



## American Rhodes Scholars-Elect for 2007

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

### *District I*

MAYA U. SHANKAR  
*Connecticut—Yale University*  
AMIA P. SRINIVASAN  
*Connecticut—Yale University*

### *District II*

JOSHUA H. BILLINGS  
*Massachusetts—Harvard University*  
CHRISTIAN C. SAHNER  
*New Jersey—Princeton University*

### *District III*

JACOB E. LEMIEUX  
*New York—Stanford University*  
KEVIN SHENDEROV  
*New York—New York University*

### *District IV*

SEAN A. GENIS  
*Pennsylvania—United States Naval Academy*  
WHITNEY HARING-SMITH  
*Pennsylvania—Yale University*

### *District V*

CASEY N. CEP  
*Maryland/DC—Harvard University*  
MARIA REPNIKOVA  
*Maryland/DC—Georgetown University*

### *District VI*

DANIEL E. ARMANIOS  
*Georgia—University of Pittsburgh*  
ZACHARY-JOHN A. MANFREDI  
*Georgia—Emory University*

### *District VII*

BENJAMIN J. LUNDIN  
*Tennessee—University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
BRAD M. SMITH  
*Tennessee—Harvard University*

### *District VIII*

TIMOTHY F. SIMMONS  
*Texas—United States Military Academy*  
GINGER L. TURNER  
*Texas—Stanford University*

### *District IX*

NICHOLAS J. SHELLY  
*Virginia—United States Air Force Academy*  
MICHELLE M. SIKES  
*Ohio—Wake Forest University*

### *District X*

PARVINDER S. THIARA  
*Illinois—Harvard University*  
ELISE D. WANG  
*Illinois—Harvard University*

### *District XI*

AARON F. MERTZ  
*Missouri—Washington University in St. Louis*  
LEANA S. WEN  
*Missouri—Washington University in St. Louis*

### *District XII*

SHAAN-CHIRAG C. GANDHI  
*Michigan—Case Western Reserve University*  
KATIE N. LEE  
*Minnesota—University of Minnesota*

### *District XIII*

AVI I. FELLER  
*Arizona—Yale University*  
CHARLES R. SALMEN  
*Colorado—Duke University*

### *District XIV*

BRIAN C. JOHNSRUD  
*Montana—Montana State University-Bozeman*  
RYAN R. THORESON  
*North Dakota—Harvard University*

### *District XV*

KERIANN M. BACKUS  
*Washington—Brown University*  
ANDREW G. SHIPLEY  
*Oregon—University of Oregon*

### *District XVI*

ROXANNE GENEVIEVE QUIST  
*California—Cornell University*  
JULIE VEROFF  
*California—Stanford University*



District VI  
(Georgia)

## Daniel E. Armanios

University of Pittsburgh: B.S., Mechanical Engineering;  
B.A., Political Science, 2007

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Management Research

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### *Career Aspirations*

Professor of engineering;  
adjunct professor of public policy



A Goldwater Scholar, a Truman Scholar, and a Donald M. Henderson Scholar at the University of Pittsburgh, Daniel Armanios is a Marietta, Georgia, native and the son of Coptic Egyptian immigrants. Daniel pursued three National Science Foundation internships and, through these research experiences, developed an energy savings composite model applicable to unmanned aerial vehicle blades. As a result of this work, the American Helicopter Society named Daniel a Vertical Flight Scholar. Daniel's interest in the role of science in diplomacy led him to found "Session: Middle East", a student organization and simulation allowing participants to address the Arab-Israeli conflict through role reversal based on a cross-disciplinary approach (including science). The proceedings of the organization's first national forum in 2006 were translated into three languages and disseminated in both North America and the Middle East. Daniel's involvement in science and policy has given him the opportunity to present his work in multiple forums and to publish his work in journals such as *Biomacromolecules* and the *International Journal of Technology, Policy, and Management*. In addition to earning degrees in mechanical engineering and political science, Daniel will graduate with a minor in economics. Daniel is also presently an events and exchange editor for the *Oxford International Review*, where he is working with the United Arab Emirates Embassy in the United States to institutionalize an exchange program connecting young American and Emirati scholars. In his spare time, Daniel writes award-winning poetry chronicling his family's life and his experiences as a first-generation American. He also enjoys soccer and playing the piano.



*District XV*

Keriann M. Backus

(Washington)

Brown University: Sc.B., Chemistry; A.B., Latin American Studies, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Organic Chemistry



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*Career Aspirations*

Research on infectious disease treatment and prevention; international health policy

Born in Seattle, Keriann Backus actually spent much of her childhood sailing around the world with her parents and younger brother. She was “boat-schooled” for seven years and believes that her childhood provided her with a unique perspective on international affairs. She has conducted extensive chemistry research and was awarded a prestigious fellowship from Pfizer to support her research. Keri pursued a summer internship at Rockefeller University, where she created a fluorescent probe to study cell division. She also was recently a finalist for the McKnight prize in organic chemistry given by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Keri enjoys teaching and has tutored chemistry, volunteered teaching science to elementary students and was a teaching assistant for both genetics and introductory chemistry. She studied abroad in Ecuador where she took classes at a local university, became fluent in Spanish, conducted tropical ecology research and climbed some of the highest volcanoes in South America. Besides mountaineering, Keri is a distance runner, triathlete and loves to “ski, hike, bike and be in the outdoors.” She also plays bassoon in the Brown University Orchestra. Three years ago, she cycled across the US to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. At Oxford, Keri hopes to combine her interests in scientific research in chemistry and health policy, with a focus on anti-tuberculosis drug development.



