American Rhodes Scholars-Elect for 2002

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

District I
MR. SANJAY BASU
Massachusetts—Massachusetts Institute of Technology
MR. ROBERT R. PORTER
Massachusetts—Harvard University
MS. MEGAN S. STEVEN
New Hampshire—Dartmouth College
MS. RACHEL WALSH
Rhode Island—University of Rhode Island

District II
MR. DAVID A. KOVARA
Delaware—University of Delaware
MS. GRACE E. YU
New York—Syracuse University
MR. ZACHARIAH R. MILLER
Pennsylvania—United States Military Academy
MS. SHAYNA L. STROM
Pennsylvania—Yale University

District III
MS. OEINDRILA DUBÉ
Maryland/DC—Stanford University
MS. EMELIA M. SPENCER
Maryland/DC—United States Naval Academy
MS. ALEXIS R. BLANE
North Carolina—Duke University
MR. SAMUEL W. MALONE
North Carolina—Duke University

District IV
MR. RHETT MARTIN
Arkansas—University of Central Arkansas
MR. P. KUMAR CHERUVU
Florida—Duke University
MR. WILLIAM B. ROPER, JR.
Georgia—Georgia Institute of Technology
MR. ROBERT J. SMITH
Georgia—United States Military Academy

District V
MR. ANDREW PARK
Illinois—Harvard University
MS. ERICA J. WATSON
Illinois—United States Military Academy
MS. ANNE KAFOUR&E
Ohio—Miami University
MR. ZACHARY S. MORRIS
Wisconsin—Ripon College

District VI
MR. NEIL R. BROWN
Iowa—Harvard University
MS. KATHARINE T. BUZICKY
Minnesota—Princeton University
MR. CHRISTOPHER ELDERS
Missouri—Morehouse College
MR. STEPHEN E. SACHS
Missouri—Harvard University

District VII
MR. ALBERT H. CHO
Arizona—Harvard University
MS. MINDY C. HEBERT
Louisiana—Carnegie Mellon University
MS. KENDRA M. YOUNG
Montana—Grinnell College
MR. JOHN C. PROBASCO
New Mexico—University of New Mexico

District VIII
MS. LILLIAN B. PIERCE
California—Princeton University
MS. SUNITA PURI
California—Yale University
MR. NICO I. SLATE
California—Stanford University
MS. ELIZABETH ANGELL
Washington—University of Washington
Elizabeth Susan Angell (Washington)
Proposed Oxford Subject: Modern European History

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Career Aspirations
University teaching and research in history

Elizabeth Angell entered the University of Washington at the age of fifteen and graduated when she was nineteen. Her research interests focus on the history of modern Scotland and, more generally, on nationalism and nationalist movements in a comparative context. She works at the Jackson School as a teaching assistant and as a researcher, though in past jobs she has been “a speechwriter, a secretary, a farmhand, and a freelance editor.” Elizabeth also works at the University of Washington Women’s Center, where she has done research and activism on various women’s rights issues in an international context. As an activist and volunteer, Elizabeth has been involved with Amnesty International, the Jubilee 2000 Coalition for Debt Relief, a local literacy program for prison inmates called Books to Prisoners, Equality Now (an international women’s rights group) and University Street Ministry’s Teen Feed program for homeless youth. She was a finalist for the Dean’s Medal in Social Sciences in 2001, and was awarded a Margaret Balfour Keith Prize for British History and a Blackie Prize for Celtic by the University of Edinburgh. Elizabeth says “I love music, and have been in one choir or another for most of my life—most memorably, in a rock-gospel choir in Scotland.” She also enjoys running, fencing, and kickboxing, “but my favorite sport is travel—this spring I’m going to finish a three month solo trip through Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt—a trip that I started last fall with a Bonderman Fellowship, but had to cut short due to the events of September 11th.”
Sanjay Basu (Massachusetts)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: S.B., Brain and Cognitive Science, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Development Studies

Sanjay Basu is a Truman and Goldwater Scholar who has focused his time at MIT studying human behavior and health. Concentrating in systems neuroscience, Sanjay has studied Alzheimer’s disease and writes about issues of genetics, cognition and behavior. In 1999, Sanjay joined the non-profit organization Partners In Health, where he helped write a critique of World Bank policies toward growth and development, and contributed to the work of Drs. Paul Farmer and Jim Yong Kim, who study HIV and TB in Peru and Haiti. Sanjay spent a summer working with TB and AIDS patients on the border of Thailand and Burma, and has since started the student-based humanitarian aid organization United Trauma Relief (UTR) with the intent of facilitating redistribution efforts from first to third world countries. UTR has shipped tens of thousands of AIDS medicines from the U.S. to Haiti and Africa, and has engaged in relief and long-term redevelopment efforts in Sudan, India, El Salvador and a dozen other countries. Sanjay is particularly interested in the “access to essential medicines” debate and the health effects of development-induced displacement. He is currently teaching a credit course at MIT on the social, economic and political aspects of the AIDS pandemic. Sanjay enjoys watching movies, reading narrative essays and fiction (especially Michael Ondaatje, Sara Suleri, Anita Desai, and Milan Kundera), and he also likes “scaring away people who try to enter the IMF building.”
Alexis Renée Blane  
(District III, North Carolina)  
Duke University: A.B., English, 2002  
Proposed Oxford Course: English Studies

