



*From the Office of the American Secretary*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VIENNA, VIRGINIA/November 17, 2007** – Elliot F. Gerson, American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, today announced the names of the thirty-two American men and women chosen as Rhodes Scholars. Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford in England. The Rhodes Scholarships, the oldest and best known award for international study, were created in 1902 by the Will of Cecil Rhodes, British philanthropist and African colonial pioneer. The first class of American Rhodes Scholars entered Oxford in 1904; those elected today will enter Oxford in October 2008.

Rhodes Scholars are chosen in a two-stage process. First, candidates must be endorsed by their college or university. Over 1000 students each year seek their institution's endorsement; this year, 764 were endorsed by 294 different colleges and universities. Committees of Selection in each of 16 districts then invite the strongest applicants to appear before them for interview.

TRUSTEES

The Rt Hon Lord Waldegrave of North Hill (Chairman)    The Lord Kerr of Kinlochard GCMG  
Miss Rosalind Hedley-Miller  
The Rt Hon Lord Fellowes GCB GCVO QSO    The Rt Hon Lord Butler of Brockwell KG GCB CVO  
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

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Applicants are chosen on the basis of the criteria set down in the Will of Cecil Rhodes. These criteria are high academic achievement, integrity of character, a spirit of unselfishness, respect for others, potential for leadership, and physical vigor. These basic characteristics are directed at fulfilling Mr. Rhodes's hopes that the Rhodes Scholars would make an effective and positive contribution throughout the world. As he wrote, Rhodes Scholars should "esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim."

Applicants may apply either through the state where they are legally resident or where they have attended college for at least two years. The district committees met separately, on Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17, in cities across the country. Each district committee made a final selection of two Rhodes Scholars from the candidates of the states within the district. Two-hundred nine applicants from 98 different colleges and universities reached the final stage of the competition, including seven that had never before had a student win a Rhodes Scholarship.

The thirty-two Rhodes Scholars chosen from the United States will join an international group of Scholars chosen from thirteen other jurisdictions around the world. In addition to the thirty-two Americans, Scholars are also selected from Australia, Bermuda, Canada, the nations of the Commonwealth Caribbean, Germany, India, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand, Pakistan, Southern Africa (South Africa, plus Botswana, Lesoto, Malawi, Namibia and Swaziland), Zimbabwe, and Zambia. Approximately 85 Scholars are selected worldwide each year.

With the elections announced today, 3,142 Americans have won Rhodes Scholarships, representing 307 colleges and universities. Since 1976, women have been eligible to apply and 396 American women have now won the much-coveted scholarship. More than 1,800 American Rhodes Scholars are living in all parts of the U. S. and abroad.

The value of the Rhodes Scholarship varies depending on the academic field and the degree (B.A., master's, doctoral) chosen. The Rhodes Trust pays all college and university fees, provides a stipend to cover necessary expenses while in residence in Oxford as well as during vacations, and transportation to and from England. The total value averages approximately US\$45,000 per year.

The full list of the newly elected Rhodes Scholars, with the states from which they were chosen, their home addresses, and their American colleges or universities, follows. Brief biographies follow the list.

For further information, please contact:

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On Sunday, November 18, Mr. Gerson may be reached at 202-288-1195, or leave messages at that number or at 703-821-5960; all calls will be returned as soon as possible. Questions can be directed to the Rhodes Trust office during normal business hours on Monday, November 19, and Tuesday, November 20.