American Rhodes Scholars-Elect for 2018

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

**District 1**
TANIA N. FABO  
Massachusetts—Harvard University  
SAMARTH GUPTA  
Massachusetts—Harvard University

**District 2**
CHRISTOPHER J. D’URSO  
New Jersey—University of Pennsylvania  
JORDAN D. THOMAS  
New Jersey—Princeton University

**District 3**
THAMARAVA. V. JEAN  
New York—Hunter College, CUNY  
DANIEL H. JUDT  
New York—Yale University

**District 4**
HAZIM HARDEMAN  
Pennsylvania—Temple University  
and Community College of Philadelphia  
ALAN YANG  
Pennsylvania—Harvard University

**District 5**
NATHAN R. BERMEL  
Maryland/DC—United States Naval Academy  
NAOMI T. MBURU  
Maryland/DC—University of Maryland,  
Baltimore County

**District 6**
CHELSEA A. JACKSON  
Georgia—Emory University  
CALVIN RUNNELS  
Georgia—Georgia Institute of Technology

**District 7**
MATTHEW ROGERS  
Alabama—Auburn University  
NOAH V. BARBIERI  
Mississippi—Millsaps College

**District 8**
MARY CLARE BEYTAGH  
Texas—Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
HAROLD XAVIER GONZALEZ  
Texas—Harvard University

**District 9**
SIMONE M. ASKEW  
Virginia—United States Military Academy  
MATTHEW CHUN  
Virginia—Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**District 10**
THOMAS J. DOWLING  
Illinois—University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
CAMILLE A. BORDERS  
Ohio—Washington University in St. Louis

**District 11**
NADINE K. JAWAD  
Michigan—University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
CLAIRA. LEPARD  
Michigan—Michigan State University

**District 12**
JASMINE BROWN  
Missouri—Washington University in St. Louis  
JASPREET SINGH  
Tennessee—United States Air Force Academy

**District 13**
MICHAEL Z. CHEN  
Colorado—Stanford University  
JOSHUA T. ARENS  
South Dakota—University of South Dakota

**District 14**
SAMANTHA M. MACK  
Alaska—University of Alaska, Anchorage  
JAVAUGHN T. FLOWERS  
Oregon—Yale University

**District 15**
MADELEINE K. CHANG  
California (North)—Stanford University  
SEAN P. REILLY  
California (North)—Santa Clara University

**District 16**
ALEXIS L. KALLEN  
California (South)—Stanford University  
GABRIELLE C. STEWART  
California (South)—Duke University
From the AARS President:

The Association of American Rhodes Scholars (AARS) is pleased to present our traditional newsletter introducing the newly elected Rhodes Scholars to the Rhodes community, to Oxford, and to well-wishers and educational institutions nationwide. It is indeed a joy to learn about these fine young people who will follow in our footsteps to Oxford next September.

In addition to introducing our 2018 Scholars, this newsletter reports on the 23rd annual “Bon Voyage” Weekend, sponsored by AARS for the Class of 2017 Rhodes Scholars, which took place in Washington, DC, last September 22 to 24. This BVW gave the new Rhodes Scholars an opportunity to meet each other before traveling to Oxford and dispersing among the colleges. In addition, by interacting with a wide variety of alumni Scholars of all ages who took part in the Weekend, these young Scholars gained a new understanding of how Rhodes Scholars value scholarship, pursue public service, and participate in “the world’s fight.” The keynote speaker this year at dinner was Sylvia Matthews Burwell (West Virginia and Worcester ’87), the President of American University. The text of her remarks appeared in the Winter/Spring 2017 issue of The American Oxonian (TAO).

The enclosed publication, TARS, and the Bon Voyage Weekend are sponsored by AARS and are paid for by dues and generous annual contributions from its membership. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for continuing your vital support.

RALPH H. SMITH, President
(Alabama and Corpus Christi ’73)

About the Association of American Rhodes Scholars:

AARS was founded in 1907 and today has a membership of more than 2,200 Rhodes Scholars elected from or currently living in the USA. The mission of AARS is to bring Rhodes Scholars in America together in support of the Rhodes Scholarships, Oxford University, and the qualities of scholarship, leadership, and service that underlie the awards. The AARS publishes a highly acclaimed journal, The American Oxonian, promotes reunions and events, and administers charitable trusts supporting Oxford University and the distinguished Eastman Professorship at Oxford.
Joshua Arens

South Dakota

University of South Dakota: BSc, Chemistry, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Environmental Change and Management

Joshua T. Arens graduated from the University of South Dakota in 2017, summa cum laude and with a 4.0 GPA. Joshua—an evangelist for science-based policy-making—researches a wide range of environmental problems and solutions, from reexamining the role of automobiles in society to discovering greener synthetic routes for polymers. He is both a Truman Scholar and a Fulbright Scholar. During his time at the University of South Dakota, Joshua brought TEDx to campus and led a campaign to name the university a sanctuary campus. A fifth-generation South Dakotan, he grew up on a cattle and crop farm.
Simone Askew

US Military Academy: BS, International History, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

Preferred Contact Details
4139 Halsted Street
Fairfax, VA 22033
202.352.8875
askew.simone@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
To serve as a senior leader in the military

