research. In sum, this trip has allowed me to significantly develop the structure of my thesis, as well as focus its argument. And it simply would not have been possible without an RAI Research and Travel Award. I am hugely grateful to the panel for this opportunity and to the benefactors in particular for their generous support.

Katharine M. Millar, D.Phil. student in International Relations, Somerville College

Thesis title: ‘When Citizens Aren’t Soldiers: The “Support the Troops” Movement and its Implications for Foreign Policy’

Award given for archival research in Philadelphia and Washington DC

My archival research trip to the United States in September 2014 was generously funded by the RAI’s research and travel award programme. It was undertaken in furtherance of my doctoral thesis, entitled ‘When Citizens Aren’t Soldiers: The “Support the Troops” Movement and its Implications for Foreign Policy’, which examines public representations of the military and its relation to society in the United States and the United Kingdom during the First Gulf War (1990-1991) and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (2001-2010). My work will be the first systematic social scientific study of the rise and expansion of the ‘support the troops’ phenomenon, mapping the evolution of its (often-implicit) representation of the nation-state, and corresponding connection to foreign policy. Overall, I aim to provide a foundation from which to move away from unreflective ‘support’ for the military that characterizes contemporary UK and US political discourse towards a meaningful democratic dialogue regarding the role of force in the foreign policy of modern liberal democracies.

The empirical basis for my study, and the aspect in which this research and travel grant was invaluable, is the analysis of publicly-oriented texts produced by a variety of political actors, including the mainstream media, the government (legislature and executive), and both peace/anti-war and pro-military non-governmental organizations, engaging in ‘support the troops’ discourse. As many of these materials, particularly for non-governmental organizations, are informal productions, such as pamphlets, t-shirts, posters etc., the only means of accessing them is to

personally visit archives and photograph the originals. This is particularly essential with respect to the First Gulf War, as an online archive of this time period does not exist.

With the support of RAI I was able, from 1-15 September 2014, to visit the Swarthmore College Peace Collection in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Peace Collection is the largest single collection of materials relating to peace and anti-war activism in the United States (with holdings dating from the early 1800s to the present), and the depository archives for many major contemporary peace groups. With the help of the archivists I was able to examine and collect thousands of pages of archival material, neither available elsewhere nor used by other researchers, over a period of two weeks. The material related to several different peace organizations, including: the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, CodePink, ANSWER, United for Peace and Justice, Pax Christi, the War Resisters' League, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East, Military Families Against the War, Peace Action, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and Iraq Veterans Against the War. During this time, I was also able to visit the archives of the American Friends Service Committee at the organization's headquarters in Philadelphia. These materials are absolutely essential to my research, and I will spend the next several months coding them utilizing the qualitative analysis software NVivo, and analyzing the results.

Similarly, from 16-23 September in Washington DC, I was able to visit the headquarters of several pro-military organizations to examine their own internal archives, and similarly photograph and collect relevant materials to my research. I spend three days with American Veterans of Foreign Wars, a veterans' advocacy group, examining almost twenty years of their archives, and meeting with the director of public affairs. I also spent a day with Freedom Alliance, a pro-military think tank that represents one of the only organizations engaged in the promotion of the military that existed across both of my case studies. Once again, without personally visiting the organizations, I would never have had the opportunity to access these materials, which will add infinite analytical value and empirical depth to my doctoral thesis. While in Washington, I was also fortunate enough to be able to visit the Pentagon, and discuss some of the implications of my study with civilian staff members of the Department of Defense.

Overall my eventual thesis project, and broader goal of improving the quality of democratic debate regarding the role of the military in contemporary liberal democracies, has benefited immeasurably from the documents, information, and insights I was able to gather during this research trip. I am therefore extremely grateful to the benefactors of RAI for their generous financial support, without which I would likely have been unable to complete such work, and thus be required to scale-down the ambition of my doctoral dissertation. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the benefactors of RAI for their interest and support of not only my research, but sustained and

responsible academic inquiry into the contemporary United States. It is vital work, and it cannot be done without a great deal of support.