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Career Aspirations  
Research and teaching in literature

An Angier B. Duke Scholar and Faculty Scholar at Duke University, Alexis Blane is the editor of The Archive (the University’s arts magazine) and past director of the Blackburn Literary Festival. Her poetry has won several awards, including the Terry Welby Tyler, Jr. Award, and in 2001 she was the recipient of the English Department’s Award for Outstanding Work in American Literature. With an abiding interest in cognitive neuroscience and neurobiology (she minored in Biology), she helped to found The Duke Mind, an interdisciplinary journal of mind/brain studies. She has tutored elementary school students in writing and mathematics. In the summer of 2001, she spent three months in Kosovo working with children of conflict and in refugee management efforts while struggling to understand the Albanian language—with “fair to middling results on the last.” To “balance out the library-intensive realm of literature,” she enjoys playing volleyball, softball, and basketball and has trained in Tae Kwon Do and Karate. At Oxford she hopes to pursue her interest in “English literature, languages and British spy novels.”
Neil Robert Brown
Harvard University: A.B., Sociology, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Forced Migration and Development Studies

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Career Aspirations
Refugee and development work in both the field and academia

A Sociology honors graduate of Harvard University, Neil Brown’s undergraduate academic career was distinguished by graduate coursework in immigration, human rights and development, and independent field research. While on leave from Harvard, he lived in Bhutanese refugee camps in Nepal, doing research for his prize-winning thesis on ethnic conflict in Bhutan. At Harvard, Neil directed the Room 13 Peer Counseling group and taught international relations at inner-city Boston public schools. For three years, Neil worked at the Harvard Institute for International Development as a training program coordinator. He has also worked with NGOs in rural Namibia and Nepal and chaired a health care workshop at a student conference in Singapore. Neil’s passion for travel has taken him around the world—“favorite places thus far include the Moroccan Sahara, Angola, Nepal, Namibia, and Sikkim.” Neil also enjoys crew and yoga, but the “adrenaline junky” in him has led to “skydiving from 10,000 feet and multiple 500-foot bungee jumps.”
Katharine T. Buzicky  
(Minnesota)  

Princeton University: A.B., East Asian Studies, 2002  

Proposed Oxford Course: Economic and Social History  

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Career Aspirations  
U.S. Army Officer, law  

As an Army ROTC cadet, Kate Buzicky has received many distinctions, including Distinguished Military Graduate (first in graduating class), the Academic Excellence Award, and the Distinguished Leadership Award. She placed first in the 2001 New Jersey All-State Japanese Speech Contest for her speech on the Japan Sea island Sado-ga-shima. In 2000, she won the Princeton in Asia Osawa Fellowship, an award that includes an internship at Freshfields Foreign Law Office in Tokyo, an English teaching position, and a travel grant. She was awarded a Cadet Internship Program internship at the Pentagon in summer 2001, where she worked in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in the Transformation Office. Kate speaks Spanish, Japanese and Portuguese, and has a special interest in Japanese literature. She works as a tour guide in the Princeton University Art Museum and is the President of the Student Art Guides Club. She has also been a Residential Advisor in her college at Princeton for two years, where she assists underclassmen with college life issues, and helps plan diversity programs and social events. One of her hobbies is “baking, and I also enjoy running, swimming, and hiking.” She also travels whenever possible, and her “most memorable trips have been to Portugal, Japan, Spain and Quebec.”
Pavan Kumar Cheruvu

Duke University: B.S.E., Biomedical Engineering, 2002
Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Engineering

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Career Aspirations
Professor and researcher of medical engineering

A 2000 Goldwater Scholar and Angier B. Duke Scholar, Pavan Cheruvu has maintained a 4.0 grade point average at Duke University. He is interested in the design of electronic biomedical devices, having pursued research on pacemaker control algorithms and cardiac defibrillators. Recently he earned a patent for an optical urine biosensor. Pavan is chapter president of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honors society, and served as senior editor of Eruditio, a campus journal for the social sciences and humanities. He is also an ardent student of Indian folklore and religious mythology. He has volunteered in India on an STD awareness mission and primary school education programs. Pavan looks forward to “extensive reading and traveling while at Oxford—and, of course, my first chance to consume lager legally.”
District VII

Albert Hyunbae Cho

Harvard University: A.B., Social Studies, 2002

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Economics for Development; Environmental Change and Management

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Career Aspirations
Economic policy and sustainable development

