American Rhodes Scholars-Elect for 2011

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

**District I**
MARK Z. JIA
New Jersey—Princeton University
AAKASH KAUSHIK SHAH
New Jersey—Ursinus College

**District II**
NICHOLAS ANTHONY DiBERARDINO
Connecticut—Princeton University
LAURA KATHRYN NELSON
Massachusetts—University of Virginia

**District III**
ZACHARY MICHAEL FRANKEL
New York—Harvard University
ZUJAJA TAUQEER
New York—City University of New York–Brooklyn College

**District IV**
ANDREW JAMES LANHAM
Pennsylvania—Haverford College
MATTHEW T. WATTERS
Delaware—University of Delaware

**District V**
FAGAN EUGENE NIGEL HARRIS
Maryland/DC—Stanford University
STEVEN PAUL SHORKEY, JR.
North Carolina—University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill

**District VI**
TRACY J. YANG
Georgia—University of Georgia
WILLIAM J. ZENG
Virginia—Yale University

**District VII**
CAROLINE PAGE BARLOW
Florida—United States Naval Academy
DANIEL E. LAGE
Florida—Harvard University

**District VIII**
YE JIN KANG
Texas—Rice University
BALTAZAR ANTONIO ZAVALA
Texas—Harvard University

**District IX**
JARAD ALEXANDER DUNNMON
Ohio—Duke University
ESTHER OLUCHUKWU UDEUEHI
Indiana—Indiana University

**District X**
ALICE L. BAUMGARTNER
Illinois—Yale University
GABRIELLE A. EMANUEL
Illinois—Dartmouth College

**District XI**
PRERNA NADATHUR
Minnesota—University of Chicago
PRIYA MALLIKA SURY
Minnesota—Washington University in St. Louis

**District XII**
ANNA V. ALEKSEYEVA
Missouri—University of Chicago
FATIMA IQBAL SABAR
Missouri—Stanford University

**District XIII**
RENUGAN RAIDOO
South Dakota—University of Iowa
SARAH ANNE SWENSON
South Dakota—University of Oklahoma

**District XIV**
TAMMA ANNE CARLETON
Oregon—Lewis and Clark College
KATHLEEN CLARE HANSEN
Montana—Montana State University

**District XV**
JENNIFER I. LAI
Hawaii—Massachusetts Institute of Technology
VARUN S. SIVARAM
California—Stanford University

**District XVI**
MEGAN CHRISTINE BRAUN
California—University of California–Irvine
JOHN SALVATORE SCOTTI
California—University of Chicago
From the AARS President:

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

In addition to introducing our 2011 Scholars, this newsletter reports on the sixteenth annual Sailing “Bon Voyage” Weekend, sponsored by the AARS for the class of 2010 Rhodes Scholars, which took place in Washington, DC, last September 25-29. This Weekend allowed the new Rhodes Scholars an ample opportunity to become acquainted with each other before traveling to Oxford and dispersing among the colleges. By hearing from and talking with a wide variety of Scholars of all ages in the course of the Weekend, and by engaging their predecessors at the National Security Council, the Library of Congress, and in the Congress, for example, these young Scholars gained a good understanding of how Rhodes Scholars value academic scholarship, pursue public service, and participate in “the world’s fight.” The keynote speaker at the departure luncheon, attended by the new Rhodes Scholars and a number of older Rhodes Scholars, was the Warden of Rhodes House, Dr. Donald Markwell (Queensland and Trinity ’81).

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

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

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

Steven A. Crown, President
(Washington and Queen’s ’80)
Anna V. Alekseyeva

University of Chicago: B.A., History, Public Policy, 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: Development Studies

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Career Aspirations
Federal government or international organization

Anna was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. She studies history and public policy at the University of Chicago, where she is a University Scholar, a Student Marshal and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Living on the South Side of Chicago precipitated Anna’s interest in housing rights; as an activist, she has worked as a tenant advocate and discrimination tester. Anna has interned at Human Rights Watch, where she researched migrant labor in Russia and human rights violations in the North Caucases, and published the 2010 human rights profile of Tajikistan. A research intern at the Brookings Institution, Anna studied humanitarian aid with a focus on the gap between humanitarian and development aid in post-conflict situations. Her senior thesis analyzes the ways in which the Soviet regime legitimized its deportation of ethnic minorities in the 1930s-40s. Anna helped to found a community service student organization focused on serving refugees resettled in Chicago. She has also been actively involved with the University’s Community Service Center as a volunteer and a program coordinator.
Caroline Page Barlow
(Florida)

U.S. Naval Academy: B.S., Oceanography, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Environmental Change and Management

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Career Aspirations
U.S. Naval Officer

Caroline Barlow will graduate from the United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Honors Oceanography. Upon graduation, she will receive her commission as an officer in the United States Navy. Caroline’s research includes developing a wind climatology model to determine wind energy potential in central Chile. In addition to her research in wind climatology, she has worked at the Naval Research Laboratory to improve the accuracy of tropical cyclone forecasting and has interned at the Pentagon for the Navy’s Energy Coordination Office. Currently ranked third in overall order of merit at the Naval Academy, Caroline served as Brigade Commander, the senior Midshipman in charge of the 4,400 members of the Brigade. She is active in the Naval Academy’s community service organization, the Midshipman Action Group, and is a member of the Naval Academy’s Triathlon Team. In addition to achieving elite amateur racing status and qualifying for age-group nationals, she helped her team win the 2009 Collegiate Triathlon National Championship. At Oxford, Caroline hopes to pursue her academic interests in the national security implications of climate change, energy policy, and sustainable development.
Alice L. Baumgartner

Yale University: B.A., History, 2010

Proposed Oxford Course: Latin American Studies

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Career Aspirations
Public policy, academia, writing

