American Rhodes Scholars-Elect for 2017

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

District I
JOSHUA B. PICKAR
Massachusetts—University of Chicago Law School
also The George Washington University
MAIA SILBER
Massachusetts—Harvard University
District II
SARAH A. WALTCHER
New Hampshire—Dartmouth College
LAURA A. COURCHESNE
New Jersey—University of Georgia
District III
NANCY KO
New York—Harvard University
NOAH REMNICK
New York—Yale University
District IV
SPENCER D. DUNLEAVY
Pennsylvania—Harvard University
MEGHAN M. SHEA
Pennsylvania—Stanford University
District V
CAMERON D. CLARKE
Maryland/DC—Howard University
ARYN A. FRAZIER
Maryland/DC—University of Virginia
District VI
JAMES C. PAVUR
Georgia—Georgetown University
JORY M. FLEMING
South Carolina—University of South Carolina
District VII
LUCINDA M. FORD
Florida—United States Naval Academy
CHRISTIAN E. NATTIEL
Florida—United States Military Academy
District VIII
KIRK P. SMITH
Oklahoma—University of Tulsa
MIKAILA V. SMITH
Texas—University of Texas at Austin

District IX
MORGAN K. MOHR
Indiana—Indiana University
CHRISTA GRACE WATKINS
Indiana—University of Notre Dame

District X
OLIVIA A. KLEVORN
Illinois—Yale University
PASQUALE S. TOSCANO
Ohio—Washington and Lee University

District XI
AARON C. ROBERTSON
Michigan—Princeton University
AHMED M. AHMED
Minnesota—Cornell University

District XII
LAUREN C. JACKSON
Arkansas—University of Virginia
SHEGUFTA A. HUMA
Kansas—University of Kansas

District XIII
HANNAH K. CARRESE
Colorado—Yale University
JOSHUA CARTER
South Dakota—Montana State University

District XIV
PEMA MCLAUGHLIN
Oregon—Reed College
ANTHONY WILDER L. WOHNS
Washington—Harvard University

District XV
OSCAR DE LOS SANTOS
Arizona—University of Southern California
ALEXIS A. DOYLE
California (North)—University of Notre Dame

District XVI
NICOLE A. MIHELSON
California (South)—Johns Hopkins University
CAYLIN L. MOORE
California (South)—Texas Christian University
From the AARS President:

The Association of American Rhodes Scholars (AARS) is pleased to present our traditional newsletter—the first since my election last September as AARS President—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 2017 Scholars, this newsletter reports on the 22nd annual “Bon Voyage” Weekend, sponsored by the AARS for the Class of 2016 Rhodes Scholars, which took place in Washington, D.C., last September 22 to 25. 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 the Hon. Karen Stevenson (Maryland/DC and Magdalen ’79), United States Magistrate Judge and a Rhodes Trustee.

Both this publication and the Bon Voyage Weekend are sponsored by the 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 2,100 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.

This April, the Board of AARS held a retreat in New Orleans to chart the organization’s future. (Members of the Board fund their own participation.) The Board spent two days of productive meetings discussing ways to make our service to the American Rhodes community, and support for the Rhodes Scholarships, even more effective and relevant. The weekend was capped by an evening reception attended by almost 60 Rhodes alumni and their guests.
Ahmed M. Ahmed

Cornell University: BS, Biological Sciences, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Higher Education

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Career Aspirations
I aspire to pursue a career in academic medicine, working in an administrative role to improve both delivery and access to healthcare.

Ahmed M. Ahmed is a senior at Cornell University majoring in biology. His research on the interface of polymer chemistry and biology led to his discovery of a new synthetic strategy to produce polar polyethylene from fatty acids. He has also performed laboratory work on the oncogenesis of Epstein-Barr virus and a study of brain plasticity at the University of Pennsylvania. Ahmed serves as a student adviser in biology and is the head of academic support for the Office of Undergraduate Biology. In addition to teaching biochemistry and tutoring fellow students in organic and general chemistry, he mentors disadvantaged African American students at Cornell, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and worked as a volunteer EMT for Cornell EMS. Ahmed is a first-generation Somali immigrant whose family immigrated to the United States from a refugee camp in Kenya.
Hannah K. Carrese

Yale University: BA, Humanities, 2016

Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Politics (Political Theory)

District XIII
Colorado

Preferred Contact Details
17 W. Buena Ventura Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Career Aspirations
To learn and teach—as a professor or in politics

Hannah Carrese earned a BA in Humanities from Yale University, from which she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude in 2016. At Yale, she studied literature and politics, and wrote her thesis on statesmanship as political craft. This focus on the nexus between narrative and policy has led her to work with, listen to, and write about refugees and asylum-seekers in Colorado, Israel, Italy, Bosnia—and now in Mexico, where she is a Yale Parker Huang Fellow researching refugee and migration policy. She is based in Mexico City, where she works with the Mexican NGO Casa Refugiados to settle asylum-seekers in the city, and she has traveled from Oaxaca to Santa Fe conducting interviews with migrants and those who aid them. She writes about this work at borderlinesproject.com. Hannah is a telemark skier and a runner, a proud daughter of Colorado—and a poetry reader and writer, an amateur fiddler, and a mandolin player. At Oxford, she will pursue an MPhil in Political Theory so as to understand, and perhaps reconcile, the conflicting principles that undergird liberal world order: particular state borders and universal human rights.
District XIII