As the Brigade Commander of the United States Corps of Cadets, Simone Askew holds the top leadership position among the students at West Point. She is responsible for the development and performance of 4,400 cadets. Simone is the first African American female in the 215-year history of the academy to hold this post. Lauded for her leadership abilities, she received the Pinnacle Award from the Black Women’s Agenda in Washington, DC. Her undergraduate thesis focused on the use of rape as a tool of genocide and mass atrocity.
Noah Barbieri

Millsaps College: BSc, Economics and Philosophy with a minor in Mathematics, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil in Economics

Preferred Contact Details
868 Hidden Valley Drive
Watertown, SD 57201
605.881.3494
carter_jjc@hotmail.com

Current Address
409 Little Circle
Belden, MS 38826
662.610.5807
barbierinoah@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
I desire to pursue a career in public service where I can research and address various forms of inequality.

Noah Barbieri is a graduate of Millsaps College, where he completed a BSc in Economics, Mathematics, and Philosophy with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Noah is a Truman Scholar who also served as student body president at Millsaps College. He has completed an honors thesis in philosophy and another in economics. His research has probed the antecedents of wealth inequality and has explored the factors that affect labor force participation among prime-age males in his home state of Mississippi. Marshalling the necessary political and managerial skills to drive impact, he aspires to a career in public service. He longs to return to Mississippi, which has fallen behind the rest of the United States in essentially every metric, to improve the quality of life for its citizens. After Oxford, Noah wants to pursue a PhD in economics from MIT and a JD from Harvard Law School.
Nathan Bermel
Maryland/DC

US Naval Academy: BS, Quantitative Economics, Political Science, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Medical Anthropology; MPP

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
163 Middlesex Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Career Aspirations
After two years at Oxford, I will head to Pensacola, Florida, to begin training to earn my wings as a naval aviator. I can’t say yet whether I will make a career of the Navy, or, if I decide to leave the service, what will come next. What I am certain of is that I will be involved in a career dedicated to public service, whether in or out of uniform.

At the United States Naval Academy, Nate Bermel has a 4.0 GPA, majors in quantitative economics and political science, and is ranked first in academic, military, and overall orders of merit among 1,073 of his classmates. At Brookline High School in Massachusetts, Nate sponsored two bills targeting student smoking; since the bills’ passage, the smoking rate has fallen over 50 percent. As a midshipman, Nate has served as a peer tutor, a Plebe Summer detailer, and the Brigade Honor Advisor—overseeing the staff of the midshipman-run Honor Program, honor education for the Brigade, and the investigation and board process for alleged honor offenses. He is also a member of the academy’s club lacrosse team, winning back-to-back national championships. During his summers, Nate has summited Denali on an expedition with three other midshipmen, analyzed the oil market in ISIL-held Iraq and Syria for the State Department’s Bureau of Energy Resources, and travelled to the Marshall Islands, where he researched the impacts of climate change on the American military base and the Marshallese population at Kwajalein Atoll.
Mary Clare Beytagh

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: SB, Biology and Literature, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Biochemistry (by research)

Preferred Contact Details
6714 Desco Drive
Dallas, TX 75225
mbeytagh@mit.edu

Current Address
320 Memorial Drive, #522
Cambridge, MA 02139

Career Aspirations
I aspire to a career as an oncologist, cancer scientist, and writer.

Mary Clare Beytagh is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she has dual majors in biology and literature. She is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a Burchard Scholar, which recognizes excellence in the humanities, arts, and social sciences at MIT. She is already an accomplished cancer researcher at MIT and The Rockefeller University and has presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research. Mary Clare has been a leader of a student group that mentors disadvantaged youth, and she is a teaching assistant in mathematics. She is also a ballerina with more than fifteen years of experience, having trained at the Dallas Metropolitan Ballet and at American Ballet Theatre. She aspires to a career as an oncologist, cancer scientist, and writer.
Camille Borders

District X
Ohio

Washington University in St. Louis: BA, History, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSt, US History

Preferred Contact Details
10038 Arnold Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215
513.254.5200

Camille (Mimi) Borders is a poet, writer, and student organizer. She is a senior at Washington University in St. Louis, where she majors in history, with minors in women, gender, and sexuality studies and in writing. Camille is a nationally ranked spoken-word artist, whose poetry, spanning themes of blackness, religion, and sexuality, has been featured across campus and nationally. She was a member of WU-Slam, Washington University in St. Louis’s performance poetry team, and has helped the team earn a ranking among the top 20 teams nationally. Additionally, Camille writes about progressive issues; her writings have been published online by USA Today and the Huffington Post. As a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, she completed a senior thesis that delved into the non-normative kinship and intimate relationships between black women during emancipation in the United States.
Jasmine Brown
Missouri

Washington University in St. Louis: BS, Biology (neuroscience), 2018

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

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
34 Lawrence Ct.
Hillsborough, NJ 08844
317.361.3903
jasmine.brown@wustl.edu

Career Aspirations
I want to become a physician, serving people in the United States and around the world.