A 2001 Truman Scholar, Albert Cho hopes to pursue a career linking economic policy and sustainable development. Albert was “tear-gassed in Seattle during the WTO’s Third Ministerial Conference.” His interests in economic development and trade policy have also taken him to Qatar, Mauritius, Switzerland and Trinidad. Elected marshal of Harvard’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa during his junior year, Albert is the recipient of the David Aloian Memorial Scholarship for social and intellectual contributions to Harvard College. He has served as the Executive Editor of the *Harvard International Review* and is the author of the *Global Trade Negotiations Home Page*, a website about international trade policy. Albert is a peer counselor and community AIDS educator, and currently volunteers on the executive board of ImprovBoston, New England’s oldest non-profit improvisational comedy troupe. He has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and enjoys hiking, woodworking, and international travel.
Oeindrila Dubé (Maryland/DC)
Stanford University: B.A., Public Policy, 2000
Proposed Oxford Course: Economics

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Career Aspirations
Economist, female education and other human development goals

Oeindrila Dubé received the Firestone Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Research for her work on international trade and unionism in the U.S. She also helped found the Stanford Labor Action Coalition and the National Student Labor Alliance, a network connecting student labor activists across universities nation-wide. Upon graduating, she received the John Gardner Fellowship for outstanding academic performance and her commitment to public service. She worked in the Chief Economist’s Office at the World Bank, reviewing the impact of structural adjustment programs in six developing nations—a project that led to travel in Uganda, Ghana and Mali. As an Advocacy Officer at the anti-poverty organization Oxfam, she analyzed how patent protection affects access to life-saving medicines in the third world, and advocated increased education lending for poor nations. Currently, she works as a Consultant at the Brookings Institution, where she analyzes basic education in developing countries through the newly-founded Brookings Forum on Universal Education. Her work there has further cultivated her interest in promoting girls’ education in the developing world, “an area I hope to explore deeply at Oxford.” Beyond her academic interests, Oeindrila also has “a passion for the classical North Indian dance kathak,” and enjoys several forms of dance from around the globe.
District VI

Christopher Elders

*Morehouse College: B.A., Political Science, 2002*

**Proposed Oxford Course:** International Relations

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**Career Aspirations**
U.S. foreign policy, elected office

A Truman Scholar, Chris Elders is an active member of Morehouse’s Student Government. He has interned at the department of Veterans Affairs and at the U.S. State Department, where he worked in the office of Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott (Ohio and Magdalen ’68). Chris has received a National Science Foundation research fellowship to study urban youth violence and was selected as a John K. Galbraith Scholarship from Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. With the support of a Charles A. Merrill Scholarship he spent his junior year at the London School of Economics where he was active in the Grimshaw International Relations Society, “learned to play polo, and co-hosted *Obnoxious Americans*, a weekly radio program.” While in London, Chris also volunteered for the Labour party during the British General Election. Chris traveled to Taiwan last summer where he studied East Asian politics and conducted a field study on the Amis, the island’s largest indigenous group. Chris enjoys “watching movies, playing tennis, and reading ‘beat’ poetry and literature.” An All-American debater prior to college, he is eager to “rediscovering debate” at Oxford. Chris also looks forward to “traveling, making time to write poetry, and perfecting my rugby tackle.”
Mindy Claire Hebert (Louisiana)
Carnegie Mellon University: B.S., Biological Sciences, 2002
Proposed Oxford Course: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

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Career Aspirations
University research and teaching

Mindy Hebert was a junior inductee to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Her undergraduate research and Honors Thesis at Carnegie Mellon University were on the structure and function of the Golgi Apparatus (a subcellular organelle responsible for the sorting of membrane and secreted proteins), with the aim of isolating a mutant cell line with an aberrant Golgi structure and/or function. She conducted summer research at the National Cancer Institute, where her work focused on the downstream intracellular effects of Transforming Growth Factor-beta (a signaling molecule implicated in tumor genesis and metastasis) in epithelial cells. Her work earned her an NIH Cancer Research Training Award. She taught at Carnegie Mellon as a Supplemental Instruction Leader and was an active member in the Biology Department’s Student Advisory Council. Mindy has “a profound interest in bioethics, mainly the controversies inherent in new technologies of the research sciences.” She hopes to be able to inform the general public about the scientific details of these technologies and the moral dilemmas created by them, with an eye to fostering a more informed public debate on research policy. In her spare time, Mindy enjoys “cooking, reading, and practicing yoga.”
Anne Elizabeth Kafoure

Miami University: B.A., English Literature, Creative Writing, Women’s Studies, 2001

Proposed Oxford Course: English Studies

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Career Aspirations
English, art, activism, and teaching

Annie Kafoure wrote and illustrated a children’s book that was published in 1994, and she has continued to receive awards for her writing. Annie became interested in the power of language in contexts of healing as an intern in an urban Planned Parenthood clinic and as an Equine Assisted Therapy volunteer. This initial interest developed into a university-funded research project which focused on women’s relationships to illness and healing in early modern Spain and England. A Benjamin Harrison Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Annie has also tutored local elementary school students, served as editor for a not-for-profit children’s publishing company, and worked to develop outreach programs for victims of domestic violence. She was an undergraduate teaching assistant for Freshman Composition, a Summer Orientation Leader for incoming freshmen, a campus tour guide, and was active in Miami University’s Student Foundation, Scholar Leader Program, and literary magazine. She plays piano, saxophone, and oboe, and “in addition to my love of music, I’m fascinated by visual art, history, and film.” Having spent two terms reading English at Cambridge, Annie is excited to return to England. She hopes to pursue a career incorporating scholarship, art, activism, and teaching.
District III

