

# RSIS UPDATE

ROUND  
SQUARE

Issue 8 - August 2013

Greetings from Round Square Worldwide! We've had a really wonderful summer hearing about our three amazing RSIS teams, and all their adventures in Peru, Romania and South Africa. We hope you enjoy reading about their exploits as much as we have! *Liz Gray, RSIS Projects Manager*

## Updates on July/Aug projects

### 3 projects:

**Peru, Romania,  
South Africa**

"Before we left our project, the students shared their reflections on what they had learned about the **IDEALS** over the course of the trip. They explained that **Internationalism** involves challenging yourself to see the world from different perspectives.

**Democracy** requires patience to ensure that decisions are fair and just.

**Environmentalism** teaches us to appreciate various comforts that we might take for granted.

**Adventure** involves unexpected yet intentionally induced experiences with the unknown.

**Leadership** doesn't always mean you are in charge!

**Service** requires significant and focused sacrifice."



## PERU

We were delighted to send our 2014 Peru team back to the Andean community of Yuncachimpa to carry on work that the 2013 started. Last year, our team built the first kindergarten that village had ever had. This year, our team has built new toilets and bathrooms for the kindergarten, which will make school a much more comfortable place for the smaller children to be.

However, before the hard work started, the team had to get over some long flights and acclimatize to the much higher altitude. So four days were spent in the Cusco and Sacred Valley areas, doing various activities designed to give them time to get to know each other, get to know the culture of Peru and pit their wits against the environment during a tough climbing day! They had a day in Cusco where they met with our local tour operator, to hear about the work they were going to do in Yuncachimpa, and buy some much needed provisions. They then set off to the Sacred Valley and the following day spent time with our friends at Apulaya where they were taught ancient Inca myths and artistic skills, and then given their own pan-pipes and taught how to play traditional music! They were to put these lessons into practice later on during the trip.....

The next day they set off to climb the 300m via ferrata, a series of iron rungs set into a huge rock-face overlooking the Urubamba River. Our intrepid team climbed up to the top, crossed a wire bridge and had their lunch. They then descended down the other side on a series of 5 long zip-wires! Truly a huge highlight for the team!

They then set off to Yuncachimpa where the team was divided into four groups, each group going off to camp at family houses in the community. Each family cooked breakfast and dinner for their little group, and our students helped them with chores and soon got to know their Peruvian mothers and fathers! The building work on the

toilets and bathrooms was completed in very quick time and after a week of hard graft, the team were rewarded with a couple of days in Aguas Calientes visiting the Mondorpampa rainforest and world-famous site of Machu Picchu!

During the second week of Project work at Yuncachimpa, the team built guinea-pig stables for the community. Andean people in Peru breed guinea-pigs, a traditional source of food (in a similar way to how other communities breed chickens) but most of the animals are free-range around the house which as you can imagine is not the most hygienic of situations. So the community wants to be able to house the guinea-pigs more comfortably in stables which are built out of mud bricks, wooden poles and a tiled roof.

The team finished their time in the community with a fantastic village celebration and blessing of the new buildings they had completed. The team from Apulaya came up to the village bringing traditional costumes and drums with them, and the whole team played their pipes creating a real fiesta atmosphere!

Following their time at the village, the team travelled back to Cusco for a few days at the end of the trip for reviewing and debriefs, and also to visit the markets and take salsa lessons at a famous dance school. It was all rounded off by a last night dinner in a restaurant overlooking the main square with Peruvian music and dancing to see the night through!

A really successful trip which has left a community with new school facilities and community guinea-pig stables!



*"Yesterday we had our last breakfast in Yuncachimpa. Just before 9am, we said our goodbyes and presented our donations to the community. Once again, Valerio and the families wanted me to thank the students, Round Square and the parents, for making this possible. It was difficult to avoid shedding some tears!"*  
*Project Leader*

The team consisted of 22 students who came from 16 different schools: Gordonstoun School, Hotchkiss School, Vivek High School, Wellington College, Aiglon College, Felsted School, Bayview Glen School, Cate School, UWCSEA, Saint Andrews School, Athenian School, Bishops College School, Daly College, Salem, Scindia School and Mayo College.