Joshua Carter
South Dakota

Montana State University: BS, Mechanical Engineering and Microbiology, with a minor in Biochemistry, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc by Research, Physiology, Anatomy, and Genetics

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Career Aspirations
Pursue an MD/PhD from the joint Harvard-MIT program and work toward developing medical technologies for underserved populations

Joshua Carter will graduate from Montana State University with dual degrees in mechanical engineering and microbiology. His primary research has focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms of bacterial CRISPR systems, which have the potential to revolutionize biotechnology and eliminate genetic disease. As a result of this work, he has authored several articles in scientific journals, including Science, Cell, and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition, Josh maintains an avid interest in the development of sustainable and accessible prosthetics technology for underserved populations. Josh serves as a volunteer with children with disabilities at a local nonprofit named Eagle Mount; works with the Bozeman Bike Kitchen, which builds bicycles for disadvantaged children; and is an avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout.
Cameron D. Clarke
Maryland/DC

Howard University: BS, Biology; BS, Health Education
(Community Health), 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Medical Anthropology; MPP

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Career Aspirations
Physician and public health officer

Cameron D. Clarke is a senior at Howard University, where he is a double-major in community health education and biology. Cameron has conducted health disparity research at the Columbia School of Public Health and Howard University Hospital, and has conducted cancer research at the National Institutes of Health. He has taught sexual health and drug workshops for high school students throughout DC as the coordinator of Howard’s chapter of Peer Health Exchange, and has sent students to work with an HIV/AIDS public health initiative in Malawi as the president of GlobeMed at Howard University. He has worked on Capitol Hill as an intern for the US House of Representatives Science Committee, and currently works on health, education, and civil rights issues as an intern in the office of Senator Cory Booker, as well as serving as the Health and Wellness Liaison for the DC Superintendent of Education. In his career, Cameron intends to combine education, public health policy, and medicine.
Laura A. Courchesne

University of Georgia: BA, Economics and Religion, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Development Studies

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Career Aspirations
Conflict mediation; counter-radicalization and defense policy

Laura A. Courchesne is a senior and Foundation Fellow at the University of Georgia majoring in economics and religion. Her focus is on the applications of behavioral economics, organizational behavior, and political psychology to understand, anticipate, and model violent group behavior. She has researched non-state armed groups, civilians in conflict zones, and terrorist networks for the Woodrow Wilson School, ICRC, Oxford’s Changing Character of War Programme, US Army War College, and the Carter Center. Laura also conducted fieldwork in Indonesia, surveying the impact of historical violence and notions of causality in Balinese Hinduism on perceptions of terrorism. On behalf of Oxford’s Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology, she studied evolutionary models for religious belief and traumatic group rituals. Additionally, she is a member of the board of directors for an Atlanta-based charity that provides financial literacy education to children and teens as a tool to mitigate poverty. She speaks French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese.
Oscar De Los Santos graduated from the University of Southern California in 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He is the son of Mexican immigrants. Oscar graduated as a Truman Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, with USC’s Order of the Laurel and Palm, its highest honor (reserved for 20 undergraduates each year). The Arizona State Legislature and the City Council of Los Angeles have honored him as an emerging leader. He has served as an intern to the White House National Economic Council and the United States House of Representatives, and worked as the youngest Florida field organizer for the 2012 Obama campaign. Oscar is currently a lobbyist and manager of public policy for the Association of Arizona Food Banks. In the 2015–16 academic year, he taught English and social studies to sixth graders at the Champion South Mountain School in Phoenix. At Oxford, he plans to study public policy.
Alexis A. Doyle
California (North)

University of Notre Dame: BS, Biological Sciences, International Peace Studies, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Medical Anthropology; MPP

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Career Aspirations
I aspire to be a medical doctor for the underserved who also has a role in policy formation.

Alexis A. Doyle is a senior at the University of Notre Dame and is double-majoring in biological sciences and international peace studies. She is interested in creating partnerships that bring together diverse viewpoints to generate better health outcomes for the vulnerable. Alexis’s senior thesis focuses on bipartisan approaches to evidence-based reproductive health care in the United States. She has worked extensively in Guatemala on parasitic infection prevention, and she led a team of rural health-care volunteers in the Appalachian Service Learning Program. Additionally, Alexis works as a resident assistant at Notre Dame and in a lab in the School of Architecture focused on the built environment. She enjoys backpacking and long-distance running and recently completed her first 50-mile ultramarathon. She volunteers at a health clinic for the uninsured and teaches health education classes at a local youth center. At Oxford, Alexis plans to pursue studies in medical anthropology and public policy.
Spencer Dunleavy, who graduated from Harvard University with a concentration in chemistry and secondary field in psychology, intends to pursue a career in medicine, with a commitment to teaching and primary care; he attributes this directly to his own family’s experience dealing with chronic illnesses. As Harvard’s Red Cross director of training, he has organized and taught CPR, first aid, and life-support classes for more than one thousand people. He also helped to found a nonprofit organization, Raise Uganda Now, that has raised more than $35,000 for its sponsored orphanage in Nankoma, Uganda. He was an avid intramural sports participant, captaining teams in soccer, basketball, softball, crew, and handball. At Oxford, he plans to study education, focusing on research design and methodology, before applying to a degree in global health science. After Oxford, Spencer will be pursuing an MD at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.
Jory M. Fleming
South Carolina

University of South Carolina: BS, Geography and Marine Science, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Environmental Change and Management

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Career Aspirations
I plan to enter public service, utilizing spatial and scientific ways of thinking.