While Jasmine Brown’s primary focus has been neuroscience, she has also done cancer research at the Broad Institute and pulmonary research at Johns Hopkins, and she has studied behavioral science at the University of Miami. At Washington University she continues extensive research to identify neurotoxic genes that contribute to cognitive defects following West Nile–induced encephalitis. She founded the Minority Association of Rising Scientists and serves as its president, working to provide minority students in STEM with resources for research and a community to help them be successful. She has tutored high school students and danced in a theater production. Her long-term goal is to combine her passion for science with her passion for diversity, while serving as a role model and mentor for the next generation of scientists and physicians.
Madeleine Chang

Stanford University: BA, History, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Social Science of the Internet

Preferred Contact Details
415.999.8235
madkchang@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
To be determined

Madeleine Chang is a senior at Stanford pursuing a major in history and a minor in Arabic. At Oxford, reading for an MSc in Social Science of the Internet, Madeleine hopes to study an ethical framework for the Internet and the data collection it enables. She first wrote about ethics in technology as an editorial intern at the San Francisco Chronicle, and later as a research intern for Open Media and Information Companies Initiative. During her undergrad career, she served as a copresident of the American Middle Eastern Network for Dialogue at Stanford (AMENDS), where she directed a team that organizes a growing network of 200-plus individuals seeding social and political change in the Middle East and United States. She is also the house manager of a cooperative student residence, as well as a founding member of the Jewish Social Justice Collective.
District XIII
Colorado

Michael Zhu Chen

Stanford University: BS, Chemistry, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Global Health Science and Epidemiology

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
3555 Longwood Avenue
Boulder, CO 80305
303.261.7392
michaelzhuchen@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
I plan to become a physician-scientist who treats patients with neurological disorders and develops new diagnoses and treatments for these same patients.

A Colorado native, Michael Zhu Chen is graduating with honors from Stanford with a BS in chemistry and a minor in biology. Michael aims to improve diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders as a physician-scientist. A Goldwater Scholar, Michael conducted neuroscience research investigating the neural circuits that control thirst motivational drive; he worked in the laboratories of Drs. Karl Deisseroth and Liqun Luo at Stanford. He is a first author of a paper in Science and coauthor of other publications. Michael cofounded Stanford Synapse, a student-run group that provides social support for brain injury patients in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has helped establish a national organization called Synapse National that is expanding Synapse to colleges and communities across the country. Michael also tutors low-income middle school students from East Palo Alto through DreamCatchers. In his spare time, he enjoys swimming with the Stanford Club Swim team and performing Filipino dance with Stanford Kayumanggi.
Matthew Chun

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: BSc, Mechanical Engineering, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil, Engineering Science

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
4141 North Henderson Rd, Unit 527
Arlington, VA 22203
mchun96@gmail.com

Current Address
305 Memorial Drive, Room 4087
Cambridge, MA 02139

Career Aspirations
Technology, law, and policy

Matthew Chun is a senior at MIT, pursuing a BSc in mechanical engineering with a minor in management science. His GPA is 5.0 (on a 5.0 scale). Matthew researches the impact of intellectual property law on innovation and has worked as a patent technology specialist. He leads a team that is designing the first prosthetic knee adapter intended specifically for the developing world. Matthew intends to build on his experience as a practitioner of innovation in order to shape international technology policy. An executive member of the engineering honor society at MIT, Matthew also serves as the captain of the MIT wrestling team.
Thomas Dowling

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: BA, Political Science and History, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Comparative Social Policy; DPhil, Public Policy

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
10424 S. Campbell
Chicago, IL 60655

Current Address
10424 S. Campbell
Chicago, IL 60655

Career Aspirations
I want to serve in the Illinois state legislature.

Thomas Dowling will intern at the Council of State Governments this summer. He has previously served as a V&C Young Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and as the Wolff Intern of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, where he researched state and local government. He is a Truman Scholar, Lincoln Academy Laureate, and a Fulbright participant. Tom has served as deputy chief of staff to Representative Carol Ammons and has worked for the AFL-CIO, the Sanders 2016 campaign, and the Center for American Progress. He will graduate Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude.
Christopher J. D’Urso

University of Pennsylvania: BA, International Relations; Master of Public Administration with a Certificate in Politics, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil, Public Policy

Preferred Contact Details
732.403.9078
cdurso96@yahoo.com

Career Aspirations
I intend to become a federal prosecutor and ultimately enter national politics.

Christopher J. D’Urso, of Colts Neck, New Jersey, will receive a BA with distinction in international relations and, concurrently, an MPA through Penn’s Fels Institute of Government. He has a perfect grade point average in both programs, is a Dean’s Scholar and the valedictorian of the International Relations Program, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Christopher cares deeply about consumer protection and testified before Congress in 2014 on revamping country-of-origin labeling laws. He is the founding president of Penn CASE, a community service organization that has provided consumer assistance, support, and education to nearly 2,400 Philadelphia residents. Christopher is the editor-in-chief of the Sigma Iota Rho National Honor Society’s Journal of International Relations, served for two years as cochair of Penn’s University Honor Council, and was selected by the university to represent the student body on the university’s Task Force on Safe and Responsible Campus Community. Upon completion of his DPhil in public policy at Oxford, Christopher will attend Yale Law School.
Tania Nzouatou Fabo

Massachusetts

Harvard University: BA, Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Medical Anthropology; MSc, Oncology (by research)

Preferred Contact Details
tania.fabo@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
Physician/scientist. I plan to pursue an MD-PhD and hope to use scientific research to combat health disparities.

