



**Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars
Newsletter**

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From the Editor

Dear Readers,

For the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars (CARS), it is an exciting time! Our first Canadian Rhodes Alumni Reunion Weekend, to be held May 3rd-5th in Toronto, is quickly approaching. We are thrilled to be offering three days of stimulating events. You can find more information about the weekend in a letter from **Mark Schaan (Manitoba & New 2002)**, CARS President, on page 6 and view the invitation on page 21.

You can register online at: <http://canadianrhodesreunion.eventbrite.ca>

Our first electronic issue, Michaelmas 2012, was a great success and we appreciate all of your positive feedback. We continue to move into the electronic age offering [online membership renewal and payment \(http://tinyurl.com/CARSRenewal\)](http://tinyurl.com/CARSRenewal), in addition to the traditional paper renewal. Those of you receiving this by post will find the paper renewal form and an envelope enclosed with this issue.

We encourage you to become a member of the Association. As a member, you will be informed of future CARS events in Canada. You will also receive discounts on Rhodes events, including this year's Reunion Weekend and Sailing Dinner. Following this membership drive, the newsletter will only be distributed to members of the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by post, you can specify this on your membership renewal form; otherwise, you will receive it by email.

In February, as advertised in the last issue, the Association hosted a welcome event for the [three new Rhodes Scholars from the University of Toronto](#) – Connor Emdin (Ontario), Ayodele Odutayo (Ontario) and Joanne Cave (Prairies). The event was well attended by nearly thirty Scholars. All enjoyed socializing with these young Scholars and those

who are just young at heart. We hope that the tradition of hosting these types of local events will continue across the country.

This issue includes our regular sections highlighting the great achievements of Canadian Rhodes Scholars. Our *In Memoriam* section, starting on page 14, includes obituaries for **Robert Gordon Robertson (Saskatchewan & Exeter 1938)**, **Henry Basil Robinson (British Columbia & University 1940)**, **William Norrie (Manitoba & Queen's 1953)**, and **Lisa Smirl (Prairies & Balliol 1997)**. I am saddened by their passing and awed by the contributions they made during their lives.

Submissions of tributes, news, articles, and photos (and pretty much anything else that can be published) are most welcome! If you would like to become more involved with the Association and its activities, please let us know.

Membership Renewal: <http://tinyurl.com/CARSRenewal>

[Email](mailto:canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com): canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com

[Twitter](https://twitter.com/cdn_rhodes): @cdn_rhodes

Sincerely,



Katie Sheehan, Ontario & Merton 2002

Letter from the President of CARS

Dear Fellow Scholar,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to be a part of the CARS Alumni Reunion Weekend in Toronto from May 3-5. With the 110th Anniversary of the Rhodes Trust, the Executive of the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars (CARS) thought it time to try something new. While we've held our Sailing Dinner celebrations in Ottawa for many years, we now want to use the anniversary as the backdrop for a different sort of event. We hope that you will be able to join us for the weekend! The invitation can be viewed on page 21 or by clicking [here](#).

This unique event stems from encouragement to provide more opportunities for Rhodes Scholars in and from Canada to network and engage on important issues. To this end, we've planned what we think is an inspiring and thought-provoking weekend. Festivities will begin with a reception on Friday evening at the Toronto office of McKinsey and Company, nestled in the gorgeous campus of the University of Toronto. This will be a great chance to catch up with old friends and raise a glass to the incredible contribution Rhodes Scholars in and from Canada have made over the last 110 years. We'll follow this up on Saturday with a chance to look to the future and explore some of the big questions of our times. In a salon-style dialogue at MaRS Discovery District, we'll host four panels with distinguished speakers to consider innovation and sustainability in our health system, a reflection on Rhodes' vision of cultural literacy and unity, Canada's place in the world, and the role big data and information technology is playing in revolutionizing our economy and our services. We'll be joined by eminent voices including **Mark Abley (Saskatchewan & St. John's 1975)**, **Prabhat Jha (Prairies & Magdalen 1975)**, **John Allemang (Ontario & Wadham 1974)** and **David Goldbloom (Nova Scotia & Exeter 1975)**, among others.