District II

Joshua H. Billings

(Massachusetts)

Harvard University: A.B., Classics and German;  
A.M., Comparative Literature, 2007

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Medieval and Modern Languages

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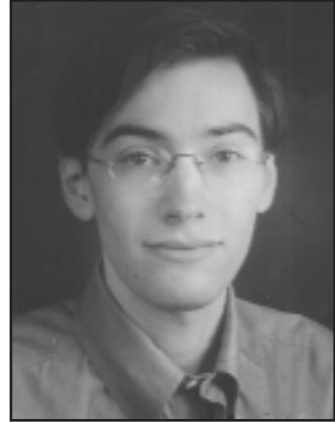
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*Career Aspirations*

Academia, literary criticism



Josh Billings is a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts. His academic work focuses on tragedy, aesthetics and the modern reception of classical literature. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, he has been awarded the Wendell and Landon Memorial Scholarships, which have enabled him to spend summers studying in Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburg and traveling across Europe “pursuing obsessions with early Flemish art and the operas of Richard Wagner.” At Harvard, Josh is active in undergraduate literary life, publishing reviews and essays in student journals and serving as editor of the *Harvard Book Review*. He has also been involved in numerous opera productions as a producer, stage director, and “on rare and unfortunate occasions,” as a performer. Josh is deeply committed to public school education and has worked for the past five years as a teacher, tutor, and curriculum developer for Summerbridge Cambridge, a middle school academic enrichment program. After spending his whole life in one quintessential college town, Josh looks forward to getting to know another, frequenting “libraries and bookstores and sampling the delights of English vegetarian cuisine.”



District V

Casey N. Cep

(Maryland/DC)

Harvard University: A.B., English and American Literature  
and Language, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Theology



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*Career Aspirations*

Writer

Casey Cep is a native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She grew up fishing, crabbing, and living on the Chesapeake Bay. She studies English and American Literature and Language at Harvard College, where she is the president of the *Harvard Advocate* literary magazine, an editor of the *Harvard Crimson* and the *Harvard Book Review*, and a member of the Signet Society of Arts and Letters. Casey is completing a novel for her senior thesis and has won several awards for her writing; additionally, she has interned at *Harvard Magazine* and *The New Republic*. She enjoys teaching Sunday School at Harvard's Memorial Church. Casey plans to read theology while at Oxford, focusing on the legacy of the Protestant Reformation.



District XIII  
(Arizona)

## Avi I. Feller

Yale University: B.A., Political Science and Applied Mathematics, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Applied Statistics and Politics

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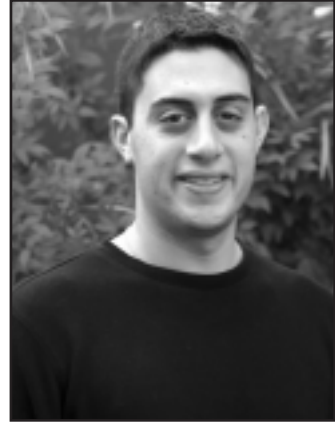
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### *Career Aspirations*

Professor of political science; policy researcher



A native of Scottsdale, Arizona, Avi Feller was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and was awarded the Richter Prize and the Les Aspin National Security Fellowship which allowed him to study environmental policy at the US State Department. He has used his background in applied statistics to investigate problems ranging from death penalty cases to classroom cheating. He has also researched health care policy at Yale's School of Management. Outside of the classroom, Avi served as the president of Yale's ESL tutoring program, which pairs Yale undergraduates with students in the New Haven public school district. A bass-baritone, Avi has enjoyed leading roles in several opera productions and is a principle soloist with the Yale Collegium Musicum. He has also toured internationally with the Yale Alley Cats, an all-male *a cappella* group. In his spare time, Avi enjoys traveling, sailing, and playing guitar. At Oxford, he hopes to research applications of statistical techniques to the study of politics and policymaking. Avi is especially looking forward to singing in an Oxford chapel choir.



District XII

## Shaan-Chirag C. Gandhi

(Michigan)

Case Western Reserve University: B.S., Biochemistry;  
B.A., Chemistry, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Oncology



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*Career Aspirations*

Cancer research; university teaching;  
clinical oncology; public policy leadership

After an early childhood experience observing a kidney tumor, Michigan native Shaan-Chirag Gandhi has been fascinated by the complexities of cancer. A 2006 Goldwater Scholar, Shaan has pursued cancer research in-depth, studying mechanisms of tumor formation and metastasis at the National Institutes of Health (as a Cancer Research Award Recipient), the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (as a Gerstner Scholar), the Mayo Clinic (as a Newman Fellow), and at Case (as a Phi Beta Kappa Research Fellow). Already a published researcher, he is writing his honors thesis on transcription factors implicated in prostate cancer. Beyond research, Shaan has been active in public service pursuits, leading the Global Medical Initiative (an organization dedicated to distributing medical supplies to clinics in developing countries) and traveling to Guyana and India to oversee the organization's efforts. Closer to home, he was a student aide at the Veterans' Affairs Medical Center and a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician. At Case, he has held many elected leadership positions, serving as president of the Model United Nations Society, president of the Mortar Board National Honor Society and speaker of the assembly of the Undergraduate Student Government. Shaan has received the Coca-Cola Scholarship, the Tylenol Medical Scholarship, the United States Presidential Freedom Award, the Joseph Skigin Prize, and the Harriett Pullman Award (the highest award given by his university to sophomore undergraduates). When he finds spare time, he competes as a nationally-ranked academic Quiz Bowl player. At Oxford, he hopes to "continue my interests in badminton and swimming" and is looking forward to using some of his boating skills to explore the Cherwell and Isis Rivers on a punt.



