



From the Office of the American Secretary

Elliot F. Gerson
American Secretary
The Rhodes Trust
8229 Boone Boulevard, Suite 240
Vienna, VA 22182-2623

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Telephone: 703 821 5960
Fax: 703 821 2770
E-mail: amsec@rhodesscholar.org
www.rhodesscholar.org

American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2017

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

DISTRICT 1

Massachusetts

Joshua B. Pickar, Lexington, is in his final year at the University of Chicago Law School. He graduated from The George Washington University, *summa cum laude*, with a double major 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 worked in the office of then-Senator John Kerry. He successfully advocated for an LGBT Iraqi refugee's relocation to the United States after he had been beaten by his family and exiled, and assisted the efforts of a deaf and mute Honduran who had been tormented for his disabilities to gain American citizenship. At Oxford, Josh will read for the M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy, followed by the M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy.

Massachusetts

Maia Silber, Cortlandt Manor, New York, is a senior at Harvard College, where she concentrates in history and literature. She has won many leading prizes for her creative writing as well as for her scholarship in English literature and American history. She is the chair of the magazine 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*. Her work has helped urge public officials to make anti-overdose drugs more widely available. She was also a research intern for Poetry in America. At Oxford, Maia plans to do the M.Phil. in British and European History.

DISTRICT 2

New Hampshire

Sarah A. Waltcher, 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 non-profit organizations such as Telling My Story and Breakthrough New York that 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 the environment, sexual violence, and race. Sarah writes extensively and plans to pursue a degree in English at Oxford.

New Jersey

Laura A. Courchesne, Fair Haven, is a senior at the University of Georgia, where she majors in economics and religion; she has a perfect academic record. She has conducted destabilization, conflict, and peacekeeping research at Oxford, Princeton, and the U.S. Army War College, has interned with the International Red Cross and at the Carter Center, and has conducted fieldwork in Bali relating to terrorism. Combining perspectives from sociology, anthropology, and organizational behavior, her thesis examines the impact of American drone strikes on local communities in conflict zones. At Oxford, Laura plans to do the M.Sc. in Social Anthropology, followed by the M.Sc. in Politics Research.

DISTRICT 3

New York

Nancy Ko, New York City, is a senior at Harvard College, where she concentrates in history and Near Eastern languages and civilizations. The daughter of Korean immigrants, with proficiency in both Hebrew and Arabic, as well as four additional language, she is writing her senior thesis on the political life of Jews in Iran during the Persian constitutional revolution of 1905. She is an organizer of Open Hillel, dedicated to promoting open discourse about Israel and Palestine, and is senior editor of the *Harvard Undergraduate History Review*. She has won college and national awards in history, Jewish studies, and German language and literature. She is also a skilled knitter and a marathoner. At Oxford, Nancy will do the M.Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies.

New York

Noah Remnick, New York City, graduated from Yale College in 2015 with a B.A. in History. Since then, he has been a James Reston Fellow and reporter for the *New York Times*. He led the paper's coverage of an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease, provoking major reforms in city inspection programs, and wrote an investigative article on persistent police abuse of transgender people, prompting changes in police policy. While at Yale, he was editor-in-chief of *The Polity*, a staff writer for *The Yale Herald*, editor-in-chief of the *Yale Historical Review*, and won many prizes for his writing. He is especially interested in issues of race and urban politics. At Oxford, Noah intends to do an M.St. in American History and a Master of Public Policy.

DISTRICT 4

Pennsylvania

Spencer D. Dunleavy, Philadelphia, is in his senior year at Harvard College, where he concentrates in chemistry, with psychology as a secondary field. Spencer 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, he has taught CPR, first aid, and life support to more than one thousand people. He founded a nonprofit organization, Raise Uganda Now, that has raised more than \$30,000 for

an orphanage. He is an avid intramural sports participant. At Oxford, he plans to read for an M.Sc. in education, focusing on research design and methodology, and an M.Sc. by research in Primary Health Care.

Pennsylvania

Meghan M. Shea, West Chester, 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 and microbial source tracking. Meghan has developed innovative methods for water filtration and oil spill bioremediation, and has worked with small-island developing states on climate change resiliency. Meghan plays in Stanford's steel pan drumming group and has volunteered for the Monterey Bay Aquarium. At Oxford, Meghan will pursue an M.Phil. in Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance.