At lunch we'll have a chance to hear from **The Honorable Bob Rae (Ontario & Balliol 1969)**, fresh from his time at the centre of Canada's political dialogue, who will reflect on *Fighting the World's Fight*, as he has done in so many guises. We'll conclude the evening at the President's Residence at the University of Toronto, with hosts **Dr. David Naylor (Ontario & Hertford 1979)** and **Ilse Treurnicht (South Africa & Balliol 1979)**, who have graciously offered their space for us to ruminate on the day and catch up with old friends. On Sunday, we hope to bring together classes for their own brunches across the city. We are looking for class leaders to help organize the cohort brunches. If you are interested, please email me at mschaan@sympatico.ca.

The weekend is a new venture for us, and so we hope you'll join us in establishing a new tradition. Space is limited at dinner, so please confirm your attendance. Registration information can be found at <http://canadianrhodesreunion.eventbrite.ca>. Hotel rooms at a discounted rate have also been reserved at the Intercontinental Yorkville and the Holiday Inn Bloor-Yorkville. Now is also an excellent time to renew or begin your CARS membership and I encourage you to do so at <http://tinyurl.com/CARSRenewal>

We really believe there is an incredible power when Rhodes Scholars gather -- it provokes big thinking, challenging dialogue, and creates friendships that sustain and encourage us. I look forward to seeing many of you in Toronto in May.

All best wishes,



Mark Schaan, Manitoba & New 2002

Letter from Oxford

Every issue, we publish a letter from one of our current Canadian scholars in residence at Oxford. This one comes to us from Steven Wang (Ontario & Lincoln 2012).

Dear Fellow Scholars,

It is hard to capture entirely what the Oxford experience is like in one sentence or in one letter. A good part of the reason is due to the diversity and abundance of experiences and opportunities one is thrust into from first day. I can recall moments, like giving a floor speech on China at the Oxford Union, seeing Stephen Hawking in the streets of Cambridge, biking to the nearby forests of Harcourt Arboretum, delivering lectures to British students from non-selective state schools, visiting the headquarters of Google, reflecting in beautiful Lincoln or Exeter chapel, and strolling quietly in the streets of Istanbul as the call to prayer came on.

I have also had the good fortune of attending talks by leaders and thinkers from around the world: Senator John McCain, the former American presidential candidate; a delegation of Indian parliamentarians across different parties; Andrew Wiles, who proved Fermat's Last Theorem; Richard Dawkins, the famous Oxford atheist academic; Muhammad Yunus, Martti Ahtisaari, Shirin Abidi, all of whom have won the Nobel prizes for the cause of peace. The best talks were speakers who were bold enough to speak what they genuinely believed, often new and daring ideas, such as He Weifang proposing political and legal reform in China, Cornel West labeling the US an unequal system resembling an oligarchy, and Imran Khan wanting to fundamentally change politics in Pakistan.

As incredible as these experiences have been, for me, perhaps the most important opportunity Oxford has provided is the time and space to think meaningfully why you are here, why the Rhodes committee has invested in you, how do you make those larger aspirations more real, and what values will guide you beyond Oxford. My time here has been a period of real personal growth, and it has not always been easy. I have had times where I felt a bit inadequate intellectually or socially in a group of Rhodes Scholars. I have questioned my own motivations or plans for the future. But as a friend explained to me, the Rhodes and Oxford experience sometimes is like breaking you first into parts and then allowing you to piece things together into a newer, stronger self. In the process I am perhaps developing a more justified self-confidence and realizing the importance of things like resilience.