Tania Fabo was born in Germany to Cameroonian parents and immigrated to the United States when she was seven. She has been fascinated by science from a young age and began conducting biology research in high school. Her interests shifted to cancer after she read *The Emperor of All Maladies* by Siddhartha Mukherjee. Since then, she has conducted a range of cancer research in a variety of labs; she is currently at the Zon Lab at Boston Children’s Hospital, having recently completed her senior thesis on metastatic melanoma. As a Black woman in science, she has also worked to increase representation of minorities in STEM fields, particularly through her role as the president of the Harvard Society of Black Scientists and Engineers. In addition, Tania is passionate about the health of her community, having spent several years as a volunteer at Boston Children’s Hospital. The health disparities she witnessed within the hospital, disparities which were confirmed in the classroom, led her to create and codirect the first annual Black Health Matters Conference at Harvard.
JaVaughn T. Flowers

Yale University: BA, Political Science, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc in Comparative Social Policy

As a Truman Scholar at Yale, JaVaughn T. “JT” Flowers wrote his thesis on gaps in Portland’s sanctuary city policy for undocumented immigrants. JT played varsity basketball at Yale before devoting his time to A Leg Even, an organization that facilitates the academic and professional progress of low-income students. A first-generation college graduate, JT helped to design and implement major changes to Yale’s financial aid system. After graduation, JT returned to his hometown of Portland to work in the field office of US Representative Earl Blumenauer.
Harold Xavier Gonzalez  

Harvard University: AB, Mathematics, 2018  
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Mathematical Sciences  

Preferred Contact Details  
3714 Olympia Drive  
Houston, TX 77019  
832.799.3216  
haroldxaviergonzalez@college.harvard.edu  

Career Aspirations  
To promote public interest in math and to use math and its methods to promote the public interest  

Xavier Gonzalez is a senior majoring in math and minoring in physics at Harvard. His junior summer he did research in the field of “Moonshine,” an unexpected connection between modular forms and finite symmetry groups. Xavier is a letterman in varsity tennis and the USTA national grass-court champion in men’s doubles. He won first prize in the Harvard Book Collecting Contest and third prize in the National Collegiate Contest. He presented a paper at the Annual Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference and advises college freshmen. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.
Samarth Gupta

Massachusetts

Harvard University: AB, Economics, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Comparative Social Policy

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
551 Great Elm Way
Acton, MA 01718
978.844.6137
samarthg81@gmail.com

Current Address
163 Lowell Mail Center
Cambridge, MA 02138

Career Aspirations
Law, public policy, and politics

Samarth Gupta is a Truman Scholar. His senior thesis explores the impact of the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion on county-level eviction rates. His research with Professor Matthew Desmond and his internship with the White House Council of Economic Advisers have fueled his passion for tackling issues of housing and health care. In addition, he has interned with the City of Boston’s Office of Housing Stability and researched police use of force for Professor Roland Fryer. On campus, Samarth served as a captain of the Harvard College Running Club, was one of two students on the Harvard General Standing Committee, directed an after-school basketball program at a local elementary school, and was a staff writer for the Harvard Political Review. After Oxford, he plans to attend law school.
Hazim Hardeman

Temple University: BA, Strategic Communication, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Economic and Social History

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
120 S. 56th Street, Apt. 4
Philadelphia, PA 19139
215.620.7454
hhardem1@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
Professor and researcher

Hazim Hardeman, who grew up four blocks from Temple University, will graduate magna cum laude from the school in May as Temple’s first Rhodes Scholar. When he was in elementary school, his single mother found a way to enroll him in a better school—two hours away by public transportation—but for high school he had to return to the inner city. After high school he attended the Community College of Philadelphia, graduating with high honors. His research interests include critical pedagogy, race and politics, and African American intellectual history. He has written on hip-hop music, gun control, and the prison abolition movement. He is a substitute teacher in the Philadelphia School District, was a fellow in the Philadelphia mayor’s Office of Community Empowerment, and took a course on death and dying with inmates in a prison hospice program. A guiding ideal for Hazim has been to arrive at truth through letting suffering speak.
Chelsea A. Jackson

Emory University: BA and MA, Political Science, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Criminology and Criminal Justice

Preferred Contact Details
404.784.4154
cajack432@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
Civil rights attorney, appellate judge

Chelsea A. Jackson earned her BA in political science and African American studies, as well as an MA in political science. She is a Truman Scholar. Her research explores the role of race in racial disparities in crime and punishment. Her master’s thesis, entitled “Do Black Prosecutors Matter? Descriptive Representation in the American Criminal Justice System,” focuses on prosecutorial discretion and race. This summer, Chelsea will be an advocacy intern at a juvenile justice reform firm, the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, in Washington, DC. Chelsea is an activist—she is a cofounder of Atlanta Black Students United—and in college she sustained memberships in a variety of organizations. At Oxford, Chelsea hopes to play tennis, participate in theater, and try rowing.
Nadine Jawad

University of Michigan: BA, Public Policy, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Comparative Social Policy; MBA

Preferred Contact Details
313.402.5145
nkjawad@umich.edu

Current Address
1115 N. Gulley Road
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Career Aspirations
International emergency medicine doctor

Nadine K. Jawad, a graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is a Truman Scholar. As student body vice president, she implemented policies and initiatives related to underrepresentation in STEM, support for students with disabilities, campus affordability and scholarship opportunities, and housing access. She also oversaw campus-wide nonpartisan efforts by students to expand voter registration. As the cofounder of Books for a Benefit, Nadine helps to provide supplementary programs and resources in literacy to students in southeastern Michigan in order to advance more-equitable opportunities in education. Her family is from Lebanon, and her dad immigrated here in the 1970s.
Thamara Jean

New York

Hunter College: BA, Political Science, Media Analysis and Criticism, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Political Theory

Preferred Contact Details
thamara.jean@macaulay.cuny.edu

Career Aspirations
After Oxford, I intend to pursue a PhD in political theory.

