

MARCH 2018

RHODES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

YOUR BI-ANNUAL UPDATE FROM RHODES HOUSE

"Once a Rhodes Scholar, always a Rhodes Scholar..."



The new Warden of the Rhodes Trust as of 1st August 2018, Dr Elizabeth Kiss (Virginia & Balliol 1983)

DEAR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAIRS,

As always, we are keen to keep you updated on the latest from the Trust, as well as across our global community. We hope you will share this newsletter with your association boards and members to ensure that our whole community is aware of everything that the Rhodes Trust is today, and we are all involved in shaping its future together.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions for content or other ideas to make this newsletter work better for you and your alumni constituents.

I. NEW WARDEN ANNOUNCED:

Dr Elizabeth Kiss (Virginia & Balliol 1983)

Dr Elizabeth Kiss (pronounced “quiche”) comes to the Rhodes Trust after serving for twelve years as President of Agnes Scott College in Georgia, USA. She received her BA in philosophy, magna cum laude from Davidson College, and she became its first female Rhodes Scholar, going on to receive a BPhil and DPhil in philosophy from Oxford. After Oxford she taught at Randolph-Macon and Deep Springs Colleges and then at Princeton University, as well as holding research fellowships at Harvard and at Melbourne University. Her research focuses on moral and political philosophy and she has published on moral education, human rights, ethnic conflict and nationalism as well as feminist theory and justice.

Elizabeth has always remained strongly connected with the Rhodes Community, having mentored Rhodes applicants for over 25 years and serving for 19 years on Rhodes selection committees, including six years as State Secretary in North Carolina.

Elizabeth will be the first female Warden of Rhodes House, a notable moment in our history that comes just after the remarkable 40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women, which was celebrated around the globe and which culminated in an impactful convening in Oxford last September.

Elizabeth travelled to Oxford this month to meet with current Rhodes Scholars, taking part in the first year Scholar Retreat, which forms an essential part of the Character, Service and Leadership Programme. Soon she will begin to meet with alumni, and will be back to Oxford for the Going Down Dinner and Rhodes Ventures Forum in June before taking up the role of Warden in August.

We are planning a virtual Town Hall meeting with Elizabeth and Charles, giving you the opportunity to meet Elizabeth and ask her any questions you may have, we will keep you posted on dates. Additionally, once Elizabeth is in post as Warden, we will schedule a phone conference with all Alumni Associations. Stay tuned!

II. GLOBAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

It is impossible to capture the myriad of events and gatherings constantly happening across our alumni communities, but we wanted to give you a snapshot of some that we have been aware of and that you have been instrumental in organising:

- Christmas drinks gatherings were held in the UK, Kenya, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Zimbabwe
- Scholars in South Africa had dinner with author, Samuel Shem
- Scholars in British Columbia got together in Vancouver for a social evening over wine and nibbles
- Rhodes women got together in Sydney to follow up on conversations from the 40th anniversary of Rhodes women
- Scholars in London have instigated a monthly pub trip known as ‘Thirsty Third Thursdays’, and also got together for a breakfast time thought-leadership session on de-centralised internet and the token economy
- Recently gone-down Scholars in the United States attended ‘Welcome Home Weekend’ a chance to reflect on the experience of transitioning from Oxford to their next steps, and learn from the experiences of the North American alumni community

If you would like to plan an event for Rhodes Scholars in your region and would like our help spreading the word or organising the logistics, let us know on alumni@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk and we would be glad to help! Please do send us your pictures after an event, so that we can share your news with the community.

Here are some pictures of just a few Alumni Association events...



III. RHODES TRUST FORUMS

Rhodes House hosts several forums each year on core topics of interest to Scholars and alumni. These convenings bring together current Scholars, alumni and industry experts to address our mission of ‘Standing up for the World’ and support the sharing of experiences and insights across disciplines and generations. They are organised by Scholar-led committees with the support of Rhodes House and aim to create Rhodes communities of purpose that contribute to addressing and solving some of the most pressing issues of today's world.

Most recently, we held the **3rd Annual Rhodes Healthcare Forum, 4-5 November 2017: Forward Together: Approaching Global Inequities in Health**. The 2017 Forum tackled health inequity, bringing together members of the healthcare community from a wide variety of backgrounds to discuss issues ranging from policy development, service delivery improvement and leadership in healthcare, to technological innovation and mental health. Speakers included Tim Evans (Ontario & University 1984), Senior Director of Health, Nutrition and Population at The World Bank; Trevor Mundel (South Africa-at-Large & Balliol 1984), President of Global Health Division at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and Pardis Sarbeti (Florida & New College 1997), Computational Geneticist at Harvard University and Broad Institute. You can find full details about the Forum [here](#).