Looking forward, I am excited to take on a new term of challenges and opportunities. Through incredible friends I have made here (all of whom are much wiser and more mature than me), I have developed a greater sense of what to focus on and what matters, given the many choices you are presented with at Oxford. There are a hundred lives that can be lived here, and that exciting possibility means there is no right path. Already, I know this month will be filled with writing a thesis proposal on Sino-US relations, organizing the Global Scholars Symposium, sorting out my plans to be for the summer, and reading my own books from St. Augustine to de Tocqueville to Hemingway. I cannot imagine how fortunate I am to have received this scholarship, and I do hope one day, in some way, I will fulfill the promises written into Cecil's will. For now, all I can do is to follow my own instincts and go in the direction that feels right. And out of those many possibilities, perhaps my own path will find its way.



Steven Wang, Ontario & Lincoln 2012

Scholars in the News

According to an [article](#) in the *Toronto Star*, **Kimberley Strong (Newfoundland & St John's 1986)** believes that the reduction in federal funding for Arctic research indicates that "...Canada isn't as serious about keeping its eye on its Arctic. Strong is an [atmospheric physicist](#) who oversees spectrometers as part of the [Total Carbon Column Observing Network](#) in Eureka, Nunavut.

The merger between law firms Norton Rose and Fulbright & Jaworski put **John Coleman (Quebec & St. John's 1975)** in the [Globe and Mail](#). According to the article, he believes that the merged firm, Norton Rose Fulbright, "draws a new map in the international legal market and sets a precedent in cross-border business".

Wojciech Gryc (Ontario & Trinity 2008) continues to make waves with his start-up [Canopy Labs](#). His company, which brings big data analytics to small- and medium-sized companies, was featured in a *Toronto Star* [profile](#).

The [New York Times announced](#) that UBS had hired **Laurence Grafstein (Ontario & Balliol 1982)**, "a veteran deal maker", to head their mergers and acquisitions team in the Americas.

Honours, Appointments and Awards

John Floras (Ontario & Magdalen 1977) was appointed to the [Canada Research Chair in Integrative Cardiovascular Biology](#) at the University of Toronto.

Murray Fulton (Saskatchewan & Exeter 1978), a [Fellow at the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy](#) at the University of Saskatchewan, was awarded the 2012 Provost's Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching.

David Mitchell (Saskatchewan & Exeter 1952) has retired from Dawson College in Montreal where he taught Philosophy and the Humanities from 1973 to 2012.

William Rowe (Newfoundland & Brasenose 1964) published a new novel, [Rosie O'Dell](#), in August 2012.

Peter Russell (Ontario & Oriel 1955) has been awarded the [Mildred A Schwartz Lifetime Achievement Award](#) by the American Political Science Association for scholarship and leadership in bringing the study of Canadian politics to the international political science community.

James Taylor (Ontario & Balliol 1951), **Dr. Ron Watts (Ontario & Oriel 1952)** and **Doug House (Newfoundland & Jesus 1965)** were all awarded Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medals.

Dr. Prabhat Jha (Saskatchewan & Magdalen 1987) and **Michael Brown (British Columbia & St John's 1960)** were awarded the Order of Canada. We believe that Mike and his father are the only father-son Rhodes Scholars to have both received the Order of Canada.

Paul Stanborough (Ontario & St. Edmund's Hall 1985) joined J.P. Morgan Chase in 2012 as an Executive, Customer Support Division, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Tom Harpur (Ontario & Oriel 1951) has published an updated and revised version of his book [*There Is Life After Death*](#).

Pierre Piche (Quebec & Keble 1983) has been appointed a Senior Advisor at the Power Corporation of Canada.

David Howarth (Prairies & Balliol 1989) has moved from the University of Edinburgh, where he retains an Honorary Fellowship, to the University of Luxembourg where he is a [*Professor in Political Economy*](#).

Anne Andermann (Quebec & Worcester 1997) has recently published a new book, [*Evidence for Health: From Patient Choice to Public Policy*](#), with Cambridge University Press.

