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Welcome

It is that time of year when sun streams through the windows of Rhodes House, Mr Whippy plies his ice cream trade next to the University Parks, and Rhodes Scholars find any excuse to take their books out onto our lawns.

It is a new day for the Rhodes Scholarships. In five (short? long?) years the language around the Trust has shifted from that of storms and the righting of ships to sunlight and potential. This happy story is that of a community coming together to craft a better future.

Thanks to the efforts of the Rhodes community, the endowment is secured and our geographic horizons expanded, with more than 100 Scholars a year now selected from every corner of the globe. The idea of lifelong fellowship has been reinforced with the Character, Service and Leadership Programme, our alumni online network and publications like this one, as well as the Rhodes House and constituency convenings that bring together Scholars of all ages and other clever people to work on the world’s challenges. Our new partnerships mean that Rhodes Scholars are joined with Schmidt Science Fellows, Atlantic Fellows and from time to time with Schwarzman Scholars in China. We are a fellowship of fellowships of the highest order and aspire to make positive change in the world.

Each issue of our magazine has a broad theme – we have looked at democracy, Rhodes Scholars in research, healthcare, and last year we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women in these pages. This year, we look at social justice – a topic of focus for many Scholars through diverse lenses and routes. There is much wrong in the world and there is also much reason for optimism. We are proud of all the ways Scholars stand up for the world.

As you know, this is my last magazine as Warden, as I step down later this summer. Camilla and I are so grateful to all of you who have made our time here remarkable. Our heartfelt thanks go out to you as event leaders, alumni association organisers, moderators, selectors, donors, committee members, National Secretaries, Trustees, and we thank you for all the ways you have volunteered to breathe fresh air into the Trust in its Second Century. We leave Oxford knowing that the Trust is in very good hands – all of your hands – and of course those of our wonderful new Warden Elizabeth Kiss and her husband Jeff Holzgrafe.

Warm thanks

Charles Conn (Massachusetts & Balliol 1983)
Warden of Rhodes House
New Warden announced – Dr Elizabeth Kiss

The Trustees have selected Elizabeth Kiss (Virginia & Balliol 1983) as the new Warden of Rhodes House. On her appointment, Elizabeth commented: ‘I am thrilled and deeply honoured to be given this opportunity to join Rhodes House at such an exciting time in its history. Now more than ever, we need knowledgeable and courageous leaders from all walks of life who stand up for the world.’ Read a full interview with Dr Kiss from page 18.

New constituencies

During 2017 the Rhodes Trust launched a number of new constituencies around the world. These included East Africa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore (reinstated) and the first two Global Rhodes Scholarships, which marked a historic moment for the Trust. The Global Scholarships will be available to candidates from any country that is not an existing Rhodes jurisdiction. These additions mean that there are now over 100 constituencies around the world. These included East Africa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore (reinstated) and the first two Global Rhodes Scholarships, which marked a historic moment for the Trust. The Global Scholarships will be available to candidates from any country that is not an existing Rhodes jurisdiction. These additions mean that there are now over 100 constituencies around the world.

Ronan Farrow wins Pulitzer

Ronan Farrow (Maryland/OC & Magdalen 2012) won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in public service for The New Yorker along with Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey of The New York Times. They were honoured for their work on sexual assault and the dynamics of gender and power.

The Rhodes Trust has played a central role in bringing exceptional students to Oxford for over a century. Today is a landmark moment for the expansion of the Rhodes Trust’s international community and I look forward to welcoming the new Scholars to our University. Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford

Rhodes Scholar

John McCall MacBain O.C. receives Sheldon Medal

On Thursday 12 October 2017, the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor presented John McCall MacBain O.C., with the Sheldon Medal, in recognition of the McCall MacBain Foundation’s leadership philanthropy to the Rhodes Trust and to Oxford. The Sheldon Medal is the University’s highest mark of distinction, which honours extraordinary levels of support from benefactors and is reserved for those whose contributions have made a significant strategic difference to the life and work of the University. The Medal presentation ceremony was followed by a celebration dinner in the Old Library, Wadham College. Thank you to Rhodes Trustee and Second Century Founder John McCall MacBain O.C. (Québec & Wadham 1980), Dr Marcy McCall MacBain and the McCall MacBain Foundation team for your inspirational support of the Rhodes Trust, and congratulations on receiving the Sheldon Medal!

40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women

The 40th Anniversary was a remarkable event – full of inspiration, laughter and friendship. 147 Rhodes women attended the weekend of celebrations, including four members of the very first class of 1977. All decades of Scholars since then were represented, and 168 Rhodes women represented 54 countries. The theme for the anniversary was ‘I stand up for…’ and Scholars sent in details of the many causes and projects they are passionate about from around the world. Many also took part from afar with our live streaming and social media using #40YearsRhodesWomen. The Warden, Charles Collin, introduced the celebrations with a special 40th Anniversary Film. This was followed by topical panel discussions, including gender, equality, business, politics, law, science and technology. In particular, the Traiblazers panel saw women from the classes of 1977 and 1978 return to speak to Rhodes women on the meaning of the Scholarship and how it has evolved, and their experience of Oxford in the 1970s.

Rhodes Scholar

40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women

Rhodes Scholar

Without different viewpoints and ideas, we will not answer the world’s most complex questions. We are proud that we are able to announce a truly global offer to today’s courageous young leaders all around the world. I am extremely thankful to our supportive donors, who have enabled this expansion and helped us achieve this goal.

Sir John Hood KNZM, Chairman of the Rhodes Trust

The Rhodes Trust has played a central role in bringing exceptional students to Oxford for over a century. Today is a landmark moment for the expansion of the Rhodes Trust’s international community and I look forward to welcoming the new Scholars to our University.

Professor Louise Richardson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford

New National Secretaries

We warmly welcome the following new National Secretaries:

Canada – Richard Pas
Singapore – Professor Andrew Woo
Malaysia – Shahil Ridza bin Ridzuan

We also welcome Rhodes Scholars who are stepping up as Deputy Secretaries, taking on critical outreach roles and offering support to Scholars elect as they transition into the Rhodes experience. Both the Rhodes Trust and the current cohort of Rhodes Scholars offer their warm thanks to those volunteers who help with selection and to all those across the globe who give their time and energy in a multitude of ways.

New National Secretaries

Rhodes Scholar

John McCall MacBain O.C. receives Sheldon Medal

Rhodes Scholar

Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture

2 April 2018 would have been Bram Fischer’s (Orange Free State & New College 1931) 110th Birthday. Every year, we host the annual Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture in celebration of his life and commitment to justice. In 2017, we held the 10th Anniversary Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture, given by Mr Sipho Pityana, businesswoman and civil society activist, who spoke on ‘Can South Africa’s Constitutional Democracy be Sustained?’ This year’s lecture will be held in Michaelmas Term and Scholars and the general public are very welcome to attend.

Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture

Rhodes Scholar
Accessibility in Oxford

Matthew Pierri (Victoria & Lincoln 2016) quickly discovered the many challenges of navigating Oxford by wheelchair. In this thought-provoking piece he looks at societal attitudes, the challenges of beautiful old streets, and starting the Oxford Accessibility Project.

Confronted by heritage buildings and cobbled squares, people with disabilities in Oxford will regularly find themselves stuck between a limestone and a heritage-listed place.

The Radcliffe Camera is my favourite building in Oxford. There are few structures more inspiring than its majestic dome. Like a most protecting its queen, however, a ring of ancient cobblestones circles the Rad Cam and its pristine lawn. This makes it particularly difficult to access for wheelchair users, which somewhat undermines the utility of the recently built ramp at the front.

The Radcliffe Camera offers a tidy metaphor for both Oxford and its approach to disability. A world-class wonder hidden behind gates and walls inaccessible to most, but enriching to those allowed inside. And a well-intentioned accommodation meant to improve access, but undermined by an overlooked exclusionary precondition.

A characteristic shallowness of thought reflected in the triumph of the aesthetic over the functional. Living in Oxford with a Rhodes Scholarship and a disability is a paradox of privilege and discrimination. For every door opened by my newfound status, another is closed because of my disability. Indeed, when I tell people that I study in Oxford, they are shocked – not because of my middling intellect, but because I use a wheelchair. To them, the only thing more impressive than getting into one of the world’s top universities is navigating around it.

Confronted by heritage buildings and cobbled squares, people with disabilities in Oxford will regularly find themselves stuck between a limestone and a heritage-listed place. Dinners and lectures, coffees and dates are frequently rendered unexpectedly off-limits by the curious architecture of this medieval town. Towering spires were not designed for easy access, and floating mezzanines are ingenious feats of space-saving — but not accessible engineering.

More challenging than the built environment, however, is the culture that inhibits it. Living in Oxford with a disability requires persevering against a proudly decentralised bureaucracy and the toxic apathy that fuels it. Issues of disability and accessibility are too often kept out of sight and out of mind. Calls for greater access from an annually revolving cohort of overworked students predictably fall silent with sufficient stalling and hollow promises. These less tangible barriers often form thicker walls than the stone structures that house them.

In Oxford, change feels unwelcome. Progressive ideals battle against the stubborn comfort of stability and a dark blue seal of elitist tradition. As with all social justice issues, it is only a matter of time before the tide turns. The real question is how we can hasten its arrival, and how many people will be left marooned in the meantime.

Oxford has taught me a lot about living with a disability. I have been given a dual education of sorts — one in the classroom and one on the cobbles. I have learnt about how disability is perceived, how exclusion hides in plain sight, and how social constructs entranch invisible but influential power structures. I have thought a lot about accessibility in particular — both physical and philosophical. While I speak only from my own experience, I argue the following three insights resonate across the spectrum of disabilities.