Daniel Rowe, D.Phil. student in History, Lincoln College

Thesis title: 'The Politics of Economic Crisis: Public and Private Bankruptcies and the Emergence of Progressive Populism, 1970-1991'

Award given for archival research in Michigan and at the University of Southern Illinois

I used my RAI research and travel award to finance a three-week research trip to Michigan and Illinois. During my trip I concentrated on exploring attempts to revive the America's basic industries and to revitalise the nation's oldest and largest cities, during the 1970s and early 1980s. These topics feature prominently in my doctoral thesis, which examines how the economic upheavals of the 1970s and early 1980s transformed attitudes about civic engagement and the role and responsibilities of the federal government and the public sector.

I began my research trip in Detroit. While in Motor City I consulted an extensive array of labour unions' and public-private organisations' archives at the Walter Reuther Library. The collections at the Reuther Library helped me to understand more fully the interaction that union leaders had with elected officials and members of the business community during the 1970s. Moreover, it also provided valuable insights into the relationship unions had with the Democratic Party and various grassroots organisations. While in Detroit I also conducted research in Corinne Gilb's papers (City of Detroit Planning Director 1979-1994) at the Detroit Public Library. I also visited many of the areas that I write about in my research. Due to time constraints, I was not able to consult all the archival collections that I had planned to in Detroit. However, I hope to make a return trip in the next 12 months, at which point I am informed that Mayor Coleman Young's (1974-1994) papers should be available to researchers.

From Detroit, I travelled to the University of Michigan, Flint. In Flint, I consulted the papers of Donald Riegle, a liberal U.S. Senator from Michigan, who was an important voice in many of the legislative battles that impact my writing. While I focused principally on records relating to the 1979 Chrysler Loan Guarantee Act and the Industrial Policy debate of the early 1980s, I also collected material that is likely to find its way into other chapters of my thesis. Riegle's papers are extensive, detailed and well processed, but have only been used by one other researcher. As a result, much of the material I collected during my time in Flint has not been previously examined.

The final stop on my trip was Carbondale, a rural town in Illinois which has a population of 25,000. At Southern Illinois University, I examined the papers of Paul Simon, a Democratic congressman and senator who campaigned for the presidency in 1988. Simon's papers gave me an insight into the issues that faced the first generation of post-Great Society progressives and to the constituency centred pressures that a member of congress faces. Simon, who spent much of his early career as a newspaper reporter, kept extensive notes and personally wrote a weekly column for several newspapers. I have found the columns and memos which Simon wrote to be highly informative and useful for my research

During my stay in the United States I also pursued avenues of research that I would not have been able to on a shorter research trip. For instance, I arranged and conducted oral history interviews with former Senator Donald Riegle, the former Governor of Michigan, James Blanchard, a former congressional lobbyist, an automobile parts supplier and a leader of an influential grassroots organisation. These interviews have added texture to my research and helped to substantially improve my analysis.

Since returning to the UK I have given talks on Detroit's postwar history at academic symposia at both St Catherine's College and Lincoln College. In the New Year I hope to present some of the research undertaken, at academic history conferences.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Rothermere American Institute and its benefactors. Without their generous financial support this trip would not have been possible. I am also very appreciative of friendly archivists and staff at the University of Michigan, Flint; the University of Southern Illinois and the Walter Reuther Library: their advice and help improved my research and added to my output. Finally, I would also like to thank Paul Lewers and Molly and Roy Slongo, who provided me with great hospitality, fantastic home-cooked food and superb company. As well as ensuring that my free time was enjoyable and relaxing, they delighted in showing me much more of their home-town environment than I could have reached on my own.

Patrick Sandman, D.Phil. student in History, Trinity College

Thesis title: 'Bringing Congress Back In: Watergate and the Politics of Institutional Change'

Award given for archival work at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, CA

I would like to thank the donors of the Rothermere American Institute, the Director, Nigel Bowles, and my supervisor, Dr. Gareth Davies, for making the following research trip possible.