District IV

Sean A. Genis

(Pennsylvania)

United States Naval Academy: B.S., Physics, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

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*Career Aspirations*

US Navy Submarine Officer



Hailing from Sharon, Pennsylvania, Sean sits first in his class at the US Naval Academy. A Regimental Commander, he is entrusted with the responsibility of leading more than 2,200 of his fellow students. Sean is currently researching acoustic landmine detection as part of the Naval Academy's Trident Scholar undergraduate research program. He recently presented his work at the 4th Joint Meeting of the American and Japanese Acoustical Societies in Honolulu and has been published in the proceedings of the scientific scholarly journal *SPIE*. As part of an exchange program with the Spanish Naval Academy, Sean sailed across the Atlantic aboard the tall ship *Juan Sebastian Elcano*. He has also interned at the Center for the Study of the Presidency in Washington, D.C. A member of both the cycling team and Glee Club, Sean is an avid cyclist and singer—two interests that he hopes to continue to pursue while abroad. Sean's future professional interests lie in working at the frontier of technology and policy, especially in the context of the US military. Sean has been accepted into the US Navy's nuclear power community and will become a submarine officer after his time at Oxford.





*District IV*

# Whitney Haring-Smith (Pennsylvania)

Yale University: B.A./M.A., Political Science, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Politics



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*Career Aspirations*

Public service

Whitney Haring-Smith has worked in policy and politics, trying to use each to create change in the other. In policy, Whitney worked for the US Department of Defense (on Latin American affairs), the Mayor of New Haven, and the Oregon Department of Education. Overseas, Whitney led weapons and ammunition collection teams for the United Nations' Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups program in Afghanistan, served as an elections monitor in El Salvador, and worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Sri Lanka. He also attended the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg as a non-governmental representative. In politics, Whitney served as the deputy policy director for Connecticut's Democratic gubernatorial candidate and founded two organizations: New Haven Action, a local non-profit, and NHA-Fund, a Connecticut PAC to support student campaigns on issues ranging from voting rights to toxics reduction in businesses. He served as the finance director for Students for a New American Politics, a federal PAC that compensates low-income students for work on progressive campaigns. A Morris Udall Scholar, he oversaw a campaign that enrolled homes for clean energy and conducted field research on diesel exposure in Puerto Rico. He enjoys being a brother of the Sigma Chi fraternity and playing soccer.



District XIV

Brian C. Johnsrud

(Montana)

Montana State University–Bozeman: B.A., English Literature, 2006

Proposed Oxford Course: English Language and Literature

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*Career Aspirations*

University teaching



Brian Johnsrud grew up in a farming community in central Montana and graduated from Montana State University in 2006. Brian spent three summers teaching middle school for Breakthrough Collaborative in Norfolk, Virginia, and currently teaches English at a charter school in Bozeman, where he has been active as a mentor, tutor, and community volunteer. Brian’s research centers on religion and authority during the Middle Ages. After graduating from college, he presented papers on pious and sacrilegious laughter in the Middle Ages at academic conferences in Europe. In the United States, he has presented on topics in medieval literature and the re-emergence of medieval themes in modern culture. His latest publication, “The Monsters Do Not Depart: Re-Unifying Norse, Anglo-Saxon, and Christian in Tolkien’s Middle-earth,” deals with J. R. R. Tolkien’s re-invention of medieval cultures in his fictional writings. At Oxford, he will focus on the crusades and the cultural, religious, and national myths that fueled them. Brian will spend his summer before matriculation at an archeological dig north of Jerusalem, where he will begin “a narrative collection concerning cultural memories of the crusades and modern perceptions of holy war.”



*District XII*

Katie N. Lee

(Minnesota)

University of Minnesota: B.S., Biochemistry and Chemistry, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Integrated Immunology



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*Career Aspirations*

Physician-scientist (MD/PhD)

When Katie Lee began college at the age of fifteen, her interest in biomedical research quickly crystallized. A two-year Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, she has received numerous other academic scholarships and awards, including the Maroon and Gold Leadership Award, the L. M. Henderson Endowed Biochemistry Scholarship and the Sally Herz Scholastic Excellence Award. Conducting research in immunology, Katie utilized a new model system to study B cell development in systemic lupus erythematosus, an autoimmune disease. She also performed research for two summers at Harvard Medical School through the Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program, where she studied the human papillomavirus. Her honors thesis investigates the metabolism of nicotine and other carcinogens by variant cytochrome P450s. An accomplished musician, she began playing the violin at the age of two and has been concertmaster of the University of Minnesota's Campus Orchestra. Katie was a teaching assistant for upper-division biochemistry classes and volunteered for the Immunization Action Plan to promote timely immunizations of children. She plans to study immunology at Oxford and aspires to become a physician-scientist, combining clinical practice with biomedical research.



*District III*

(New York)

## Jacob E. Lemieux

Stanford University: B.S., Biological Sciences, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Clinical Medicine

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*Career Aspirations*

Medical research, infectious disease in the developing world



Jacob Lemieux is interested in using basic science research to improve global public health. At Stanford, and in collaboration with Agilent Technologies, Jacob studies proteomic approaches to analyzing protein interactions. His research has earned him a Barry Goldwater Scholarship. At Oxford, he intends to study the Malaria parasite, after which he plans to attend medical school in the US. In addition to his interests in basic research, Jacob leads an effort to provide smokeless stoves to a South Indian community that is affected by high rates of respiratory illness, a program which he helped found three years ago. He is currently working to establish and support a girls' school in Iringa, Tanzania, which seeks to create service-minded female leaders to promote Tanzania's development. Jacob is a member of the Stanford Alpine Ski Team and, in his spare time, enjoys "running, hiking, and the great outdoors."



