



*From the Office of the American Secretary*

November 17, 2007

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## American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2008

*(Subject to ratification by the Rhodes Trustees after acceptance by one of the colleges of Oxford University)*

### DISTRICT 1

#### Connecticut

**Benjamin M. Eidelson**, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, is a senior at Yale majoring in philosophy and political science. Elected as a junior to Phi Beta Kappa and winner of Yale's Lyman Prize, he won the North American Parliamentary Debate Championship as well as academic prizes in English, humanities, writing and public health. He has a number of published articles in legal and medical publications, and interned in the Newark Mayor's office. Benjamin plans to do the B.Phil. in philosophy at Oxford.

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Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson  
Professor John Bell    Mr Thomas W Seaman    Professor Elizabeth Fallaize  
Professor Sir John Vickers    Mr Michael McCaffery

WARDEN & SECRETARY TO THE TRUSTEES  
Sir Colin Lucas

### New Hampshire

**Adam M. Levine**, Bronx, New York, is a senior at Dartmouth College where he triple majors in anthropology, art history, and mathematics and social science. His undergraduate thesis in art history is an examination of canonical images of Christ. He is interested in the application of mathematical network analysis to art, historical and anthropological studies. He is also a light heavyweight boxer. Adam plans to do a D.Phil. in classics at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 2

### Massachusetts

**Clara L. Blättler**, Brookline, is a Harvard senior majoring in earth and planetary sciences. Harvard record-holder and Ivy League champion in the women's pole vault, violinist in two Harvard orchestras, and a pianist, Clara has done extensive research and field work in geology and chemical oceanography in South America, Africa and Europe. She has also studied at the Goethe Institute in Berlin. Clara plans to do the M.Sc. by Research in earth sciences at Oxford.

### Massachusetts

**Jason R. Bello**, Boston, is a senior at Columbia where he majors in political science and economics and minors in linguistics. His special interest is in democracy studies, and particularly how democracy flourishes or flounders as a result of new technologies. Active in student politics, he is co-president of Columbia's LGBT Jews and Allies, and is executive board member of the Columbia Political Union and Black Students Organization. He also hosts a gourmet cooking show on college television, "The Careless Cook." Jason intends to do the M.Phil. in comparative government at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 3

### New York

**Laurel S. Gabler**, Amagansett, graduated from Stanford in 2006 where she majored in psychology. She spent her freshman and sophomore years at Colby College, and is currently in Thailand as a Luce Scholar. In addition to winning many prizes for her academic work, she

is an accomplished photographer, and has worked in public health projects in Tanzania and Ecuador. At Oxford, Laurel plans to do the M.Sc. in global health science.

#### New York

**Scott M. Thompson**, New York City, graduated from Stanford in 2006 in psychology and political science. Following Stanford, he has taught with Teach for America in a school in the South Bronx while obtaining a master of arts in teaching from Pace University. He has also interned in government offices in Sacramento and Washington, DC, and for the National Center for Youth Law, and co-founded and edited a new undergraduate journal. Scott plans to do the M.Phil. in social policy and social work at Oxford.

### DISTRICT 4

#### Delaware

**Sherif Girgis**, Dover, is a senior at Princeton majoring in philosophy. Born in Cairo, Sherif heads Princeton's Catholic Chaplaincy, is editor-in-chief of The Princeton Tory and is president of the Anscombe Society for the promotion of traditional sexual and familial ethics. He writes and speaks extensively on topics in moral and political philosophy and ethics, and on faith and reason in the public square. He has also worked as a tutor and great books instructor for high school students and sings in the Princeton Chapel choir. At Oxford, Sherif intends to do the B.Phil. in philosophy.

#### Pennsylvania

**Rebecca A. Brubaker**, Kimberton, graduated from Swarthmore in 2006 with high honors in political science and psychology. Her academic focus at Swarthmore was in identity, conflict and nationalism, with a special interest in refugee and immigrant issues. She won the prize for the best paper in political science for her work on conflict resolution in Cyprus. She has led numerous groups and forums on human rights and the plight of refugees. She was also the president of the Swarthmore dance forum. Since graduating, she has studied on Fulbright and Insight Collaborative grants, and is now in Turkey with the U.N. High Commission on Refugees. At Oxford, Rebecca will do the M.Phil. in migration studies.