David A. Kovara (Delaware)

University of Delaware: B.A., Philosophy; M.A., Liberal Studies, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Theology; Christian Ethics

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Career Aspirations
Public interest law, teaching

In 1998, David Kovara co-founded the Children’s Legal Action Network in Kenya, a non-profit child rights organization linking professional lawyers with abused children. In 2000, he co-founded a second chapter in Uganda to address the illegal incarceration of juvenile offenders. His work with government and non-government organizations in Nairobi led to the creation of an integrated child abuse database, a website for the African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (www.anppcan.org), and a conference presentation in Istanbul on African child protection. In 1998, David lived for three months in a monastery in Greece; the following year, he spent two semesters in the department of Theology at the University of Tübingen. He has explored the intersection of child rights and religion by working for two orphanages: Nyumbani, an AIDS orphanage in Nairobi supported by Jesuits; and Sevalaya, a Hindu service center in India founded upon the writings of Ghandi, Vivekananda, and Bharathi. In Oxford he will focus on Christian ethics and human rights law. As a Truman Scholar, he will then return to the United States to attend either seminary or law school. “A love for running and folk music” he says, “will no doubt follow me everywhere.”
District III

Samuel Westmoreland Malone (North Carolina)

Duke University: B.S. Mathematics/Economics, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Economics

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Career Aspirations
Professor of economics

Sam Malone was awarded a Goldwater Scholarship in 2001 and was an Angier B. Duke Scholar at Duke. In 1999, 2000, and 2001, he was a member of the three-person Duke team to win the Mathematical Contest in Modeling, an international competition requiring students to formulate a solution to an open-ended problem suggested by experts in government and industry. At the request of the FAA, Sam and his teammates presented their 2000 paper “Mathematical Models for Air Traffic Control” to operations researchers in Washington, D.C. He served as editor of Vertices, the Duke undergraduate publication of math, science, and technology, for which he has written articles on pharmacokinetics, mathematical finance, and multidimensional scaling. During the past four years, he has also been involved with Amnesty International, the Duke Investment Club, and cancer research at Duke Medical Center. Sam “may not have been the inspiration for the Cheers character that shares my name,” but nonetheless hopes to enjoy “many a pint of cold Guinness in Oxford.” His passions include “running, writing and reading poetry, and playing Devil’s Advocate.”
Rhett Preston Martin

University of Central Arkansas: B.A., Philosophy, 2002
Proposed Oxford Course: Literae Humaniores

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**Career Aspirations**
Professor of philosophy or classics

Rhett Martin completed both the Latin and Greek components of the Latin/Greek Institute, where he finished *summa cum laude*. He was named an Outstanding Liberal Arts Student and Outstanding Philosophy Student at UCA in 2001, and an Outstanding Honors College Freshman in 1996-97. An avid member of the philosophy club, he also helped edit Professor Charley Harvey’s book on Edmund Husserl. Rhett is an accomplished linguist who knows Latin, Greek, French, and German. He left high school one year early to enroll in UCA with full funding. Originally a Physics and Chemistry double major, Rhett changed to philosophy to pursue his interest in the workings of language. He hopes to be in a position “to combine my love of the Classics, Philosophy and Politics into books that articulate current events in terms of our intellectual heritage.”
Zachariah Robert Miller (Pennsylvania)

United States Military Academy: B.S., Computer Science, Mathematics, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

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Career Aspirations
Army Officer, public service

Competing in his fourth year as a member of the Army Rugby team, Zac Miller is no stranger to one of England’s favorite sports. This past summer, as a company commander for Cadet Basic Training, Zac was responsible for the inprocessing and summer training for 150 new cadets. His internship with the Women Waging Peace foundation took him to Azerbaijan, where he worked at a summer camp for refugee children. Zac is active in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and the Special Olympics at West Point. A Truman Scholar and winner of West Point’s top award in mathematics, Zac will return to the U.S. Army after his time in Oxford, seeking an assignment with an Airborne Infantry unit.
Zachary Scott Morris (Wisconsin)

Ripon College: B.S., Biology and Chemistry, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Anthropology

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Career Aspirations
Biomedical cancer research in molecular biology and/or immunology, biomedical ethics; public health policy