Coming up soon at Rhodes House we have **the 2nd Annual Rhodes Ventures Forum, 16-17 June 2018.**

This year's [convening](#) will serve as a platform to envisage the current and future role of business in changing the world for the better. We will consider how the evolving entrepreneurial mindset can be leveraged to tackle the greatest challenges of the 21st century - across sectors and around the world. The format will be highly interactive, providing plenty of opportunities for discussion, networking and mentoring. You can register [here](#), **please include this Forum in any calendars available to your members and remember that Alumni Association Board members may register to any Rhodes Forum free of charge. Remember to promote to your constituencies as well!**

Other upcoming Forums:

- **The Global Forum on Ethical Leadership and Public Service:** 26–28 October 2018, Rhodes House
- **The 4th Annual Rhodes Healthcare Forum:** 30 Nov–2 Dec 2018, Rhodes House

IV. SAVE THE DATE!

Anniversary Reunion at Rhodes House, 14-16 September 2018

Rhodes House is hosting a Reunion Weekend for our anniversary classes on the weekend of the annual Oxford Alumni Weekend, 14-16 September 2018. The anniversary classes invited are: 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998 and 2008.

The programme will include the chance to re-connect at social drinks and dinners, hear from prominent speakers, discuss issues close to all our hearts on panels and in groups, connect with and mentor current Scholars, and of course join in with the wealth of activities, talks and tours happening in Oxford as part of the wider Alumni Weekend.

Please do pass this message to alumni in your network who are in an anniversary class, and encourage them to express their interest at alumni@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk. Rhodes House will be in touch with more details including the programme and ticket price in the coming months.

V. RHODES EMAIL ADDRESS

Last summer, we launched an initiative to offer all Rhodes Scholars their own personal Rhodes Trust email address. Emails sent to your Rhodes address are automatically forwarded to your chosen email account. All Rhodes Trust addresses are in a standard format: `firstname.lastname.electionyear@rhodestrust.com` (e.g `joe.bloggs.18@rhodestrust.com`), so that Scholars can reach out to one another easily so long as they have that simple information.

35% of all alumni are now signed up for this service and we would like to achieve 100%! If you have yet to register, [you can do so here](#).

Please help us by encouraging alumni in your constituencies to make use of this service and direct any questions concerning the service to alumni@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.

VI. SELECTION

By December 2017, the Rhodes class of 2018 had been selected, following a rigorous global process. The biographies of the new Scholars are listed on the [Rhodes House website here](#) - click on 'Class of 2018'.

The class of Scholars is selected each year from Australia, Bermuda, Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Jamaica and Commonwealth Caribbean, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, SJLP region (Syria,

Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine), Southern Africa (including South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, and Swaziland), United Arab Emirates, United States, West Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. This year we have 95 Rhodes Scholars, which is the largest number in the history of the Rhodes Scholarships. This is the first cohort which includes Scholars from West Africa.

Four criteria are used in the selection of Scholars:

- Literary and scholastic attainments
- Energy to use one's talents to the full through achievement in areas such as sports, music, debate, dance, theatre, and artistic pursuits, particularly where teamwork is involved
- Truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness and fellowship
- Moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings

Rhodes Scholarship selection committees around the world sought young women and men of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service. The Rhodes Scholarships support students who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as 'leaders for the world's future'.

The 2018 cohort is very diverse and extremely talented. Nick Kristof (Oregon & Magdalen 1981), columnist at the New York Times, said: "The newly selected Rhodes Scholars offer a reminder that meritocracy and diversity are not at odds. The 32 new US Rhodes Scholars were chosen by 16 selection committees working independently, making selections purely on merit."

VII: GLOBAL EXPANSION

With the support and input of the Scholar community, the Trust continues in its efforts to make the Rhodes Scholarship truly global. The recent launch of the new Global Rhodes Scholarships (recently featured in [The Guardian](#)) is a milestone in the history of the Trust, allowing candidates from anywhere in the world to apply for the Scholarships for the first time. The number of Scholars elected annually is now over 100, following the launch of a new regional Scholarship for West Africa in 2017 and the recent news that it will be joined in 2018 by a regional East Africa Scholarship. The New Year also brought further good news with the reinstatement of the original Singapore Scholarship which ran from 1984 to 2005. In the coming years we also hope to increase the number of Scholarships we offer for Africa, India and Pakistan, and to build our presence in South East Asia and the Middle East.



Our newly elected West African Scholars Emmanuelle Dankwa and Toluwalase Awoyemi with National Secretary, Ike Chioke (Nigeria & Wadham 1989).

We are grateful to our dedicated alumni associations, Scholars and volunteers for supporting all our expansion Scholarships. The engagement of our Scholar community is really important in building a new programme, and we are keen to have more Rhodes Scholars involved in the Trust's outreach, screening and selection processes. **We would love to hear from you if you would like to support our efforts in any capacity**, from sharing local insights to helping guide our strategy to making introductions and helping build relationships with regional institutions. The collective support of Scholars lending their time and expertise and participating in annual fund giving at any level, is critically important for the Trust's chances of securing major endowment funding, helping demonstrate to external partners the depth of commitment from the Rhodes community to new expansion Scholarships.

VIII: PARTNERS OF THE RHODES TRUST: SCHMIDT SCIENCE FELLOWS

The Schmidt Science Fellows program is now live. We achieved our target 200 nominations from 45 Universities and are working towards a final selection committee meeting in New York on 23 April where the 25-30 finalists will be interviewed and 12 Fellows selected. Over 30 Rhodes Scholars are serving as selectors and we are very grateful for their time and commitment to this new program. We hope to see Rhodes Scholars nominated for next year's increased cohort of 25 Fellows.