Accessing access as a value, not a luxury

Accessibility as functionality, not compliance

Too often, we reduce accessibility to a checklist devoid of context and application. Yes, physically having ramps, lifts, hearing loops and tactile indicators is important. But these things are important because of their function. They allow real people to socialise, to work, to love, to live. An accessible bathroom is not helpful if the door does not close, a lift is not useful if it sits atop a flight of stairs. These oversights will continue for as long as the narrative around disabled access prioritises being compliant over being functional.

Accessibility as a value, not a luxury is often seen as a luxury rather than a fundamental value. This relegates universal access from non-negotiable to the status of desirable but dispensable. We design buildings and then add ramps, rather than designing buildings that are universally accessible to begin with. The failure to value accessibility in and of itself leads to two pernicious consequences: accessibility becomes contingent on privilege, and it gets forsaken for lesser values.

Status matters in Oxford. For people with disabilities, this often renders accessibility dependent on membership of particular classes or groups. Colleges are a prime example: if a member has access needs, colleges will make accommodations without hesitation. For everyone else, there is apparently no need. The ‘anticipatory duty’ is conveniently displaced by a chicken-and-egg problem: people with disabilities avoid inaccessible venues, and inaccessible venues claim there is no demand for improved access. A perpetual cycle of apathetic discrimination ensues.

Seeing accessibility as a luxury also sets unreasonably high hurdles for implementation. Too often we apply dehumanised, economic cost-benefit analyses to what should be invaluable goods. To justify the cost of a ramp or hearing loop by reference to the number of people who may use it misses the point. Not excluding people from access to public goods because of arbitrary and immutable characteristics should be reason enough.
Accessibility as responsibility, not dehumanised discrimination

We tolerate discrimination against disability where it is mediated by non-human actors. Too often, we allow people with disabilities to be excluded with a shrug of the shoulders, a feeble gesture to the built environment and a sympathetic apology for the futility of the situation. We set aside responsibility for discrimination because that discrimination is perpetrated by a building instead of a human, too readily forgetting that humans build and maintain buildings. In Oxford, the exclusion of living, breathing humans is so often permitted in the name of historical and cultural preservation. That we would be as widely willing to tolerate similarly blatant discrimination against other protected characteristics like race or gender on the basis of history is hard to imagine. It is time we gave disability the same consideration.

The Oxford Accessibility Project

There is much work to do. In late 2016, four friends and I (including three Rhodies) started the Oxford Accessibility Project (OAP) to improve accessibility in Oxford.

We are on a practical mission to map Oxford’s colleges and social venues to produce the first free, online accessibility guide of its kind. With the help of more than 150 volunteers, we are photographing, measuring and detailing the accessibility of key social spaces. Essentially, OAP exists to fill an information gap. Accessibility information is often difficult to find or of low quality. There is no means to compare the accessibility of Oxford colleges and halls other than individually emailing all forty-four. This is inefficient, unfair and unacceptable. Further, where information is available, the labels ‘accessible’ and ‘inaccessible’ are unhelpfully reductive when applied to the infinite variability of disability and, consequently, of accessibility needs.

While we cannot yet make the built environment universally accessible, we can help people with disabilities to navigate it with greater purpose and certainty. More deeply, by fostering a community interested in disability and access, we break down the myths and stereotypes of living with a disability.

The Rhodes community

One constant during my Oxford experience has been the support of the Rhodes community. There is a tangible appetite to engage with issues of disability in a meaningful and sincere way. More than 40 Rhodes Scholars have volunteered with OAP, while the Rhodes House team – in particular, Mary Eaton, Peter Anderson and Charles Conn – have been unwavering sources of guidance and support. The recent renovations to Rhodes House, and the warmth with which Scholars with disabilities are integrated into the Rhodes community, underscore its commitment to inclusion. I hope this encourages more people with disabilities to apply for the Scholarship.

To me, the Rhodes Trust has signalled its commitment to leading improvements in both accessibility and the societal inclusion of people with disabilities. This is a commitment to fighting the world’s fight and to helping those who are more vulnerable. I am proud to see my friends now proactively considering issues of accessibility in their daily lives. I hope this continues long after they leave Oxford.

If we – the Rhodes community – sincerely commit to improving accessibility and securing equality, we will set a powerful example for communities and institutions worldwide. In doing so, we can empower a generation of people with disabilities and make the world a more inclusive and enriched place.
Rethinking Unbiased Science

Grace Huckins (Massachusetts & Merton 2016) completed an MSt in Neuroscience and is currently studying for an MSt in Women’s Studies. In this piece, she reflects on how bringing science into dialogue with social justice has changed her views on the way that science should be conducted.

When I came across the 1995 Nature paper from Dirk Swaab’s lab—entitled pithily, as scientific articles always are, ‘A sex difference in the human brain and its relation to transsexuality’—I assumed immediately that it would form the lynchpin for the first summative assessment of my MSt in Women’s Studies. Having just completed the MSc in Neuroscience, I entered my second degree with the explicit goal of using my scientific background to empower the political objectives I espoused: richer opportunities and better lives for women and gender minorities. In so doing I intended to work against a tradition of scepticism in feminist readings of the human sciences, a position that has partially arisen in response to male neuroscientists and psychologists who draw from their research conclusions that validate archaic social hierarchies. Chief among these researchers is Simon Baron-Cohen of Cambridge, whose characterisation of male brains as ‘systematisers’ and female brains as ‘empathisers’ was taken up by James Damore in his infamous memo of Cambridge, whose characterisation of male brains as ‘systematisers’ and female brains as ‘empathisers’ was taken up by James Damore in his infamous memo

If humans are always political, always cleave to some positions above others, how can they possibly produce impartial work?

particular sexually dimorphic brain region is female-typical in trans women. He presented the results as evidence that transness is inborn and not voluntarily assumed for some unknown purpose, as many transphobes asserted in the 90s— and still assert today in debates around bathroom use. I intended to use this study to carve out space for legitimating transness in philosophical discussions about the social constructedness of gender, until I read Swaab’s follow-up paper, which revealed that the brain region under consideration does not become sexually dimorphic until after puberty. The difference between the brains of cis men and trans women could not be assumed to be inborn; the original paper’s political conclusions were premature. The results of the original study were not therefore useless for my academic purposes, but I now hesitated to cite them. If dismissed Baron-Cohen’s work, should I not also reject Swaab’s, modulated as it clearly was by an equal but opposite political inclination?

My five years of science education provided a clear answer: bias was always to be avoided in scientific endeavours, empirical accuracy to be elevated above all other concerns. Somewhere between Baron-Cohen’s and Swaab’s bodies of research lay impartiality, and reaching the hiring of women as Google engineers. In the context of this history, Swaab’s work was particularly shocking, because its results explicitly subverted the political pretensions. By examining a collection of postmortem brains that had belonged to transgendered men, transgendered women, and transgendered women, Swaab had discovered that a

If humans are always political, always cleave to some positions above others, how can they possibly produce impartial work?

to operate on the false assumption that human agents can somehow attain ideological purity, when in reality the decisions that undergird every step of the scientific endeavour— where to devote one’s time and energy, what methods and data to trust, how to express the implications of one’s results—are made by highly flawed intelligences with no objective guidance. Far better than some spectre of unbiased truth, unincidentally championed by the white men whose privilege allows them to believe that their identities do not modulate their perceptions and beliefs, is the manifest reality of moral intuition, the obvious value of social justice.

Given our erstwhile Enlightenment mindset, science is always powerful; the release of potentially influential work to an audience is an inherently political act. More often than not, however, researchers shift the enormous moral responsibility they bear, bowing to some imagined God of pure truth and rationality. To work toward truth is

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Seeing Diplomacy through Young Eyes: The Importance of Building Personal Understandings

Mason Ji (Washington & St Antony’s 2016) recalls being part of a Republic of Seychelles delegation at the United Nations as a teenager.

W ask: how old are you? This was often the first question I was asked while working at the United Nations. I started working there when I was 18 years old, as an adviser on the Republic of Seychelles delegation. At the UN, I mainly worked in the General Assembly, specifically in the Main Committees, to work on draft resolution (treaties) debates on a wide range of issues. For a bright-eyed 18-year-old, barely an adult and barely old enough to be on a delegation, there was no better way to get exposure. I will admit, it was not easy. Our delegation was very small. For us, it was all hands on deck, even for a delegation, there was no better way to get exposure. It was a mutually enforcing process – busy, but fulfilling. It was not an easy job. My work involved being part of a Republic of Seychelles delegation. At the UN, I mainly worked in the General Assembly, specifically in the Main Committees, to work on draft resolution (treaties) debates on a wide range of issues. For a bright-eyed 18-year-old, barely an adult and barely old enough to be on a delegation, there was no better way to get exposure.

I admit, it was not easy. Our delegation was very small. For us, it was all hands on deck, even for a delegate. At the UN, my principal tasks were to participate in the General Assembly Committees, which tackle different issues, ranging from security to sustainable finance. It was in these Committees that draft resolutions were submitted, edited, debated, and ultimately voted upon to recommend to the plenary debate. These Committees were action-packed – they were where those lively discussions occurred, both formally and informally. Especially ahead of the yearly General Assembly session, there was always a lot of work to be done – a great way to see how international decision-making happens in real time. In practice, it meant constantly shuttling between meetings on widely different subjects – hectic, but fulfilling.

It was not an easy job. My work focused on the First Committee, Second Committee, and Third Committee, on issues of disarmament and international security, on economics and finance, and on social, humanitarian, and cultural matters. In addition, I also attended meetings in the Fourth and Sixth Committees on Special Political Issues and Law, as well as the occasional bilateral negotiation and a smattering of other UN body meetings. I quickly found myself in over my head – an unenviable position. One of the first meetings I attended was a debate on a draft resolution on eliminating nuclear weapons, and I soon found myself lost in the details. For me, there was a steep learning curve in terms of knowledge acquisition.