Jory M. Fleming is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, where he double-majored in geography and marine science. He is interested in using spatial and scientific frameworks fused with data to tackle large-scale problems. Jory has worked on funded research projects for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Park Service, and National Geographic. He is also a Truman Scholar, Goldwater Scholar, NOAA Hollings Scholar, and USGIF GEOINT Scholar. Jory’s volunteer activities include service dogs and disability advocacy, children’s literacy and STEM education, and church activities. Jory loves to explore, go hiking and birdwatching, and write bad poems. He is tremendously excited to study at one of the world’s top geography departments and meet new people at Oxford.
Lucinda M. Ford

United States Naval Academy: BS, Ocean Engineering, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Environmental Change and Management

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Career Aspirations
Serve as a Submarine Officer in the US Navy and create sustainable energy policy through a career in the Naval Service and the US government

Lucy Ford attended the United States Naval Academy, where she majored in Ocean Engineering and researched beach erosion and renourishment. After graduation she commissioned into the United States Navy as a Nuclear Submarine Officer. During her time at the Academy she studied environmental sustainability in Singapore and worked to electrify health clinics in Rwanda. Lucy was a Battalion Commander and was responsible for the moral, mental, and physical development of 723 midshipmen. She also served as a Squad Leader, Honor Adviser, and Chairman of the Naval Academy Science and Engineering Conference. Lucy sang in the Academy’s Women’s Glee Club, mentored Annapolis youth through the Anne Arundel County Teen Court, volunteered with the Midshipmen Action Group, and ran on the Naval Academy Marathon Team.
Aryn A. Frazier  
Maryland/DC

University of Virginia: BA, Politics Honors Program, African American and African Studies, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Comparative Government

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Career Aspirations
I hope to have many careers; among them are public defender, professor, and political commentator.

Aryn A. Frazier, Silver Spring, is a 2017 graduate of the University of Virginia, where she double-majored in African American and African Studies and the Honors Program of the Department of Politics. Teachers and peers alike describe her as the most influential activist at the university. She currently serves on the University of Virginia’s Special Committee on the Nomination of a President, and in the past has served as president of the university’s Black Student Alliance, a senior resident for Housing and Residence Life, and a moderator for Sustained Dialogue. She also has a long record of political engagement outside of the university that includes multiple campaigns for elected office. In addition to her political pursuits, she enjoys songwriting and playing the guitar.
Shegufta A. Huma

University of Kansas: BA, Political Science, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Refugee and Forced Migration Studies; MPP

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Career Aspirations
I want to engage in policy work as it relates to refugees.

Shegufta Huma is a senior at the University of Kansas, where she studies political science with a specific interest in global human rights and social justice. She has served on the University Senate since 2013 and was Vice President in 2015. Shegufta also founded the Imagine Coalition, advocating for marginalized students; was president of the Muslim Student Association; and served on the City of Lawrence Fair Housing Committee. She has received awards for both her contributions to the university community and her scholarship in political science. She is fluent or proficient in six languages, and was earlier recognized as one of the top 20 sophomores at the university. As a Bangladeshi immigrant, she dreams of restoring the United States’ role as a destination for vulnerable people seeking refuge and solace for their suffering.
Lauren C. Jackson

Arkansas

University of Virginia: BA, Political and Social Thought, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Global Governance and Diplomacy

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Career Aspirations
I will likely work in journalism covering international affairs after graduation and will eventually transition to a role in public policy.

Lauren C. Jackson is a senior at the University of Virginia, where she is majoring in political and social thought and concentrating in political communications. Lauren is interested in the intersection of media and humanitarian policy; she has worked for CNN, the International Rescue Committee, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and for a National Geographic photographer. She received a full merit scholarship to the University of Virginia as well as research grants to study post-genocidal PTSD in East Africa, apiculture in Rwanda, humanitarian data technologies at the UN, and gay Mormon suicides in Utah. Lauren’s extracurricular interests include cycling, graphic design, and photography. This summer, she will be working as an editorial intern for the New Yorker staff writer Ryan Lizza. At Oxford, she will pursue studies in global governance and diplomacy and public policy.
Olivia A. Klevorn

District X
Illinois

Yale University: BA, Cultural Anthropology, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc in Social Science of the Internet

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Career Aspirations
Pursuit of a PhD in Cultural Studies