## DISTRICT 5

### Maryland/District of Columbia

**Melis N. Anahtar**, Bethesda, is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she majors in mechanical engineering and minors in biomedical engineering. A former finalist in the Intel Talent Search, she has a perfect academic record at M.I.T. She has done research in immunology and has worked at the NIST, and at the NIH human genome research institute. Her senior thesis is in the use of micro-electro-mechanical devices in tissue engineering. She also is editor-in-chief of the M.I.T. Undergraduate Research Journal and was a finalist in Glamour Magazine's Top 10 College Women Competition. At Oxford, Melis will do the M.Sc. in integrated immunology.

### Maryland/District of Columbia

**Nadine S. Levin**, Washington, DC, is a senior at The University of Chicago majoring in biological sciences. A concert violinist and a student of Spanish literature, she was elected as a junior to Phi Beta Kappa. She has done extensive research in immunology, including work on the development of an experimental vaccine for bubonic plague. A nationally competitive ultimate frisbee player, she is also a Goldwater Scholar. Nadine worked three months at a public hospital in Bolivia. She plans to do the M.Sc. in global health science at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 6

### Georgia

**Deep J. Shah**, Duluth, is a senior at the University of Georgia where he majors in international affairs and biology. A Truman Scholar with a perfect academic record across a wide range of disciplines, Deep has publications in both public policy and biochemistry. He founded the University's first student think tank, has done research in primate neuroanatomy relating to Parkinson's disease, and has served as an intern in the U. S. Senate, New York City hospitals, and at a children's clinic in Costa Rica. He has also been active in community service organizations. He plans to do the M.Sc. in global health science at Oxford.

### Georgia

**Katherine H.A. Vyborny**, Washington, DC, graduated from the University of Georgia in 2005 with majors in economics and international affairs. Following graduation, she spent a year as a junior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She is now program coordinator for the president of the Center for Global Development. She is the co-author of several publications and is working on a book on globalization and inequality. Kate has studied in China, Croatia, Hungary, Costa Rica, South Africa and England. She is a cyclist and singer and a volunteer in a number of community services. She intends to do the M.Phil. in development studies at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 7

### Florida

**Joseph S. O'Shea**, Dunedin, is a senior at Florida State University where he majors in philosophy and interdisciplinary social science. A Truman Scholar, junior year member of Phi Beta Kappa and a USA Today Top 10 All Academic First Team member, he is the student body president at Florida State. He has also been a leader in state and community activities in Florida and started a free health clinic in the Katrina-ravaged Ninth Ward of New Orleans. He also founded the college-based Global Peace Exchange, modeled after the Peace Corps. Joe will do the M.Phil. in comparative social policy at Oxford.

### Tennessee

**John Blaine Moore**, Cordova, is a senior at the United States Naval Academy where he majors in chemistry. Academically first in his class with a perfect record and a Trident Scholar at the Academy, he is doing research on a class of organic chemicals known as dollabenes. He served as Regimental Commander for half of the plebes entering the Naval Academy last summer. John is also a marathon runner. He plans to go to medical school following Oxford, where he will do an M.Sc. in pharmacology.

## DISTRICT 8

### Texas

**Sarah H. Miller**, Dallas, is a senior at the University of Texas at Austin, where she majors in physics and astronomy. She is a composer of rock, jazz and classical string compositions, and a recorded singer and instrumentalist. She is also a prize-winning graphic artist and painter. She has many published papers, including several relating to the evolution of galaxies. She has also studied theology during summers at Oxford. Sarah plans to pursue a doctorate in astrophysics at Oxford.

### Texas

**Shayak Sarkar**, Edinburg, received his B.A. in applied mathematics at Harvard in June, where he also graduated with a master's in statistics. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and won a prize for his thesis on America's homeless children. He is interested in applying his analytic skills in mathematics, statistics and economics to the problems of poverty, and especially affordable housing and education reform. Already very active in community service, Shayak intends to do a doctorate in evidence-based social work at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 9

### Ohio

**Jessica E. Hanzlik**, Pickerington, is a senior at Ohio State University where she majors in physics and French. She has done research in high energy physics focused on the study of quarks and bosons, and the search for the yet-unobserved Higgs boson. She has been a tutor and mentor and has studied in France and Canada. She founded two organizations whose purposes are to promote and retain women scientists. Jessica plans to do a doctorate in particle physics at Oxford.