In many ways, the UN shaped my academic experience. At Yale, I honed my coursework to focus on nuclear disarmament, on climate change, and on human rights (corresponding to each of the Committees I worked on). I tried to absorb as much as possible. Over time, as I learned more, I became more effective at the UN, and as I saw more at the UN, I applied those observations back to my academic work.

It was a mutually enforcing process – busy, but fulfilling. Even though I was young and inexperienced, I felt welcomed. The other members of my delegation were wonderful people and incredibly supportive in helping me get up to speed. Without them, learning the ropes of the General Assembly would have been difficult. The diplomats from other delegations also went above and beyond their call of duty to include a lost kid like myself; their actions made a big difference for me.

Over time, I grew, matured, and got to know the other diplomats as people beyond their negotiations rooms. My English and Chinese bilingualism came in handy in hallway discussions. I was surprised at how much more diplomats were willing to talk about in their native language. This was what allowed me to take a stab at mediation, helping me realise that change happens in real time, and making diplomacy come to life for me.

My fondest memories were of sharing meals with others in the UN cafeteria and cafes, where we talked not about politics or international relations, but about family and about the things we cared about. I learned about different cultures and worldviews, and most importantly, about the reasoning behind those unique views and ideas. Getting to know and respect others outside the negotiations context changed everything for me – I started to pick up deeper nuances in their policy statements and better understand where they were coming from. I started to put myself in their shoes. Personal stories and personal narratives, I realised, matter for diplomacy. As a small delegation, Seychelles often has to pick and choose which meetings to send delegates to, which necessarily means that it has to forego other meetings. Such is the reality for small delegations. Such is the reality for small delegations. Such is the reality for small delegations. Such is the reality for small delegations. Such is the reality for small delegations.

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Back on the RAILs

Logan Graham (British Columbia & Balliol 2015) takes us through the establishment of RAIL – the Rhodes Artificial Intelligence Lab – telling us what it is currently involved in, and what it hopes to achieve in the future.

One frigid October evening, my roommate Brody Foy (Queensland & New College 2015) and I took a routine Oxford walk to explore ideas we’d discovered during our DPhils. He, a computational biologist, and myself, a machine learning researcher, felt like we weren’t seeing what our research could actually do for the world. Headlines proclaimed artificial intelligence would ‘save the world’ and ‘progress humanity’. On the ground, reality left much to be desired.

In response, we started RAIL, the Rhodes Artificial Intelligence Lab. We believed that by actually building technology and applying it to social challenges we would be able to predict its future. RAIL is simple: the global Rhodes community brings us projects that have a tangible and positive effect on the world. They send us their data and we assemble teams of six scholars, half engineers’ (DPhil and MSc students in machine learning, statistics, computer science, economics, and math) and half ‘strategists’ with domain expertise (medical doctors for health projects, policy students in public sector work, consultants and others); a phenomenal project manager leads. They sprint for eight weeks during the Oxford term, going from problem statement to final package of code.

Since beginning in January 2017, several dozen students have been a part of 12 projects tackling important issues all over the world. RAILers have built systems to predict diabetes in South Africa; prioritise high-need homeless individuals in New York City; find patterns that make clean technology startups successful; automatically suggest healthcare options in Kenya; assemble custom learning materials for job seekers in South Asia; identify student learning patterns with an innovative music-based edtech startup; predict renewable energy prices in the UK; and generate new drug targets in tuberculosis. We’ve been able to outperform doctor benchmarks in predicting paediatric sleep apnea in the United States, and performed as well as linguists at translating unreadable ancient Greek with the Oxford Faculty of Classics, and both of these projects have turned into research papers.

We’ve found, especially in the case of working with governments, that our biggest impact is sometimes just making them comfortable with using AI and teaching them as we go. As I write, teams are working with Google to spot hostile discussion online, and developing a research strategy on the future of automation and labour for the UK government’s Future of Work Commission. After 12 projects, RAIL has developed a culture of tenacity: RAILers believe in leading and learning by doing. This has meant late-night pizza-fuelled hackathons working on supercomputing clusters across the world, early morning knowledge-sharing over croissants, and cross-continental partner Skype meetings. We often see RAIL strategists completing online courses in deep learning and data science alongside their projects and degrees. RAIL has expanded to run classes and talks for the Rhodes community – with Brody Foy leading ‘Machine Learning 101’ classes, James Pavur (Georgia & Wolfson 2017) lecturing on cybersecurity and AI, and former Google global public policy lead Tim Hwang discussing the public sphere of AI.

We’ve also heard stories of several Scholars pursuing DPhil or MPhil research in AI bolstered by the RAIL experience – notably Jeff Ding (Iowa & Magdalen 2016) and Jade Leung (New Zealand & Linacre 2016) who have become experts in AI in China and in AI governance. Jade, Jeff, and Andrew Kaplan (New York & St John’s 2016) are the current and exceptional leaders of RAIL, bringing a strong focus on the public reckoning with AI.

The hard part about solving problems with AI isn’t dangerous. But when you find the right problem, and you have the right people, meaningful change can be made. It just so happens that young scholars, data, code, nuanced problem solving, and computing power are plentiful today. We are at an inflection point in our society’s relationship with intelligent machines. Both strategists and engineers have a duty: strategists need to be technologically literate to prevent misuse and unintended consequences; engineers need to understand the social implications of the technology they create. A core belief at RAIL is that to do this we need to put the technology in the hands of people who will be leading change and using power to positively improve the world. Yet we also need them to ask the hard questions: what is worth doing with this technology? What outcomes are you not predicting?

We are fundamentally optimistic. There is a world of meaningful problems that AI can solve. RAILers are a new cohort – the likes of which wasn’t possible until now – that will be leading the change, through code, campaigning, and the content of their character.
An Interview with… Elizabeth Kiss

Elizabeth Kiss (Virginia & Balliol 1983) is the new Warden of Rhodes House and will be taking over the reins in August 2018.

What is your favourite part of Oxford and what will it be like to be back in the city of dreaming spires?

The sheer beauty of the place on a quiet morning, the play of light and shadow on those glorious honey-coloured spires – there’s nothing like it anywhere else. I have such fond memories of walking through Port Meadow and the University Parks, enjoying the riot of spring colour in college gardens and wrestling with big questions over a pub lunch, all the while knowing you are following in the footsteps of scholars across the centuries. I look forward to revisiting these cherished spots and discovering new ones. I may even screw up the courage to get back on the river and try to learn to scull.

What do you see as some of your early priorities when you start as Warden?

I am joining the Rhodes Trust team at a very exciting time. As well as getting to know everyone and familiarising myself with the annual calendar of activities and events, I am particularly looking forward to getting to know the current Scholars-in-residence – what their research areas and passion projects are, and how they are hoping to serve local and global communities. This year the Trust has already announced the addition of several constituency-based Scholarships as well as two innovative Global Scholarships, providing students anywhere in the world with the opportunity to apply. The ultimate goal is for the Rhodes to become a truly global Scholarship and I am excited to pursue further expansion opportunities. The diversity of experiences, backgrounds and voices within our community is one of our greatest strengths.

Liberal arts colleges in the US are often perceived as being elitist and lacking racial, cultural and political diversity. How did Agnes Scott College come to be labelled as one of the ‘most diversified’ institutions in the country under your leadership?

I think that’s an outdated perception. Even the most elite colleges have become quite diverse, and as a sector small private colleges in the US enroll a higher percentage of low-income, first-generation students and students of colour than large public institutions – and have better

Tell us about your early life – where were you born?

I was born in 1961 in an immigrant neighbourhood in New York City. My parents and two older sisters came to the US as refugees after the 1956 Hungarian revolution, so my first language was Hungarian. I learned English when I started kindergarten.

How has this shaped who you are?

Being the ‘American kid’ in a family of refugees and political prisoners (my father was imprisoned in Hungary by both the Nazi and communist regimes) and growing up bilingual in a multicultural neighbourhood gave me experience from an early age of straddling different worlds. My best friends in the first grade were a diverse bunch, including a girl from Japan and a boy from the Dominican Republic. And my sisters, who were 11 and 14 years older, brought 60s music and activism into our lives. So it was a rich and wonderful mix and sparked my interest in ethics, politics and human rights.

You became the first female Rhodes Scholar to be appointed from your university, Davidson College. What was your Rhodes experience like?

My selection was a symbolic moment for Davidson, which had admitted women only a decade earlier. So there was a lovely and quite overwhelming response from the wider Davidson community. Going to Oxford was an extraordinary experience. I had the privilege of being exposed to a vibrant and collegial group of world-class scholars working on important normative questions, people like Amartya Sen, G.A. Cohen, Ronald Dworkin, Alan Ryan and Derek Parfit. It was an intellectual feast that continues to inspire me. Oxford gave me a global group of friends in many different fields – a far more diverse network than I would have developed in a US graduate program. It has been a joy to watch their distinguished careers unfold. I had many memorable experiences, from earning my blades as a Balliol rower, to trekking in Nepal with seven other students, to visiting over a dozen gothic cathedrals. And best of all, I met my Aussie husband, Jeff Holzgrefe!
graduation rates for these students. Agnes Scott received the ‘most diversified’ label because of the demographic changes we’ve achieved over the past two decades, the result of intentional efforts to recruit a more diverse student body. Today, no racial or ethnic group is in the majority among our students, with one-third being African-American, one-third white, and Hispanics, Asians and international students each representing around one-tenth. It creates an extraordinarily vibrant learning environment.