Olivia A. Klevorn is a senior at Yale, where she majors in sociocultural anthropology with an emphasis on material culture. Foremost an artist-scholar, she directed the Heritage Theatre Ensemble, Yale’s only Black theater ensemble, and was president of WORD: Performance Poetry, the school’s oldest spoken-word poetry collective. She is editor-in-chief of Ungaze, an experimental journal of cultural discourse, and has participated in a wide variety of creative collaborations and productions while at Yale, seeking always to enlarge and diversify the school’s creative community. In addition, she has helped manage Yale’s student-run case-management agency, as well as serving for a summer as an intern at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights. In her first year at Oxford, Olivia will be pursuing an MSc in the program for Social Science of the Internet, focusing on the capacity of creative web content, specifically memes, to generate subversive methods of collective healing.
Nancy Ko

New York

Harvard University: AB, History and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Modern Middle Eastern Studies

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Career Aspirations
Professor of history

A daughter of Korean immigrants and a Brooklyn native, Nancy Ko will be graduating from Harvard College this spring with a thesis entitled “Civilizing Omission: French-Jewish Philanthropy and Historical Amnesia During and After the Iranian Constitutional Revolution.” She possesses proficiency in Hebrew and Arabic, as well as four additional languages, and has won college and national awards in history, Jewish studies, and German language and literature. Nancy is a fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics and a member of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program, aimed at diversifying the ranks of academia. She is also a founding organizer of Open Hillel, a movement dedicated to promoting open discourse surrounding Israel and Palestine on college campuses. Currently a marathon runner, Nancy hopes to resurrect her love of Ultimate Frisbee at Oxford.
Pema McLaughlin

Reed College: BA, Religion, 2016
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Buddhist Studies

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Career Aspirations
An academic career in the study of religion

Pema McLaughlin graduated from Reed College in May 2016 with a major in religious studies. Pema, who had been raised in a Tibetan Buddhist community, wrote her undergraduate thesis on how modern conceptions of religion affect Buddhist doctrine and practice in America. Pema’s research interests include minority religions in America, Chinese intellectual history, and Islamic theology. She volunteered for a variety of organizations at Reed College and in the surrounding Portland area, while devoting time to Buddhist community activity, music, and ritual arts. Having focused on modern and classical Chinese at Reed, Pema intends to increase her proficiency in Tibetan and begin studying Sanskrit at Oxford. The Buddhist Studies MPhil will lay the groundwork for engaging with issues across the Buddhist world.
Nicole A. Mihelson

Johns Hopkins University: BS, Neuroscience, 2016
Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil, Oncology

Career Aspirations
MD/PhD; immuno-oncology

At Johns Hopkins, Nicole’s research focused on the stem-like brain tumor cells of Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), with the goal of elucidating new pathways that could be targeted to abrogate GBM aggression. Along with her oncology research, Nicole studied the social determinants of maternal mental health and their impact on child development. She has volunteered extensively in her community, leading nutrition education workshops in local Baltimore schools. Nicole speaks French, Spanish, and Russian, and began learning Hebrew in college. At Oxford, Nicole will pursue a DPhil in Oncology, designing strategies to make the GBM milieu more permissive to immunotherapies.
Morgan K. Mohr

Indiana University: BA, Political Science, History, and an Individualized Major in Feminist Policy, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Comparative Social Policy

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Career Aspirations
Politics and public policy

Morgan K. Mohr is a senior at Indiana University studying history, political science, and feminist policy. She is an advocate for social justice and progressive causes and has worked on local, state, and national political campaigns, including as a deputy director of operations on the 2016 Clinton presidential campaign in the battleground state of Florida, as a field organizer for the Human Rights Campaign, and in various capacities for Congressional, mayoral, and issue-based campaigns. At Indiana University, Morgan founded two student groups committed to intersectional activism and volunteered with Bloomington Planned Parenthood. She also interned at the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as an investigator and at the White House in the Office of the First Lady. Currently, she is working in Washington, DC, for Hiring Our Heroes, the veteran employment initiative of the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation.
Caylin L. Moore

California (South)

Texas Christian University: BS, Economics, with a minor in Sociology, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Sociology; MBA

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caylin.moore1@tcu.edu

Career Aspirations
Harvard/Stanford/Yale/Chicago law school, author, inspirational speaker—I will leave the rest up to God.

Caylin Louis Moore is a senior at Texas Christian University majoring in economics and minoring in mathematics and sociology. He comes from Carson, California, where he overcame poverty, gang violence, and the incarceration of a father now serving a life sentence, to become a campus leader and Division One football player at TCU. After entering Marist College, Caylin (pronounced Ky-lin) was selected to the Fulbright Summer Institute to study the transatlantic slave trade at the University of Bristol in England in 2014. The next year he was chosen to attend the PPIA Junior Summer Institute at Princeton University before transferring to TCU in the fall of 2015. After working as a janitor during part of his time at Marist, Caylin played strong safety for the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs in 2015 and 2016. He is the founder and president of “S.P.A.R.K.,” a youth outreach organization of student-athletes who encourage youth to attend college, and he has been a volunteer middle school teacher for the Children’s Defense Fund. He is currently in the process of writing a book that will detail his journey. His life motto is “It Won’t Make Sense On Paper.”
Christian E. Nattiel

United States Military Academy at West Point: BS, Mathematical Sciences (Honors) and Philosophy, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Higher Education; MPP or MBA

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Career Aspirations
After Oxford, I will serve as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army for at least six years. My goal in the Army is to become a Congressional Fellow. Afterwards, I aspire to become an elected member of Congress so that I can assist the disadvantaged in knowing that they can self-determine.