### Virginia

**Joyce S. Meng**, Vienna, is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania with majors in finance and international studies. A Franklin Scholar and a Wharton Scholar at Penn, she is also center/forward on the Women's ice hockey team, and a leader of organizations ranging from

the ACLU to debate and Asian business. She is a co-founder of the Youth Bank, an innovative microcredit business incubator for street youth in Lagos, Nigeria. Joyce intends to do the M.Sc. in economics for development at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 10

### Illinois

**Andrew S. Hammond**, Washington, DC, is a 2007 graduate of The University of Chicago in political science. He is now a fellow at the Center of the Study of Social Policy in Washington, DC. A Truman Scholar, he wrote his thesis on Youth Policy, and has written extensively on issues relating to poverty, and children in poverty. He was director of the student ACLU chapter and editorial editor of his college newspaper. He has also written two children's plays that have been performed, and has won an award for his opera singing. He plans to do the M.Phil. in comparative social policy at Oxford.

### Illinois

**Isra J. Bhatti**, Glenview, graduated from The University of Chicago in 2006 with majors in economics and near eastern languages and literature. She is now in her first year at Yale Law School. Isra was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and won many prizes for leadership and scholarship at The University of Chicago. She founded a tutoring program in Chicago, was an English-Urdu translator of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, led a Chicago coalition on criminal justice reform, and chaired Chicago's inner-city Muslim Action Network. Isra also founded and captained the intramural champion women's football team and is a hip-hop artist and poet. At Oxford she plans to do the M.Phil. in evidence-based social intervention.

## DISTRICT 11

### Missouri

**Todd R. Gingrich**, Columbia, is a senior at the California Institute of Technology where he majors in chemistry. CalTech student body president, his most recent research concerns understanding the science that will one day allow for the development of inexpensive solar fuel cells. He has also done research on a protein implicated in Parkinson's disease and

relating to cellular resistance to anti-tumor chemotherapeutic drugs, and has publications in chemical journals. He also founded the CalTech Prank Club. Todd plans to do the M.Sc. in theoretical chemistry at Oxford.

### Missouri

**George C. Olive III**, Springfield, is a senior at Columbia University where he majors in economics and environmental science. His academic work has focused on energy and equitable economic development. He has published a paper in Geology and done research in the Caribbean, India and South America. George has worked on projects related to hydroelectricity, alternative energy technologies and climate change, has done assessments on sustainable energy for the governments of the Dominican Republic and Papua, New Guinea, and has worked as a catwalk technician sampling seafloor sediments in the Arabian Sea. At Oxford, George plans to do the M.Phil. in economics.

## DISTRICT 12

### Michigan

**Brett T. Masters**, Charlotte, is a senior at Princeton where he majors in comparative literature. He won the national Dante prize of the Dante Society of America as well as prizes in the humanities and in writing. At Princeton, he writes for the Daily Princetonian, co-organized the Gay Family Rights Project, and tutors with two different local organizations. Brett plans to do the M.Phil. in English medieval studies at Oxford.

### Minnesota

**Ishanaa N. Rambachan**, Apple Valley, is a senior at St. Olaf College where she majors in political science and economics. Ishanaa is chair of the student senate and active in college and Twin Cities political organizations. She has strong interests in international development and has studied or worked in Turkey, Egypt, and with an NGO in microcredit and women's empowerment in India. She has written about discrimination against the Hindu diaspora and about caste abuses in India. She plans to do the M.Phil. in development studies at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 13

### Colorado

**Hila Levy**, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, is a senior at the United States Air Force Academy where she majors in biology. First in her class, she is an accomplished linguist, minoring in Arabic, French and Spanish while fluent in Italian, Portuguese and Hebrew. She has done research in Dengue hemorrhagic fever in Venezuela, and has written several papers accepted for publication relating to language in the military and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She is also a member of the Academy women's powerlifting team. She will do the M.Sc. in global health science at Oxford.