Thamara V. Jean, of Brooklyn, is a senior in the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She is Hunter’s first Rhodes Scholar. She completed her senior thesis in her junior year on the Black Lives Matter movement; it was subsequently published in the Journal of Politics and Society. She followed this work with research in the Harvard African American Studies Department on black nationalism in the 1960s. Thamara is especially interested in the dialectic between Afro-pessimism and Black optimism and how that shapes African American political thought. Her interest as a social activist is to change destructive societal narratives and philosophical traditions that bring about barriers rather than common understanding. She has worked at Democracy Works and Generation Citizen, and she was a producer at the CUNY Film Festival.
Daniel H. Judt

Yale University: BA, History, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Politics (Political Theory)

Preferred Contact Details
djudt2894@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
Investigative journalism and academia

Daniel H. Judt wrote his college history thesis about how the Socialist movement influenced conservative policies in the American South. He has won major Yale prizes and honors in journalism, nonfiction writing, English, and the humanities. He cofounded and is editor-in-chief of Brink, a book review journal inspired by the New York Review of Books, where he interned with the late Robert Silvers. He has written for The Nation, the Yale Politic, the New York Times, and many other publications. Daniel has taught literature, French, and English to high school students in New Haven, prison inmates, and French adult refugees in Paris. He aspires to be an intellectual historian who not just interprets the world, but changes it.
Alexis Kallen

District XVI
California (South)

Stanford University: BA, Political Science, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Development Studies

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
16111 Village 16
Camarillo, CA 93012
805.910.9430
akallen@stanford.edu

Current Address
562 Mayfield Avenue
Stanford, CA 94305

Career Aspirations
I aspire to be an international human rights lawyer, particularly focused on issues facing women and girls in war, within the International Criminal Court.

Alexis L. Kallen earned a BA in political science, with honors, at Stanford’s Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, with minors in human rights and Spanish. Her honors thesis analyzed the failure of international legal cases in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to pursue genocidal rape findings. A strong advocate for women’s issues on campus, Alexis worked with the Stanford administration to pave and light “Scary Path” on the Stanford campus, which was previously a dark and unlit path between two fraternities. Alexis is the chair of Stanford in Government, Stanford’s largest student group, and was previously the Western US Regional Leader for Girl Up, a United Nations foundation. She is a 2017 Truman Scholar and was Stanford University’s 127th convocation speaker. Before arriving at Oxford, Alexis will spend her summer in Washington, DC, as an intern with the Office of the Clerk at the US Supreme Court.
Clara Lepard

Michigan State University: BS, Zoology, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Zoology (by research)

Preferred Contact Details
cclepard@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
I plan to continue researching the ecology of large carnivores and developing conservation solutions in the context of human dimensions.

Clara C. Lepard graduated from Michigan State University in 2017, earning the Outstanding Academic Achievement and Promise in Zoology Award from the university’s College of Natural Science. She is passionate about large-carnivore ecology and conservation, and she is a member of MSU’s Research on the Ecology of Carnivores and Their Prey Lab. In that capacity, she spent three months in the field studying the behavioral ecology of lions and ungulates in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda. She is currently the outreach director for the Snares to Wares Initiative, a community-based conservation program based in Pakwach, Uganda, that protects wildlife from wire snaring by addressing the human livelihood problems that lead to subsistence poaching in the first place. Clara plans to continue her research on large carnivores and her involvement with conservation solutions that value the preservation of wildlife and people’s communities equally.
Samantha Mack

University of Alaska, Anchorage: BA, English, Political Science; MA, English, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Political Theory

Preferred Contact Details
907.230.8358
mack.samm@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
In the future I would really love to work in education as a college professor, to work as a public servant, and to write books.

Samantha Mack is a master’s student in the Department of English at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. As UAA’s first Rhodes Scholar, she works across disciplines to address indigeneity and feminism within the fields of literature and politics. Samantha recently completed her thesis, titled “Rerighting and Rewriting Narratives of Unangax Displacement: A Project of Survivance.” Her work in Alaska Native studies, literature, and political theory reflects her strong interests in equity, respect for different patterns of life, and the prevention of the degradation of nature.
Naomi Mburu

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: BS, Chemical Engineering, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil, Engineering Science

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
4309 Old Valley Court
Ellicott City, MD 21043
443-615-4711
ntmburu@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
I want to work on the commercialization of nuclear fusion from the engineering and political standpoints.