Cadet Christian E. Nattiel is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where he is double-majoring in mathematical sciences and philosophy. At West Point, Christian has served in military leadership positions for up to 4,400 cadets. In addition, Christian has served as the president of the Cultural Affairs Seminar, interned with two members of Congress, and authored works in math and ethics. He is a member of the Pi Mu Epsilon National Honorary Mathematics Society, a certified crisis negotiator with the FBI, and a Presidential Fellow with the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress. His awards include the Distinguished Cadet Award, the George C. Marshall Leadership Award, and the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Military Leadership. Upon graduating, Christian will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army as an Infantry Officer. He hopes to use his Rhodes experience for the best of his soldiers and to one day provide students with the knowledge that they can self-determine, regardless of their circumstances.
James C. Pavur

Georgetown University: BSFS, Science, Technology, and International Affairs, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil, Cyber Security

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Career Aspirations
To become a public servant in the pursuit of effective global cyber-governance

James C. Pavur holds a BSFS from Georgetown University in Science, Technology, and International Affairs. As a maker and inventor, he worked with fellow students to convert an abandoned physics laboratory into a workshop dedicated to the development of new technologies. His personal projects have run the gamut from voice-controlled tea machines to computer-brain assistive input devices. A junior inductee of Phi Beta Kappa and an Eagle Scout, he has won numerous awards at national hackathons, is a mentor for women coders, and is a founding member of a creative writing club. He has a particular interest in cyber policy.
Joshua B. Pickar
Massachusetts

University of Chicago: JD, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, International Relations

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Career Aspirations
I hope to work at the intersection of domestic and international law and policy, focusing on human rights and the rule of law.

Joshua B. Pickar is in his final year at the University of Chicago Law School. He graduated from the George Washington University, summa cum laude, with a BA in international affairs and security policy in just two years. He speaks Russian, French, and Spanish, is learning German, Italian, and Arabic, and plans a career in international law and diplomacy. Josh has also studied in Japan and Russia and worked in the office of then-Senator John Kerry. He successfully advocated relocation to the United States for an LGBT Iraqi refugee who had been beaten by his family and exiled; he also assisted the efforts of a deaf and mute Honduran, who had been tormented for his disabilities, to gain American citizenship. Additionally, Josh has worked on four cases before the US Supreme Court through his participation in the UChicago Supreme Court Clinic, and has argued a Fourth Amendment appeal before the Seventh Circuit in Chicago.
Noah Remnick

Yale University: BA, History, 2015
Proposed Oxford Course: MSt, History; MPP

Career Aspirations
Journalism and advocacy

Noah Remnick graduated from Yale in 2015 with a BA in History. Since then he has been a James Reston Fellow and reporter for the New York Times. He has written a wide variety of features, breaking-news stories, and investigations, including an article about persistent police abuse of transgender people that prompted changes in police oversight policy in New York City. While at Yale, he was editor-in-chief of the Politic, a staff writer for the Yale Herald, and editor-in-chief of the Yale Historical Review, and he won many prizes for his writing. He is especially interested in issues of race, resistance, and urban politics. At Oxford, Noah intends to focus his studies on history and public policy.
Aaron C. Robertson

Princeton University: BA, Italian, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, Modern Languages

Preferred Contact Details

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Redford, MI 48240
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Career Aspirations
I am considering careers in journalism and publishing.

Aaron Robertson is a native of Detroit, Michigan. Aaron’s research focuses on cross-sections of African diasporic and (post-)colonial experiences between Europe and the Horn of Africa. His recent work has addressed transnationalism, cosmopolitanism, and linguistic exchange in Afro-Italian literature. He is particularly interested in issues of migration, self-representation, and translation in contemporary Afro-Italian autobiographies. At Oxford, he will pursue an MPhil in Modern Languages. Aaron served as co-editor-in-chief of the *Nassau Literary Review*, the oldest student publication at Princeton University, and has written for the Detroit Metro Times and The Los Angeles Review of Books, in addition to publishing a play. Aaron has done literary translation for a publishing house in Bologna, Italy, and participated in creative writing programs at Cambridge University and Bard College at Simon’s Rock. He received various departmental prizes at Princeton for his work in Italian studies and grants for summer independent work. He was also awarded the Gates Millennium and QuestBridge Scholarships.
Meghan M. Shea

Stanford University: BS, Environmental Systems Engineering, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance

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Career Aspirations
Oceanographic researcher, either in government or academia

Meghan M. Shea is a senior at Stanford University, where she is majoring in Environmental Systems Engineering. She is interested in biological oceanography, with a focus on environmental DNA. Meghan has conducted oceanographic research throughout the Pacific Ocean, analyzed carbonate chemistry data from a shellfish hatchery near Seattle with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and contributed to a microbial source tracking project to analyze the effectiveness of different sanitation interventions in rural Bangladesh. She has also dedicated herself to environmental communication, reporting on climate change resiliency in small-island developing states and producing several podcasts this year with Generation Anthropocene, a podcast series supported by Stanford and the Smithsonian. At Stanford, Meghan plays in a steel pan drumming group, serves as kitchen manager in a 50-person cooperative household, and plans a yearly memorial lecture with Students for a Sustainable Stanford. This summer, she will be interning with her Pennsylvania State Senator, Andrew Dinniman, working on environmental policy in her hometown.
Maia Silber

Harvard University: AB, History and Literature, 2017

Proposed Oxford Course: MPhil, British and European History from 1500 to the present

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361 Eliot Mail Center
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Career Aspirations
I hope to pursue a career in investigative journalism.