Alice Baumgartner graduated from Yale summa cum laude in history, earning the James Andrew Haas prize for intellectual achievement, character, and humanity. At Yale, she started an after-school track and health education program for middle school girls in New Haven, and ran six marathons, qualifying for the Boston Marathon four times. Her fiction and nonfiction have been recognized by the Atlantic Monthly, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Yale English Department. After graduating, she interned for a summer at The New Yorker and then moved to the eastern lowlands of Bolivia to work at a rural health clinic as a Gordon Grand Public Service Fellow.
Megan Christine Braun

University of California–Irvine: B.A., History, 2010
Proposed Oxford Course: International Relations

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Career Aspirations
Government and international humanitarian law

A native of Coronado, California, Megan Braun graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of California, Irvine. Her research work on the history of combat training and the moral implications of robotics and virtual reality technology in military applications evolved into a fascination with war studies, which represents the ideal fusion of her interests in history, philosophy, ethics and law. While enrolled at UC Irvine, Meg played goalie for the Division 1 water polo team, was a research intern at the Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C., worked for a San Diego law firm on a $40 million civil suit, and studied at Cambridge for a term. During September 2010 she spent three weeks in the Middle East studying the Israeli/Palestinian conflict with The Olive Tree Initiative, a Congressionally recognized student-led conflict resolution organization. Her proudest accomplishment was “serving two terms as student body president, during which time the student association achieved new prominence on campus and instituted a record number of successful student initiatives.” After Oxford, Meg plans to practice international humanitarian law and perhaps pursue a career in national politics.
Tamma Anne Carleton

District XIV
(Scotland)

Lewis and Clark College: B.A., Economics, 2009

Proposed Oxford Course: Environmental Change and Management/
Economics for Development

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Career Aspirations
Ph.D. in economics; economist focusing on agricultural development and the environment

Tamma Carleton traces her interests in agriculture and community development to her upbringing in a rural northern California town. She has pursued those interests in collaborating with economics faculty to publish papers on land market liberalization and the post-World War II European Payments Union. In her senior honors thesis she wrote an evolutionary game theoretic model to help understand aspects of sharecropping contracts and presented her research at the Western Economic Association International annual conference. Tamma was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, graduated summa cum laude with honors, earned the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship and chaired the College’s Pamplin Society of Fellows. Tamma also studied abroad in Valparaíso, Chile, and worked extensively as a tutor and course administrator at the College’s Math Skills Center. A varsity distance runner, Tamma qualified for the Cross Country National Championships three times, broke the school 5k record, was the 10k Conference Champion, and earned NCAA Academic All-American honors. She currently works as a research analyst at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., where she is also a founding member of a farmers’ market in an underserved neighborhood and serves as Secretary of the Washington Running Club.
District II

Nicholas Anthony DiBerardino (Connecticut)

Princeton University: A.B., Music (Composition), 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: Music (Composition)

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Career Aspirations
Composer and professor of composition; arts advocate for social improvement

Nick DiBerardino, a native of Westport, Connecticut, concentrated in music composition at Princeton University, where he twice earned the Shapiro Prize for Academic Excellence and was elected early to Phi Beta Kappa. His compositional work has earned him residencies with the New York Youth Symphony (2008), the European American Musical Alliance (2009), and the Brevard Music Center (2010) and has garnered awards from the Music Teachers’ National Association, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the New York Art Ensemble, and ASCAP. At Princeton, Nick founded the Undergraduate Composers Collective, a collaborative group of composers dedicated to helping each other expand their musical ideas and secure performances of their work. Consistent with his “belief in the transformative power of music,” he also founded and directed Back in Tune, an initiative designed to provide needy students in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with musical instruction and to collect, refurbish and distribute used instruments on their behalf. Outside the concert hall, Nick has been heavily involved in student government, and he was also voted the Offensive MVP of Princeton’s Varsity Sprint Football team in 2009.
Jarad Alexander Dunnmon
(Ohio)

Duke University: B.S.E., Mechanical Engineering and Economics, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Mathematical Modeling/Scientific Computing

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Career Aspirations
Sustainable energy technology and energy policy

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Jared Dunnmon is an Angier B. Duke Scholar, a Goldwater Scholar, and a National Academy of Engineering Grand Challenge Scholar who has focused his academic work on holistic approaches to problems of energy, environment, and national security. He has published on topics as diverse as energy harvesting from intermittent wind resources using nonlinear systems, the economics of magnetic levitation for personal rapid transit, and novel uses of persistent surveillance data. In addition, Jared has worked closely with the San Francisco municipal government to implement sustainable energy infrastructure projects. Outside the classroom, Jared has been heavily involved with the Duke Chapel Choir, the Duke Club Tennis team, and various campus sustainability projects. He has also continued to engage his “love for the classics by teaching Roman history and literature to middle and high school students” as a member of the Senior Classical League, for which purpose he has also composed a comprehensive outline of Republican-era Roman military history. Jared’s career interests lie in addressing sustainability and security problems at the academic intersection of engineering, policy, and economics.
Gabrielle Emanuel graduated *summa cum laude* from Dartmouth College in 2010 where she majored in History and minored in Psychology and Brain Sciences. Her culminating research focused on the Mohegan Tribe’s adaptation of Christianity to fit their need for survival and regeneration. Throughout her time at Dartmouth, Gabrielle worked with the local hungry and homeless population. As the co-chair of Students Fighting Hunger, she organized free weekly community meals and launched an after-school cooking and homework-help program at the family shelter. She continued her work as an intern at both Boston Health Care for the Homeless and Rosie’s Place, a shelter for women. Gabrielle has also spent a substantial amount of time living and working abroad, including a gap year in Uganda, a term in Lucknow, India, and her postgraduate year in Mali as a Lombard and Colby Fellow. In her free time, Gabrielle enjoys cooking, writing, photography, and woodworking—for four years, Gabrielle has built Shaker and Mission style furniture. At Oxford, she plans to investigate the impact of international aid on local cultures and communities and to elucidate the relationship between cultural sensitivity and the effectiveness of development assistance.
Zachary Michael Frankel  
(New York) 