Naomi T. Mburu is the first Rhodes Scholar from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). A Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, she has coauthored two peer-reviewed journal articles and presented research at twelve conferences and symposia around the world. She is passionate about combining fields of engineering and science to solve interdisciplinary problems and has engaged in research fields ranging from cellular biology to particle physics. This work has led her to intern at a broad range of institutions, including Intel and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva. She spends much of her free time supporting STEM education for disadvantaged groups through volunteer and leadership roles, most notably as the Region II Vice Chairperson for the National Society of Black Engineers. She also serves as a teaching assistant at UMBC, and she helps teach math at a nearby elementary school.
Sean P. Reilly

Santa Clara University: BS, Environmental Science and Biology, 2016
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Environmental Change and Management; MSc, Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
408.340.3582
sean.reilly66@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
Conduct socio-ecological research on global change ecology to help human communities mitigate the impact of climate change on themselves and their ecological surroundings.

Sean P. Reilly wrote his honors thesis on the influence of the Santa Cruz Mountains on precipitation from a landfalling atmospheric river. The president of the Santa Clara University Green Club and cofounder of Fossil Free SCU, Sean successfully collaborated with university administrators to set up a sustainable investment fund. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2017 to lead a community-based participatory research project in Australia with the Mandingalbay Yidinji aboriginal people to manage the pond apple, a formidable bioinvader valued by the community as a food source. He is also an avid rock climber, spending most weekends exploring mountains.
Matthew Rogers

Auburn University: BE, Software Engineering, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil, Cyber Security

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
256.426.3748
matthew.rogers2197@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
I aspire to be a United States cybersecurity coordinator.

Matthew Rogers is a senior at Auburn University. He is pursuing a BE in software engineering and has a GPA of 4.0. An accomplished researcher and practitioner of cybersecurity, Matthew is a national champion in the CyberPatriot competition. He has demonstrated his research and work in malware analysis and security education at security conferences around the country, such as DerbyCon, the Association of Old Crows, and the Space and Missile Defense conference. At Auburn, Matthew cofounded the Ethical Hacking Club in order to raise awareness of cybersecurity issues, highlighting the security vulnerability of critical systems and infrastructure. Matthew aspires to usher in a new generation that can produce the cybersecurity research, and policy, necessary to prevent our globally connected society from falling apart.
Calvin Runnels

Georgia Institute of Technology: BS, Biochemistry, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: BA, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Preferred Contact Details
1250 Audubon Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
225.929.9505
calvinmrunnels@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
Member of faculty in biosciences at a research university

Calvin Runnels has maintained a 4.0 GPA at the Georgia Institute of Technology. His research investigates the origins of the ribosome and the biopolymers contained therein, which may provide insight into the origins of life. A passionate educator, Calvin is dedicated to helping others find the joy and satisfaction in learning that he has found. At Georgia Tech, Calvin has been recognized as the highest-rated teaching assistant for his work in undergraduate mathematics. An effective activist, Calvin has organized rallies in solidarity with the immigrant community and has led efforts to increase the number of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus. He was also appointed by the president of Georgia Tech to cochair the university’s LGBT+ Action Committee. Calvin, a transgender male, follows Pema McLaughlin, the first self-acknowledged transgender American Rhodes Scholar (elected in 2016).
Jaspreet Singh
Tennessee

United States Air Force Academy: BS, Mechanical Engineering, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Engineering Science (by research)

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
124 Capital Circle
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
8652925096
jassi_singh@outlook.com

Current Address
PO Box 4096
USAF Academy, CO 80841

Career Aspirations
Upon completion of my time at Oxford I will begin my career as a Developmental Engineering Officer in the United States Air Force.

At the United States Air Force Academy, Jaspreet “Jesse” Singh is majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in both French and philosophy. Jesse’s research addresses questions of policy, ethics, and the management of military assets and nuclear weapons. In his career, Jesse intends to bridge the divide that exists between technology and policy. He interned at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and conducts ongoing research at the Center for Aircraft Structural Life Extension. Jesse has completed several ultramarathons.
Gabrielle C. Stewart is a senior at Duke, where she has a 4.0 GPA and is majoring in classical languages. Gabi’s research uncovers and challenges social hierarchies through the study of history and classical texts. Her senior thesis investigates the roles personalities and communities played in the blossoming of papyrological studies in North America. A passionate advocate for marginalized populations, Gabi has assumed a number of leadership roles in efforts to alleviate poverty. She is a founding and executive board member of the Duke Coalition for Alleviating Poverty. Gabi sings and plays the guitar, piano, ukulele, banjo, mandolin, and bass.
Jordan D. Thomas

New Jersey

Princeton University: BA, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, 2018

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation; MBA

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
157 Elliott Place
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
973.856.1341
jndthom@princeton.edu

Career Aspirations
After completing a JD program and gaining experience at a nonprofit organization or a public-interest law firm, I intend to transition into government by either pursuing a position in the US Department of Education or running for public office.

