**From the AARS President**

For the eighteenth year, the Association of American Rhodes Scholars (AARS) is pleased to present this newsletter introducing the newly elected Rhodes Scholars to their predecessors, to each other, to Oxford, and to individuals and educational institutions nationwide. It is indeed a joy to learn about these fine young people who will follow us to Oxford in late September.

In addition to introducing our 2012 Scholars, this newsletter reports on the seventeenth annual Sailing “Bon Voyage” Weekend, sponsored by the AARS for the class of 2011 Rhodes Scholars, which took place in Washington, DC, last September 24-28. This Weekend allowed the new Rhodes Scholars an ample opportunity to become acquainted with each other before traveling to Oxford and dispersing among the colleges. By hearing from and talking with a wide variety of Scholars of all ages in the course of the Weekend, these young Scholars gained a good understanding of how Rhodes Scholars value academic scholarship, pursue public service, and participate in “the world’s fight.” The keynote speaker at the departure luncheon, attended by the new Rhodes Scholars and a number of older Rhodes Scholars, including the Warden of Rhodes House, Dr. Donald Markwell (Queensland and Trinity ’81), was NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous (New York and St. Antony’s ’97).

The AARS fosters intellectual and social fellowship among its members through facilitating events and reunions and through its publications and the website (*www.americanrhodes.org*). It continues to facilitate the annual transfer of substantial gifts to Oxford, its colleges and related entities through the American Trust for Oxford University. Additionally, the AARS participates in the appointment of the annual Eastman Professor at Oxford and funds the Professor’s salary as well as the maintenance of Eastman House. The quarterly publication of *The American Oxonian* brings current information about Oxford, articles of interest to the *Oxonian* constituency, class letters and the annual address list.

Both this publication and the Sailing Weekend described herein are sponsored by the Association of American Rhodes Scholars and are paid for by dues and generous annual contributions of its membership. While financially and organizationally distinct from the Office of the American Secretary to the Rhodes Trust, many AARS activities enjoy the cooperation of the American Secretary in service to the Scholarships. Commended to you is this newsletter’s report from the American Secretary, Elliot Gerson.

On behalf of the AARS and its Board of Directors, I thank you for continuing your vital support.

Steven A. Crown, President

*(Washington and Queen’s ’80)*