News from Rhodes House

Ms. Tillie Shuster has been named as Rhodes House's Campaign Director for Canada. Tillie comes with an impressive background in fundraising; a master's degree from Columbia University and more than twenty years of experience working with organizations in New York City and Canada. She has a strong commitment to the education sector having worked at the University of Toronto, Lester B. Pearson United World College on Vancouver Island and other independent schools across the country. Tillie is originally from Edmonton but now based in Toronto. Rhodes House is in the midst of sorting out the Rhodes IT infrastructure but in the interim you may contact her via email tillie.shuster@sympatico.ca and tel. [\(416\) 367-4623](tel:4163674623).

In Memoriam

Robert Gordon Robertson (Saskatchewan & Exeter 1938)



1917 - 2013

[From www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

Peacefully on January 15th, 2013 at the Madonna Retirement Residence at the age of 95 after a long battle with Alzheimer's which he bore with as much dignity as was possible and with his characteristic charm.

Gordon was pre-deceased by his beloved wife of 58 years, Bea, and leaves behind son John and daughter Kerrie (Hale), both of whom were with him when he died. Also at his side was his companion of 12 years, Joan Kingstone, who was a dear friend to him after Bea's death; his niece, Anne Lawson, who for many years took Bea's place as Gordon's NAC Orchestra "date"; and his beloved caregiver, Maria.

Gordon was born on May 19, 1917 in Davidson, Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in 1938. After attending Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, Gordon joined the Department of External Affairs in 1941. He spent the rest of his career as a civil servant with the federal government, serving under six Prime Ministers.

From 1945 to 1948 he worked in the Prime Minister's Office under Mackenzie King. From 1948 to 1953, he served in the Privy Council

Office under Louis St. Laurent. In 1953, at the young age of 36, he was appointed Deputy Minister of the newly formed Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. As Deputy Minister of the department, he was also Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. It was probably the job he enjoyed the most and one he held until 1963 when Lester Pearson appointed him Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet, the most senior position in the federal civil service. He held this post until 1975, first under Pearson and then under Pierre Trudeau. In 1975, he was made Secretary to the Cabinet for Federal-Provincial Relations, a new position created by Trudeau to aid in reforming the Canadian constitution. Gordon "retired" in 1979 and went on to become Chancellor of Carleton University; President of the Institute for Research on Public Policy; President of the Network on the Constitution; and to write a book - "Memoirs of a Very Civil Servant." Gordon's awards include the Vanier Medal (1970), the Public Service Outstanding Achievement Award (1972), Companion of the Order of Canada (1976), and member of the Privy Council (1982).

Gordon was a passionate Canadian who devoted his career to making the country a better place. He was known for his integrity, fairness, humility, vision and wry sense of humour.

Besides his son and daughter, he leaves an extended and loving family including Bob Hale, Anna Robertson, Sylvia Carruthers, six grandchildren - Mark (Anne-Marie), Craig (Petrina), and Christie (Paul) Robertson; Ian, Daniel (Charlotte), and Jessica Hale - two great-grand children, Mikaela and Danika; and many admiring nieces and nephews. The funeral service will be held at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Road (at MacKay), Ottawa on Monday, January 21 at 1:30 p.m. For those who wish, a contribution to the Alzheimer's Society, Dying With Dignity, or the Gordon Robertson National Inuit Scholarship (on-line at carleton.ca/giving/give) would be appreciated.

You can read more about Mr. Robertson's contributions to the [Northwest Territories](#) and the [Federal Government](#).