Jordan D. Thomas is majoring at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, with minors in Portuguese Language and Culture and in African American Studies. He was a Fulbright Summer Institute Fellow at the University of Bristol, where he studied the culture, heritage, and history of the UK. He interned at the Office for Civil Rights’ Program Legal Group at the US Department of Education as part of the Scholars in the Nation’s Service Initiative. At Princeton, Jordan was elected to be a cochair of the community house executive board, where he oversees fourteen student-driven education projects to support underrepresented youth in achieving academic success.
Alan Yang

Harvard University: AB, Molecular and Cellular Biology, 2018
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Integrated Immunology; MSc, Migration Studies

Permanent Address and Preferred Contact Details
1448 Candlebrook Drive
Dresher, PA 19025
610.247.0918
alanyang77@gmail.com

Career Aspirations
Physician-scientist

Alan Yang grew up outside Philadelphia. He attended Upper Dublin High School before matriculating at Harvard College, where he majors in molecular and cellular biology and minors in social anthropology. Alan’s interests include infectious diseases, music and the arts, and elder care. At Oxford he will seek to understand better how immunological therapies such as vaccines can help us overcome challenges like antibiotic resistance and emerging epidemics in an increasingly interconnected world. After his time at Oxford, Alan will pursue an MD at Harvard Medical School.
Every year, the Association of American Rhodes Scholars holds its Bon Voyage Weekend, a sendoff event for the newest class of Rhodes Scholars departing for Oxford. BVW also introduces the new Scholars to the Rhodes alumni community in the United States; to the alumni, BVW is an annual opportunity to gather, renew old friendships, and build new ones. It is the largest alumni activity organized and hosted by the AARS.

This year, BVW hosted 33 young Scholars of the Class of 2017—31 from the United States and one each from Bermuda and Jamaica—as well as two spouses and one family member. The weekend began late Thursday afternoon, September 21, with a welcome and orientation in the Dupont Circle Hotel in Washington, DC. Later in the evening, the new Scholars broke into small groups for dinners hosted by local Rhodes alumni; in all, some 18 alumni participated.

On Friday, the new Scholars spent the morning meeting and talking with DC-based alumni. The first discussion took place at the World Bank, with Carter Brandon (Massachusetts and Balliol ’78), lead economist for the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice; Tim Evans (Ontario and University ’84), senior director for Health, Nutrition, and Population; and Scott Moore (Kentucky and Merton 2009), a member of the Young Professionals Program at the World Bank Group Water Global Practice.

Facebook hosted the second session, on technology and policy. This conversation was led by Craig Mullaney (Rhode Island and Lincoln 2000), a manager in Strategic Partner Development at Facebook; Steve Crown (Washington and Queen’s ’80), associate general counsel at Microsoft; and Emmy Probasco (Maryland/DC and Wolfson 2002), chief communications officer in the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab. The last session of the day was on Capitol Hill. There the new Scholars took a tour and also talked with Beth Pearson (Iowa and Somerville 2005), an adviser to Senator Elizabeth Warren for health and economic policy; and Ana Unruh-Cohen (Texas and St. Edmund Hall ’96), the director of government affairs at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The sendoff reception and dinner took place that evening at the Sulgrave Club.
Club. The event drew 113 alumni and guests to meet the newest Scholars and to hear the keynote speech by Sylvia Burwell (West Virginia and Worcester ’87). Burwell, who served as the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services under President Obama, is now the president of American University. She told the new Scholars that, in addition to an Oxford education and Oxford’s majestic history, “what makes the Rhodes Scholarship unique is the people you will meet.”

The new Scholars spent Saturday morning at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, where they had the honor of a pre-opening tour with Leslie Fenwick, dean emerita of the Howard University School of Education. They returned to the Dupont Circle Hotel for lunch with the board of AARS, where they met with Elliot Gerson (Connecticut and Magdalen ’74), American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust. At 6:30 that evening, the buses began loading, and the Class of 2017 departed for Dulles Airport and their flight to England.

* * *

The Board of the AARS thanks the Rhodes Scholar volunteers who made the events of BVW 2017 possible: Neil Brown (Iowa and Merton 2002), Ana Unruh Cohen (Texas and St. Edmund Hall ’96), Steve Crown (Washington and Queen’s ’80), and Christian Nattiel of the Class of 2017. They were supported by some 25 additional Scholar volunteers, as well as by the untiring efforts of Joyce Knight and Thom Yu of the American Secretary’s office.

We also extend our grateful thanks to all Rhodes alumni and guests who attended the reception and dinner and to all Rhodes alumni who support the work of AARS. BVW is funded entirely by the contributions of AARS members, and your participation and support help to welcome the newest Scholars into our community every year.

We invite all Rhodes Scholars to reconnect with the Scholar community at the next Bon Voyage reception and dinner, in September 2018.
From the American Secretary

We are thrilled to introduce the 2018 Class of Rhodes Scholars elected from the United States. As always, we are dazzled by their talents and passions, and their ambitions for leadership across myriad fields and professions. They are all solidly grounded with scholarly work of the highest order, soon to be expanded and enhanced by their studies over two to four years at Oxford. I think most readers will join me in saying how much we look forward to their generation’s assumption of leadership in a world now so broadly challenged by leadership failings.

The diversity of this class was much noted in the media. And indeed while all of our recent classes have been diverse in many ways, this one is in some respects the most diverse we have had. There are for example ten African Americans; we have not before had more than seven in a year. The class also continues to reflect a longstanding concentration of first-generation and immigrant Americans, a reminder of one of this country’s greatest strengths. It includes our second declared transgender winner (the first was last year), and reflects the usual breadth of academic fields and institutions. And even after 114 years, we have winners from four universities that have never before had a Rhodes Scholar, confirming our conviction that enormously talented students attend a huge array of colleges and universities.