Zach Morris, a 2001 Goldwater Scholar, has long dreamt of conducting cancer research. While this dream initially sprang from a childhood loss, it has “since blossomed into a sincere academic interest” that has led Zach to pursue two summer research fellowships at Argonne National Laboratory. In these fellowships, Zach examined the structure-function relationships of various membrane proteins and presented the results of this research at two national undergraduate symposia, a Central Wisconsin Regional meeting of the American Chemical Society, and as co-author of a manuscript currently in preparation. Zach has been a two year member of the varsity football team and a four year member of the varsity baseball team at Ripon College. Zach was selected to the American Football Coaches’ Association “Good Works” All-American Team for dedication to community service. In baseball he has served as a team captain for two years, was selected to the Verizon Wireless 1st Team Academic All-American Team, and received 1st Team All-Conference and 2nd Team All-Midwest Region accolades for athletic achievement. He organized the Ripon Red Hawk baseball team’s “Have a Catch” program to teach baseball and study skills to local elementary students who struggle academically. Zach is also an active and long time volunteer for the Parkview Nursing Home, Special Olympics, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Fond du Lac County. Zach has “an intense love of the outdoors and aviation” and derives “many of my hobbies from these two arenas.”
Andrew Park

Harvard University: B.A., Economics, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Comparative Social Policy

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Career Aspirations
Legal career in civil liberties, piano performance

Andrew Park is the recipient of numerous academic distinctions at Harvard, including the Detur Prize, the John Harvard Scholarship, and the Sarah and Pauline Meier Scholarship. He has been extensively involved in public service on campus, working with refugees in the Boston area and serving as Vice President of the Phillips Brooks House Association, the largest public service organization on campus. His experiences as the leader of the Asian American Association sparked his interest in contemporary issues facing Asian Americans and offered a path by which to explore his Korean roots. Andrew’s interest in civil liberties has grown out of these formative college experiences, and he hopes to pursue a law degree after leaving Oxford. In addition, Andrew is a nationally recognized pianist who has performed across the U.S. and internationally as a concert performer and contestant in international competitions. He debuted with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age fourteen (performing Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto) and is currently working through Ravel’s complete piano works as well as polishing Rachmaninoff’s Third Concerto. He also plays jazz on the alto saxophone, enjoys reading and writing short fiction, jogging along rivers, and “might be coaxed into cooking an entire Thanksgiving dinner if you ask nicely.”
Lillian Beatrix Pierce
Princeton University: B.A., Mathematics, 2002
Proposed Oxford Course: Pure Mathematics

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Career Aspirations
Professor of mathematics,
research and teaching

Lillian Pierce’s professional violin career began when she was eleven. She has appeared as a soloist with professional and student orchestras across the U.S. and overseas and has participated in the Tanglewood Festival, the Baroque Performance Institute at the Oberlin Conservatory, and the International Institute of Music in Marktoberdorf, Germany. Lillian is also an actress, costumer and set designer for the peripatetic acting troupe Six Actors in Search of an Audience. Lillian is studying mathematics at Princeton—where she is writing her thesis on an aspect of the Riemann Hypothesis—and has participated in classified mathematics at the National Security Agency. She is “keenly interested in computational biology and drug design” and has participated in theoretical chemistry research at Princeton and directed protein evolution research at Caltech. A Goldwater Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Lillian was named to the USA Today 2001 College Academic First Team and at Princeton has twice been awarded the President’s Award for Academic Achievement. Lillian “remains puzzled by two parts of my life in particular: my selection as one of Glamour Magazine’s Top Ten College Women of 2001, and how exactly to describe my early education (which occurred almost entirely at home).” Lillian’s favorite activities include “playing archaic Medieval and Renaissance instruments with my family, making traditional Ukrainian pysanky eggs, planning extravagant theatrical productions, running, and swimming in pools, lakes, and oceans.” At Oxford Lillian plans to take up Scottish dancing and “to find a Shakespearian acting troupe that doesn’t mind an American accent.”
Robert Roger Porter (Massachusetts)
Harvard University: A.B., Government, 2002
Proposed Oxford Subject: Politics

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Career Aspirations
Law, academia, and public service

As President of the Harvard Republican Club, Robert Porter has been active in several state and national political campaigns. He spent summers working in the U.S. Senate and the White House, specializing in education and welfare policy. At Harvard, Rob directed Partners for Empowering Neighborhoods, an adult education program offering courses in computer literacy, ESL, and mathematics. He served on the board of trustees of Phillips Brooks House Association, the nation’s largest student-run non-profit organization, through which he volunteered as a weekly middle school social studies teacher, a youth mentor, a Head Start reader, and a GED math instructor. After his freshman year Rob spent two years in England as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where he held debates, offered lectures, and organized seminars about the Mormon faith. His senior honors thesis in government focused on the moral and political thought of C. S. Lewis, and he is “excited to pursue further the study of political theory at Oxford.” An avid tennis player, Rob hopes to make a yearly pilgrimage to Wimbledon.
District VII

John Calvin Probasco
(New Mexico)

University of New Mexico: B.S., Biochemistry, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Psychology, Philosophy, Physiology

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Career Aspirations
Clinical research, health policy