**Harvard University:** A.B., Physics and Mathematics, 2011  
**Proposed Oxford Course:** Machine Learning/Infectious Disease  

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**Career Aspirations**  
Systematic research and entrepreneurial activity  

Zach Frankel’s academic work in physics and mathematics has most recently focussed on high energy theory, though his research interests have been more in applied fields, including systematic/quantitative approaches to policy, finance, and biology/epidemiology. Awarded the Detur Prize and a John Harvard Scholarship, Zach was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and has also worked for Global Viral Forecasting, a hybrid non-profit organization aimed at predicting and preventing infectious disease outbreaks. His other main pursuit has been studying Japanese for six years, including spending two summers in Japan—designing toys for Bandai the summer after his freshman year of college and then, last summer, spending time with traders at Goldman Sachs-Japan. A competitive high school debater and New York state high school champion, Zach was a member of the Harvard policy debate team and launched a campus publication. He currently serves as a member of the Senior Class Committee.
Kathleen Clare Hansen

District XIV
(Montana)

Montana State University: B.S., Industrial and Management Engineering, 2010
Proposed Oxford Course: Water Science, Policy and Management

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Career Aspirations
Equitable transboundary water resource management in developing countries

Katy Hansen grew up in Bozeman, Montana, “a mountain town with 40,000 people and snow every month of the year.” After working as an au pair in Austria, she returned to her home town to study Industrial and Management Engineering and Economics at Montana State University. She interned at the Property and Environment Research Center and a women’s Shea butter cooperative in Mali, but after joining Engineers Without Borders (EWB) her focus shifted to addressing the global water crisis with small-scale, localized solutions. Katy volunteered for EWB water and sanitation projects in Kenya and served as the MSU chapter president. Her undergraduate research synthesized operations research and legislative policy, using modeling techniques to examine the inefficiencies in US and EU agricultural policies and humanitarian aid logistics. After graduation, Katy received a Boren Fellowship to study Arabic and work on transboundary water resource management at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in southern Israel. She is excited about moving to the UK and says she is “dusting off my grandmother’s recipe for English Toffee Bars.”
Fagan Eugene Nigel Harris  (Maryland/DC)

Stanford University: B.A., Political Science and American Studies, 2009

Proposed Oxford Course: Comparative Social Policy

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Career Aspirations
Public service and non-profit leadership

Fagan Harris was raised in Glen Burnie, Maryland and graduated from Stanford University with degrees in Political Science and American Studies, with Interdisciplinary Honors in Education. As an undergraduate, Fagan researched the use of social incentives in fostering academic achievement and engaging disadvantaged youth in service. He studied education policy as a John Galbraith Fellow and continued his research as a Mellon-Mays Fellow in South Africa. As Stanford Student Body Vice President, Fagan co-led an effort to promote public service on campus and was heavily involved in organizing for international disaster relief. He received Stanford University’s Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for distinctive and exceptional contributions to undergraduate education. After graduating, Fagan worked at College Track, a non-profit organization in Oakland, California, promoting college access and educational equity. Fagan is currently studying for an M.A. in Human Rights in Criminal Justice at the University of Limerick on a George Mitchell Scholarship. While at Oxford, Fagan plans to continue his research at the intersection of public education and criminal justice.
Mark Z. Jia

Princeton University: A.B., Public and International Affairs, 2010

Proposed Oxford Course: Politics (Comparative Government)

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Career Aspirations
Law, academia, government

Born in China, Mark Jia moved to the United States at the age of two. He was raised in Lexington, Massachusetts, and attended Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. He then studied public and international affairs at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, where he graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 2010. His undergraduate thesis, entitled “Legal Aid and the Rule of Law in the People’s Republic of China”, won multiple University awards and is forthcoming in the Maryland Series in Contemporary Asian Studies. He is presently a Princeton-in-Asia Teaching Fellow at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, where he teaches American politics and constitutional history to aspiring Chinese diplomats and officials. He views this “as an unparalleled opportunity to engage the next generation of Chinese leaders on issues such as democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.” As an undergraduate, Mark served as the deputy national field director of the student wing of Obama for America, overseeing 500 chapters of Students for Barack Obama across 49 states. He was also the managing editor of a progressive campus magazine, an intern for Senator Ted Kennedy, and a fellow at the Princeton Program for Law and Public Affairs.
Ye jin Kang

Rice University: B.S., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; B.A., Global Health Policy, 2007

Proposed Oxford Course: Global Health Science; Global Governance and Diplomacy

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Career Aspirations
Physician-policymaker with a focus on infectious diseases

Ye jin Kang was first exposed to the problem posed by infectious diseases as a clinical intern at National Masan TB Hospital and International TB Research Center in South Korea. She subsequently spent two summers at the NIH TB Research Section and performed independent research on parasitic disease at the macro-level. To raise awareness about TB, Ye jin has taught undergraduate students and Zambian community healthcare workers about the disease. She developed pre-trip logistics and fundraising events for a medical service trip to Mexico, traveled to Honduras as part of Engineers Without Borders, and helped prepare a health education curriculum for primary schools in Haiti. She was founding Editor-in-Chief of Rice’s first science review, has written articles about disease for the Journal of Young Investigators, and is writing a report on improving the effectiveness of the U.S. response to infectious disease as a Presidential Fellow for the Center for the Study of the Presidency. A dedication to her roots spurred her to volunteer for NGOs that provide medical services for those trapped in North Korea, and she has also taught an undergraduate course on North Korea.
Daniel E. Lage  
(Florida)

Harvard University: B.A./M.A., History and Science, 2011  
Proposed Oxford Course: Comparative Social Policy

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Career Aspirations  
Medicine and health policy, geriatrics health reform