DISTRICT 5

Maryland/DC

Cameron D. Clarke, Richmond, Virginia, is a senior at Howard University, where he is a double-major in community health education and biology. He is author of six publications and lead author on five, and a certified EMT. As co-president of Howard's chapter of the Peer Health Exchange, he has worked tirelessly both at Howard and in local public and charter schools as a health educator and peer leader. He is also a news editor of *The Hilltop*, Howard's student newspaper, and is currently a Congressional intern with the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. In his career, he intends to combine biological anthropology, public health, and medicine. At Oxford, he plans to read for the M.Sc. by research in Primary Health Care.

Maryland/DC

Aryn A. Frazier, Laurel, is a senior at the University of Virginia, where she double-majors 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 as president of the university's Black Student Alliance, and has a long record of political engagement with a range of organizations that includes Legal Aid Justice Center's

youth leadership program and multiple campaigns for elected office. She plans to read for the M.Phil. in Comparative Politics at Oxford.

DISTRICT 6

Georgia

James C. Pavur, Atlanta, will graduate from Georgetown University in December with a BSFS in science, technology, and international affairs. An inventor, his current project is to create a sub-\$100 computer-brain interface to help paralyzed and injured individuals type. He and some friends collaborated to convert an abandoned physics laboratory into a workshop dedicated to the development of new technologies. A junior member of Phi Beta Kappa, 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 is especially interested in cyber policy. James plans to do the D.Phil. in Cyber Security at Oxford.

South Carolina

Jory M. Fleming, Columbia, is a senior at the University of South Carolina, where he is double-majoring in geography and marine science. He is interested in three-dimensional mapping and data visualizations related to sea level rise, aquatic habitat, and underwater archeology. Jory has worked on funded research projects for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Park Service, and National Geographic. He has a perfect academic record and has received numerous fellowships and awards, including the Truman Scholarship and the Goldwater Scholarship. Jory's extracurricular interests include training service dogs, volunteering for a child literacy program, and church activities. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Phil. in Geography and the Environment.

DISTRICT 7

Florida

Lucinda M. Ford, St. Augustine, is in her final year at the United States Naval Academy, where she majors in ocean engineering. During her time at the USNA, she has spent significant time in both Singapore and Rwanda. She will take up a commission as a submarine officer upon graduation. Lucy sings in the Academy's Women's Glee Club, mentors young

people through the Arundel County Teen Court, and runs marathons, placing first in her age group in the North Face Endurance Challenge. She plans to read for the M.Sc. in Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance at Oxford.

Florida

Christian E. Nattiel, Madeira Beach, is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where he is double-majoring in mathematical sciences and philosophy. He is interested in narratives of struggle, social justice, and self-determination. Christian is president of the Cultural Affairs Seminar, which champions diversity and inspires cadets through mentorship and tutoring. He was awarded the Superintendent's Award for Achievement, the Distinguished Cadet Award, and the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Military Leadership. Christian is a member of the men's handball team. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy, followed by the Master of Public Policy.

DISTRICT 8

Oklahoma

Kirk P. Smith, St. Louis, Missouri, is a senior at the University of Tulsa, where he majors in mechanical engineering and is a Presidential Scholar. He has done clean energy research there, at the Colorado School of Mines, and in Germany, where he investigated polymeric solar thermal collectors. He is captain of the Tulsa Cross-Country Team, active in Big Brother Big Sisters of Oklahoma, and built an electric car while in high school and an electric bicycle while in college. Passionate about energy sustainability, at Oxford. Kirk plans to do a D.Phil. in Engineering Science.

Texas

Mikaila V. Smith, Austin, will graduate next month from the University of Texas, where she is a Presidential Scholar, with majors in social entrepreneurship and nonprofit management and Chinese. Her research and career interests focus on international and long-term strategies for refugee populations. She has done an environmental internship in Australia, U.S. State Department-sponsored language study in China, and interned in a foreign policy think tank in Washington. She has been an active volunteer working with ranch animals, in a shelter for victims of domestic violence, and with school-aged refugee children. She is also a certified yoga

teacher. Mikaila plans to begin her studies at Oxford with an M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, followed by an M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

DISTRICT 9

Indiana

Morgan K. Mohr, Bloomington, is a senior at Indiana University majoring in history and political science. She is an avid campaigner for progressive issues and social justice, having performed her first door-to-door canvassing campaign at age six. She has worked on a wide array of local, state, and national political campaigns, including as director of operations for John Hamilton's mayoral campaign in Bloomington in 2015, and as a senior intern to the Clinton Presidential campaign's chief operating officer in 2016. At Indiana University, Morgan founded two student groups committed to combatting injustice and volunteered with Bloomington Planned Parenthood. She also interned at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and at the White House in the Office of the First Lady. She will pursue an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy at Oxford.