The Project Leader was Carlos Cazorla (Salem); the Deputy Leader was Sheila Kuyper (Appleby College) and the accompanying adult was Joanne Dunn (Glenlyon Norfolk School). Maria Gracia Moran was the Project Manager in Lima!



This July, I dusted the cobwebs off my backpack and joined the 20-strong team of eager international students on the RSIS Romania project. We headed back to the town of Baisoara in the west of the country, to finish off the various projects that the 2013 team had worked on last year. Our mission was to finish the youth and community centre that the 2013 team had built and complete the stone wall that ran the length of the local primary school as well as build them a sand play area.

We flew into the beautiful old city of Cluj Napoca in the North West of the country where Transylvania College is to be found. We had a day to acclimatize and get over our flights, so we took a tour (accompanied by students from Transylvania College) and strolled around the historical streets of Cluj Napoca. In no time at all we started our drive up to Transylvania College's summer camp in Muntele Baisoarii. En route we made a stop at the awesome Turda Salt Mines which is a vast 750 year old mine that has been turned into a tourist attraction complete with rowing lake, Ferris wheel, and mini golf! It has to be seen to be believed!

Our first day up at the summer camp consisted of going through all the safety briefings and playing lots of hilarious team building games and then we were all set to start our 4 days of trail work up in the mountains, repainting faded signs, installing marker poles and clearing the trails of overgrown vegetation. Our knowledgeable guides Horatiu and Peter came from local NGO Ecouri Verzi, an organization that is involved in the management and sustainable development of protected natural

areas. They expertly showed us how to brush down the bark and lichen from trees and rocks before using stencils to paint on the fresh trail signs, and our team of bush clearers cut down any overgrown branches along the path and ensured that the signs could be seen from a distance. The most physical and time consuming task was installing the black and white striped marker poles as this involved digging a massive hole, extracting any stubborn rocks that may be in the way, wedging the pole in with big rocks and mixing up and pouring cement into the hole for it to set.

The next phase of the project was at the local primary school where we constructed the second half of the wall and by splitting into teams of cement mixers, hole fillers, rock movers and water bucket fillers we finished the task within a couple of days. There was also the task of digging the foundations for the sandbox, and making the wooden frame that was to contain the sand as well as painting a seaside mural to put behind it. Last but not least, an army of gardeners cleared the play area of weeds.

Our mid-project break coincided with a local celebration of St Ille's Day. So we dressed in our finest clothes and visited the local monastery watching the service of songs and prayer on a specially constructed stage on the hill next to the monastery. The whole town had turned out and we had the opportunity to have some photos taken with the local children in their traditional Romanian clothes. As with all celebrations, there was plenty of food, so we all tucked into plates of sarmale (traditional stuffed cabbage parcels) and candied fruit cake which was being handed out to everyone.



The team continued to work hard in the final phase of the project work at the youth/community centre, plastering the walls with first rough cement and then fine smooth cement and finally buffered it so it was completely ready for painting. They also managed to fit in painting and staining the stage at the major's office which is used for town events and everyone got a certificate of excellence from the major!

During their cultural phase the team went on a 4 day tour to visit some of Romania's most fascinating cities and sights including Corvin Castle (what everyone imagines is Dracula's castle, but isn't!), Lake Vidraru, Horezu and Polovragi Monasteries, and then a fantastic drive up the Tranfagarasan Highway to the ancient city of Sibiu.

You can see a fantastic blog all about the team's experience at <http://rsisromania2014.blogspot.ro/>

The team consisted of 20 students from 16 different schools - Herlufsholm Skole, Hotchkiss School, Deerfield Academy, Vivek High School, King's Academy, Felsted School, Cate School, Ermitage, Gordonstoun School, Salem, Athenian School, UWCSEA, Bridge House School, Daly College, Scindia School and Brookhouse School. The Project Leader was Chad Detloff (Chadwick School) and the Deputy Leader was Rachel Cazabon (Lakefield College School). The accompanying adult was Alex Funnell from King's Academy in Jordan.