Of course, these elections are made simultaneously by 16 committees meeting across the country in different cities, with instructions only to choose the two strongest candidates in each district according to our time-honored criteria. We provide no guidance to recognize or reward any kind of diversity or balance to any pair chosen. Each committee could, and many occasionally and properly do, choose two with similar backgrounds and interests, even from the same institution.

We were very pleased to announce recently to American universities that the Rhodes Trustees have agreed to broaden our eligibility in the coming year to include Dreamers. DACA-eligible students are every bit as deserving as other young Americans of the opportunities we offer. We seek future leaders of outstanding character and intellect—for this nation and the world—and DACA students, with their courage and ambition, will be well represented among those leaders, and so they should be among our cohort as well.

The Rhodes Trust continues to expand its footprint globally. This year, we will add Scholars in Malaysia, Singapore, and East Africa. And most exciting perhaps, we launch our first truly global scholarships, with eligibility to students anywhere in the world (even the UK). We will begin with two such Scholars, to be short-
listed based on paper and Skype interviews, and, finally, chosen after in-person interviews in Oxford.

The year 2018 marks a transition in Rhodes House. We have all benefited enormously from the wardenship of Charles Conn (Massachusetts and Balliol ’83). He has managed at least three extraordinary successes in his short but historic five-year tenure. Our financial condition has moved from threatened to secure; our numbers and geographic scope have expanded substantially; and the leadership development of Rhodes Scholars in Rhodes House has expanded exponentially. We wish Charles and Camilla equal success and even greater happiness in their next pursuits. And we welcome Elizabeth Kiss (Virginia and Balliol ’83) with excitement and pride. A philosopher and college president, known well to many of us, she will be the first woman Warden of Rhodes House. She has strong roots in Rhodes selection, having been a state secretary in North Carolina.

As I write this in late March, only a third of the new Scholars have been admitted to a degree course and college. A few might remain unplaced when you read this (with the courses you see by their names indicating simply early preferences). There are several reasons for this. Oxford graduate admission standards get ever higher; many courses are extremely small, and some courses attract disproportionate interest from US Rhodes Scholars; but perhaps most significant, Rhodes Scholars (being Rhodes Scholars!) are usually qualified for admission to many different degrees (and able to excel in many), and many apply to study a subject they have relatively little preparation in but wish to broaden into. So some Rhodes Scholars—elect knowingly take risks and apply to courses in which most other Oxford applicants will have concentrated their entire undergraduate careers. Regardless, we have ways to deal with course rejections; many now file multiple applications, and regardless, all works out well, and usually wonderfully, in the end.

Let me also report on transitions in our ranks of District Selection Committee Secretaries. Dennis Hutchinson, our longest serving District Secretary, with experience for 28 years across four districts—as well as in two states in the previous two-tier system—is retiring from his District 11 post (MI, MN, WI, WV), effective this year. Dennis has been much more than a great secretary. When I was appointed American Secretary, he was my first and most important adviser. And there has not been an important issue or change in our policies and procedures in which he has not been involved and influential. His deep knowledge of undergraduate education has been an especially valuable resource. He will be succeeded by Robert Dow (Illinois and Brasenose ’87). Bob is a US District Judge in the Northern District of Illinois. Before his appointment to the bench by President George W. Bush in 2007, he served two
years as District Secretary for District 10, and before that served as Illinois State Secretary.

Bruns Grayson, Secretary of District 1 (MA, ME, VT), is not ready to retire but, unfortunately for the Trust and our work in New England, is moving from Boston to Wyoming. As with Dennis, there are very few who have been more generous to the trust than Bruns, with wisdom, commitment, and more. Julie Levison (Pennsylvania and Wadham ’98), internist, professor, and infectious disease and HIV physician at the Massachusetts General Hospital, will succeed him, effective in 2019.

And as Bruns moves from the east to the mountains, Vivian Lee, after three excellent years managing District 13 (CO, NE, NM, ND, SD, UT, WY) has moved from the mountains to the east. Janice Ugaki (Idaho and St. Antony’s ’93), president and cofounder of Firmseek, will assume the responsibilities as District Secretary in Salt Lake City effective this year. Vivian will continue to make her substantial contributions to the Trust as an AARS board member.

I am also delighted to introduce you to two Assistant American Secretaries to help Joyce Knight, Thom Yu, and me in the American Secretary’s office: Megan Wheeler (New Hampshire and Magdalen 2002) and Fagan Harris (Maryland/DC and St. John’s 2011). They each help as volunteers across the board, but are focused especially on outreach to colleges and universities with less experience with our competition. Their dedication is yet another reflection of the extraordinary amount of uncompensated work done by Rhodes Scholars every year in support of our mission. Remarkably, Joyce and Thom constitute the entire full-time paid staff managing our annual competition, as complex and conscientious as that process is.

Most important, welcome and congratulations to the American Rhodes Scholars of 2018.

Elliot F. Gerson (Connecticut and Magdalen ’74)
American Secretary
The Rhodes 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) energy to use one’s talents to the full; 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 website 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.