Maia Silber is a senior at Harvard, where she concentrates in history and literature. Her thesis on the environmental and economic impact of the Croton Water System won Harvard’s Bowdoin Prize for the best undergraduate essay in the English language. She is the magazine chair of the Harvard Crimson, a writing tutor, and an investigative reporter who wrote more than a dozen stories on drug addiction for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. She has also written for the New York Times, Public Books, the Aperture Foundation, and Harvard Magazine. This summer, Maia will work as a features reporter for the Washington Post.
Kirk P. Smith

University of Tulsa: BS, Mechanical Engineering, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil, Engineering Science

Preferred Contact Details
kirk-smith@utulsa.edu

Career Aspirations
To become an effective researcher, entrepreneur, and public policy advocate in the areas of clean energy and climate change

Kirk Pollard Smith, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, is a senior at the University of Tulsa majoring in mechanical engineering. He has done research there, at the Colorado School of Mines, and in Germany, all on projects attempting to make solar power usable at all hours of the day. He is a captain of Tulsa’s cross country and track and field teams, active in Big Brothers Big Sisters, and has built electric vehicles both while in high school and while in college. Passionate about mitigating climate change, Kirk aims to develop cheaper electrical energy storage solutions while at Oxford, to allow for expanded usage of renewable resources like wind and solar. He plans to pursue a DPhil of Engineering Science while researching grid-scale electrochemical storage techniques.
Mikaila V. Smith

Texas

University of Texas at Austin: BA, Plan II, 2016

Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Refugee Studies, and MSc, Public Policy

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Career Aspirations
Passionate about development, public policy, refugee issues and human rights

Mikaila Smith is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a Plan II Honors student with concentrations in international relations and Chinese. Her research and career interests focus on international and long-term strategies for refugee populations, as well as larger public policy issues. She has worked on environmental issues in Australia, participated in US State Department–sponsored language study in China, and interned in a foreign policy think tank in Washington. She has been an active volunteer and has worked in a shelter for victims of domestic and political violence, with school-aged refugee children, and with ranch animals. She is also a certified yoga teacher. Mikaila plans to begin her studies at Oxford with an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, followed by an MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy.
Pasquale S. Toscano  

**Washington and Lee University:** BA, English and Classics, 2016  
**Proposed Oxford Course:** MSt, English (1550-1700); MSt, Classical Literature  

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**Career Aspirations**  
Professor, writer, and disability-rights advocate

Pasquale S. Toscano recently graduated from Washington and Lee University, where he majored in English and Classics. He plans to embark upon a career as an English professor, specializing in early-modern poetry and classical reception. Pasquale was partially paralyzed in an accident several years ago after being struck down by a truck while riding his bicycle. With occupational and physical therapy, he relearned to walk and now uses an ankle-foot-orthotic brace as well as a cane. Throughout this process, he developed a strong interest in studying the depiction of disability in literature and how, especially in the epic tradition, the conflation of heroism with physical excellence has resulted in the characterization of impairment as an aberration. Pasquale’s research has ranged across millennia and focused on, among other writers, Homer and Virgil, John Donne and John Milton, Phillis Wheatley, Brian Friel, and Marilynne Robinson. A(n aspiring) creative writer, he has nonfiction work forthcoming from *Breath and Shadow* and the *Deaf Poets Society*. He enjoys watching tennis, films, and theater most of all (especially musicals!).
Sarah A. Waltcher

Dartmouth College: BA, English, 2016
Proposed Oxford Course: MSt, English (1900s to present)

Career Aspirations
I aspire to work at the intersection of education and social justice.

Sarah A. Waltcher, of New York, New York, graduated from Dartmouth College in 2016 as valedictorian. She is currently a Teaching Resident in sixth-grade science at Brooklyn Prospect Charter School in New York City. An English major, she has taken her academic interests into an array of community and activist projects, including nonprofit organizations such as Telling My Story and Breakthrough New York, which bring teaching in the arts and literature to underserved communities. Both her scholarly work and her work as a student activist at Dartmouth have addressed issues including gender, the environment, sexual violence, and race. Sarah writes extensively and will pursue a degree in English at Oxford.
Christa Grace Watkins

University of Notre Dame: BA, Philosophy, 2017
Proposed Oxford Course: MSc, Criminology