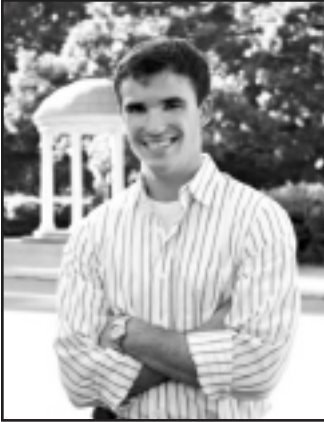
*District VII*

Benjamin J. Lundin

(Tennessee)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: B.A., Religious Studies, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics



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*Career Aspirations*

Professor of religious studies or law; public service

A Phi Beta Kappa and Moorhead Scholar, Benjamin Lundin's academic interests include political science and religious studies. He founded Carolina Crossfire, a student organization dedicated to fostering intellectual discussion of difficult religious issues. Benjamin presented ideas from the Crossfire experiment at a national conference hosted by the Teagle Foundation, a non-profit group dedicated to student engagement and liberal education. He also created an undergraduate course (which he will teach in the spring) on Intelligent Design theory. Benjamin was a teaching assistant in both the romance languages and religious studies departments, and also coordinated a program teaching ESL to Hispanic employees of the University. During his summers, he has backpacked through Alaska on a National Outdoor Leadership Schools course, volunteered with a human rights organization in Southern Peru, researched the Opus Dei movement's political identity in Western Europe, and interned with Congressman Jim Cooper (Tennessee and Oriel '75) on Capitol Hill. Outside of the classroom, he enjoys "lacrosse, traveling, golf, tennis, religious dialogue, op-ed writing, fly-fishing, ESL tutoring, and spending time with my fraternity brothers." Benjamin looks forward to "my first extended departure from the south." At Oxford, he hopes to play "as much competitive lacrosse as the English climate can bear."



District VI

## Zachary-John A. Manfredi

(Georgia)

Emory University: B.A., Philosophy, International Studies, and  
Comparative Literature, 2007

**Proposed Oxford Course:** Politics, Political Theory

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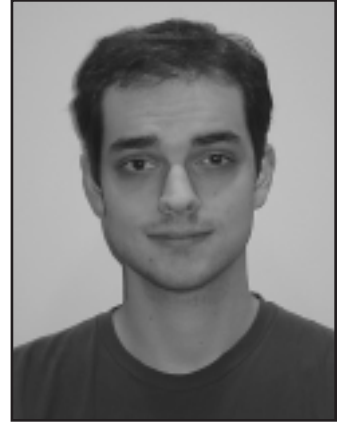
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*Career Aspirations*

Human rights law and advocacy, focusing on  
war crimes, genocide, and refugee repatriation



Zak Manfredi is a Truman Scholar, a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Research Fellow, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Zak typically divides his time between political activism and the study of philosophy. As an undergraduate, Zak founded Paper Clips for Peace in Sudan, a non-profit organization that raises funding and political support for the victims of genocide in Darfur. He serves as the chapter president of Emory's Amnesty International and also founded the Student Activist Coalition, a collaborative project between over 20 organizations to coordinate social justice campaigns. In 2005 Zak worked as an intern at the Carter Center, assisting senior staff in the Democracy Program on major election monitoring projects in the DRC, Haiti, and Côte d'Ivoire. Under the auspices of the Mellon program Zak has done extensive research in political philosophy, including preparation for his honors thesis entitled "The Philosopher and the Polis: Hannah Arendt and the Promise of a New Political Philosophy." At Emory, Zak served on the honor council and competed on the policy debate team. Zak loves "learning new languages, travel, Aristotle, spicy food, good friends, and theatre." At Oxford, he hopes to "begudgingly learn to love the British Climate," after which he aspires to work for one of the major legal tribunals such as the ICC or ICTR.



District XI

Aaron F. Mertz

(Missouri)

Washington University in St. Louis: A.B., Physics and  
American Culture Studies, 2006

Proposed Oxford Course: History of Science, Medicine, and Technology



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*Career Aspirations*

Physics professor; university administrator;  
national science policy advisor

Aaron Mertz became enthralled by physics when he “discovered the mathematics underlying the harmonics of my cello.” A Goldwater Scholar elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Aaron has conducted physics research in laboratories throughout the United States and in Germany, refining experimental techniques for the isotopic analysis of stardust and characterizing the behavior of liquids on nanostructured substrates. A sixth-generation American, Aaron researched the plurality of the American experience by building a digital archive of his 18th-century family documents, publishing an essay on Indian basketry in the Arts and Crafts Movement, and translating German-language antislavery editorials of the Civil War era. Committed to fostering dialogue on the sciences and humanities, Aaron co-founded the interdisciplinary journal *Apex* and spearheaded campus-wide programs introducing students to St. Louis’s culture and history. For his contributions to Washington University as two-term president of the Arts & Sciences Council, Aaron was selected to serve as a representative to the Board of Trustees and deliver his college’s commencement address. A proponent of arts education, he enjoys American contra dance, Baroque Counter-Reformation art, and the chamber music of Brahms. At Oxford, Aaron will study the history of science and formulate strategies to improve scientific literacy, a topic on which he testified before the National Science Foundation. After Oxford, he will continue his doctoral work in nuclear physics at Yale University on an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.



District XVI

## Roxanne Genevieve Quist

(California)

Cornell University: B.S., Industrial and Labor Relations, 2005

Proposed Oxford Course: Comparative Social Policy

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### *Career Aspirations*

Non-profit management, public policy,  
and (possibly) politics



Genevieve Quist currently teaches sixth grade English at Charles Drew Middle School in Los Angeles as a member of Teach For America. While earning her teaching credential at California State University, Dominguez Hills, Genevieve also worked as a resource specialist at Teach For America's Los Angeles Institute, the summer training program for incoming corps members. She began working for Teach For America during her senior year at Cornell University as an on-campus recruiter. A Merrill Presidential Scholar and winner of the Alpern Memorial Award for Service, Genevieve graduated from Cornell University with honors in 2005. While at Cornell, Genevieve served as a research assistant for several projects on the psychosocial and physical environmental risks associated with poverty. In addition to her fieldwork, Genevieve wrote her senior thesis on welfare policy and single parent families. She lobbied for campaign finance reform in New York State as a member of Democracy Matters and also volunteered as a counselor and victim advocate for the Women's Rape Crises Center in Burlington, Vermont. Currently, Genevieve is in training for the 2007 Los Angeles AIDS Marathon while raising funds for AIDS Project Los Angeles. In pursuing a degree in comparative social policy at Oxford, Genevieve hopes that she can "one day help create policy that provides for increased social and economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities."