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library is truly the best place to explore the richness of the Nixon White House. As the title of my DPhil suggests, I concentrated my archival work on Nixon's relationship with Congress prior to the Watergate crisis. While many historians have focused on Nixon's hand-written notes on news summaries and to his inner staff, few have opened the boxes of his top men on Capitol Hill. I believe this relationship is absolutely paramount in understanding how the political atmosphere changed before the well-known denouements of 1973-4. I therefore spent much of my time consulting the papers of William E. Timmons and Bryce Harlow – Nixon's congressional liaisons. Harlow and Timmons' notes and memoranda provided excellent insight into the tensions between the White House and Capitol Hill before the fall.

After several days of exploring the Congressional relations team's papers, I did specific folder and box searches into the papers of Fred Malek and Roy Ash. Many historians have attempted to understand the transformation of the Nixon White House as a shift into something 'corporate', 'imperial', 'administrative', or even 'managerial'. Dan Rather famously argued that a 'palace guard' was erected around Richard Nixon. Malek and Ash's papers reveal the transformation in a different light, however. Without the hindsight and biases of Watergate, these papers revealed the serious attempts to reorganize the federal government in pragmatic terms. Ash and Malek, as businessmen with non-political backgrounds, entered Nixon's inner-circle to help make the government more responsive and efficient.

I also explored the papers of Charles Colson, H.R. Haldeman, Bob Ehrlichman, and Patrick Buchanan. I focused on the mid-term election of 1970 as well as the 1972 Presidential Election. These papers help explain the internal changes to White House in regard to party building and election campaigning. Following heavy G.O.P. losses in 1970, these men implemented a new strategy— for the President to build a 'New Majority' separate from the Republican Party. I uncovered many useful memoranda on the White House's turn away from the G.O.P. during the 1972 Election.

Ultimately, funding from RAI benefactors allowed for an unforgettable personal and scholarly experience at Yorba Linda. After years of reading about the Nixon Administration, I viewed thousands of photos and absorbed so many niceties that fall outside traditional accounts of the Nixon Presidency. In addition to using much of what I discovered in the archive in my thesis, I will never forget the excitement and sense of purpose I felt while inside the Library.

**Katie Whitcombe, M.Phil. student in Economic and Social History, Hertford College;
2nd Lt., USMC**

Thesis title: 'Tensions between the US Military and the Women of the Philippines since the Second World War'

Award given for archival research at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Maryland and California

Thanks to the generous support of RAI benefactors, I have been able to undertake critical research for my thesis, spending two and a half months in the United States conducting archival research and collecting military members' oral histories.

My project analyzes the impact of U.S. bases overseas. To do this, I have selected the Philippines as a case study and am exploring how Subic Bay Naval Base changed Olongapo City. Prior to my trip to the States, I could only acquire secondary sources and Philippine primary sources from a trip to Olongapo City and Manila. However, because of the RAI travel grant, I was able to go to the Washington DC area and spend time at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, MD, and at the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) at the Washington Naval Yard.

What I found, and the help I received from both of these organizations, will dramatically change the breadth and depth of my research. I was able to locate several military documents that have never been analyzed before as primary sources, and had the honor of interviewing several military members about their service in the Philippines.

In addition to my work in DC, I had opportunities to talk to the main authors and researchers in militarized prostitution. I met with Cynthia Enloe and spoke with Cathy Lutz: two women whose work is seminal to my field of research.

The experience has been transformative to say the least. I absolutely could not have done so much archival work without the help of RAI and its benefactors. I am so grateful for the opportunity to carry out this kind of research. I am now looking forward to writing everything up and submitting my thesis in May 2015, after which I return to being a full-time U.S. Marine officer. I hope to take back everything I learn to the U.S. Marine Corps, and one day contribute to the further development of a healthy respect toward other cultures and women inside and outside the Marines.