Career Aspirations
Law professor

Christa Grace Watkins is a senior at the University of Notre Dame majoring in philosophy. She has gained national recognition for her work in sexual assault prevention, legal and policy reform, and victim advocacy. Grace is a Truman Scholar and a member of Notre Dame’s student government, where she founded the first support group for victims of sexual violence and engaged in large-scale Title IX compliance reform. She served as Chief Operating Officer and Head of Legal Affairs for Jubilee Initiative for Financial Inclusion, a student-run organization that aims to replace predatory payday lending with low-interest micro-grants. She is copresident of the College Democrats and National Organizing Director of Rise, an organization fighting for rape kit reform. She has written for Politico, Time, and the Daily Beast.
Anthony Wilder L. Wohns

Harvard University: AB, Human Evolutionary Biology, 2016
Proposed Oxford Course: DPhil in Statistics

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Career Aspirations
Research and public advocacy in genetics

Anthony W. L. “Wilder” Wohns graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University in 2016, where he concentrated in Human Evolutionary Biology, with Computer Science as a secondary field. He is currently reading for an MA in Biological Anthropology at the University of Cambridge on Harvard’s Herchel Smith Fellowship. His research focuses on using ancient DNA to understand the impact of the Black Death on medieval England. His other interests include running, rowing with the Emmanuel College Boat Club, and mountaineering. In addition, he is an advocate for refugee rights with Harvard Scholars at Risk, speaks Japanese, and has an award-winning collection of antiquarian books and maps. Wilder plans to pursue a research career at the intersection of computational genomics and ethics.
The Sailing “Bon Voyage” Weekend, September 24 – 27, 2016

Dinner at the Sulgrave Club

At the Bon Voyage Dinner

New Scholars at the Bon Voyage Dinner
At Elliot Gerson’s house

At Elliot Gerson’s house

At Elliot Gerson’s house
The US Rhodes class of 2017, like all those before it, brims with extraordinary young Americans who combine world-class academic excellence with the commitment, character, and leadership ability to make lasting contributions for a better world. For anyone afflicted with cynicism about the state of our nation, I know no better antidote than to spend time with any of them.

In most years, I use this occasion to describe new projects of the Rhodes Trust, to explain aspects of our selection process, to announce new developments in Oxford, or to explore any special characteristics of the new class. This year, I thought I would take the opportunity to give special thanks to the unsung volunteer leaders of the selection process.

Our 16 selection committee secretaries devote a substantial part of each year to the Trust. In the spring, they assist me actively as I annually appoint the committees. We look for a strong and balanced panel of seven. We strive to assure representation across academic fields and professions. We seek a balance of ages and interests and experiences. We work to have an optimal mix of new blood and seasoned selection experience (within the limits of a five-year maximum term).

The secretaries also often help me a great deal in chair identification. As chairs are not themselves Rhodes Scholars, and we can’t expect them to travel to a different interview city, they are usually highly distinguished local civic leaders—ones who often themselves exhibit the values we seek in new Rhodes Scholars.

And in the fall, committees’ work turns to reading and short-listing. The secretaries lead this demanding process and all short-list deliberations, whether by email or conference calls, or both. Committees see an average of about 60 endorsed applications, some a few more, some a few less (states are occasionally moved district to district to keep the pools similarly sized). Through a challeng-
ing, careful, and conscientious process, involving all committee members, a short list of at least 14 is invited to interview.

On the Friday and Saturday of the weekend leading in to the Thanksgiving week, the secretary convenes the committee and finalists for a reception, interviews, and elections of two winners. Every element of that experience is choreographed with great care, guided by global and national best practices, norms, and common procedures, of course, but also critically dependent on the wisdom and experience of the secretary, and also guided by what I often call the evolved common law of each district. It is a testament to the committees that in most years we get commendations about the experience even from disappointed candidates.

The secretaries also occasionally assume other regional responsibilities, such as institutional outreach.

While a secretarial appointment is not a life sentence, committee secretaries, by global Trust policy, are not subject to five-year term limits. There is a large investment of time and experience that is too costly to replace with that frequency.

Let me also remind everyone that this entire process is essentially run on an all-volunteer basis, with only hard costs reimbursed—and often even those are waived. The notable exceptions to our all-volunteer army are Joyce Knight and Thom Yu, whose dedicated full-time (more accurately overtime) service truly keeps this complex but high-touch system humming.

So please let me commend the following secretaries for their service to the Trust. I include one newly appointed to begin in 2018, and two “retired” just recently. I also note the chairs, whose contributions are extraordinary, especially considering that they obviously lack the natural and deep appreciation that other selectors have for the Trust.

**District 1 (ME, MA, VT)** — **Bruns Grayson** has been an investor in technology businesses for 30 years. He has served as a leading director of many charitable and for-profit enterprises. The chair is **Wyc Grousbeck**, principal owner and CEO of the Boston Celtics and Managing Partner of Causeway Media Partners.

**District 2 (CT, NH, NJ)** — **Gerry Cardinale** is the CEO and Managing Partner of RedBird Capital Partners, a private equity investment firm. Gerry is active in many nonprofit and philanthropic initiatives, with a focus on education, healthcare, and culture. The new chair is pending; the previous chair was **Roger Goodell**, Commissioner of the NFL.