*District V*

Maria Repnikova

(Maryland/DC)

Georgetown University: B.S.F.S., International Politics, 2006

Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations, Migration Studies



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*Career Aspirations*

Diplomacy (focusing on China and Russia)

Maria Repnikova was born in Riga, Latvia, and moved to the United States at the age of 14. She finished high school in three years and studied for one year at the University of Vermont before transferring to Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, where she majored in international politics with a concentration in international law. Maria "made learning Chinese a passion" after studying in Beijing. In courses and research at Georgetown, she learned more about Russia and, during her senior year, Maria combined her interests in China and Russia by writing a senior honors thesis on an issue important to both countries: labor cooperation and Chinese migration to the Russian Far East. Her thesis culminated in a Fulbright fellowship to Harbin, Heilongjiang Province (a Northeastern Chinese province bordering Russia). Maria is currently working with both government officials and scholars in Harbin, studying Chinese perspectives on labor cooperation with Russia as well as the relations between Northeast China and the Russian Far East. Maria is also planning to do fieldwork at the China-Russia border, interviewing migrants and local government officials.



District II

Christian C. Sahner

(New Jersey)

Princeton University: A.B., Hellenic Studies and Medieval Studies, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Late Antique and Byzantine Studies

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*Career Aspirations*

Professor of history, focusing on  
religion and politics



A member of Phi Beta Kappa and a two-time recipient of the Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence, Christian Sahner is interested in the period of late antiquity (250-800 AD), particularly the relations between Western Europe, Byzantium, and the Islamic world. His senior thesis focuses on the process of Christianization in late antique cities, specifically how the image of the “Heavenly Jerusalem” shaped urban identity in places such as Rome and Constantinople. The recipient of numerous academic prizes, Christian co-founded *Scivias: Princeton’s Journal of Medieval Studies*, conducted independent research in several European countries, and presented his work at several universities. Christian has also been actively involved in issues relating to religion and contemporary society. He co-founded the Elizabeth Anscombe Society, a secular group at Princeton committed to advancing traditionally conservative conceptions of marriage and family. He also serves as the editor in chief of the *Princeton Tory* and as the ministry coordinator of Princeton’s Roman Catholic Chaplaincy. Christian hopes to become a professor of history, “using my understanding of late antiquity to enhance our insights into the relationship between religion, ethics, and politics today.” At Oxford, he looks forward to “picking up a few more dead languages, reviving my running career, and tracing the footsteps of famous Oxonians such as John Henry Newman.”



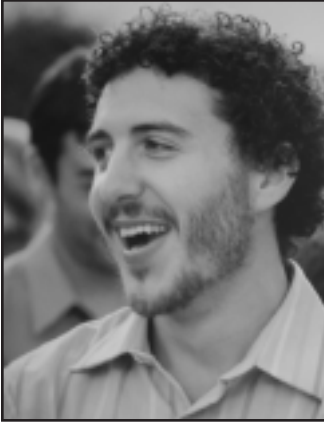
District XIII

## Charles R. Salmen

(Colorado)

Duke University: B.A., English, 2006

Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Anthropology



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*Career Aspirations*

International medicine and infectious disease;  
anthropology; community service; human rights

Chas Salmen was born and raised in Glenwood Springs, in the mountains of western Colorado. In addition to majoring in English, Chas minored in Asian and African Languages and Literature, with a concentration in pre-medical studies. Chas' time at Duke was characterized by a wide diversity of academic and athletic pursuits. As team captain, Chas led Duke to its first ever IC4A Cross Country Championship. Working for the Duke Hospital Department of Urology, Chas co-authored two publications in the *Journal of Urology* concerning the role of obesity in prostatectomy surgical outcomes. Chas' senior English thesis on Walt Whitman and D. H. Lawrence was awarded "most outstanding and original senior thesis." As a Lebanese-American of Jewish decent, Chas grew up with a unique connection to the Middle East. He spent a semester studying Arabic at the American University in Cairo, as well as traveling and photographing in Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria. His photograph "Masah El-Nour" was awarded first place in the GLIMPSE Photo Competition. He is the organizer and chair of the Peace or Pieces Coalition, composed of Arab, Jewish, and Muslim student organizations at Duke. Chas hopes to pursue a career in international medicine and is "inspired by physicians and researchers who not only fight disease, but seek to understand the stories of the individuals and communities they serve."



District I

Maya U. Shankar

(Connecticut)

Yale University: B.A., Cognitive Science, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Experimental Psychology

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*Career Aspirations*

Professor of cognitive science



Maya Shankar spent most of her youth studying classical violin. At the age of nine, she began studying at the Juilliard School, where she took private lessons from Itzhak Perlman. She has performed as a soloist with numerous orchestras, in international festivals, and at Carnegie Hall with the Perlman Music Program. A cognitive science major at Yale, Maya is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received the Hart Lyman Prize (given to the most distinguished member of her class), Yale's Science and Engineering Travel Grant, a Josephine de Kármán Fellowship, a Dean's Research Fellowship, a Richter Fellowship, and a Presidential Public Service Fellowship. Maya has conducted research in Yale's Perception and Cognition and Comparative Cognition Laboratories, and at the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig. She has given numerous presentations at academic conferences and has first-author publications under review in cognitive science journals. Maya is the founder and director of the Downtown Development Program, a partnership that engages students in New Haven development efforts. She also co-founded *Five Magazine* (a social justice journal), was president of the College Council for CARE, participated as a campus coordinator for Students Against Sweatshops, and was a member of the national Student Advisory Board for Campus Progress.