Henry Basil Robinson (British Columbia & Oriel 1940)



1919-2012

[From www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

Basil Robinson, former Undersecretary of State for External Affairs and Officer of the Order of Canada, died on 21 December 2012, aged 93, at the Perley Rideau in Ottawa. A distinguished civil servant, diplomat, sportsman, and war veteran, to those who knew him best he was a loving father, a gentleman, an inspiration, a man of honour. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, their four children Katharine, David, Brigitte Ann and Geoffrey, and their grandchildren Olivia, Nicolas, Adam, Amalia and Sofia. He was predeceased by his brother Geoffrey, and by his parents Basil and Nancy Robinson of Vancouver. The family wishes to thank his devoted caregivers (Rose, Emma, Connie and Ashley) as well as the staff who supported him and the family at the Perley Rideau, especially those in Gatineau-1 and Gatineau-2 North. Robinson began his family memoir with a phrase his father often used in writing to the families of departed friends: "Of this man, let us not say il est mort (he is dead) but rather il a vécu (he has lived)." The tribute applies equally to him. A Memorial Service will be held at St. Bartholomew's Church at 125 McKay Street, New Edinburgh, Ottawa, on Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 2pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to a cause that embodies the values he held dear: integrity, generosity, fairness, and public service.

You can read more about Mr Robinson's careers in [government](#) and [cricket](#).

Bill Norrie (Manitoba & Queen's 1953)



1929-2012

[From www.passages.winnipegfreepress.com](http://www.passages.winnipegfreepress.com)

It is with great sadness that the family of William (Bill) Norrie announces his death at Victoria Hospital on July 6, 2012. He is survived by his wife Helen, his son, Dr. Fraser Norrie (David Clarke) of Vancouver, his daughter-in-law Sheila Norrie of Winnipeg, and his grandchildren, Allison (Andrew Williams), Jennifer, and Cameron Norrie. He was predeceased by his son Duncan in 1992, by his son Mark in 2001, and by his sister Margaret in 2007. Bill was born in Winnipeg in 1929 and grew up in the West End of Winnipeg, graduating from Daniel Macintyre Collegiate with an Isbister Scholarship. He completed an Arts degree at United College (now University of Winnipeg) and entered the Faculty of Law. He became President of the University of Manitoba Student Union in 1952 and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1953, studying at Queen's College, Oxford, England. Following his time at Oxford, Bill returned to Winnipeg and joined the firm of Tupper and Adams after completing his law degree in 1955, the same year that he married his wife, Helen, whom he met at the University of Manitoba. In 1963 he joined former classmates Scott Wright and Charles Huband in the firm of Richardson, Taylor, Huband, Wright and Norrie where he practiced until becoming Deputy Secretary of the Law Society in 1975. In 1964 Bill

began a long career in public office when he was elected a member of the Winnipeg School Board. He served for seven years until being elected to the Winnipeg City Council in 1971. In 1979 he was elected Mayor of Winnipeg, and served for 13 years, taking voluntary retirement in 1992. During his time as mayor, Bill helped negotiate the tripartite agreement to establish the Forks and the North Portage Partnership. He actively encouraged multiculturalism in the city, establishing strong ties to many ethnic groups. Following his 28 years in public office, Bill acted twice as Chairman of the United Way campaign and served as Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Province. He was Honorary Consul General of Japan for eight years and Chancellor of the University of Manitoba from 2001 to 2009. Bill had a deep love for Winnipeg and delighted in meeting people of all ages and occupations. His door at the Mayor's office was always open and he will be missed by the many organizations that benefited from his leadership and support. Bill also had an abiding love for the Lake of the Woods where the family spent over 50 summers at home on Elephant Island. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at Crescent Fort Rouge United Church, Nassau and Wardlaw, Winnipeg. Neil Bardal Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Duncan Norrie Memorial Fund or the Mark Norrie Fund for the Assiniboine Park Zoo through the Winnipeg Foundation, 204-944-9474.

You can read more about Mr. Norrie's [life](#) and [legacy](#).

Lisa Smirl (Prairies & Balliol 1997)



1975 - 2013

[From the University of Sussex, Department of International Relations](#)

Global Studies staff have been paying tribute to Dr Lisa Smirl, who died last week aged 37, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Dr Smirl was a Lecturer in International Security from 2009-12, when she took early retirement because of her developing illness.