**District 3 (NY)** — **Tali Farhadian Weinstein** was an Assistant US Attorney for the last six years and is now a fellow at the Center for the Administration of Criminal Law at NYU Law School. She is also a director of a charter school network. Tali followed **Paul Dodyk**, who served for more than a decade. Paul was a partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore and earlier a Professor of Law at the Columbia Law School, and Chair of Americans for Oxford. The chair is **Darren Walker**, President of the Ford Foundation.

**District 4 (PA, RI)** — **Laura McGrane** is Director of Visual Culture Arts and Media, and Chair of the English Department at Haverford College. She consults on issues of digital humanities and is spearheading a Mellon grant on collaborative arts partnerships in the Philadelphia area. The new chair is **Daniel Weiss**, president and COO, acting Director and CEO of the Metropolitan Mu-
seum of Art in NYC. He succeeds Jeffrey Rosen, CEO of the National Constitution Center.

District 5 (Washington DC, DE, MD) — Lissa Muscatine is co-owner of Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington, DC. Previously she served as a chief speechwriter to Hillary Clinton in the White House and State Department and was co-collaborator on Clinton’s White House memoir, Living History. The chair is Donald Graham, Chairman of Graham Holdings, former Chair and Publisher of the Washington Post, and lead independent director of Facebook.

District 6 (GA, NC, SC) — Lynn Enterline is the Nancy Perot Mulford Chair of English Literature at Vanderbilt University. She writes and teaches about the histories of rhetoric, gender, and emotion from ancient Greece and Rome through the European Renaissance. The chair is Dr. Helene Gayle, CEO of McKinsey Social Initiative and formerly CEO of Care, USA.

District 7 (CA, FL, LA, MS, PR, USVI) — Ralph Smith is President of the AARS and formerly General Counsel of the University of Alabama System; he practices law with Jones Walker. The chair is John Johns, Chair and CEO of Protective Life Corporation.

District 8 (OK, TX) — Hon. Keith P. Ellison is US District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. He is also a distinguished collector of eighteenth-century English furniture and books. The chair is Laura Arnold of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

District 9 (IN, KY, VA) — David L. Johnson is the President and CEO of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, Inc., a collaboration of corporate and philanthropic leadership investing in technology-intensive initiatives for regional development. He is also cofounder and CEO of its life sciences investment initiative, BioCrossroads. The chair is Dr. Lisa Harris, CEO of Eskenazi Health.

District 10 (IL, OH) — Gary Johnson is President of the Chicago History Museum and President of Museums in the Park, the association of Chicago’s major museums. The chair is Clare Munana, President of the management consulting firm Ancora Associates and former and long-term Vice Chair of the Chicago School Board.

District 11 (MI, MN, WI, WV) — Dennis Hutchinson is William Rainey Harper Professor in the College and Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago where he also coedit the Supreme Court Review. He retired from the Bowdoin College Board of Trustees in 2013. The chair is Hon. Gary Feinerman, US District Judge of the Northern District of Illinois.

District 12 (AR, IA, KS, TN) — Georgie Boge Geraghty has been involved in critical environmental conservation work for nearly 20 years. She currently works as the Chief of Staff for the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. She assumed the role last year from Joel K. Goldstein, the Vincent C. Immel Professor of Law at Saint Louis University School of Law, who most recently wrote The White House Vice Presidency: The Path to Significance, Mondale to Biden. The chair is Gillian Darlow, CEO of the Polk Bros. Foundation.

District 13 (CO, NE, NM, ND, SD, UT, WY) — Dr. Vivian Lee is CEO of University of Utah Health Care, Dean of the School of Medicine, and Senior Vice President for Health Sciences at the University of Utah. She is also a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a member of the NIH Council of Councils. The chair is Harris Simmons, Chairman and CEO of Zions Bancorporation.

District 14 (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA) — Rob Mitchell is a partner in the Seattle office of K&L Gates. He chairs the firm’s pro bono committee and co-leads its appellate practice. The chair is Steve Davis, the President and CEO of PATH, a nonprofit global health organization.

District 15 (AR, CA-North, HI, NV) — Dr. Elizabeth Murphy is a Professor of Medicine at UCSF and Chief of Endocrinology at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, where her work focuses on improving diabetes care for the underserved. The chair is Dr. Talmadge King, Dean of the School of Medicine at UCSF.
District 16 (American Samoa, CA-South, Guam, N. Mariana Islands) — Hon. Karen L. Stevenson is a US Magistrate Judge in the Central District of California. She serves on the Court’s Pro Bono Committee, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and is a Rhodes Trustee. Her successor for next year is Bethany Ehlmann, Assistant Professor of Planetary Science at Caltech and Research Scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where she studies Mars, asteroids, and occasionally other planets by working on rover and orbiter missions. The new chair is Laura Trombley, president of the Huntington Library and president emerita of Pitzer College. She succeeds Cheryl Boone Isaacs, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Welcome and congratulations to the US Rhodes Scholarship class of 2017, and special thanks to the secretaries, chairs, and selectors who elected them.

Elliot Gerson
(Connecticut and Magdalen ’74)
American Secretary, 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 worldwide 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 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.