What has changed most in (global) higher education in the last five to ten years?
It’s been such a dynamic period that it’s hard to pick just one thing. Retrenchment and unfunded government mandates in the wake of the global financial crisis, combined with stagnant middle-class incomes in many developed economies, has put intense pressure on higher education’s business model. While MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) mania has subsided – we hear fewer predictions of the imminent demise of universities – digital technology is reshaping teaching, learning and research. Collaboration across disciplines is breaking down silos and spurring innovation. We’ve seen a resurgence of campus activism around issues of race and inclusion, as well as attacks on higher education from the right. The influx of international students, particularly from China and India, has globalised university campuses, though there are worrying signs that anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies may reverse this trend. And social media has quickened the pace of communications to warp speed. It’s an exciting time!

If you weren’t focused on the higher education sector, what do you think you would be doing instead?
I went to Oxford intending to be a human rights activist, and have since become deeply interested in social entrepreneurship focused on climate change and the empowerment of girls and women. So I would be keen to work on these issues. I also love interviewing people and moderating discussions, so perhaps I could try creating an interview show. And as an avid hiker, I’ve fantasised about retooling as a park ranger – perhaps I’ll do that someday on a volunteer basis after I retire.

Do you live by any motto or philosophy?
The Golden Rule, which appears in all the major global religions, is a profound distillation of humanity’s moral wisdom. I also often think about the Rotary Four-Way Test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? And as my colleagues will attest, I’m fond of invoking the “Six O’clock News test” – if you wouldn’t want an action you’re contemplating to appear on the news, don’t do it.

What are you most looking forward to during your first six months at Rhodes House?
As I walk through the rotunda, a heap of memories come flooding back, just as they did when I returned last year for the 40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women. What made that event so special was the sense of a dynamic, talented and committed community. That is what I am excited to be able to focus on when I start – getting to know the community of current and alumni Scholars, the staff, the wider Oxford network. It will be a terrific adventure and I look forward to meeting many readers of this magazine over the coming years.

As I walk through the rotunda, a heap of memories come flooding back

Some of these questions/answers were published in Times Higher Education on 8 March 2018.
Music was not just about sound. It never had been. Music, to me, also was, and is, about the body.
Camilla Borg, Charles Conn’s partner and Director of Special Projects, brought her focus on holistic wellness to help successive Rhodes Scholar cohorts cope better with the stresses that can emerge during study at Oxford. She organised the yoga classes that now happen several times each week and which are enthusiastically attended by Scholars, from beginners to advanced yogis. Camilla has also liaised with Oxford faculty and organised 8-week mindfulness courses which are run for Rhodes Scholars each year. They teach the basics of this restorative practice and give the Scholars a strong basis for greater awareness of their mental wellbeing. In addition to introducing wellness practices at Rhodes House, Camilla has tirelessly partnered with Charles for fundraising, outreach and alumni trips around the world. In many circumstances she was able to reach wider audiences than the Warden and double our impact. Camilla has also organised the new portraits for Milner Hall, helping to diversify the face of Rhodes House to the external world.

Sangu Delle is a volunteer who has shown a great deal of energy, tenacity, and hard work on behalf of the Rhodes Trust in West Africa. He was introducing the team to ex-Principals and potential donors and volunteering for multiple tasks including outreach work across Africa. He quickly became the ‘go-to’ person, alongside the new National Secretary, Ike Chioke. Rather than being daunted by the 500 applications for one Scholarship, Sangu took the lead on the laborious application screening process, and then also gave his time to serve on the final selection committee. Sangu demonstrates extraordinary energy and has done all of this with no desire for recognition and no compensation or expense recovery at all. He exhibits the best qualities of a Rhodes Scholar, and surely would have been one if the Rhodes Scholarship for West Africa had existed ten years ago.

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Quiet Service to the Rhodes Community

In this article we thank Camilla Borg for her tremendous efforts on behalf of the Scholar community during her years at the Rhodes Trust.

When Charles and Camilla came to Rhodes House five years ago, the level of activity to be undertaken was quickly obvious to both of them. There was a strong focus on alumni engagement, raising funds to secure the Scholarships, building new strategic partnerships and the new geographic expansions. Camilla was an integral part of ensuring these elements were successful and transformative. Her creative eye has also assisted work led by the Communications team to refresh the Trust’s look and feel in our external representations, including a refreshed logo and related materials. Early in her time in Oxford, Camilla also noticed that there were many events focused on activity between the ears, but not much aimed at the full development of Rhodes Scholars as people. Since then, she has led a quiet revolution to make Rhodes House a centre for balanced and holistic wellbeing for the Scholars, who suffer all the modern stresses. She has championed mindfulness, and there is now an annual 8-week course taught in Rhodes House that covers the basics of this restorative practice. She has brought yoga to the House, and it now happens several times each week and is enthusiastically attended by Scholars, from beginners to advanced yogis. The smell of incense drifts down corridors and sometimes on a sunny day the lawns are full of downward dogs. Mind and body have also been joined in free dance sessions, that would perhaps not have been approved of during the more strictly ballroom dancing days of Warden Williams! Camilla has also encouraged Scholar-focused poetry and arts evenings that have made Rhodes House a more creative space. This movement toward mindfulness and balance has found its way into our Character, Service and Leadership Programme as well.

This notion of balance now appears also on the walls of Rhodes House. Camilla has spearheaded the project to introduce many more women Scholars and those of colour into the selection of oil paintings in Milner Hall. These new portraits – over a dozen in total – add both representative impact and also a greater vibrancy and modernity to the space. The first female portrait unveiled was Lucy Banda-Sichone (Zambia & Somerville 1978) who was an influential Zambian human rights activist. Sishuwa Sishuwa, a Zambian Rhodes Scholar from the class of 2010 who attended the event, hailed the impact of Sichone’s work on his life. “Lucy was not an imposing figure, but she had an imposing mind. As a Zambian, I feel the gap left by Lucy Banda-Sichone to this day and her life is a challenge to my own. Lucy’s was a life lived well and in the service of others. It was as if she knew that her life would be short and that she had to do a lot in the few years she was given and make every moment count. I regard Lucy’s work as my heritage”. The most recent is Chrystia Freeland (Prairies & St Antony’s 1991), the Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Have you tried mindfulness?

Mindfulness is very much in vogue, but of course its origins stretch back centuries in a variety of spiritual and meditative traditions. Many Oxford students find it helps them discover a calmer and more focused mental state for their work in a stressful world. Often people lose enthusiasm for the practice as they set the bar too high – aiming for 30 minutes of meditation immediately and then worrying about their mind wandering. You wouldn’t run a marathon straight away so don’t expect your brain to be able to immediately either:

- Sit comfortably and focus on the cycle of your breath – not on the chatter of your thoughts
- Spend several minutes a day doing nothing at all (laugh for all those over-achievers!)•
- Do a mini meditation each time you boil the kettle
- Get in touch with your senses by noticing sounds and smells around you
Creative Corner
Photographs taken by members of the Rhodes community

By Bernard Soubry (Maritimes & Hertford 2015)

Watchful eye and Lady in waiting by Alexa Yakubovich (Prairies & Green Templeton 2015)

By Jessica Phillips (Ontario & Merton 2016)
Performing Justice

Katherine Clifton (Hawaii & Magdalen 2016) is studying Public Policy. In her undergraduate degree, she studied English literature and theatre. Here, she considers the intersection of theatre and politics.

As an active participant in school and community plays, I grew up believing that theatre could and should play an essential role in society. It seemed to me to have the potential to be one of the key institutions of a functioning democracy, in the same rank as parliaments and schools. Theatre, at its historical roots, served a vital social and political function. Ancient Greek theatre, seen and envisaged as entirely part of everyday life, was a ritual expression of the existence of the community deeply engaged with it. Attendance was mandatory for men, and those who were worse off would have their earnings reimbursed by the state for a day spent at the theatre. The power of the ancient Greek amphitheatres lies in their brilliant construction. The Greeks built a space for sound, for resonance, for deeper listening where 5,000 people could hear the voice of just one. Poets, composers, and choreographers brought forward voices not heard in the senate; the name of most surviving Greek tragedies is that of a woman, child, foreigner, or slave. This abridged history goes to show that performance art is a necessary human act, not just about passing time and not just to reflect – and help us reflect on – our society, but in some ways to constitute society. The theatre. The power of the ancient Greek theatre, seen and envisaged as entirely part of everyday life, was a ritual expression of the existence of the community deeply engaged with it. Attendance was mandatory for men, and those who were worse off would have their earnings reimbursed by the state for a day spent at the theatre. The power of the ancient Greek amphitheatres lies in their brilliant construction. The Greeks built a space for sound, for resonance, for deeper listening where 5,000 people could hear the voice of just one. Poets, composers, and choreographers brought forward voices not heard in the senate; the name of most surviving Greek tragedies is that of a woman, child, foreigner, or slave. This abridged history goes to show that performance art is a necessary human act, not just about passing time and not just to reflect – and help us reflect on – our society, but in some ways to constitute society.

The Greeks built a space for sound, for resonance, for deeper listening where 5,000 people could hear the voice of just one.

I have made it my mission to test the tenacity of these historical origins while living and travelling abroad. Having spent a year teaching and working with Romani communities before going to college in 2011, I returned to Serbia in 2015, after graduating to create a piece of documentary theatre that explored the longstanding ethnic tensions between the Roma and the Serbs. I interviewed dozens of Romani and Serb people to interrogate this centuries-old clash in a bid to compile these varied voices so as to create an image of differences alongside the possibility of common humanity. The hope was to enable and empower my audience to see everyone we encounter as individuals. This second year in Serbia coincided with the mass influx of refugees, prompting me first to join aid efforts in Belgrade and at camps on the border and then to apply for Oxford’s MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. In my dissertation, I examined theatre and poetry created by Syrian refugees as a means of translating and addressing trauma through art. Last summer, I devised a theatre therapy kit in Amman for refugee and Jordanian youth. With refugee students I tutor in Oxford, I have continued to explore ways to embolden students through the arts and humanities to overcome the fear and paranoia about refugees, partly attributable to a poverty of imagination, imbued in public discourse. We need to cultivate empathy and reflect on our identities – and especially in a time where we have no less a need to cultivate empathy and reflect on our identities – and especially in a time where we have no less a need to cultivate empathy and reflect on our identities – and especially in a time where we have no less a need to cultivate empathy and reflect on our identities – but in which myriad technologies bombard and distract us – theatre creates an exceptional platform where value comes from a shared experience rather than the sharing of the experience. I think it is necessary for theatre to inhabit spaces of crisis, conflict, and disagreement because it calls for our complete attention and requires us to listen and imagine, which few things do in this day and age. To challenge intractable injustices, we must harness a poetic framework that gives way to unheard voices.