# SOUTH AFRICA

Once again we had a great team of 22 students returning to South Africa this year, to work with The African Schoolroom and helping to transform another township school. After flying into Nelspruit next to the Kruger National Park, the team settled into their hostel and after a day of orientation and briefings set off to Lwaleng Primary School in Spioenkop just outside White River, Mpumalanga. This is a wonderful school with a high standard of education, but their success is their downfall in that while they would love to enroll more students, they simply don't have the facilities for them all. There are also two classes that have to take place under the tree, and this tree is also the staff room so facilities are meager.

The group was split up into several sub-groups with each assigned different tasks such as working on the brick-laying at the classroom, re-painting the inside of some of the other classrooms and painting a huge world map on one of the school walls, tending to the vegetable garden and new orchard and of course teaching some of the schools' students during the second week of the Project.

*"I was part of the painting crew. While we were working today, a teacher from the school visited the classroom that I, along with Anna and Natalie, was painting. She described to us how she shared the small classroom we were painting with another class, and she told us that the classroom we were building was going to be her own. She was extremely thankful. Hearing her personal side of the story really intrigued me and allowed me to keep pushing through, paint fumes and all."*



When all the school students came back to school in the second week they were truly amazed at how much progress our team had made!

The team was lucky enough to be visited by a couple of great local youth groups during the evenings. The first was the Zwelihle Choral Project which aims to change the lives of its members (all from different challenging family backgrounds) through choral music. In no time at all they had our group up on their feet, singing and dancing in beautiful African harmonies. They were also visited by the Savuka Youth Crew one evening at the camp where they were treated to an energetic and thrilling dance performance, and were then taught some of the moves to try out themselves with some very impressive moves in particular from our Indian and Jordanian team members!

During their mid-project break the team enjoyed a day of touring through Kruger National Park that was on their door-step. They saw four of the Big Five (only the leopard remaining elusive) and loved their first experience of safari in South Africa! They also went on a township tour where they learned about the different hardships that face the people there. Most families in the township live on around US\$25 per month and the team members were astonished at how they make ends meet, and also how much joy and happiness there was in people's lives. A really great life lesson for our students all of whom come from very privileged backgrounds compared to the children in the township.

When the project work was over, the team was given a wonderful farewell by the school and headed off for their wilderness phase. After a visit to the fantastic Maholoholo Conservation Centre (where they got to see, and handle some animals very close up!) they headed off for their 4-day wilderness camp



at Elephant's Drift in the Klaserie Game reserve on the edge of Kruger National Park. The students had a truly wonderful time learning about the environment, the bush and wildlife in an experiential way, through a range of activities such as camping out under the stars, walking safaris and tracking, driving safaris and bush survival skills. They also had some great talks from Richard Goss, the owner of Elephant's Drift who is a world-renowned wildlife filmmaker and photographer. He has certainly left his mark on our students, and hopefully given them a few handy tips for their own pictures too!

To read more about this project and to see lots more great photos and some awesome videos, go to the following blog that was written by the students themselves:

<http://rsissouthafrica2014.wordpress.com/>

The team consisted of 22 students from 15 different schools: Herlufsholm Skole, Gordonstoun School, Hotchkiss School, Athenian School, Glenlilyn Norfolk School, Markham College, Vivek High School, Chadwick School, Aiglon College, Stiftung Louisenlund, Cate School, Amman Bacculaureate School, King's Academy, Scindia School and Mayo College.

The project leader was Karen Niedermeyer (UWCSEA) and the Deputy Leader was Vic D'Alton from Radford College in Australia, who stepped in to the role on day 4 of the trip after the original Deputy Leader had to return home due to family illness. Vic did a fantastic job and we are really grateful for her energy and commitment to the team!

And our remarkable local project manager was Liz Mackintosh to whom we owe an enormous amount of gratitude for organizing such a fantastic project.