John Probasco is a Regents’ Scholar and University Honors Program student at the University of New Mexico. Awarded a Barry Goldwater Scholarship in 2000, John was also named a Truman Scholar and elected to the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies in 2001. Throughout his time at UNM, he has studied oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy at the UNM School of Medicine. His work has focused on the cellular etiology of this rare myopathy. John also has conducted research at the National Institutes of Health through the National Institute of Neurological Disorder and Stroke (NINDS) Summer Program in the Neurosciences. For his three summers at NINDS, he was named an Exceptional Summer Student. This past summer, John had the opportunity to shadow and assist rural primary care health providers through the New Mexico Clinical Education Program. John has been involved with the residence hall government as well as the undergraduate student government, serving in several offices, including Senator and Chief Justice of the Student Court. He also represented his fellow undergraduates throughout the recently completed strategic planning process at UNM. John also helps to coach his younger brother’s club soccer team. Aside from playing and watching “football”, John enjoys “tutoring, reading, running, and struggling to learn Greek.”
Sunita Puri

Yale University: B.A., Social and Cultural Anthropology, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Social and Cultural Anthropology

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Career Aspirations
Primary Care Physician in underserved minority communities, professor of medical and cultural anthropology, anti-imperialist, Gandhian peace advocate

Sunita Puri’s service work and academic research have centered largely on the issues of domestic violence, eating disorders, and mental health in South Asian and Asian American immigrant communities. She recently received the Rivers Prize, from the Society for Medical Anthropology, for her senior essay paper entitled “Immigration, Isolation, and (Community) Identity: Domestic Violence in South Asian Communities in England and America”, which will be published in Medical Anthropology Quarterly. She is also the recipient of the Amy Rossborough Fellowship, as well as the Bates Fellowship, Class of 1956 Fellowship, Ford Foundation Student Fellowship, and a South Asian Studies Fellowship. For her leadership in a variety of Yale societies, she received the Dean’s Award for contributions to the Asian American community. Sunita has been actively involved in counseling work on the Yale campus. She also received the American Physiological Society Undergraduate Research Award for her research on the genetic control of metabolism at the Yale School of Medicine. In 1999, she served as an HIV/AIDS peer educator for Indian youth. In 2000, she worked with a Burmese refugee community in Delhi, writing an ethnographic report on their health needs, living conditions, and experiences of migration in the context of major human rights violations. She will return to India this summer to chair an HIV/AIDS peer education and research team and hopes to continue her work with the epidemic in South Asia while at Oxford.
District IV

William Bruce Roper, Jr.

(Georgia)

Georgia Institute of Technology: B.S., Physics, 2001; M.S. Physics, 2002
Proposed Oxford Course: Mathematics

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Career Aspirations
Professor of physics,
perhaps National Science Advisor

A Presidential Fellow and Truman Scholar, William Roper is graduating from Georgia Tech with an M.S. and B.S. in physics and a minor in mathematics. A dedicated educator, he received a Presidential commendation for founding and directing a state-funded tutoring program in 400 Georgia schools. He has also conducted extensive research in mathematical physics for the U.S. Department of Defense, earning two awards from the Department of Naval Surface Warfare, an American Physical Society award, and over $1,000,000 in grants. In addition to his research in physics, he is a published poet and essayist and holds a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. He also enjoys singing in Georgia Tech’s Chamber Choir and with the Atlanta Ballet. “My most bizarre habit,” Roper confesses, “is reciting digits of pi when waiting in line.” How many digits does he know? “One thousand,” he reports, “but I don’t wait in lines that long.” Two weeks after winning the Rhodes, William “married my college sweetheart, Marti Moore.”
Stephen Edward Sachs

Harvard University: A.B., History, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Politics, Philosophy, and Economics

District VI
(Missouri)

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Career Aspirations
Law, public service

In July 2001, as an intern on the Democratic staff of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Stephen Sachs watched the House approve an amendment he had drafted to a bill addressing stem cell research and human cloning. The previous summer, Stephen had briefed the ranking member of the Crime Subcommittee on the Innocence Protection Act, applying earlier research he had conducted on innocence and the death penalty for a seven-part editorial series in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. In preparing for a hearing on interstate choice-of-law, he encountered a medieval model of commercial law that became the topic of his senior thesis in medieval history. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year, received two History Department Junior Essay Prizes, and was awarded the Dante Prize by the Dante Society of America for an essay on the Divine Comedy. Stephen was Editorial Co-Chair of The Harvard Crimson and wrote a biweekly column on law, technology, and politics. An Eagle Scout, Stephen also maintains a Linux-based web server, played clarinet in the Harvard Band, worked as a peer tutor in economics, and taught science at a Cambridge elementary school as an ExperiMentors volunteer.
District VIII

Nico I. Slate

(California)

Stanford University: B.S., Earth Systems; B.A., Interdisciplinary Humanities, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Environmental Change and Management

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Career Aspirations
Professor, environmental science and policy, literature and philosophy