Daniel Lage is a senior at Harvard College where he majors in history of science. He will graduate in May with both B.A. and M.A. degrees and was named a John Harvard Scholar and elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Inspired by his grandparents’ examples of struggling with chronic illness, his scholarly and professional focus is on improving health care and quality of life for the elderly. He travelled to France last summer to study that country’s health care system, and he is currently writing his senior thesis on the history of long-term care institutions in 20th century America. Daniel has also co-authored manuscripts in leading orthopedic journals. The son of Cuban immigrants, he has been the leader of several Cuban-American and Latino organizations on campus. In his free time, Daniel enjoys dancing salsa and singing in the Catholic Student Association choir. He also loves learning new languages and hopes to continue working on his French and German while at Oxford.
Jennifer I. Lai

District XV

(Hawaii)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: B.Sc., Biological Engineering, Music, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Integrated Immunology

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Career Aspirations
M.D./Ph.D., physician scientist

Jenn Lai is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she majors in biological engineering and music and has a perfect record in advanced courses across mathematics, physics and engineering. Her research has led her to develop a novel assay determining the immunogenicity, or the tendency to elicit an immune response, of therapeutic proteins. She has also studied the response to treatment of glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive form of brain cancer. In her future research, she wishes “to delve into cancer immunotherapy.” A top professional, conservatory-level pianist, Jenn has performed works ranging from Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue (with the Boston Pops) to J. S. Bach’s Goldberg Variations.
A native of Wooster, Ohio, Andrew Lanham graduated *summa cum laude* from Haverford College in 2010, majoring in English and Philosophy. Andrew was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in his junior year, won an NCAA postgraduate scholarship in 2009, and was awarded departmental prizes in both English and philosophy upon graduation. His senior thesis explores Nietzsche’s relationship to Shakespeare and the impact Nietzsche’s views of Shakespeare have had on 20th-century literature and philosophy. While at Haverford, Andrew co-chaired the Honor Council and competed for four years in cross country and track, scoring for Haverford’s NCAA Division III runner-up cross country team in 2007 and serving as team captain in 2010. Andrew developed a passion for public service as an Eagle Scout and currently works as a tutor for A Better Chance, a non-profit organization that provides access to elite high school educations for underprivileged students. In addition to working with his students on fiction and nonfiction composition, Andrew has had the invigorating experience of tutoring physics and chemistry—“subjects I will most certainly not be studying at Oxford!”
Prerna Nadathur

University of Chicago: B.A., Mathematics, 2010

Proposed Oxford Course: Linguistics

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Career Aspirations
Academia, research in linguistics

Prerna Nadathur is currently a graduate student in the mathematics program at the University of Minnesota, having graduated from the University of Chicago in 2010 with a B.A. in Mathematics and minors in Linguistics and Philosophy. She writes poetry and fiction, played violin in the University chamber orchestra, pursues classical Indian dance, and has been awarded distinction by Trinity College London in the ATCL diploma for solo piano performance. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she has participated in research in both mathematics and linguistics. Prerna served in Student Government and was a founding member of the University of Chicago chapter of Students for a Democratic Society, a campus forum for political discussion and thoughtful action. She pursued her enthusiasm for teaching by working in a number of mathematics outreach programs for middle- and high-school students. Prerna has “a deep curiosity about language and cognition” and plans to pursue graduate study in linguistics with a focus on the relationship between language structure and meaning. She looks forward to studying general linguistics and comparative philology at Oxford.
Laura Kathryn Nelson (Massachusetts)

University of Virginia: B.A., Political and Social Thought, 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: English Literature (1900-present)

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Career Aspirations
Uncertain

Laura Nelson grew up “shooting pucks and playing ice hockey on a backyard rink in Massachusetts.” After spending her freshman year devoted to the Varsity Field Hockey Team, Laura shifted her attention to “some of the hot questions of higher education,” including students not learning outside the classroom and the declining support for the humanities. In both her academic studies and her extracurricular activities, Laura has thought creatively about how to build innovative spaces for learning that extend beyond the formal classroom walls. At UVa she launched a project called “Flash Seminars”—mini-classes announced a few days in advance, bringing together faculty, students and community members to explore ideas, texts and questions from many disciplines. Every semester, dozens of Flash Seminars—from “Could a Poem or Song Save a Life?” to “Liberal Arts in the Era of Capitalism”—have brought an intellectual energy to the University of Virginia and Charlottesville community. Laura hopes “to continue researching the communities that have formed around literature and the humanities while expanding the audience of intellectual discourse beyond the formal classroom.” She will take her love of the Boston Red Sox to Oxford.
Renugan Raidoo
(South Dakota)

University of Iowa: B.S., Chemistry; B.A., Anthropology, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Social Anthropology

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Career Aspirations
Academia, anthropology, ethnography, with a focus on improving humanitarian aid and public health

Renugan is a Goldwater Scholar and University of Iowa Presidential Scholar from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Born and raised in Durban, South Africa, he moved to South Dakota in 2001 and has been a citizen of the US since March 2010. Renugan’s diverse upbringing and his family’s involvement in the struggle against apartheid serve as the impetus for his study of anthropology. Although he will be pursuing graduate study in social anthropology at Oxford, Renugan’s undergraduate research in Iowa and in Germany has focused on the application of porous siliceous nanoparticles in biomedical imaging. He has presented his research at conferences in the United States and Germany. Renugan is heavily involved with his university’s chapter of Amnesty International and the Global Health Club, a group that increases awareness of international health issues on campus. In South Dakota, he has been politically active with the Billion gubernatorial campaign, the Obama campaign, and the Campaign for Healthy Families. He also directs and arranges for Intersection, Iowa’s all-male a cappella group. Renugan enjoys “SCUBA diving, cooking, and learning new languages.”
Fatima Iqbal Sabar

Stanford University: B.S., Biology, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Global Health Science

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Career Aspirations
Global health research and in-field practitioner