*"We are so proud of every participant and their achievements. It is not easy to travel to a foreign country and give your all. Clearly each of the participants gave their all, and made a HUGE difference to the lives of people they had never met less than a month ago. Well done. You can be so proud of yourselves; YOU have made the difference."*

Parent

*"Julian arrived well and we are happy to have him back home. No doubt that this was an incredibly important trip for him and probably every one in the group. Nelson Mandela would have been proud of them if he had known about this project!! We as parents felt not only comfortable and secure that everything was going to be alright because of the fantastic blog but we also felt very well being "taken care of" ourselves by your nice and thoughtful messages. So thank you very much for all your efforts to make this trip an unforgettable experience for Julian and his friends. Our special thanks and warm regards include the project leaders who showed so much commitment! Best wishes, and again congrats for organizing so perfectly this outstanding event!"*

Parent



# Thank You!

We couldn't have wished for better teams of students and better teams of leaders this July! Everyone has worked extremely hard, and become very close friends sharing challenges, laughs and incredible community experiences together. We would like to particularly thank all our leaders and Project partners, without whom none of this would have been possible. While we do all the preparation and administration before each trip, it's the leaders and local managers who bring all our work to life, and guide students through their journey. So thank you! We look forward to having you back on more Projects very soon!

## Notice Board

### Teams in July completed:

- new toilets and bathrooms for a kindergarten; and guinea-pig hutches for the village community in the Andes, Peru
- a new classroom and freshly painted school with vegetable garden and orchard for a township community in South Africa
- 2 new hiking trails, a new school wall and sand-box and a finished youth centre for mountain communities in Romania

## PAPF Statistics

Thanks to your very kind donations to the Prince Alexander Project Fund this year, we were able to give the following funds to our July Projects to enable them to carry out the work necessary to help our partner communities:

**Romania:** £4,675 which paid for trail markers to complete 2 new hiking trails in the Apuseni Mountains; materials to re-build a school wall and create a sand-box in the playground and all the materials required to finish building the youth centre that our 2013 started last year!

**Peru:** £4,200 which paid for all the materials needed to build new toilets and bathrooms for the kindergarten school that our 2013 team built. It also built guinea-pig stables so that Andean families can breed them in a more hygienic way.

**South Africa:** £4,000 which paid for all the materials needed to build a new classroom and restore several others, as well as plant an orchard and vegetable garden for Lwaleng School near White River.

Thank you from Round Square and thank you from all our partner communities!



# Leading Role

With Sonia Christian, Leader for RSIS Projects

## What do you teach and where?

I teach at Dainfern College in Johannesburg, South Africa – the heartbeat of the country!

## When and where was your first experience with RSIS?

December 2010, in the majestically surreal Chang Mai, North Thailand as deputy leader. I was project leader in Cambodia 2011 and 2012 and I will be project leader again in Cambodia this December.

## Over the last few years, you have risen through the ranks from attending a Leader Training Workshop, to being a full Project Leader! What is the biggest or most important lesson you've learned on your route to RSIS Project Leader, and what would you say to others who are keen to go on a Project in the future?

You have to remain true to yourself and trust your instincts. There are always so many challenges and obstacles whilst on the trip such as climate, cultural and language differences and obviously the dynamics of the group. You really just need to keep a calm and cool approach to everything.

I love the motto – “everything will be alright in the end, so if it is not alright, it is not the end”

## What have been the most difficult, and most amazing moment on a RSIS Project and why?

Probably boarding the plane to leave, and realizing that the project and trip is all over. There have been so many amazing moments – it is hard to pick just one. Perhaps watching the little village children brushing their teeth for the first time, after handing out our supplies of toothbrush and toothpaste. It is priceless!

## What's been the funniest thing you've seen or heard on an RSIS trip?

You have to love the Cambodians' ability to pack children, groceries and 3 or 4 adults onto one scooter motorbike. It is a sight to see.

## What is your most important aim when leading students on an RSIS trip?

Safety must be number one, and then ensuring that everyone plays their part and adds to the group experience. An RSIS is definitely a group project and team work is essential!

## Why do you keep coming back to do more Projects?

An RSIS project is always such an amazing experience and you get such a great feeling of accomplishment.

## If money were no object and you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go and what would you do there?

At this stage in my life I would say South America – I have always wanted to go there and climb Machu Picchu. Failing that... some deserted island somewhere in the middle of the bluest ocean!



## Which actress would play you in a film about your life, and what would the title of the film be?

I would play the main role, and the title would be “The travelling girl with the exploding suitcase”

## If you had a super-power, what would it be and what would you use it for?

To be able to fly! – The ability to just fly though the air, enjoying the breath taking views along the way, and be any place you wanted to be would be absolutely incredible!