London and Stratford. This trip, along with a month spent interning for an improv troupe at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2015, motivated me to pursue graduate school in the UK. Theatre-going remains my main and most life-affirming hobby in the UK, and I have tried to share this activity as much as possible by encouraging friends and classmates to join me for shows in Oxford, London, and Stratford. I spent last Saturday in London for a double feature at the National Theatre and Barbican, and sensed an incoming nostalgia for the phenomenal shows that will soon be out of reach as I say goodbye to Oxford in late summer. However, there is still lots to do and see before then. This Trinity, Cameron Platt (California & New College 2016) and I are staging a reading of Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream in the Rhodes House garden with Scholars, most of whom have never acted before, and the following week I will play Antigone in Sophocles’ Oedipus at Colonus, directed and translated by a 90-year-old classicist. Moreover, I am eager to get involved in theatre communities wherever life leads me as a spectator, director, and performer. When a production succeeds in moving audience members to empathise with characters and expand their perspectives, it renews my sense of hope about the possibilities for change in a world where change is sorely needed. The essence of theatre is the simple act of trying to imagine how others experience the world. It is a public process that has a social meaning and function – an ideal place for compelling stories about the complexities of the world. Theatre is uniquely suited for this role as a social arbiter as it asks audiences to listen in real time with no possibility of pausing or rewinding, muting or rewinding. Or, for that matter, posting and retweeting; especially in a time where we have no less a need to cultivate empathy and reflect on our identities – and especially in a time where we have no less a need to cultivate empathy and reflect on our identities – but in which myriad technologies bombard and distract us – theatre creates an exceptional platform where value comes from a shared experience rather than the sharing of the experience. I think it is necessary for theatre to inhabit spaces of crisis, conflict, and disagreement because it calls for our complete attention and requires us to listen and imagine, which few things do in this day and age. To challenge intractable injustices, we must harness a poetic framework that gives way to unheard voices.
Oxford – Clive and Me

There are not many cases of two brothers both becoming Rhodes Scholars, but one outstanding example is Tony and Clive van Ryneveld (Diocesan College, Rondebosch & Trinity 1946) and (Diocesan College, Rondebosch & University 1947). Clive sadly died earlier this year and in this moving piece Tony recalls their time at Oxford and remembers his brother’s remarkable life.

I came up to Oxford in September 1946, as a Rhodes Scholar from Bishops (formally Diocesan College) in Cape Town, and my brother Clive, also a Scholar from Bishops, arrived a year later in 1947.

I had served in the South African Air Force near the end of the Second World War, and in 1946 I guess perhaps over 80% of the Scholars were ex-servicemen, creating a more mature atmosphere at Oxford than had been the normal scene. Nonetheless a wonderful opportunity for mixing with, and learning from, Scholars from around the world – and having interesting fun.

I was lucky enough to get into the rugby side in late 1946, led by a fine man and captain, Ossie Newton-Thompson (Cape Province & Trinity 1940). We had a strong side with an unbeaten record for the term, including a win over Cambridge (points for 312, and points against 37). The experience was one of the highlights of my time at Oxford. Winning of course had its satisfaction, but the amateur spirit in which the game was played in those days made it a real pleasure.

Clive, a bit more than two years younger than me, came up a year later. Until then, he had been my young brother, relatively distant, but at Oxford (although at different colleges – I at Trinity and he at Univ), we soon developed a close, brotherly relationship. This was particularly cemented by both of us being selected for the Oxford rugby side in the 1947 season and again in 1948. Thrown in was a tour for both of us in 1948 (for a combined Oxford/Cambridge team) to the Argentine. We won all our matches there, and we met Peron, but sadly not the famous Evita. Coming from far-away South Africa to Oxford and England was initially overwhelming. It took a bit of time to get over some inferiority complex, but I was helped by getting some feeling of standing out of playing for the rugby side. I feel sure that Clive would have had a similar experience, perhaps with more difficulty as he was younger and had not been caught up in the war.

Over the initial stages, Oxford was a wonderful experience for both of us. Thanks to Cecil John Rhodes.

The many obituaries that have been written following Clive’s death have all singled him out as an outstanding all-rounder – not only an outstanding all-round sportsman, but a man of many parts. At school, he was captain of cricket, captain of rugby, leading athlete with some school records, and winner of the under-19 provincial tennis tournament. He was also Head of School and top of his class academically.

At Oxford, he got his rugby blue, and captained the Oxford cricket side. He went on to play rugby for England and eventually to captain the South African cricket side. He was not only his success that was praised. It was the way he played the games, in true sporting spirit. As Mike Atherton, chief cricket correspondent of The Times, said of Clive and Roger Bannister: ‘Both stand as mighty testament to a time when it was possible to excel at the highest level of sport and remain engaged in a broader intellectual life, and they stand as a vivid demonstration of how much sport has lost in that gradual drift towards narrow-focused professionalism. How many future sportsmen will be able to boast of the achievements, on and off the field, of men such as these, or reflect on a life lived in the round?’

Clive returned to Cape Town in 1951, with a law degree, and practised as an advocate at the Bar. He became a Member of Parliament, for the Progressive Party, with a strong non-racial policy basis. However, in 1961, at the general election, he lost his seat. Clive returned to the Bar, but struggled to get sufficient briefs, and so moved to the world of Finance in the Hill Samuel organisation. He retained his great interest in cricket, and (inter alia) became Chairman of the John Passmore Trust, promoting cricket for the black community.

An outstanding all-rounder – not only an outstanding all-round sportsman, but a man of many parts.
Loving Place and People in Patagonia

A poem hanging in the lodge at Chile’s Patagonia National Park asks readers to ‘feel and speak the astonishing beauty of things’. This was, and remains, the task of eleven Rhodes Scholars who spent early April backpacking through the 640,000 acres of glacier, grassland, and forest that comprise Chile’s newest national park, in the country’s Aysén region. Hannah Carrese (Colorado & St Antony’s 2017) takes up the story.

Our trip was conceived by Ben Wilcox (Illinois & Exeter 2013) and Tom Barron (Colorado & Balliol 1974). Ben planned the trip and, with Mauro Inastroza, served as our guide. Tom covered the cost of our ten days in Patagonia. The trip was in this sense a work of philanthropy and philotropy, love of people and love of land. It was a product of these loves in another sense too: the national park we hiked through was donated to Chile by Kris McDivitt and Doug Tompkins, known for their work with the outdoor companies Patagonia and North Face. They began conserving land in Patagonia in the belief that there isn’t enough beauty in the world, and that ‘re-wilding’ this land was good for this place, for its people, for all people.

We came to Patagonia during a period of transition. It was the cusp of fall. We spent a day hiking, snow dropping onto our packs, past intermittent rainbows, and on to lengas (Chilean beeches), their economy sustained by visitors like us rather than sheep. In the town of Cochrane, on the southwestern edge of the park, we spoke with environmental activists, business owners, and a communist garlic vendor about different ways of attending to the land. How can the old gaucho, or cowboy, knowledge be made relevant in the new park? That turning inward will remain with us as we pivot toward our public and private lives in Oxford and after.

Aysén is Chile’s least populated region and is as remote from other large mammals as it is from humans – though we saw plenty of llama-like guanacos grazing in the park and spent an hour enraptured by a huemul, a rare Andean deer. Bird life was more abundant: black-necked swans, flamingos, condors.

Night were milky with stars: we lay on glacier-deposited gravel and watched the Magellanic Clouds from the place where they gained their name. Hiking up alluvial fans toward glaciers hanging from the cordilleras, we happily crossed rivers that wet our boots for the day and then plunged into the same streams, breathtaking in many senses, as evening fell. Through conversations and presentations on the trail we pondered wilderness and the barriers, conceptual and physical, preventing access to it. We talked over wilderness and the barriers, conceptual and physical, preventing access to it. We talked over wilderness medicine and the tons of carbon dioxide emitted by our flights to Chile. We shared poems and porridge.

There’s a long, if sometimes controversial, history of foreigners coming from the United Kingdom to Patagonia and working to protect it – Cochrane is named for a Welsh earl who fought for Chile’s independence. From Lord Cochrane to the Tompkinses and Barron: loving places, like loving people – philotropy and philanthropy – means taking responsibility for them. Gabriela Mistral writes of Patagonia:

“never was green Gaia
so white and angelic
or so nourishing,
and mysterious and unspeaking."

We were nourished in Patagonia. From this we take responsibility for helping to preserve and share the astonishing, mysterious beauty we knew there.
Inaugural Class of Schmidt Science Fellows

The Schmidt Science Fellows Program is a partnership between Eric and Wendy Schmidt and the Rhodes Trust. This unique postdoctoral scheme focuses on scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research and aims to provide the next generation of leaders and innovators with the tools and opportunities to drive world-changing advances across the sciences and society. There are fourteen members of the inaugural class.

The next frontiers of scientific discovery will be pioneered by those who can transcend the traditional boundaries of science, using techniques from multiple scientific fields to tackle society’s longstanding challenges. The first class of Schmidt Science Fellows have the intelligence, inspiration, and ambition to be leaders in science and society. We at Schmidt Futures look forward to helping them realise that potential. 3

Karl Barber (Yale University)

Drawing upon backgrounds in chemical engineering and biology, Karl’s planned research involves the use of microfluidics and personalised human peptide microarrays, with the promise of revolutionising personalised medicine and making it scalable and cost-effective.