Born in St. Louis, Fatima Sabar was raised in Pakistan for four years and then moved back to Missouri. She has conducted neurology and bioengineering research in Stanford’s and Washington University’s Schools of Medicine. Her honors thesis uses metabolic engineering to research the synthetic regulatory control of yeast biosynthesis of natural compounds with pharmacological properties. Fatima is interested in global health not only from a laboratory perspective, but also through the work of non-governmental organizations in the field. She collaborated with local leaders and community health workers in Rwanda to write and evaluate a menstrual health and hygiene education curriculum. She has also worked with Oaxacans in both Oaxaca and California, where she is coordinating a health education project in the Salinas Valley with Stanford professors, local health care providers and migrant farmworkers. Fatima hopes to use the next years at Oxford engaging with the major global health challenges and potential interventions “to understand how limited and costly healthcare resources can be made accessible to low-income communities in the United States and to residents of low- and middle-income nations.” She enjoys “creative writing, running, and learning from the communities I work with.”
John Salvatore Scotti
(California)

University of Chicago: B.S./M.S., Chemistry; B.A., Biochemistry, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Chemistry

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Career Aspirations
Professor of chemistry

John Scotti was raised in San Diego but decided to head east to the University of Chicago “both to brave the cold and to pursue a diverse range of interests.” Specializing in organic chemistry, he graduated early with three degrees, an M.S. and B.A. in Chemistry and a B.S. in Biological Chemistry. A Goldwater Scholar, his research focuses on the high-throughput synthesis of small-molecule libraries modeled after monoterpenoid alkaloid biosynthesis. These molecules are then processed through various high-throughput biological screens, both at the NIH and the UofC, with the ultimate goal of identifying novel human therapeutic agents. In addition to his research, John discovered a passion for teaching as a teaching assistant for both organic chemistry and biochemistry courses. Beyond scientific pursuits, he also played the piano for the campus jazz ensemble, studied ancient, medieval, and renaissance Roman history in Rome, and achieved the highest level of proficiency in Italian (il livello di specializzazione) at the Istituto Michelangelo in Florence. When at home, he spends most of his time “surfing and enjoying the Southern California sun.”
District I

Aakash Kaushik Shah (New Jersey)

Ursinus College: B.A., Inequality Studies; B.S., Biology, Neuroscience, 2010
Proposed Oxford Course: Global Health Science

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Career Aspirations
Medicine, academia, politics

Aakash Shah is currently in his first year at Harvard Medical School, having graduated in 2010 as a Goldwater Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. As a freshman in high school, Aakash became involved in basic science research and began publishing his findings in peer-reviewed journals. He conducted research in India during his freshman year of college, during which time he came to appreciate the relationship between laboratory research and broader concerns of health equity. Consequently, he increasingly turned his attention to the clinical and social determinants of health, taking on research and community organizing projects in the US, Mexico, India, and the Netherlands. At Oxford, he looks forward to “learning about the links through which global health policy becomes folded into the lives of those it affects most.” Aakash also enjoys playing soccer and performing stand-up comedy.
Steven Paul Shorkey, Jr.  (North Carolina)

University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill: B.S., Psychology; B.A., Business Administration, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Neuroscience

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Career Aspirations
Research in clinical psychology, psychiatry, or neuroscience; health/mental health policy

A Morehead-Cain Scholar at UNC, Paul Shorkey was elected to Phi Beta Kappa during his junior year. His undergraduate research using psychophysiological measures to understand self-injurious behaviors has been presented at numerous psychology conferences, and he will graduate from UNC as a Carolina Research Scholar. His honors thesis looks at peer influence in non-suicidal self-injury, which is also the topic of an accredited course Paul is teaching in the spring of 2011. Recently, he has also helped to develop a novel brain-based model of a psychological measure known as Prepulse Inhibition. Outside of class, Paul has been involved with educational policy at UNC, co-founding a peer advising program for the University and serving as the student lead on a project that created an annual orientation session for students traveling to developing countries over the summer. Paul spent his own summers volunteering for an HIV/AIDS NGO in Cape Town, South Africa, and working as a research assistant on a European Commission-funded psychiatry research project at King’s College London. Paul is an avid golfer and leads the UNC Club Golf team as President/Coach.
**District XV**

Varun S. Sivaram

(California)

Stanford University: B.S., Engineering Physics; B.A.,
International Relations, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Physics

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Career Aspirations
Energy policymaker or entrepreneur
in renewable energy technology

A 2010 Truman Scholar, Varun Sivaram has published two patent applications for solar technology as well as a philosophy paper, and has been inducted to both Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi. His academic interests have varied considerably over four years, leading him to classes in meta-ethics and mechatronics. He has spent summers using lasers at Stanford’s Linear Accelerator and studying solar cells in Germany, as well as advising international clients at a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C. At Stanford, Varun served as Chair of the Undergraduate Senate, and represented undergraduates to the Stanford Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees. He also chaired the nation’s largest student-run development conference in 2009 and captained the Stanford Bhangra Team. At Oxford his research will likely characterize charge transport properties of solid-state dye sensitized solar cells. Varun hopes to use his technical background to inform domestic and international energy policy.
Priya Mallika Sury
(Minnesota)

Washington University in St. Louis: B.A., Spanish and Anthropology, 2010

Proposed Oxford Course: Medical Anthropology

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Career Aspirations
Uncertain

Priya Sury graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 2010 and is currently pursuing her M.D. at the University of Minnesota. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Annika Rodriguez Scholarship, the Danforth Scholarship, and the Ethan Shepley Award, as well as a Minnesota Medical Foundation Scholarship. Her research has included topics ranging from adolescent suicide (in the Dominican Republic) to infectious disease (at Washington University), biomedical imaging (at the Mayo Clinic), and ethnography and yoga (culminating in her senior thesis). Priya received grant funding to conduct several HIV/AIDS education initiatives. Additionally, she created an interactive multimedia science curriculum for a local high school, tutored underprivileged students, and served as executive director for a college mentoring program at an inner-city high school. Priya’s photographs won both first and second prizes in the Universidad de las Americas Photography Competition in 2007. An avid runner, Priya has completed a marathon and a half-marathon, played on her undergraduate ultimate Frisbee team, enjoys Ragamala Music and is an Indian Classical Dancer. She will go up to Oxford in 2012.
Sarah Anne Swenson
(South Dakota)