## Leader Training Workshops and Projects

We are stepping up our Leader Training portfolio in 2015 and will be running a range of Workshops and Projects.

### Leader Training Workshops

The workshops focus on providing delegates with skills relating to selection of suitable projects, selecting leaders and participants, risk management issues, leadership, training and evaluation of projects. They are suitable for any teacher who is planning or leading their own school or Regional Projects, and/or those interested in leading RSIS trips in future.

**Europe Region 2-day Workshop in the UK**  
(held at the new Round Square office, Windsor)  
November 29 - 30, 2014

**Africa Region 2-day Workshop in South Africa**  
(hosted by St Stithian's Girls School)  
January 31 - February 1, 2015

**Africa Region 2-day Workshop in Kenya**  
(hosted by Brookhouse School)  
February 7 - 8, 2015

**Americas Region 2-day Workshop in the USA**  
(hosted by Athenian School, California)  
February 28 – March 1, 2015

Further details of these Workshops will be launched over the next few months, including costs and other logistics.

### Leader Training Projects

Leader Training Projects are 2 weeks in length and start with a 2-day Workshop followed by a 10-day Project to put the Workshop learning into practice. We have already run two highly successful trips to Cambodia (in 2011 and 2013) and are planning to run two Training Projects in 2015:

#### Morocco

Middle two weeks of August 2015.  
Details will be launched in November 2014

#### Cambodia

For two weeks probably from 27th December, 2015. Details will be launched in May 2015



# Projects

## December 2014

### Nicaragua

We are really excited to be sending our team down to Nicaragua this December. The team will be based in a jungle river community down in the south of the country, near the border with Costa Rica. The community is El Castillo, a village founded almost 400 years ago and it boasts one of the oldest colonial buildings in Nicaragua – a fortress built in 1673 as a defense against English pirates!

The team will be working in partnership with a local organization that works with youth and communities on various projects including conservation and environmental issues, community development, training and helping local economies to give them more sustainable long-term earning power.

The team will be building bridges and boardwalks in the outlying parts of the community. Given that this is a jungle village on the edge of a river, the terrain is extremely



muddy and swampy, and some of the people in outlying areas find it very difficult to get around. This prevents some of the children from getting to school easily, and makes it very hard for some to earn a living. So the team will be building a couple of hundred metres of walkway from cement and wood, and also one or two bridges that will span some of the smaller rivers. The group will be in home-stays with local families all of whom are used to hosting foreign visitors and who will form an integral part of the group's community and cultural experience.

During the trip, the team will also have some local language lessons, visits to the local school, visit to the cocoa production cooperative and a visit to the a local project dedicated to conserving the Green Macaw. Mid-way through the Project, the team will go on a full day's kayaking in the Indio Maiz Reserve and will get a fantastic adventure paddling through the jungle which hosts an enormous array of animals and plant-life.

A really fantastic trip which will take adventurous students into a really unique, friendly, beautiful and environmentally diverse part of Central America!

### Cambodia

We are delighted to be sending a team back to the beautiful country of Cambodia this December. The team will be working again with Camps International and will be based at two different camps, north of Phnom Penh. The first camp will be at Beng Pae where the team will be working on some reforestation projects and hopefully helping a family build their house. In the second week, the team will be based up near Siem Reap in a community called Beng Mealea, where they will be working with the community to continue work on the teacher's accommodation at the school and also helping with the tree nursery and experimental "jungle garden". The local employees of Camps International will be with the team throughout providing great insights into local life and overseeing links with the villages. Mid-way through

the project work, the team will go on a 3-day trek in Kulen National Park, walking over a plateau, past waterfalls and half-buried statues and ancient temples. They will spend each night in hammocks next to the monks houses, and go into the forest with local guides to learn about the flora and fauna in the area, as well as the history of the ruins in the Park.

After the project work is over, the team will enjoy some time exploring the World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat!



### India

We are delighted to be sending another team to India this year, to do more work in Khumbharghar, 3 hours outside Mumbai. Our team in 2013 worked with our Project partners at Dhirubhai Ambani International School, and started to build the 3-room school that will be the first for this tiny community of 25 families. The school is not far from being completed, so our team will help to finish the building and will then start on another house for one of the village families.