Abigail Groff (Harvard University)

Abigail is pursuing the study of unique characteristics in certain cells that can provide valuable insights for early embryonic development and the successful screening of in vitro fertilized human embryos, and will then extend that work to larger sets of chemical data. This research holds the promise of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of IVF treatment.

Hallie Holmes (University of Washington)

Hallie is a committed conservationist, and plans to pursue a career that draws upon expertise in microfluidics and microfabrication to create essential tools that can help detect poaching and protect global biodiversity.

The Rhodes Trust is delighted to be a partner in the Schmidt Science Fellows Program, beginning at the University of Oxford in July 2018. In addition to the postdoctoral placement, Schmidt Fellows will also receive five weeks of high-level courses and experiential workshops to explore a diverse range of scientific advances, conversations with some of the world’s pre-eminent scientific and societal leaders, along with immersive leadership experiences that will help them build support for their future work. These weeks will be hosted by several of the world’s leading universities who have partnered with the Schmidt Science Fellows Program.

Through an initial commitment of at least $25 million for the first three years, this innovative fellowship programme is the beginning of a broader $100 million effort by Eric and Wendy Schmidt to promote scientific leadership and interdisciplinary research over the next decade and beyond.

The Schmidt Science Fellows will be placed in a new research environment immediately following the completion of their doctoral studies, in order to encourage an interdisciplinary scientific mindset. By working in a prestigious research lab outside of their existing area of expertise, each Schmidt Science Fellow will be exposed to new science and technology, novel ways of thinking, and a broader network of colleagues who can help guide their success as leaders.

A selection of profiles

Karl Barber (Yale University)

With expertise in synthetic biology, bioengineering, biotechnology and microbiology, Fahim has invented a platform and related technologies to record interactions in the genomic DNA of living cells. He now proposes to adapt this path-breaking work to map neural activity and connections in the brain.

Xiwen Gong (University of Toronto)

Xiwen plans to apply machine learning and existing expertise in photonics and other areas to the complex problem of quantum dot composition, advancing the fields of quantum computing and optical quantum communications.

Fahim Farzadfard (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Fahim has applied expertise in microfluidics and microfabrication to create essential tools that can help detect poaching and protect global biodiversity.

Hallie Holmes (University of Washington)

Hallie is a committed conservationist, and plans to pursue a career that draws upon expertise in microfluidics and microfabrication to create essential tools that can help detect poaching and protect global biodiversity.

Jielai Zhang (University of Toronto)

Jielai plans to undertake an ambitious course of research that takes learnings from techniques in astronomy and applies them to health care. Building on her completed work in imaging galaxies more than 10,000 times dimmer than the moonless night sky, she now wants to leverage her engineering and data skills and use them to improve medical imaging techniques, uncovering the physiological causes of certain diseases.

Ryan Truby (Harvard University)

The inventor of the ‘Octobot’ – the world’s first robot comprised entirely of soft materials and that operates autonomously – Ryan wants to advance the development of additional soft robots, potentially transforming the field of robotics. He aims to combine bioengineering, advanced materials science, classic robotics, and machine learning to blur the lines between materials and machines.

Rhodes Scholar

The Rhodes Scholar – the world’s first student to be sponsored by a university – carries the highest honour in British education and is a testimonial to the power of education to transform lives, societies, and the world. The Rhodes Trust is delighted to be a partner in the Schmidt Science Fellows Program, beginning at the University of Oxford in July 2018.

In addition to the postdoctoral placement, Schmidt Science Fellows will also receive five weeks of high-level courses and experiential workshops to explore a diverse range of scientific advances, conversations with some of the world’s pre-eminent scientific and societal leaders, along with immersive leadership experiences that will help them build support for their future work. These weeks will be hosted by several of the world’s leading universities who have partnered with the Schmidt Science Fellows Program, beginning at the University of Oxford in July 2018.

In addition to the universities that will host Schmidt Science Fellows over the course of the programme, numerous other leading research universities around the world are also participating by identifying the exceptional candidates who are Schmidt Science Fellows and hosting them in a variety of cutting-edge research laboratories for their postdoctoral year.
From Oxford to Beijing and Back

‘Rhodes East’ That is how The New Yorker described the vision for the Schwarzman Scholars programme in 2013. Fast forward five years and the Rhodes Trust and Schwarzman Scholars have developed close ties and an ongoing collaboration.

Some of the best conversations never end

Before Schwarzman’s Beijing-based programme officially launched in 2016, its founder Stephen A. Schwarzman helped fund the establishment of Rhodes Scholarships in China. Later this year, the two organisations will hold a joint forum in Oxford on Ethical Leadership and Public Service. And for the past two years, teams of Rhodes Scholars have been traveling to Schwarzman College, at Tsinghua University in Beijing, to facilitate an ongoing series of workshops adapted from the Character, Service, and Public Leadership Programme (CSLP) at Rhodes House.

Beth Vale
(S Andrew’s College, Grahamstown & Linacre 2012)

Towards the end of my time in Oxford, I attended the first Ethical Leadership Retreat at Rhodes House. Having experienced my fair share of leadership workshops, I braced myself for two days of group activities on ‘making meaningful change’ and ‘maximising productivity’ accompanied by a growing silence about the doubts, sacrifices and ethical quandaries that face young leaders.

But the Rhodes retreat was different. Facilitated by Rhodes alumni, and drawing on the writings of activists, artists, politicians, academics, and more, the workshops encouraged deep listening across the times, places and disciplines of the texts we engaged with, and also between Scholars. Soon, our own stories became the primary material for discussing conceptions of ‘value’ and ‘purpose’ in life. When conversations were at their best, we found connection not only in our goals and achievements, but also in the shame, anxiety and disappointment that could accompany them.

‘Leadership’ gatherings often prescribe a set of tools and imperatives. In this case, I left profoundly unburdened by expectation. We had shown reverence for both loud and quiet leaders, foreground and background leaders, disrupters and peacemakers, thinkers and actors, grand ambitions and simple living. I could take all or none, pursuing practices and questions of deepest importance to me. The only necessity, it seemed, was awareness. I still return to the readings and exercises of those retreats as a personal compass.

Then last year, as part of a team of Rhodes alumni, I had the opportunity to facilitate an evolved Ethical Leadership workshop series for Schwarzman Scholars in Beijing. Drawn from across the globe, these young people were encountering their community, their programme, and often Beijing for the first time, each carrying rich experience, alongside bundles of insecurity. Facilitation was immensely rewarding. It reinforced to me that the Rhodes facilitation model — that listening was fundamental to participation. Our Rhodes team reflected deeply over the course of the weekend on facilitation itself as a leadership practice: one that entails vulnerability, suspension of cultural biases, and emotional sensitivity.

Through the training and activities in Beijing, I realised that the conversations I had in Oxford years before were tentative and lifelong. They stretched across geography and generations and continued to connect people from seemingly disparate backgrounds. The art of good conversation, which we had been called to craft, was one of the most difficult, and perhaps most needed, contributions we could make to the contemporary world.

Alana Lajoie O’Malley
(Praxis & Linacre 2007)

W hen I left Oxford, the world of the Rhodes Scholarship receded quickly. That is, it did until I had the privilege of being part of facilitation teams for two of the Rhodes-Schwarzman retreats in Beijing. On both occasions, I returned home with a renewed interest in Rhodes activities, new friendships within the Rhodes community and, of course, lots of new ideas to chew on. I may have even changed my mind about a thing or two. During the retreats, I had some of the richest, most rewarding conversations I have had in a long time, both with the Rhodes facilitation team and the Schwarzman Scholars. Some of these discussions happened in formal sessions; others happened over lunch, or tea into the late hours.

I have rarely experienced such candour and frankness among a group of people who don’t know each other intimately. We walked head on into tough questions about leadership, service and privilege, as recipients of elite scholarships. We challenged each other to be deliberate about how we stand in the world. We didn’t all agree. This meant we all stretched ourselves to really contemplate our core values and how we wanted to see them reflected in our work. Current scholars told me about similar conversations happening at Rhodes House and I felt encouraged. Oxford feels a universe away from the people I work and live alongside. I am alive to the unlearned advantages having a Rhodes Scholarship on my CV offers me. I notice how these advantages can at times make me less, rather than more, able to ‘stand up for the world’, by insulating me from the real-life struggle for the basic resources and social power required to thrive. These days, it seems to me that my role is often to pass the microphone when it is thrust into my hands. My conversations at Schwarzman College helped me understand this.

Some conversations are hard to translate into words. The opportunity to be part of Schwarzman Scholars from across many years in a context of collaborative work was a unique and fulfilling way to learn more about the incredible diversity of skills and perspectives within our community. My experiences in the retreats gave me hope for the direction the Trust is taking. I’m infatuated again. I’m paying attention again. I find myself more open to becoming involved. I hope that through this I was also able to contribute in some small way to breathing life into the important questions about ethical leadership that these outrageously privileged, but perhaps most needed, conversations from these elite experiences should be living with daily.
Bronwyn Tarr (St Andrew’s College, Grahamstown & Hertford 2009) travels everywhere with a sketch book. These drawings were part of her travel diary whilst in China facilitating the Rhodes-Schwarzman ‘Leading Lives’ workshop. While exploring Beijing’s hutong areas, Bronwyn was drawn to the large, aged trees lining the Nanluoguo Xiang pedestrian street of the Doucheng District, as well as the Bell Tower which attracts a throng of tourists. She also managed to do some sketches on the go, walking past Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, and capturing an aged balloon seller looking for customers as evening set in over the Shijia hutong. Bronwyn also drew the beautiful Oxford illustration which is on the cover of this magazine.