District IX

Nicholas J. Shelly

(Virginia)

United States Air Force Academy: B.S., Computer Science, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Economic and Social History



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*Career Aspirations*

F-16 Pilot; Air Attaché; Ambassador to Germany;  
international business

Nicholas Shelly is a charter member of the Academy Scholars Program and led the Air Force Squash team, Chapel Orchestra, and Association of Computing Machinery. A musical and opera enthusiast, he directed and performed in several Academy BlueBards productions. Nicholas first developed a passion for international work in 2005 at the Marshall Center in Garmisch, Germany, where he researched local Bavarian artists—Der Blaue Reiter, Richard Strauss and Michael Ende. Between parachute and glider training, he participated in the Aspen Institute’s 2005 Socrates Seminar on “Economics and Virtue.” On exchange to the German Offizierschule der Luftwaffe, Nicholas served as squadron commander while completing German land and water survival training. He received the “Förmliche Anerkennung” from the German Bundeswehr for saving a civilian’s life during a night navigation exercise. As someone who enjoys “productive, physical endeavors,” Nicholas ran the Marine Corps Marathon and led a cadet contingent to build homes as part of Habitat for Humanity. Nicholas served as an intern with the Air Combat Command at Langley AFB in 2006 and as a liaison to the Microsoft Corporation in Redmond, Washington. His recently-published research on “Fault-Tolerant Overlay Network” was presented at the 2006 IEEE Information Assurance Workshop and is currently being tested at the Missile Defense Agency. Having flown with the “Fightin’ Fuujins” of Hill AFB, Nicholas aspires to become an F-16 pilot and engage in international relations.



District III

(New York)

## Kevin Shenderov

New York University: B.A., Biochemistry, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Immunology

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### *Career Aspirations*

Physician-scientist; advocate for global health equity



Born in Ukraine, Kevin Shenderov immigrated with his family to the United States at the age of three. A Goldwater Scholar and a Presidential Honors Scholar at New York University, his passions are immunology and global health. He has conducted research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the NYU Medical Center, and Oxford. His senior thesis focuses on the developmental pathway of a novel lineage of immune cells involved in autoimmune diseases. Kevin is founder and editor in chief of the *NYU Global Health Review* and recently organized a global health conference at NYU that drew 700 participants from throughout the country. He also serves as a teaching assistant for a graduate biochemistry course, and is founding editor of the *NYU in London Journal of Community Service Reflections*. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, Kevin has been awarded the George Granger Brown Scholarship, the NYU Presidential Service Award for Leadership, and the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship. His eventual goal is to become a physician-scientist in a university hospital, conducting immunology research. Kevin is “excited to return to Oxford to continue the cancer vaccine research I began there two summers ago.” His hobbies include distance running, drama, and hiking.



## Andrew G. Shipley

University of Oregon: B.A., Psychology and Political Science, 2006

Proposed Oxford Course: Experimental Psychology

District XV  
(Oregon)



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*Career Aspirations*

Conflict reduction research and  
policy in plural societies

A Paul Olom Scholar from the University of Oregon, Andrew Shipley is currently studying “the relationship between the development of national identity and interethnic attitudes in Maori and Pakeha (European New Zealander) youth” on a Fulbright Scholarship. Andrew has conducted various research projects in both cognitive anthropology and cultural psychology. His research has taken him to Ghana (to study interethnic cooperation amongst economic elite in Accra), Martinique (to test a new procedure for the measurement of cultural identity and intergroup attitudes), and Ecuador (to study the development of altruistic preferences). Benjamin was the recipient of the 2006 Thompson Award, given to the author of the best University of Oregon cognitive psychology thesis. He has presented his research at multiple academic conferences and will soon have an article published in the academic journal *Psychological Reports*. In 2005, Benjamin founded the non-profit Springfield Creative Community Project which provides lower income working people in Springfield, Oregon, with the opportunity for creative expression through free evening courses in painting and creative writing. He was a senior editor of *Dry Erase*, a University of Oregon independent literary journal. Both his poetry and short fiction have been published. In his free time, Benjamin is an avid competitive tennis player. As captain during the 2004-2005 season, he led the University of Oregon tennis team to a top-20 national ranking. Benjamin also competes in Olympic distance triathlons.



District IX  
(Ohio)

## Michelle M. Sikes

Wake Forest University: B.S., Mathematical Economics, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Economic and Social History

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### *Career Aspirations*

Professional track and field; economics;  
public health



Michelle Sikes hopes that “anyone reading my biography is also a registered organ donor.” She is interested in economics and is particularly passionate about improving the rate of transplantable organ procurement. While an intern at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy, she had the opportunity to research alternative economic models for the US organ donation system with Dr. Sally Satel. Originally from Lakewood, Ohio, Michelle is also a varsity athlete at Wake Forest University. As team co-captain, she earned NCAA Division 1 All-American honors in both cross-country and track. Her other noteworthy athletic achievements include earning Academic All-American honors, the Atlantic Coast Conference Freshman of the Year Award for Cross-Country, and team MVP for Track and Cross-Country. When she isn’t running, Michelle often can be found volunteering at a nonprofit health clinic where she interprets between the doctors and Hispanic patients. She also serves as a student government legislator, is a member of the appropriations and charter committee, and represents her cross-country team on the athletic director’s advisory council. During the summer, Michelle loves her work as a running camp counselor at the North East Ohio Cross-Country Camp. In the future, Michelle hopes to pursue a career that will “combine my interests in economics, public health, and physical fitness.”