University of Oklahoma: B.Sc., Zoology–Biomedical Sciences, 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: History of Science, Medicine and Technology

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Career Aspirations
Physician

Sarah Swenson will graduate summa cum laude having completed honors research projects in zoology, the history of science, and English. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, honored as a member of PE-ET, and serves as a peer learning assistant in organic chemistry and genetics, as well as a teaching assistant for a course in animal behavior. She is also a research assistant for the John Tyndall Correspondance Project. Sarah has spent over 600 hours volunteering at her hometown hospital and has devoted an equal amount of time to volunteering at animal shelters and rescues. In October 2009, she adopted her own dog, Violet, and hopes to certify her to work as a therapy dog in children’s hospitals and nursing homes. Sarah enjoys reading, yoga, running, and “training Violet for Disc Dog and agility.” She has participated in multiple book clubs each semester and serves on the Academic Integrity Council. After finishing her studies at Oxford, she will attend Mayo Medical School.
Zujaja Tauqeer
(New York)

City University of New York–Brooklyn College: B.A., History, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: History of Science, Medicine and Technology; Global Health Science

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Career Aspirations
Medicine, public health

Born in Lahore, Pakistan, Zujaja Tauqeer left home when she was eight years old and has lived in ten different homes since. As a third-generation aspiring physician, she hopes to “follow in my parents’ footsteps and work in humanitarian medicine, formulating national public health programs in developing countries, particularly Pakistan.” Zujaja was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior and, in addition to her work at CUNY–Brooklyn College and Macaulay Honors College she is enrolled in the dual degree B.A./M.D. program with State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine. Her diverse research interests have led to publications on the neurochemistry of autism and honors level research on Islamization and the rights of minorities and the impact of militarization on public health in Pakistan. Zujaja has volunteered with her school’s Emergency Medical Squad and in a number of New York City hospitals while also serving as founder and editor of an interdisciplinary collegiate journal. Moving around frequently during her childhood has “left me with a passion for learning foreign languages”—she currently speaks five languages, “some better than others.”
Esther Oluchukwu Uduehi

Indiana University: B.A., Chemistry; B.A., Mathematics, 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: Organic Chemistry

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Career Aspirations
Medicinal chemistry; cancer drug therapies

The first of three children born to Dr. and Mrs. Joseph and Joy Uduehi, Esther Uduehi graduated Phi Beta Kappa and received the Kenneth R. R. Gros Louis Scholarship as well as the Herman B. Wells Scholarship at Indiana University. As a McNair Scholar, she has worked in the laboratory of IU chemistry professor Amar Flood since her freshman year. Uduehi was the vice president and served for three years on IU’s Board of Aeons, a 12-member student board that conducts research projects for the president’s office. From 2010-2011, she served as IU’s second-ever Presidential Student Intern. As part of her intern responsibilities, she was a member of a new presidential committee which examined the university’s approaches to teaching and learning and their impact on student achievement. Uduehi also co-founded the IU Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) and the IU Photography Society, served as the first student docent at the IU Art Museum, and conducted teaching internships in the Biology and Mathematics departments.
Matthew T. Watters
(Delaware)

University of Delaware: B.S., Neuroscience, 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: Development Studies

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Career Aspirations
Public service, medicine, and/or health care

Matt Watters’ academic research has focussed on Oxytocin’s influence on anxiety. He combines his interest in neuroscience with longstanding medical volunteer activities. After accompanying a medical mission to Haiti in 2004 as part of his Eagle Scout project, Matt became an EMT and volunteered for six years with Ramsey Ambulance Corps, earning several awards. He is currently a senior planner for the Office of Emergency Management. In 2009, he worked as an EMT at St. Boniface Hospital in Haiti and then founded “Students for Haiti” (students4haiti.com), raising over $20,000. After the earthquake, Matt developed a “Hope for Haiti” campaign which raised another $40,000 to rebuild a hospital. This past summer he worked as an infection control consultant at two hospitals in South Sudan, developing a medical records system, training staff, and helping efforts for legislation reform. He also worked with tribal elders, SPLA leaders, and local government officials to integrate a hospital and its surrounding community. Matt’s favorite pasttime is mountain biking—he placed 9th in nationals in 2008 and was sponsored for three years by Campmor. “My personal motto is Kembe fem, which is Creole for ‘stand strong’.”
Tracy J. Yang

University of Georgia: B.A., Anthropology, 2011
Proposed Oxford Course: Global Health Science

A Truman Scholar and a University of Georgia Foundation Fellow, Tracy Yang has conducted research on the immunological kinetics of Trypanosoma cruzi infection. This research inspired her to gain firsthand medical experience in clinics and hospitals in Nicaragua. Her interest in health systems also led her to work with the Greater New York Hospital Association on hospital quality and emergency preparedness projects. Tracy works extensively with the UGA chapter of the Roosevelt Institute, a student-run think tank, and is a student-teacher for an introductory policy course through the UGA Honors Program. Her work with Roosevelt resulted in the publication of “Simplifying Eligibility for Kids,” a policy analysis piece that discusses a number of recommendations for improving health care access for uninsured but eligible children in Georgia. In 2010, Tracy discussed the role of political gridlock in Congress on CNN Newsroom with Ali Velshi. She plans to intern in Washington, D.C., this summer. In her spare time, Tracy likes “to go caving, travel, create and listen to music, and cook.”
Baltazar Antonio Zavala

District VIII
(Texas)

Harvard University: B.A., Engineering/Neurobiology, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Clinical Neurology

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Career Aspirations
Neurosurgeon