The Rhodes Trust is grateful to the following individuals for making this programme possible:

- Joshua Aiken
- Anarchi Ali Ramah
- Daniel Armanios
- Jacquelyn Bengfort
- Maria Cecere
- Remzi Cej
- Januare Cherwinski
- Ian Devai
- Mallory Oxingal
- Nadya Figueroa
- Alana Lapsie-O’Malley
- Simon Loeligt
- Itumeleng (Tumi) Makgetla
- Charles Massal
- Tafadzwa Muguwe
- Ndijodi Ndeunyema
- Kiron Neal
- Giarka Niyarukwata
- Loralee Ommrod
- Yaa-Hemaa Obiri-Yeboah
- Jinying Park
- Jeremy Robinson
- Carrie Ryan
- Bronwyn Tarr
- Beth Vale
- Chloe Walker
- Alice Wang
- Steven Wang
- Eric Wear
- Yan Yu
- Tianyu Zhang (Shelley)
- Zinta Zommers

As the Schwarzman Scholars programme grows, so does the size of the Rhodes teams that serve as facilitators. Last September, the team had nineteen members from ten different countries – including five Scholars still in Oxford at an advanced stage in their degree programmes – and this September’s team will be even larger.

Now that the Schwarzman Scholars programme has its own alumni, they will be included on the facilitation team too. “Ultimately, our goal is to build a self-sustaining program that the Schwarzman community can run on its own,” Cherwinski explains. The Schwarzman workshops also offer Rhodes facilitators the chance to revisit their own touchstone conversations from Oxford, and continue them in a new context – as two facilitators describe in their reflections here.

Drawing the collaboration full-circle, Cherwinski shares the ideas she develops in the Beijing workshops with the CSLP retreats in Oxford. Some of the best conversations never end.

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The trees of Nanluoguo Xiang St.
Bustling Nanluoguo Xiang St.
An aged balloon seller
Tiananmen Square
The Forbidden City
Zhonglou, the Bell Tower
Finding Ways to Live Relevantly

Yasmin Rafiei (Prairies & Pembroke 2017) in conversation with Dr Devi Sridhar (Florida & Wolfson 2003), Founding Director of the Global Health Governance Programme at the University of Edinburgh and former board member for the World Economic Forum.

Dr Devi Sridhar is a paragon of aligned, impactful activity. A global health triple threat, she consolidates her energy into research, health advocacy, and writing. As Professor of Global Public Health at the University of Edinburgh, Devi’s research interests coalesce around governance and financing in global health. She completed an MPhil-turned-DPhil in Global Health as a Rhodes Scholar, which she followed with a postdoctoral research fellowship at All Souls College. At the University of Edinburgh, she is the Founding Director of the Global Health Governance Programme and has served on boards for the World Economic Forum, Save the Children, and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Her recent tour de force is Governing Global Health, a book co-written with Chelsea Clinton, which empirically analyses global health organisations and the public-private partnerships that aim to reduce health inequities.

When I ask her how she does it, she waves off these accomplishments as exclamatory punctuations along what she stresses is a ‘journey in finding ways to live each day in a way that’s relevant’. For Devi, working on global health challenges is a means of providing individuals with a baseline for fulfillment: ‘Without health, you have nothing – you have no chance at work or enjoyment.’ Devi exclaims ‘Take risks!’ The Rhodes Scholarship affords the opportunity to ‘avoid the safe route’ and ‘pursue crazy ideas’. However, if traversing uncertainty is daunting, my conversation with Devi has demonstrated that, for solace, one can look to those who have navigated the same path before us. In an unheralded end to our call, we realise that she lived in the same building at Pembroke College as I do currently. Now, it’s my turn to swirl the camera, giving Devi another glance, years later, of an intimately familiar view overlooking St Ebbes Street. In so doing, it strikes me that Devi has navigated the same juncture point in her time at Oxford, and that her footsteps are reassuringly discernible on the path ahead.

‘Without health, you have nothing – you have no chance at work or enjoyment!’

‘Without health, you have nothing – you have no chance at work or enjoyment’
Rhodes Incubator Pairing Entrepreneurship with Diversity: a Vehicle for Achieving Scalable and Sustainable Impact

Bogdan Knezevic (Prairies & Trinity 2015) sets out the vision of the Rhodes Incubator team as they chart a new course in entrepreneurship.

T
tically, when people hear “social impact” or “social justice,” they think of government, policy, law, or a handful of other words that conform to a very specific, preconceived image. Similarly, when the word “entrepreneurship” is floated, it’s often automatically paired with “capitalist,” “opportunist,” “the Valley,” or a number of other terms that carry, at best, a neutral tone and, at worst, a very negative association. We at Rhodes Incubator believe that this kind of thinking is detrimental to the global community, and that the terms “social impact” and “entrepreneurship” can be powerfully complimentary. In fact, the two may be necessary sides of the same coin for tackling large, systemic problems facing the world today.

The key lies in synergising the best parts of the mindsets that are traditionally associated with the realms of “social change” versus “start-ups.” In our experience, Rhodes Scholars can quickly point out the strengths of the former: patience, diligence, systemic solutions, sustainable approaches, social/cultural conscientiousness, and so forth.

What Rhodes Incubator is trying to cultivate is a coupling of these virtues with those that are more inherent or more natural to the entrepreneurial mindset: a predisposition to action, constant iteration, human-centred design, external validation, partnership expansion and growth. Getting your hands dirty early is a critical step in intimately understanding a problem and how a particular solution is or isn’t addressing it – it’s something that comes naturally to entrepreneurs but many Rhodes Scholars struggle with this. Yes, there are plenty of issues that the extremes of this kind of thinking can cause. You need only look as far as the recent discourse around Facebook, Twitter, user privacy, and election results to see some vivid examples. It’s a balancing act; remember to self-regulate and hold yourself accountable along the way while staying true to your mission. And while this might be difficult, it’s not impossible. We believe that networks like the Rhodes community are not only capable of achieving this, but are, in fact, perfectly positioned to cultivate conscious, morally-sound entrepreneurs who can go on to be global leaders and innovators.

In addition to being mission-driven and action-oriented, we also stress the importance of diversity. One of the easiest ways to innovate and build solutions while maintaining an awareness of externalities is to encourage and support entrepreneurs who come from different contexts, backgrounds, and geographies to come together. Moreover, innovators who come from within the community that they are trying to improve can have a more intimate understanding of the problem at hand, which is a powerful advantage. We also find that it’s easier to keep yourself accountable and aware when you have a core team that is diverse across multiple matrices. There needs to be a unifying thread, of course, along with some key shared characteristics, but otherwise, we believe that a diverse team is, from the get-go, better positioned to achieve impact, scalability, and sustainability.

Rhodes Incubator only launched in October; there are still many things we are trying to figure out and get right. However, we’re excited by the work we’ve done so far, especially with regards to encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset amongst extremely diverse people. We’ve had 37 entrepreneurs come through our first two cycles of programming. 51% have been female, 60% are black, Asian, or minority ethnic, and 48% originate from Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean. This represents a substantial departure from other incubator programmes. The projects coming through have spanned a wide number of fields: re:DIRECT News is a media outlet seeking to increase the nuance in public debate, the Mobile Mental Health team is busy digitising and disseminating mental health therapies, Borekha is tackling low-risk lending and financial inclusion for farmers in East Africa. There are further projects in education, health, media, energy and environment, arts and culture, retail, and forced migration, each bringing unique insights. With over 25 Scholar alumni and friends involved, we have invaluable, deep niche expertise in a wide array of fields. We are eager to continue expanding this global Rhodes entrepreneurial network, and to continue encouraging more Scholars to think about problem-solving and leadership in a venture-based way.

Innovators who come from within the community they are trying to improve have a more intimate understanding of the problem at hand.
Palestine: ‘If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time.’

Sarah Dobbie (Australia-at-Large & Linacre 2017) is currently reading for an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and was part of the inaugural Eden Palestine Fellowship for Rhodes Scholars* trip. In this piece, she reflects on the experience of witnessing injustice, and what we should do with what we have seen.

I was, and am, a witness. As part of the inaugural Eden Palestine Fellowship for Rhodes Scholars, I had the privilege of sharing briefly in the lives and stories of those living in the occupied West Bank, and in the territories designated as Israel since 1948. I feel the weight of the voices I heard, and the responsibility that comes from bearing witness. The fear of not doing justice to their injustice almost choked my words. But recalling the stories of the activists, journalists, lawyers and ordinary Palestinians I met—not just surviving but living their lives against military rule—I know that silence is not a luxury I can claim. As much as it is about what I saw, this is a reflection on the fact of seeing—about being a witness to injustice, and what we must do with what we have seen.

As a law student, and now a lawyer, I have spent years studying international law and international relations—fields shaped by histories of mass atrocity. I ‘knew’ about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I had studied the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Construction of the Wall, the laws of occupation and apartheid, and the rights of refugees. During my work as a refugee lawyer in Egypt, I had worked with the displaced in their exile. But I had never been standing there, watching, in the midst of their ongoing displacement. When you study mass atrocity, there is something profound, and deeply confronting, about coming face-to-face with the object of your study. This is what I saw in Palestine.

I sat in Noura’s home in the Old City of Jerusalem and listened as she spoke about the fight for her home—more than 40 years of campaigns and court battles to keep the four walls within which she and her family made their lives. I saw Palestinian and Israeli children play football on the hills above Hebron, under a clear blue sky marked with tear gas clouds. They played 50 metres apart, separated by low razor wire and two heavily armed Israeli soldiers.

I stood in Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem and watched as a 14-year-old was arrested from across the street. I watched as the community leaned out of their windows, asking each other, ‘Which one did they get this time?’