(Hila is the first Puerto Rican resident to win a Rhodes Scholarship. Rhodes Scholarships are by the Will of Cecil Rhodes awarded by states. As Puerto Rico is not a state, its residents, who are U.S. citizens, are only eligible for Rhodes Scholarships if as a representative of an American state in which they attend college, in her case, Colorado.)

### New Mexico

**Pravin S. Rajan**, Albuquerque, graduated from Georgetown University in 2007 with majors in science, technology and international relations. He served as class marshall and as president of the student body. He has written an article on "Muslim Brotherhood" that has been accepted for publication and has researched terrorist movements in 20 countries. He is now a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and will enter training to become a Marine Infantry Officer in Iraq. In the winter, he will work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. Pravin plans to do a D.Phil. in international relations at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 14

### Iowa

**Nicole L. Novak**, Iowa City, is a senior at St. Olaf College where she majors in environmental studies, Spanish and Hispanic Studies. She has done an econometric analysis of U.S. rice subsidies, research on the health of migrant workers, and on dental health and social economic status in India. She has also done statistical analysis for the World Health

Organization and research on sustainable development and social change in Central America. Nicole is also the captain of the St. Olaf cross country team and president and founder of a St. Olaf social and environmental justice program. She plans to do the M.Sc. in global health science at Oxford.

### Oklahoma

**Andrea M. DenHoed**, Aurora, Colorado, is a senior at the University of Oklahoma where she majors in both letters and international studies. Her interests in literature have been wide-ranging, from the classics to modern English. In international studies, she has focused on South Asia. She has also written a bi-weekly opinion column for the Oklahoma Daily. Andrea co-founded and edits a new student publication, works as a tutor, and taught English to elementary school students in Bangalore, India. She also rows on the Oklahoma crew. Andrea plans to do the B.A. in English language and literature at Oxford.

## DISTRICT 15

### Washington

**Jason G. Crabtree**, Kingston, is a senior at the United States Military Academy where he majors in civil engineering. He is Brigade Commander for the 4400 members of the corps of cadets, and is ranked second in his class overall and first within the military program. A certified paratrooper, scuba driver and mountain climber, he is also an accomplished guitar player. He has done design work for new NASA parachute systems and is particularly interested in space exploration and the engineering necessary for off-world construction. At Oxford, Jason plans to do the M.Phil. in information engineering.

### Washington

**Aaron M. Polhamus**, Bellingham, is a senior at Stanford where he majors in public policy. He spent his first two college years at Western Washington University. He is writing his thesis on Peruvian microfinance and interned at the United States Department of the Treasury on U.S./China economic relations. He has been very active in community service, ranging from homeless outreach to food banks and youth mentoring. He is also a leader of the Campus

Christian Fellowship and a classical guitarist. Aaron has particular interests in poverty and development. At Oxford, he plans to do the M.Phil. in development studies.

## DISTRICT 16

### California

**Reed T. Doucette**, Acampo, is a senior at the University of Southern California where he majors in mechanical engineering. Reed has done research at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to improve the efficiency of catalytic converters and the effectiveness of medical implants. He is a USC presidential scholar with a 3.97 average, and is now doing research involving chemistry, physics, engineering and biology to optimize the efficiency of solar cells. Reed co-founded an organization that has provided consulting services to more than 30 Los Angeles community projects. He has played on USC's varsity basketball team for four years, reaching the NCAA sweet sixteen last season. At Oxford, he plans to do the M.Sc. by research in engineering science.

### California

**Asya J. Passinsky**, Fremont, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2007 with majors in political economy of industrial societies and Russian language and literature. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, she has done research in Russian political economy, and for the U.S. Mission to the U.N. Agencies for Food and Agriculture. She and her family emigrated from Russia when she was a young child. Asya is also a freelance writer for the Arts section of the San Francisco Examiner, and is a translator of Russian poetry to English. A competitive figure skater most of her life, she won the Gold Medal in Ice Dance in the U.S. Figure Skating Association competition in June 2007. She finished first twice in the intercollegiate figure skating championships. At Oxford, she plans to read for the B.A. in philosophy, politics and economics.