## Timothy F. Simmons

United States Military Academy: B.Sc., Economics, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Development Studies

*District VIII*

(Texas)



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*Career Aspirations*

Aviation officer; State Department;  
economic development

The son of two Army aviators, Timothy grew up in Germany and Texas. In addition to his economics major, Timothy is pursuing a minor in systems engineering. His senior thesis examines post-Communist transition strategies, identifying elements that may be applicable to the Middle East. Last summer he interned with the President's Council of Economic Advisers and served as a temporary Signal Corps platoon leader at Fort Huachuca. Timothy spends the majority of his free time running with the track team, where he specializes in the steeplechase. "I spend the remainder of my free time reading and sketching." Beyond his time in uniform, Timothy hopes "to transition into the State Department in order to more directly influence American economic policy towards developing areas, or into a nongovernmental organization dedicated to investment in the developing world."



District VII

Brad M. Smith

(Tennessee)

Harvard University: B.A., Government, 2005

Proposed Oxford Course: Comparative Social Policy

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*Career Aspirations*

Public policy



Brad Smith is a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, and graduated from Harvard *summa cum laude*. He spent the last 15 months working as a campaign aide with now United States Senator Bob Corker. At Harvard, Brad founded a student group that developed a Social Security reform proposal and subsequently testified on that proposal before the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging. His thesis, entitled “The Effects on Student Achievement of Charter Schools in Milwaukee”, was awarded Harvard’s Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize as well as the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences Undergraduate Research Award. Brad co-authored a chapter entitled “School Choice in Milwaukee Fifteen Years Later” in Paul Hill’s *The Supply Side of School Choice*. For the next nine months, Brad will serve as an assistant to Sara Taylor, the Director of the White House Office of Political Affairs.



District I

Amia P. Srinivasan

(Connecticut)

Yale University: B.A., Philosophy, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Philosophy



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*Career Aspirations*

Academia; playwriting; public service

Amia Srinivasan was born to Indian parents in Bahrain and was brought up in Taiwan, New York, Singapore, and London. Her academic interests lie in the 19th century Continental philosophical tradition. At Yale, Amia co-founded the *Yale Philosophy Review* and served on the New Haven Democratic Committee. Amia's philosophically-themed plays have been featured at the Yale Playwrights Festival and the Provincetown Theater in New York. She has also mentored New Haven High School students in playwriting. Amia was first runner up for the Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics, won the E. Francis Riggs Memorial Prize for her work in Yale's humanities program, and was awarded the George Jewett Prize to support summer research on architectural aesthetics. Amia presented her essay "Of Force and Freedom: The Mattering/Not-Mattering Paradox of Literature" at Yale's "Why Literature Matters" Symposium in April 2005. Her essay "The Singular Sublime: A Kierkegaardian Resolution to the Modern/Postmodern Problem" was published in Brigham Young University's *Aporia Journal of Philosophy*. At Yale, Amia's primary philosophic concern has been "the intersection of aesthetics and ethics, and how this relationship plays out in our individual as well as social lives."



District X  
(Illinois)

## Parvinder S. Thiara

Harvard University: A.B., Chemistry, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Theoretical Chemistry

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### *Career Aspirations*

Undecided



Parvinder Singh Thiara's numerous academic honors and awards include induction to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, selection as a three-time John Harvard Scholar for highest academic distinction, and recognition as a Detur Book Prize winner. A recipient of two Herchel Smith Science Research fellowships and a Harvard PRISE fellowship, Parvinder has helped develop both a new method to study surface chemistry and a catalyst that effects an important transformation. He has also discovered a novel organic reaction that provides access to new, natural product-like compounds with potential biological activity. In an effort to help address the lack of universal access to potable water, Parvinder co-founded FAWSIT, a non-profit organization that seeks to develop improved methods for water sanitation. Ultimately, he hopes to utilize the techniques of theoretical chemistry to identify disinfectants for point-of-use water treatment. In addition to his scientific interests, Parvinder has volunteered as a firefighter and EMT, has served as a popularly elected representative to his college's undergraduate council, has sat on student-faculty committees, and has choreographed for Harvard's Bhangra dance team. At Oxford, Parvinder looks forward to "golfing on some of the UK's historic courses and learning how to bowl a proper googly."



## Ryan R. Thoreson

Harvard University: A.B., Government, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Social Anthropology



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(North Dakota)

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*Career Aspirations*  
Social justice advocacy (especially on behalf of sexual minorities); politics and international law

Ryan Thoreson was raised in Fargo, North Dakota, where he became interested in issues of equality and justice through policy debate and the social teachings of his Catholic parish. As a joint concentrator in Government and studies of women, gender, and sexuality at Harvard University, Ryan was elected secretary, vice chair, and co-chair of the Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Supporters' Alliance (BGLTSA), served on the Transgender Task Force (TTF), and currently co-coordinates the campus' BGLT Resource Center. Ryan also led the annual Alternative Spring Break: AIDS Action Trip that delivers meals to individuals living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. He is an editor and writer on progressive issues for *Cambridge Common* and *Perspective* magazine. After experimenting with different methods for promoting social justice by working for Representative Alice Wolf, interning at MTV's *th!nk* campaign, and spending a semester at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), Ryan received a Weissman Fellowship that enabled him to spend a summer researching legal reforms at the International Lesbian and Gay Association in Brussels, Belgium. Currently, Ryan is writing a thesis based on research he conducted in South Africa on sexuality and the constitution. In his spare time, he enjoys "writing essays and narrative nonfiction." He co-wrote "Fargo: A (Mostly) True Story," which ran in New York and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2006. Ultimately, Ryan hopes to spend his time at Oxford "maximizing my ability to work with diverse populations in the pursuit of progressive change."