The community is a small tribal one that is caught between traditional ways of life, and the demands of the modern world. They don't own any land so they cannot earn money through agricultural activity. Instead, they have to collect firewood to sell in markets, or work for money lenders so earning potential is bleak and they cannot find money for even the most basic houses. So the work that our teams (and others) will do is really important to help this community move forwards.

During the mid-project break, the team will spend a couple of days in Matheran, a cool and beautiful hill station not far from the Project and they can relax there, tour the town and visit one of the other village regeneration Projects that DAIS has successfully run at Hassachipatti. After the Project the team will take the train up to Agra and visit the Taj Mahal, Red Fort and other sites around Jaipur!



### Kenya

The RSIS Kenya Project will be returning to work with our wonderful friends at Moving Mountains Trust Kenya. The Trust works with communities to help develop schools and community projects that empower local people all over Kenya. They do a lot of work in the slum areas around Nairobi especially, providing young people with the tools and skills to take themselves and their families out of the poverty trap. 90% of the Moving Mountains staff are previous beneficiaries of the Trust's work

This year, the team will continue to refurbish the classrooms at Maluga Primary school where our 2013 team started their work. The school is pretty basic as you can imagine – much of it made out of mud, without doors or windows and with virtually no resources. So the team will be repairing existing facilities, plastering and painting walls, installing windows, putting in new floors and hopefully installing furniture too. The other

main activity will be focused on learning more about what sustainable development really is, understanding how long-term projects aid community ownership go hand-in-hand and how to bring true benefit to communities through service work.

After the work is finished, the team will have a day and two nights in the Masai Mara and will do a great cycling trip and walk to the gorge in Hells Gate National Park!



# A students **Reflection**

## **Reflection** on community service

While spring break is usually a time of going on adventures away from home, I found myself revisiting a past home earlier this year. In my RSIS trip to South Africa in 2013, I spent most of my days working with the mentally disabled students at the Masoyi Special Care Center and after an incredible month there, I considered it a second home to me. Because of how impactful my experience in South Africa was, I decided to spend my spring break in Room 17 of Los Cerros Middle School working with Janet Hughes and the special education program. During my time at Los Cerros, I was able to connect with the teachers and students, and hopefully help make their days a little more enjoyable.

What I found interesting during my project was just how similar the atmosphere at Los Cerros was to the one at Masoyi. Both used a lot of sensory learning (getting out, walking around, touching things) rather than the non-sensory learning used in the standard classroom. Both encouraged the disabled students to interact with other children, rather than to shut them off from the real world. Both, most importantly, were created around complete acceptance and pure love. Disabled students shouldn't be met with a cold shoulder or ignorance, they should be met with an open hand and an open heart, and it's disappointing that in some places they aren't.

On my first day at Los Cerros, an interesting comment came to me. After walking into the front office to return my volunteer badge, the woman working the office said "You spent all day working in room seventeen?" Astonished after I said that I had, she went around telling all of the other faculty in the office that I, an eighteen year old on his spring break, had spent all day in room seventeen. After seeing her reaction I was somewhat confused, had my day been bad? No, it was fairly enjoyable. Had I been emotionally scarred or freaked out? Not in the least. So as you can imagine, the front office worker was equally astonished when I said that I'd be there all day every day for the next week. And what a great week it was.

On my first day in classroom 17, I got familiar with the routine. At the beginning of the day, we began in a group singing the same series of songs going over the kid's ABC's, numbers, days of the week, months, etc. During each song, the functional children would go up to the board and, using a pointer, match the number, letter, or day on the board to what was being sung. After this, students would go to their individual desks and work on school related things that varied based on their abilities. For example, Reese, one of the more capable kids in the class, would go to his desk and using a marker, trace words and letters on worksheets that the teachers

had prepared. After worksheets, the kids had snack time and then we were outside to take the children on a walk. During this walk, we had the children practice crossing streets in between the marked walkways, pushing street crossing buttons, and respectfully petting animals. While some of the children may never become fully independent, this was still great practice for the children to experience the real world. I found this organization to contrast much of what we did at Masoyi, where the skills taught to the kids were much more basic as most of them will never become independent of their parents/guardians.