Indiana

Christa Grace Watkins, Milroy, 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. She serves 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-loans and financial literacy classes. She also works with a non-profit group building the first secondary school in the Jonglei State of South Sudan to teach non-violence and entrepreneurship. She intends to pursue a D.Phil. in Socio-Legal Studies at Oxford.

DISTRICT 10

Illinois

Olivia A. Klevorn, Chicago, is a senior at Yale College, where she majors in anthropology. Active in the performing arts, she directs the Heritage Theatre Ensemble, which presents the works of black artists, and is president of WORD, a student-run poetry association. She grew up in Ferguson, Missouri, where her grandparents and mother were among the first African-Americans to move there when the city was virtually all white. Much of her academic work is focused on the problem of disinvestment in low-income minority communities and the resultant inequality in home ownership. At Oxford, Olivia intends to do a D.Phil. in Socio-Legal Studies.

Ohio

Pasquale S. Toscano, Kettering, is a senior at Washington and Lee University, where he is majoring in English and Classics. He plans to embark on a career as a scholar of literature, with a particular interest in literary reception. Pasquale was partially paralyzed in an accident several years ago, and has developed a strong interest in studying disability in literature as he worked on rebuilding his capacity to walk. His research has ranged across millennia and considered, among other writers, the works of Virgil, John Milton, Phillis Wheatley, and Marilynne Robinson. At Oxford, Pasquale intends to pursue one M.St. in Early Modern English and a second M.St. in Classical Literature.

DISTRICT 11

Michigan

Aaron C. Robertson, Redford, is a senior at Princeton University, where he is majoring in Italian. Aaron's research focuses on transnationalism and linguistic exchange in Afro-Italian literature. He is particularly interested in issues of authenticity, self-representation, and translation in contemporary Afro-Italian biographies. Aaron serves as co-editor-in-chief of the *Nassau Literary Review* and has written for the *Detroit Metro Times* and *The Daily Princetonian*. He has also published a one-act play. Aaron was awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Phil. in Modern Languages.

Minnesota

Ahmed M. Ahmed, Rochester, is a senior at Cornell University majoring in biology. His research in biochemistry has focused on the development of new synthetic strategies for producing polymers. He has also performed laboratory work on the oncogenesis of the Epstein-Barr virus and a study of brain plasticity at the University of Pennsylvania. Ahmed serves as a student advisor in biology and a teaching assistant in biochemistry. In addition to tutoring fellow students in organic and general chemistry, he mentors disadvantaged African-American students at Cornell, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and served with Cornell's Emergency Management Services. Ahmed is a first-generation Somali immigrant whose family immigrated to the United States from a refugee camp in Kenya. He will pursue a master's degree in research in Organic and Medical Chemistry at Oxford.

DISTRICT 12

Arkansas

Lauren C. Jackson, Little Rock, is a senior at the University of Virginia, where she is majoring in political and social thought. Lauren is interested in the intersection of media and humanitarian policy, and has worked for CNN, the International Rescue Committee, *National Geographic*, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. She received a full merit scholarship the University of Virginia and a \$20,000 Jefferson Public Citizens research grant to study post-genocidal PTSD in Rwanda. Lauren's extracurricular interests include cycling, hiking, graphic design, and photography. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy and an M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

Kansas

Shegufta A. Huma, Bel Aire, is a senior at the University of Kansas, where she majors in political science. A Bangladeshi immigrant and hijabi, she has served on the University Senate since 2013, and was Vice President in 2015. She 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 won prizes for her contributions to the University and for 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. She dreams “of restoring the United States’ role as a destination for vulnerable people seeking refuge and solace for their suffering,” and is particularly dedicated to working toward justice for Muslim immigrants. At Oxford, Shegufta plans to do the M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, followed by the Master of Public Policy.

DISTRICT 13

Colorado

Hannah K. Carrese, Colorado Springs, graduated from Yale University in May 2016, where she majored in humanities. She studied classics, grand strategy, and statecraft in pursuit of her focus on the nexus between political theory and human rights. Hannah has worked extensively with refugees and victims of human trafficking in the United States and abroad. She is currently in Mexico as a member of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. She is a classically trained violinist and enjoys playing tennis, soccer, and hiking. At Oxford, Hannah will pursue an M.Phil. in Politics.