After spending his early childhood in Juarez, Mexico, Zar Zavala moved with his mother to El Paso, Texas. Zar will graduate Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude and is completing his senior thesis on a tool to study multiple gap-junction coupled cells in the TRN, an area of the brain that regulates alertness levels. He has conducted electrophysiology research in Shanghai’s Fudan University and at Harvard’s Landisman Lab through the Mellon Mays Research Fellowship. As a walk-on wide receiver for Harvard’s football team, Zar has been a part of two Ivy Championship teams, leading to his election to the 2010 Academic All Ivy League Team. He volunteers in Boston through the team’s Crimson in the Community program and, as a board member of Harvard’s Engineers Without Borders, has led trips to the mountains of the Dominican Republic. These projects involved digging wells, distributing ceramic water filters, and teaching school children and church members how their lives can be improved through point-of-use water treatment methods.
District VI

William J. Zeng (Virginia)

Yale University: B.S., Physics, 2011

Proposed Oxford Course: Mathematics and Foundations of Computer Science

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Career Aspirations
Physics, academic/industry,
quantum informist

Will Zeng has worked on quantum amplification in the Yale Quantronics Lab since 2008 and, in the summer of 2010, conducted research on two qubit quantum systems in the ETH Lab at Zurich on a Yale Richter Fellowship. Both are examples of work “attempting to usher in an entirely new paradigm of information processing technology where the hardware components and software algorithms are fundamentally dependent on recent advances in our ability to understand and manipulate quantum physics.” Will’s other academic interests involve the linguistics and anthropology of science.
The Sailing “Bon Voyage” Weekend, September 25 – 29, 2010

THIRTY-FIVE Rhodes Scholars-elect were present for this year’s Sailing “Bon Voyage” Weekend in Washington, D.C.—the thirty-two U.S. Scholars-elect, together with three 2010 Scholars-elect from other Rhodes jurisdictions (one from Bermuda and two from The Commonwealth Caribbean and Jamaica). After a brief orientation on Saturday afternoon, the 2010 Rhodes Scholars-elect and assembled AARS Board members enjoyed an informal dinner and lively conversation at the home of Lissa Muscatine (California and Wadham ’77) in Bethesda, Maryland—an informal setting for Scholars new and old to get better acquainted.

On Sunday morning, the women in the class of 2010 joined Rhodes Scholar alumnae for breakfast and conversation. The breakfast was followed by a panel discussion for Rhodes Scholars-elect, hosted by Garrett Johnson (Florida and Exeter 2006), in which recent Rhodes Scholars discussed the practicalities of life in Oxford. That afternoon, the group enjoyed a matinee performance of “All’s Well That Ends Well” at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, followed that evening by an informal dinner at the home of the American Secretary, Elliot Gerson (Connecticut and Magdalen ’74).

On Monday, the Scholars-elect assembled in the Old Executive Office Building of the White House for a discussion with Rhodes Scholars associated with the National Security Council,
including Jon Finer (Vermont and Balliol ’99), Sarah Johnson (Kentucky and Magdalen 2001), Shayna Strom (Pennsylvania and New College 2002), Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall (California and Balliol ’81), Michael McFaul (Montana and St. John’s ’86), Michelle Gavin (Arizona and Lincoln ’96), and Col. John Tien (California and Queen’s ’87). That afternoon, Scholars-elect reassembled for another panel discussion on “Fighting the World’s Fight: Development, Human Rights and Advocacy” with Craig Mullaney (Rhode Island and Lincoln 2000), Lissa Muscatine, John Nagl (Nebraska and St. John’s ’88), and Tom Malinowski (New Jersey and St. Antony’s ’89). That evening, the Scholars-elect enjoyed a reception and garden party at the residence of HE Sir Nigel Sheinwald, Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the United States.

Tuesday morning began with a breakfast at the Capitol hosted by Senator Richard G. Lugar (Indiana and Pembroke ’54), retired Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (Maryland/DC and Balliol ’54), and Senator David Vitter (Louisiana and Magdalen ’83). The Senators each shared perspectives on Oxford and entertained questions from the group. After breakfast the Scholars-elect enjoyed a personal tour of the Capitol building, including the Capitol Rotunda and the original chambers of the U.S. Supreme Court, led by Senator Sarbanes. The Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington (New Jersey and Balliol ’50), then hosted the scholars at the Library of Congress, where Jack Zoeller (New York and University ’72) gave a lecture on Alain Locke (Pennsylvania and Hertford 1907) and the Rhodes Scholarship. The lecture was followed by a docent-led tour of the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. The afternoon was left free for Scholars-elect to explore Washington on their own. That evening, Board Members and local Rhodes Scholars hosted small group dinners throughout the DC area.

The annual Departure Luncheon was held at the Cosmos Club on
Wednesday, September 29th. The Scholars-elect were guests of the Association. A number of Board members and several spouses as well as many other Rhodes Scholars were present. Following the introduction of the Scholars-elect by the Rhodes Trust’s American Secretary, Elliot Gerson, the keynote address was given by the Warden of Rhodes House, Dr. Donald Markwell (Queensland and Trinity ’81). The new Scholars departed that evening by air for London Heathrow, where they were met the next day by American Rhodes Scholars of 2009 and accompanied to Oxford.

The 2010 Bon Voyage Weekend Committee was chaired by George Keys (Maryland/DC and Balliol ’70) with substantial assistance from Neil Brown. Thanks are also due to Lissa Muscatine for generously hosting the Saturday dinner, to Elliot Gerson for hosting the Sunday evening dinner, to Garrett Johnson for organizing the recent Rhodes Scholar panel, to Martina Vanden-berg for arranging the women’s breakfast, and to the small group dinner hosts and other Rhodes Alumni guests who do so much to extend the AARS’s welcome to the new class of Scholars. This year’s Sailing Weekend is scheduled for September 24-28, 2011, again in Washington, D.C. The Sailing Weekend and the Departure Luncheon are sponsored by the AARS and are supported entirely by the contributions of its members.