District VIII  
(Texas)

## Ginger L. Turner

Stanford University: B.A., Economics, 2004

Proposed Oxford Course: Economics

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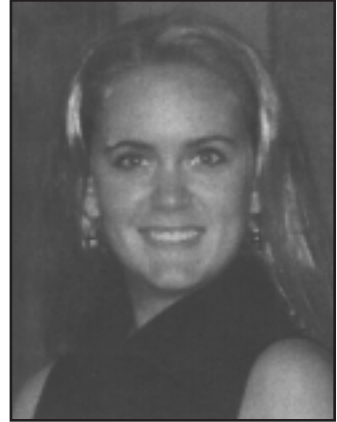
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### *Career Aspirations*

International development policy



Ginger Turner, a native of Galveston Island, Texas, graduated from Stanford in 2004. She currently works in the Office of the Chief Economist and Africa Region at the World Bank in Washington D.C., where her research focuses on the private sector's role in economic development in Africa. Her senior thesis on the private sector response to HIV/AIDS took her to South Africa to conduct interviews with local businesses. While working at the World Bank, Ginger founded the first HIV/AIDS information hotline in Kazakhstan and volunteered in organizing the global competition Development Marketplace for thousands of community enterprises worldwide. At Stanford, she helped start a business in India to manufacture and distribute low-cost lighting for rural households without electricity, a project she later developed in South Africa and has remained engaged in for the past four years. At home in Galveston, she is the secretary of a non-profit organization, Development Momentum, which promotes literacy. Ginger is the author of two children's books about American history topics for Gossamer Books and is an award-winning playwright whose work appeared off-Broadway in New York City. A ballet dancer, Ginger is "looking forward to appreciating the arts in England." She was the first American to swim from Robben Island to Cape Town.



## Julie Veroff

Stanford University: B.A., International Relations, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Development Studies

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(California)



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*Career Aspirations*  
Development research, policy and advocacy  
focusing on women's rights in Sub-Saharan Africa

Julie Veroff is writing her Stanford honors thesis on the “impact of post-civil war elections on peace duration and quality of democracy.” Julie is “passionate about promoting women’s empowerment as a key element in achieving sustainable development,” and is also very interested in the critical humanitarian, security, and development issues facing Sub-Saharan Africa. She spent last summer in Mwanze Refugee Camp, Zambia, where she designed and facilitated a women’s leadership and empowerment program for 50 women refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She is now leading and advising a group of volunteers who will work in Mwanze next summer through the international non-governmental organization FORGE. In addition to her work in Zambia, Julie has volunteered in Ghana and Israel. In spring 2005, she worked with American Jewish World Service to lead ten Stanford students on an alternative spring break trip to Nicaragua to work with a women’s rights organization. Julie has interned with the Office of International Religious Freedom at the US State Department and with Girls For A Change, a non-profit seeking to empower low-income urban girls. Having served as a counselor for the last two years, she is also a coordinator of Camp Kesem, a week-long free summer camp for children with a parent who has or has died from cancer. Julie loves to play the flute, has been actively involved in Hillel at Stanford, and is “greatly looking forward to my upcoming time at Oxford.”



District X  
(Illinois)

## Elise D. Wang

Harvard University: A.B., Religion, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: International Development (Forced Migration)

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### *Career Aspirations*

International law (refugees/asylum); immigration policy advocate



A Chicago native, Elise Wang is the eldest of three children and the daughter of two scientists. Although she “never got the science bug,” she shares her parents’ passion for politics and social justice and has spent summers working in policy advocacy for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and for Madre, an international women’s rights organization. Her family’s immigration experience and her interests in women’s rights, economic justice, and prison reform have inspired her to pursue a career in immigrants’ rights advocacy. She has worked with immigrant communities through organizations in Boston and Chicago, including Senator Barack Obama’s office. She currently works at the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women, where she is writing a legal handbook for women that will be distributed statewide. In addition to her religion major, Elise pursued a concentration in studies of women, gender, and sexuality. In between jobs and school, Elise spent a year in Taiwan and China, visiting family and studying Chinese, migration, and history. At Harvard, she edits a magazine dedicated to issues of diversity and social justice. In addition to her academic interests, Elise is a violinist and violist, a coxswain for her house crew teams, and a layout designer for a humor magazine.





District XI

Leana S. Wen

(Missouri)

Washington University School of Medicine: M.D./M.A., Medicine, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Economic and Social History;  
Global Health Science



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*Career Aspirations*

Emergency medicine physician, legislator,  
international health policy-maker

Leana Wen is a fourth-year medical student at Washington University School of Medicine. Born in Shanghai, China, Leana immigrated to the US at age eight, not speaking any English. Five years later, she entered California State University, Los Angeles, where she conducted research as a Howard Hughes, Beckman, and National Institutes of Health Fogarty Fellow. At age 18, she graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.S. in Biochemistry. During medical school, Leana was elected National President of the American Medical Student Association and worked full-time in Washington D.C. for a year, where she led the 65,000-member organization to contribute three pieces of legislation for the 109th Congress and founded the Counterdetailing Campaign and the Medical Student Disaster Relief Program. She subsequently served as a Global Health Fellow at the World Health Organization in Geneva (where she researched trade policies and access to medicines), and as a National Security Education Program David L. Boren Fellow in Kigali, Rwanda (where she assisted HIV-positive women victims of the Rwandan genocide). Leana is a runner, certified fitness instructor, avid salsa dancer, and executive director and chief choreographer of Flowers of the Sahara, a Middle Eastern/fusion dance troupe that combines dance performance with human rights teaching. At Oxford, Leana hopes to “indulge my insatiable appetite for new people and experiences while fighting social injustice and finding collaborators for my book on traveling a city in one hour.”