Her PhD, completed at the University of Cambridge in 2010, focused on the spatial practices and built environment of international aid agencies, drawing not only on extensive fieldwork, but also on her own experience of working for the UN Development Programme in south-eastern Europe, central Asia and Africa.

Since arriving at Sussex, she was instrumental in setting up a new MA programme on Conflict, Security and Development as part of a significant expansion of the School of Global Studies' engagement with international security issues. She was also pushing forward an exciting programme of research on humanitarian action and post-conflict intervention, including a focus on the spatial and cultural significance of the use of SUVs by aid workers in what she called "drive-by development". Her growing body of research demonstrated an extraordinary, creative and original mind at work.

Dr Smirl maintained an honorary lectureship in the Department after her early retirement in 2012, while also raising money for cancer charities and writing a moving blog about her experiences. That included taking part in the Great North Run to raise money for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation in November 2012, although the advanced stage of her cancer forced her to walk rather than run.

Professor Richard Black, Head of the School of Global Studies, said: "Lisa was a fantastic colleague and friend to many of us, a great teacher and researcher and truly inspirational in the way she dealt with her illness."

Other staff have also paid tribute to a "much-loved colleague".

Professor Justin Rosenberg, Head of International Relations, said: "Lisa was an outstanding colleague who shared her intellectual and personal vivacity with fellow-academics and students alike. Student feedback on her teaching regularly described her as a 'fantastic lecturer ... perfectly communicative ... and extremely supportive of [students'] ideas and points of view'." Dr Anna Stavrianakis, Senior Lecturer in International

Relations, said: "Lisa was very much herself to the end – clever, cheerful, funny, uncomplaining. She lived her life, including her illness, to the full with a generosity of spirit that was quite remarkable."

[From Rhodes House](#)

Read for a BA (2 years) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics as a Rhodes Scholar, and gained a PhD at the Centre for International Studies at the University of Cambridge, where her research was examining the impact of the built environment on post-crisis reconstruction. Dr Smirl worked for the UN Development Programme in South Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Africa, with her areas of specialisation including conflict prevention, crisis management, and alignment of aid. She was a Teaching Fellow at the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS, University of London, between 2005 - 2009. Dr Smirl then joined the University of Sussex as a Lecturer in International Relations and her research interests focused on the spatial practices and culture of global governance.

The Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars invites you to



Register at:

<http://canadianrhodesreunion.eventbrite.ca>



Program of events



Friday 3 May

- † Evening reception hosted by McKinsey & Company

Saturday 4 May

- † Day-long conference at MaRS Discovery District with speakers including the Hon. Bob Rae MP, Mark Abley, John Allemang, Dr. David Goldbloom, Dr. Prabhat Jha
- † Evening reception and dinner hosted by Dr. David Naylor at U of T President's residence



Sunday 5 May (optional)

- † Class lunches, to be confirmed



Upcoming Events

Rhodes Reception at Massey College
April 10th 2013, 6-8pm; Toronto, Ontario
Please RSVP to: rsvp@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk

Canadian Rhodes Reunion Weekend
May 3rd-5th 2013; Toronto, Ontario
Further details on pages 6 and 7
Register at: <http://canadianrhodesreunion.eventbrite.ca>

Rhodes Trust 110th Anniversary Events
September 18th-20th 2013; Oxford, England
www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/110th

Events in Newfoundland
Please contact Luke Pike for further details
lrgpike@gmail.com

If you are interested in getting involved with the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars or organizing local events, please email:
mschaan@sympatico.ca

**Contributions, tributes, letters,
comments, suggestions and complaints
can be sent to the Editor at**

canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com

Editor

Katie Sheehan

Ontario & Merton 2002

Cover Illustration

Katie Sheehan

All Souls and the Radcliffe Camera