From the American Secretary:

PLEASE MEET the United States Rhodes Scholars of the Class of 2011. Some classes of Scholars tend to develop their own identifiable character over time, occasionally reflecting the public passions that most animate it in its early years. It is too soon to gauge any special or unusual aspects of this class likely to mark it over time. But for now, one can say that, like all other classes before it, this class of American Rhodes Scholars is composed of young people remarkable for their academic accomplishments, their character and leadership, and their commitment and ambition to make disproportionately positive contributions to the world.

That is not to say that there are not some things that are striking already about the class. For one, in the week following its announcement, Tom Friedman ended one of his New York Times columns simply by listing 50% of the class. His point, made obvious just by the names, related to American
immigration, and it did not need elaboration. There are several prominent sociologists who have done research on Rhodes Scholars over time—including their origins, career choices, interests and ideologies—and no doubt they and others will continue to do so. But clearly here is a reminder of the brilliance, ambition and potential contributions to the United States of immigrants and first generation Americans—a message more urgent perhaps due to the inflamed anti-immigration prejudices we see around us.

Of course we give no special weight to immigrant status—or to any other status for that matter. Our selectors in sixteen different districts each choose the two candidates they feel best meet the criteria established in the Will of Cecil Rhodes. There is no effort—ever—to balance candidates by field of interest, background, university, gender, political views, or race—or anything else. We could choose 32 women or 32 men, 32 physicists, or 32 from the same college.

This year, we received 837 endorsed applications, up from 805 in 2009. We know another seventy-five percent or more seek their university’s endorsement unsuccessfully. Forty-five percent of the applicants were women. We have always received more applications from men, have some theories as to why the gap persists, and would like to see it close. If anything, given the greater number of women in universities, we should see a greater number of applications from women than from men. Fifty percent of those chosen for interview this year were women, and as you can see, more than fifty percent of the winners are women—something that has happened three other times (in 1994, 1995, and 2004); those results were wholly the result of the uninfluenced and independent judgments of sixteen different committees.

Another notable feature of this class is that eleven had already graduated from college. We have seen high numbers of postgraduate winners in other recent years, and at a much higher percentage than in previous decades. Our rules and policies—including our age limit—have not, however, changed in any way. We simply are seeing more applicants than ever before who are not college seniors. We do not know the reason, but hope that advisors are not discouraging those in our traditional undergraduate cohort from applying. Nor should applicants think they will necessarily have a better chance a year or two after graduation. Our selectors take into consideration the additional experience, accomplishments and maturity that one would naturally expect from more senior applicants, so that college seniors are not in any way disadvantaged.

Even after electing Rhodes Scholars from the United States for 106 years, we typically have a winner from an institution which has not previously field-
ed a successful candidate. This year we had two such winners—one from the University of California at Davis and one from Ursinus College. We like to note this to provide encouragement to outstanding students from all institutions, not only those in those that have historically had the most successful candidates. We see highly qualified applicants every year from more than 300 different colleges.

This year’s class will enter Oxford at a time when Rhodes House plays a larger role in the life of Rhodes Scholars than at any time in its history. Due largely to the ambitious agenda and indefatigability of the Warden, Dr. Don Markwell (himself a Rhodes Scholar), Rhodes House is now the venue for myriad speakers, events, discussions, “meet and mingles,” dinners and celebrations. The Class of 2011 will enter a Rhodes community—and an Oxford—as vital, diverse, stimulating, and captivating as any time in their histories.

ELLIO T F. GERSON

American Secretary to the Rhodes Scholarship Trust
About the Rhodes Scholarships

The Rhodes Scholarships were established in 1902 by the Will of Cecil Rhodes, the British philanthropist and colonial pioneer. Rhodes hoped that the Scholarships might improve “the lot of humankind through the diffusion of leaders motivated to serve their contemporaries, trained in the contemplative life of the mind, and broadened by their acquaintance with one another and by their exposure to cultures different from their own.” Rhodes intended that his plan of bringing able students from throughout the English-speaking world and beyond to study at Oxford University would “aid in the promotion of international understanding and peace.” (See further Oxford and The Rhodes Scholarships.) Each year, 32 Americans are among approximately 80 Rhodes Scholars selected world-wide to take up degree courses at Oxford.

Cecil Rhodes wrote that Rhodes Scholars should “esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim” and outlined four criteria of selection: 1) literary and scholastic attainments; 2) fondness for and success in sports; 3) truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness, and fellowship; and 4) moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one’s fellow beings.

Interested applicants are encouraged to consult the fellowship office of their own college or university, or the American Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust: Elliot F. Gerson, 8229 Boone Blvd., Suite 240, Vienna, VA 22182. Phone: (703) 821-5960. Fax: (703) 821-2770. E-mail: amsec@rhodesscholar.org. Or visit the web site at: www.rhodesscholar.org.

About the Association of American Rhodes Scholars

The mission of the AARS is to bring Rhodes Scholars in the U.S. together in support of the Rhodes Scholarship and Oxford University through events, publications, networks, and the web. We provide the social, intellectual and professional outreach to reflect on our shared experiences and extend our current opportunities. We promote exchange and goodwill among the peoples of the diverse countries from which Rhodes Scholars and other Oxonians are drawn.

AARS plans and supports several activities including national and class reunions, regional events, and the Bon Voyage Weekend/Orientation for new Scholars. The Association publishes an annual newsletter, The American Rhodes Scholar, as well as the quarterly journal, The American Oxonian, which includes articles, book reviews, class letters and the annual Address and Occupations List of American Rhodes Scholars and other Oxonians. It also hosts the website www.americanrhodes.org. It administers the Eastman Professorship Trust and the American Trust for Oxford (ATFO). AARS members pay modest dues annually; many members also make generous additional donations. AARS does not receive funding from the Rhodes Trust nor does it have responsibility for the Rhodes Scholar selection process in the U.S.

For membership and further information, contact Nicholas W. Allard, AARS Secretary, c/o AARS, 8229 Boone Blvd., Suite 240, Vienna, VA 22182. Or visit the AARS link on the internet from: www.rhodesscholar.org or directly at: www.americanrhodes.org.