After lunch, the students would return for their desks as the day took on a less structured approach. The students would have their choice of doing worksheets, reading, listening to music, or operating computer programs designed for special education students. During this time I would go around to different students and help them with their various activities. While some would ask for me by name to help them, others just needed a gentle nudge in the right direction to pronounce a word correctly or write a letter. Following free time, the students would have a physical education session with Los Cerros' PE teacher and then they were off to their taxi's that would take them home.



Overall, I found my experience to be very worthwhile and I learned a lot about not only special education, but education in general. While Los Cerros may not have been the adventure I had in South Africa, returning to the field of special education gave me the same amount of insight that I was granted at Masoyi. I hope to return to special education at later points in life and to draw from the fantastic previous experiences I've had with it in South Africa, and at Los Cerros.

*By Nate Borchers who graduated from Athenian School, USA this year and who went on the RSIS South Africa Project in 2012.*

# **Opportunities**

## **on December RSIS Projects**

We still have **spaces left** for students on the December RSIS Projects in Cambodia, Nicaragua, Kenya and India and after the 1st September we will be opening these spaces up to Regional Schools. So if you're interested, send us a booking form straight away to **secure your places!**

We also have **vacancies** for **accompanying adults** to go to Kenya and Cambodia and you will have a 50% discount on your Project fee so grab it while it's still going! The other two Projects already have accompanying adults on them, but if you're interested in going please let us know as we may be able to take one more in some locations.

# RISK Nerds Corner

**Safety doesn't happen by accident!**

As you will already be aware, Round Square International Service Projects comply with BS8848, the Standard for the provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions and adventurous activities outside the UK. The Standard went through a period of consultation and re-drafting during 2013, and in April 2014 a revised Standard was published. It is shorter than the previous version and much easier to understand! You can purchase a copy of the new Standard here:

<http://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030270872>

There is also a very useful guide to the new Standard, available as a download on the Round Square website on our safety page: <http://www.roundsquare.org/safety.php>

**Here are some seminars and courses that you may be interested in attending (if you live in these areas):**

## **At the Royal Geographical Society in London, UK**

<http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Fieldwork+and+Expeditions/GO+seminars+and+workshops/Workshops+Safe+and+effective+field+research+expedition.htm>

**Explore 2014:** 14 to 16 November - Lectures, workshops & exhibits to help organize your own expeditions and field trips.

**Off-site Safety Management Training:** 2 and 3 December 2014. Relevant to those organizing education visits (teachers, youth leaders, trip leaders)

**Educational Visits Coordinator Training:** 25th November 2014 - Aimed at newly appointed EVC's looking at roles and responsibilities, risk management, supervision and competence.

## **Off-site Safety Management Training, Havergal College, Ontario, Canada**

29th and 30th November 2014 [louise@internationalexpeditions.ca](mailto:louise@internationalexpeditions.ca)

## **At Stone Mountain Park, Atlanta, Georgia, USA**

**NOLS Wilderness Risk Management Conference 2014** - Pre-conference sessions begin on September 29th, with the conference following from October 1-3, 2014. <http://www.nols.edu/wrmc/>

## **Association for Experiential Education, USA - 42nd Annual International Conference, Chattanooga, TN, USA**

October 23-26, 2014 <http://www.aee.org/>

## **Symposium on Experiential Education in the Digital Age - Boston, MA, USA**

May 2-3, 2015

## **Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education, Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon, USA**

12 – 14 November 2014 <http://www.aore.org/conference>

## **ISEEN (Independent Schools Experiential Education Network)**

10 Annual Institute at Phillips Academy Andover, PA, USA January 21-24, 2015 <http://iseeninfo.com>

## **NOLS Risk Management Training (USA)**

Sept 30 – Oct 1, 2014 – Atlanta, GA

Oct 21-22, 2014 – St Paul, MN

Nov 10-11, 2014 – Portland, OR

[http://www.nols.edu/nolspro/risk\\_management\\_admin\\_training.shtml](http://www.nols.edu/nolspro/risk_management_admin_training.shtml)