Nico Slate grew up in the Mojave Desert, where he developed “a love for sunsets, starry skies, and great books.” As a high school sophomore, he participated in the Quest Scholar’s Program, an intensive six week residential education program for low-income high school students. After leaving high school a year early, Nico was accepted to Stanford University as a President’s Scholar. There, he has worked for Quest for the past five years, as a counselor, curriculum coordinator, writing tutor, and head public speaking instructor. As an undergraduate, Nico has investigated nutrient cycling in Hawaii, conservation and community development in the Peruvian Amazon, the education of tourists in Nepal, and the life and work of Pablo Neruda in Chile. His belief in “meaningful travel” lead him to found Bridges to Home, a non-profit organization that plans and funds travel opportunities for low-income college students and teachers from disadvantaged communities. After returning home, all Bridges students translate the lessons they learned overseas into individual public service projects. Nico is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and has served on Stanford’s Interdisciplinary Humanities Steering Committee. He “loves Aikido, classical guitar, and basketball,” the latter of which he hopes to play competitively on Oxford’s team, something he “could only dream of doing at Stanford.”
Robert John Smith (Georgia)
United States Military Academy: B.S., International Relations/Economics, 2002
Proposed Oxford Course: Economics

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Career Aspirations
U.S. Army Infantry Officer,
public service in and out of uniform

Rob Smith will finish his senior year at West Point as the Deputy Brigade Commander, second in command of the 4,000 members of the Corps of Cadets. Over the summer before his senior year, Rob participated in a military exchange to Uzbekistan “before anyone knew where that was.” He also served as the Cadet Commander for Cadet Field Training 2001, where he was responsible for the summer training of the approximately 1200 members of the class of 2004. Elected to several academic honor societies, including the Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society in Economics and Phi Kappa Phi National Scholastic Honor Society, Rob also spends time working with the Orange County Special Olympics. Before traveling for the first time to England, Rob will spend this summer walking through the woods of Georgia and the swamps of Florida at U.S. Army Ranger School.
Emelia M. Spencer (Maryland/DC)
United States Naval Academy: B.S., Political Science, 2002
Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations

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Career Aspirations
Naval Officer, U.S. foreign policy

As the Director of Education for the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, Emelia Spencer spends much of her time preparing for the nation’s largest and most distinguished undergraduate foreign affairs conference. In the past four years, the conference has covered her major interests in international relations: peacekeeping, civil-military relations, and terrorism. This past summer Emmy worked as a member of the Post-Conflict Reconstruction project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., where she focused on civil-military relations in peacekeeping operations. In the first semester of her senior year, she served as the Brigade Operations Officer, coordinating the activity schedule for over 4000 midshipmen, organizing school spirit events, and coordinating the Combined Federal Campaign within the Brigade. When she is not pursuing her academic or professional interests, Emmy can be found sailing with Navy’s Varsity Intercollegiate Dinghy Team. Her interests also include tennis, dancing, and traveling. Emmy looks forward to serving in the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer.
Megan Suzann Steven
(New Hampshire)

Dartmouth College: A.B., Psychological and Brain Sciences, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Sciences

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Career Aspirations
Neuroscience research

Megan Steven received numerous awards at Dartmouth, including a Benner Fellowship Award for Physiological Psychology Research, recognition as a Rufus Choate Scholar, and a Presidential Scholars Thesis Award. Her research interests lie in understanding how the visual areas of the brain function when there is no more visual information entering the brain (when, for example, people become blind after a period of being sighted). Megan is interested to discover whether these areas of the brain can “remap” to processing other, non-visual kinds of sensory information like tactile or auditory information. After her time at Oxford she hopes to start her own neuroscience laboratory at a U.S. university. Megan was the founding president of the Planning for College Success Program, a mentoring program for seventh and eighth grade Vermont students who have the academic potential eventually to go on to college but who, because of disadvantageous circumstances, often do not entertain higher education as a possibility. She was also the founding president of the Dartmouth College chapter of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars. In Spring 2001 Megan spent three months in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, where she served as a volunteer eighth grade biology teacher. Megan shows “a penchant for vigorous sport,” serving as captain of her Junior Olympic Volleyball team in high school and as a member of the Dartmouth College Boxing Team. In the summer of 1996, she rode her bicycle 4,000 miles from Seattle to Portland, Maine.
Shayna L. Strom  
(Pennsylvania)  

Yale University: B.A. Ethics, Politics, and Economics, 2002  
Proposed Oxford Course: Urban Geography  

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Career Aspirations
Public service, public policy, possibly academia

Shayna Strom is a past coordinator and current Board member at Dwight Hall, the Center for Public Service and Social Justice at Yale and the largest and oldest student-run campus public service umbrella organization in the country. Shayna works with a group of low-income New Haven residents and is working with Yale faculty members to build a program in urban studies at Yale. Shayna’s research on welfare reform and teenage pregnancy has been presented in front of a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Shayna is also a serious musician who has played the flute with several Yale orchestras and chamber groups and was a finalist to solo with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the age of sixteen. She sang for two years with an *a cappella* group and currently sings with the Yale College Opera Company. Interested “both personally and intellectually in the relationship between gender and religion,” Shayna traveled to Bangladesh last summer to research poverty alleviation in Muslim communities. Shayna’s friends joke that “I tend to analyze, well, *everything*.” She’s trying hard not to analyze that statement.
Rachel Walshe

University of Rhode Island: B.A., Philosophy, 2000

Proposed Oxford Course: English Studies

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Career Aspirations
Directing and dramaturgy for non-profit theatre