South Dakota

Joshua Carter, Watertown, will graduate from Montana State University with dual degrees in mechanical engineering and microbiology. His research has focused on the molecular mechanisms of disease and the development of prosthetics, and he has authored several articles in scientific journals, including *Science*. Josh serves as a volunteer with children with disabilities at a local non-profit named Eagle Mount, leads the Bozeman Bike Kitchen that builds bicycles for disadvantaged children, and is an avid outdoorsman and Eagle Scout. He will pursue a master’s in Clinical Neuroscience at Oxford.

DISTRICT 14

Oregon

Pema M. McLaughlin, Portland, graduated from Reed College in May 2016, with a major in religion. Raised in the Buddhist tradition, Pema's thesis addressed whether traditional Buddhist ritual and doctrine can serve the needs of modern Americans. Pema has also conducted research on Daoism and on the role of women in the Nation of Islam. Pema is proficient in Chinese and Tibetan, and intends to study Sanskrit. Pema volunteers for Portland's Books to Prisoners Program and the Children's Book Bank. At Oxford, Pema will pursue an M.Phil. in Buddhist Studies.

Washington

Anthony W. L. "Wilder" Wohns, Tacoma, graduated from Harvard University in 2016, where he concentrated in human evolutionary biology, with computer science as a secondary field; this year, he is reading for an M.A. in biological anthropology at the University of Cambridge. Wilder runs avidly, cycles, and climbs mountains; he is also certified as a Wilderness EMT. In addition, he plays the violin, is a black belt in taekwondo, speaks Japanese proficiently, and has won prizes for his collections of books and maps. Wilder has a strong interest in a research career working on computational genomics, which he ties to a range of important issues in science, history, anthropology, and ethics; to this end, at Oxford, he plans to read for a second bachelor's degree in computer science and philosophy.

DISTRICT 15

Arizona

Oscar De Los Santos, Laveen, graduated from the University of Southern California in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He is the son of undocumented immigrants from Mexico. Oscar graduated as a Truman Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, with USC's Order of the Laurel and Palm, its highest honor, reserved for twenty undergraduates each year. The city council of Los Angeles honored him as an emerging leader. He has served as an intern to the National Economic Council and the 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, and in the 2015-16

academic year, he taught English and social studies to sixth graders at the Champion South Mountain School in Phoenix. He has a special interest in the theology of Reinhold Niebuhr; at Oxford, he plans to read for a Master of Public Policy and an M.St. in Theology with a focus on Christian ethics.

California-North

Alexis A. Doyle, Los Altos, is a senior at the University of Notre Dame, where she is double-majoring in biological sciences and international peace studies. She is interested in leveraging partnerships and diverse viewpoints to generate better health outcomes. Nicole's thesis focuses on bipartisan approaches to evidence-based family planning in the United States. She has also worked extensively in Guatemala on the prevention of parasitic infections, and led a team of rural healthcare volunteers through the Appalachian Service Learning Program. Nicole's extracurricular activities include training guide dogs for the blind, long-distance running, backpacking, and doing puzzles. At Oxford, Alexis will pursue the M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy.

DISTRICT 16

California - South

Nicole A. Mihelson, Fullerton, will graduate from Johns Hopkins University in December 2016, with a major in neuroscience. Her research focuses on the brain tumor glioblastoma multiforme and the use of viruses for their tumor-fighting capacity. Nicole is also interested in maternal mental health, childhood and adolescent nutrition, and social determinants of health. Nicole has received numerous scholarships and research awards and has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications. She is proficient in French, Hebrew, and Spanish. Her extracurricular activities include salsa and merengue dancing, cooking, running, yoga, and politics. At Oxford, Nicole will pursue a D.Phil. in Oncology.

California - South

Caylin L. Moore, Carson, is a senior at Texas Christian University majoring in economics. He overcame poverty, homelessness, and an abusive father incarcerated on a life sentence for murder to become a campus leader and Division One football player at Marist and then TCU. Caylin was selected to the Fulbright Summer Institute to study the trans-Atlantic slave

trade at University of Bristol and was chosen to attend the Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute at Princeton University. He is the founder and president of “S.P.A.R.K.,” a youth outreach organization of student-athletes who encourage disadvantaged children to attend college, as well as a volunteer for the Children’s Defense Fund. He will pursue a Master of Public Policy at Oxford.