We are especially excited about the overlap of interests between the Rhodes community and this new Schmidt Science Fellows community. The program aims to expand the horizons of the next generation of leaders and innovators in the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics, and computing. It will enhance the ability of the world's most promising new scientists to develop cutting-edge research, and equip them with the skills to serve as leaders in their fields and in society. The goal is to give the world's best aspiring scientific minds a broader perspective, the ability to engage in an interdisciplinary way, and the opportunity to make a lasting impact in society. Through group sessions at some of the world's leading universities (the first two weeks of the five week global series are at Rhodes House in July and August 2018) and a special postdoctoral study in a field different from their existing expertise, Fellows will be exposed to new topics, new ways of thinking, and new people that will help guide their future paths to success.

IX: ANNUAL FUND

Through the end of the Trust's financial year (1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018), there will be an increased focus on Scholar giving and participation via the Rhodes Scholars Annual Fund. All global Scholars will be asked to give in support of the Scholarships, with a strong emphasis on participation and giving at every level. Rhodes Scholars Annual Fund communications will be sent via email and by post from Rhodes House, and our global set of volunteer Class Leaders will continue to work to connect with and encourage their classmates to support the Scholarships.

The Rhodes Scholars Annual Fund is a vital source of regular income that seeks £1million each year from the Rhodes community to finance a portion of current Scholar costs and to further enhance the Scholar experience. These regular gifts are transformed into valuable opportunities and provide immediate impact for Scholars in Oxford and beyond. Ongoing commitment to the Rhodes Scholars Annual Fund will:

- **Sustain and improve the Character, Service & Leadership programme for all Scholars in residence**
- **Support vital research and travel grants**

- **Provide Scholars in Oxford with critical extra support (i.e. emergency travel, mental health and hardship support)**
- **Offer opportunities for Scholars to engage and connect across generations, disciplines and geographies to drive change**
- **Invest in proactive outreach to widen the pool of applicants in each constituency**

If you have not yet made your gift in support of the Scholarships this year, we encourage you to do so before the 30 June 2018 deadline. Scholars and friends of the Trust may give through a number of tax efficient giving channels in place for donors based in Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, South Africa, United Kingdom, US and via transnational giving in Europe. To make a gift, Scholars may visit <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/donate/> for country-specific details. If you have any questions about giving, please contact Erica Mirick at erica.mirick@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk or Jacob Kreyberg at jacob.kreyberg@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.

X. THE WARDEN'S TRAVEL PLANS

Almost right up until his tenure as Warden comes to a close in June, Charles Conn and his partner Camilla Borg will be travelling on behalf of the Trust.

Charles and the Trust's Director of Strategy and Development, Alasdair Maclay, are returning to China in late March. Their itinerary includes both Shanghai and Beijing, as well as incorporating a trip to Chengdu to visit both Southwest Jiaotong University and Sichuan University, in addition to local schools in the area, where the Trust is looking to raise the profile of the Scholarships.

Soon afterwards Charles and Camilla will travel to California where they will be attending the North American Oxford Alumni Weekend, 6-8 April. Charles will be hosting two Rhodes functions at the Westin St. Francis Hotel during the alumni weekend; a drinks reception on Friday 6th April and a breakfast on Saturday 7th of April. If you will be in California at this time, we would be delighted to see you at either or both of these functions. Please also spread the word to your constituencies about the event, tickets can be [booked here](#).

CALLS TO ACTION

Here are some key ways you can help us over the next six months to build and strengthen our community:

- **Share this letter with your Association members and Rhodes networks**
- Encourage anniversary class members to express interest in the **September Reunion** at Rhodes House by emailing: alumni@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk
- Encourage people to [register](#) for their **Rhodes email address**
- **Social media:** If you would like the Rhodes Trust to promote or share your posts, just direct message us on your chosen social media platform. Similarly, if you would like to act as a social media ambassador for the Trust, using your online influence to share and promote the Trust's content, then please contact Claire Skilton at: claire.skilton@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk
- **Branding:** The new Rhodes Trust and Rhodes Scholarship logos (as on this letter) should be used for all Rhodes communications. Brand consistency is very important and we have worked hard to ensure that the new logo is used consistently. We need your help to ensure this happens on a global scale too! The new logos have been circulated, but if you need them again or if you need them in a particular file type or size just email babette.tegldal@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

- **Supporting Global Expansion:** If you would like to support us in these efforts by lending your time and expertise or participating in annual fund giving at any level, then please contact:
development@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk
- **Please also let us know if there are any other ways we can support you with your work**

As always, we are extremely grateful for all the hard work you do in your constituencies on behalf of the Trust. We look forward to continuing to work together and are confident that with you on side, the Rhodes community will continue to strengthen into the future.

Warm regards from Rhodes House,

Charles Conn, Warden & CEO

Rodolfo Lara, Director of Programmes & Alumni Relations

Jenny Wood, Alumni Relations & Alumni Programmes Associate