Rachel Walshe graduated with highest distinction from the University of Rhode Island in 2000 and is the first person in her university’s history to be named a Rhodes Scholar. Her academic pursuits and career goals revolve around the arts and she has been awarded a number of grants supporting her research in aesthetics—specifically examining the relationship between existentialism and the performing arts. A Michael P. Metcalf Fellow, she conducted research at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland and is anxious to return to the world’s largest performing arts festival while studying at Oxford. In addition to working extensively in non-profit theatre as an actor, director, dramaturg, technician, and stage manager, Rachel has supplemented her income for several years as a bartender. As both a philosopher and thespian, she hopes ultimately to combine the two fields in a career committed to directing in non-profit theatre. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and recipient of her university’s President’s Award for Excellence in Philosophy, Rachel is also an accomplished equestrian, winning championships in various hunt seat classes. She co-founded a chapter of the national Campaign to End the Death Penalty at URI and has volunteered extensively in elementary and middle schools as a literacy mentor. Besides her passion for philosophy and theatre, Rachel is “a horror film enthusiast, and devoted Talking Heads and David Byrne fan.”
Erica J. Watson

United States Military Academy: B.S. American Politics, 2002

Proposed Oxford Course: Political Theory

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Career Aspirations
U.S. Army Medical Service Corps Officer,
issues of civil society

A 2001 Truman Scholar, Erica Watson was ranked first academically out of her over 900 classmates at West Point, where she received the Superintendent’s Award. Erica was named one of the 2001 Glamour Magazine Top Ten College Women. A two-time Varsity Letter winner for the Army tennis team, Erica is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Parachutist School. She works extensively with a mentorship program she created, bringing together cadets and local high school and elementary students. She is deeply involved in a ministry group for junior high students through the Military Community Youth Ministry program and works with the Special Olympics and as a tutor at West Point. She is also interested “in working in the future on issues of civil society, both in countries that I may deploy to on Army missions and as a civilian public servant afterward.” At Oxford, Erica hopes to re-explore some “childhood passions,” especially “piano and dance—everything from classical ballet to hip-hop!”
Kendra Marie Young  
Grinnell College: B.A., Biology, 2002  

Proposed Oxford Course: Comparative Social Policy

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Career Aspirations  
International health, health policy, combating infectious disease

A proud Montana native and Grinnellian, Kendra Young is a Grinnell College Joseph F. Wall Scholar and the winner of the Smith Family Prize for outstanding contributions within her department of specialty. She was twice awarded Grinnell College summer grants for volunteer work as an emergency paramedic in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and for neuroscience research investigating the role of glial cells in synapse modulation in Dr. Clark Lindgren’s laboratory. Additional Grinnell grants supported an exploration of the Costa Rican hospital system which, together with her work in Bolivia, formed the backbone of her Global Development Studies thesis entitled, “Public Health Systems Come of Age: A comparative look at the public health systems of Bolivia and Costa Rica.” Her passion for and experience in health care abroad led her to create, organize, and facilitate the first Grinnell Student Symposium of Healthcare Experience, which took place in March 2001. Kendra also traveled throughout Costa Rica interviewing the directors of sixty non-profit organizations to document internship opportunities for her fellow students. She served as one of two undergraduate representatives on the Grinnell College Trustee Academic Affairs Committee, was the science division student representative to the Campus Curricular Committee, and was a member of the Biology Student Education Policy Committee. Kendra began playing the violin early in life, a passion she continues to pursue as a member of the Grinnell College orchestra. She also enjoys “hiking, skiing—both water and snow—good food, lively conversation with interesting people, traveling abroad by bus,” and is “a history of medicine junkie.”
District II

Grace E. Yu

New York

Syracuse University: B.A., Political Science, 2001

Proposed Oxford Course: Politics; Philosophy and Theology

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Career Aspirations
U.S. foreign policy, academia

In January 2001, Grace Yu ended her tenure at the White House where she served as a Special Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA). She was the IGA representative for China trade and World Trade Organization issues in addition to liaising with the nation’s town, city and county elected officials. Since June 2001, Grace has been a Research Fellow and Guest Lecturer at the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management (Japan’s leading think tank and post-graduate institution for politics and policy research), where she lectured on American politics and explored conflicts in East Asian historiography and soft power dynamics in the U.S.-Japan-China relationship. A Syracuse University Scholar and Phi Beta Kappa inductee, Grace was selected University Valedictorian and was awarded the J. Reynolds Award for Political Science. Grace is fluent in Korean and Japanese, and reads and writes Chinese with proficiency. She is “an incorrigible world traveler” and her most “stretching” summer was spent in the Republic of Kazakhstan, where she “survived a locust plague and proton rocket explosion.” Grace gets religious about her camera—in her love for photography and the power of cinema. She laments big studio remakes of patient foreign films “that lose their lyrical, intuitive beauty for the viewership of the lowest common denominator.” Music and cooking are her passions. Being the proud progeny of parents recognized for fine culinary science and lore, cooking and serving remind her of “how life should be enjoyed—on a large banqueting table with family and loved ones savoring, praising, and criticizing everything.”