I spoke with Lana at Addameer, a human rights association that provides legal aid to Palestinian political prisoners. I wondered what it was like to be a lawyer imprisoned alongside those you were trying to defend, because you tried to defend them.

I spoke with Lubnah, a Palestinian-American who works at Badil, a refugee advocacy organisation. I followed her words and her maps as she traced the flight of the millions displaced since 1948.

I learnt not simply what Palestinians are fighting against, but what they are fighting for. I shared meals with families and sweet kanafeh on the streets. I saw community centres thriving in the middle of occupied cities. I spoke with young Palestinians studying for their final exams, planning for their tomorrows, and dreaming of a future without walls. I saw the resilience that is the ultimate tool of the resistance. Beyond fighting for the most basic of freedoms, they are fighting for family and community, and for timeless love of home.

And yet I wondered what I was doing there. What purpose, and whom, did my learning serve? What did it mean for me to bear witness?

The words of an Indigenous Australian activist, Lilla Watson, rang through my head: ‘If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.’
This poem was written by Professor Manuel Montoya (New Mexico & University 1999), who writes: “Where I am from, in Mora and in New Mexico, we live in thresholds. Our voices are the stones, the flora, and the fauna, the sky, and the wind. We place our voices in the things that will outlast civilisation, and we learn from a very young age to work first and to speak later.” It comes from his newly published poetry collection, The Promethean Clock or Love Poems of a Wooden Boy… and other poems.

XII - Era of the Glass Calavera

I believe in my time of flight
that there will be peace for each of you,
As I wished for myself in the hour of butterflies and song.
And I understand now the sad thing that is known to archangels when children are born,
how grace can become the tomb of shadow and cold,
as we reach for light, as we rush to holy fire with our bones.
My remains now turn to ice in this final verse and voices have the power of killing me once more in death, placing my ashes in the kaleidoscope of wrath in allegiance with the colors of contempt.
I am passing into the terrifying forgetting that we all face
But I do not believe I will die. I spoke a frail tongue learned from generosity and still I was corrupted and still I was called a beast.

Despite my fire, I hid your wings inside the mask of my own absolution.
For this is the hour that man has made, the era of a fragile death which we summoned with our handmade hearts.
So shut your eyes, my Baby Space. You are worth every dying I have conceived.
As the dead dance, they read our scars as cosmic flesh and I can hear them stepping past my eyes into yours, my favorite Oracle, my beloved Stranger.
Drink my root blood and harden my bones. Transcribe the spaces between what I have told you, tattoo them on my face of death, so when you speak my name it is yours, that you may speak one day, One Day in peace and faith.

The Eden Palestine Fellowship visits the Mahmoud Darwish Museum in Ramallah. Darwish is considered the Palestinian national poet (‘We are captives, even if our wheat grows over the fences and swallows rise from our broken chains’). Image by Timur Ohloff (Germany & Pembroke 2017)
A Quest for Brain Health Equity with Humanity at its Core

Fionnuala Sweeney is a Senior Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health, a program which is based at the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI). An anchor/co-respondent with CNN International for more than two decades, Fionnuala currently presents ‘The Late Debate’, an international news and current affairs programme on RTÉ Radio, Ireland’s national broadcaster. She also contributes to the Sunday Business Post, Ireland’s premier newspaper. A Rhodes Scholar, Fionnuala studied either at Trinity College Dublin or at University College San Francisco (UCSF). She takes classes and seminars together via Zoom; we meet individually with our mentors as we work on our own projects, all with the aim of elevating the impact of dementia. My project, with the help of Alzheimer’s Association, is to promote brain health and the fact that 30% of people with dementia are currently known to be potentially preventable through exercise, diet and lifestyle changes.

The April sunlight dances across the floor of the conference hall in concert with the bobbing of the river below. A burst of applause from one corner of the Puerto Madero Yacht Club signals the end of another session for Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) Atlantic Fellows who have gathered this year in Buenos Aires for their third annual conference. They’ve come from across the globe – Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Greece, Colombia, Brazil, Ireland, Belgium, France, Spain, Mexico, the Netherlands, the UK, the USA and Argentina, to name only some. Their objective? To reinforce the bonds made at previous gatherings in Barcelona and Cuba and to share their work, experiences and optimism as they forge new paths in the global fight for brain health equality.

Dementia is a tsunami coming towards us. Roughly 50 million people live with it today, placing an enormous amount of pressure on healthcare systems, families and carers, not to mention the individuals themselves. By 2050, that number is expected to increase to 142 million people, the majority of whom will be undereducated and below the poverty line. How we react to individuals with dementia is crucial to their wellbeing and sense of self. It is, as it were, a kind of social justice. We all, no matter how sympathetic, unconsciously build barriers with a person with dementia that only serve to deconstruct our common humanity and sense of social justice. It is that common humanity which binds us as Atlantic Fellows across our chosen fields of interest and disciplines.

What are the Atlantic Fellows Programs?
The programs are based around the globe sharing a common purpose of advancing fairer, healthier, more inclusive societies, and are funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies. All programs start with a core fellowship experience and Fellows are typically mid-career professionals from a range of backgrounds, disciplines and life experiences who share a passion, determination and vision to realize a more just world. The Atlantic Institute, based at Rhodes House, amplifies the impact of the network of Atlantic Fellows programs, and helps promote lifelong community among the Fellows.

How we react to individuals with dementia is crucial to their wellbeing and sense of self

40-year-old man or 50-year-old woman. The symptoms may not manifest themselves for many years but slowly and surely dementia begins to make room for itself in the brain. When dementia does begin to make itself known, the symptoms are unmistakable. Perhaps a moment of forgetfulness, maybe a second or two spent grappling for the appropriate word in a conversation. Often the person tries to cover up that he or she is having difficulties, causing undue stress in the increasingly desperate effort to continue life as normal, to communicate as usual.

Communication allows us to stay connected with one another. Dementia tries to take away that very essence of social connectivity, often leaving the individual feeling isolated. For a person living with dementia, communication is the utmost importance, it is a link, perhaps the most important link with a world beyond their fracturing mind, a link that helps keep that person intact and whole for as long as possible against the ravages of dementia.

We must listen to them as if the wellbeing of people with dementia as our teachers and influences of our own fictions. We must position humanity at the heart of the Atlantic Fellowship quest for social justice.

5 For persons with dementia to find meaning and feel a part of something requires that we deconstruct the barriers we individually and collectively erect that separate our common humanity. If we are to honor the enduring selfhood of each person with dementia we must honestly and humbly reflect upon the alienating influences of our own fictions. We must position people with dementia as our teachers and we must listen to them as if the wellbeing of humanity depended on our understanding.

Rhodes Scholar
Intimate Partner Violence against Women: the Role of Epidemiology in Advancing Health Equity

Alexa Yakubovich (Prairies & Green Templeton 2015) is currently studying for her DPhil in Social Intervention. In this piece, Alexa describes part of her doctoral project, which investigates the risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence against women.

One in three women globally have experienced physical or sexual violence from a current or former partner. As an intimate partner violence researcher, I am used to seeing this statement in most articles I read. It comes from a 2013 review conducted by the World Health Organization of all available estimates of the proportion, or prevalence, of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. The authors retrieved data from 79 countries and two territories and found that the average lifetime prevalence estimate among women who had ever had a partner was 30% – hence the ‘one in three’ figure. But as with any summary statistic, there is so much more to the story. How, in this decade, is the prevalence of intimate partner violence against women still so high? Who is at greatest risk?

And what interventions work to prevent this violence? It turns out that the answers to these questions are all related. Intimate partner violence first entered mainstream academic consciousness in the 1970s. This was in large part due to the groundbreaking research of professional and married partners Rebecca Emerson Dobash and Russell Dobash, who investigated the qualitative experiences of ‘battered wives’ and the patriarchal roots of their violent experiences. Their research was preceded (and followed) by the hard work of feminist activists, who strove to establish the unacceptable burden of violence experienced by women and the gendered nature of its existence, causes, and disregard. A major landmark of these efforts finally came in 1993, when the United Nations officially recognised violence against women as a violation of women’s fundamental freedoms and rights to equality, security, liberty, integrity, and dignity.

Since the 1993 UN Declaration, there has been a wealth of academic studies detailing the prevalence and consequences of intimate partner violence against women. We know it is the most common form of violence perpetrated against women and may result in homicide, at worst; or injury, psychological disorders, sexually transmitted infections, or chronic diseases. However, when it comes to knowing what we need to do to prevent this violence in the first instance, evidence is sorely lacking. Indeed, in a 2015 review of 58 available studies that had evaluated an intervention to prevent intimate partner violence, Ellsberg and colleagues found that only 28% of interventions tested worldwide had any positive effects. To understand why the state of prevention effectiveness for intimate partner violence is so poor, we have to consider the way in which effective interventions are designed in the first place. Designing an effective intervention requires knowing which conditions will, when changed, increase or decrease the risk of women experiencing intimate partner violence – otherwise known as risk and protective factors respectively. In other words, interventions need to target modifiable factors that are likely to cause intimate partner violence, either directly or indirectly. This requires studying these factors over time in order to determine whether the risk or protective factor actually occurred before the violence. In epidemiology, we refer to these studies as prospective-longitudinal studies, where, over time, we follow a group of people who differ in their exposure to the conditions of interest and investigate whether these differences are associated with different final outcomes. However, conducting these longitudinal studies is both resource- and time-intensive. In the case of intimate partner violence, under the time pressures of advocacy and policy action, most research to date has involved studying groups of people only at a single point in time (cross-sectional studies). This creates uncertainty around which conditions would be most effective to target in interventions and which require further research.

To address these gaps in our understanding, part of my doctoral research has been focused on systematically reviewing all available prospective-longitudinal studies on the risk and protective factors for intimate partner violence against women. The review, now complete and out for publication in the American Journal of Public Health this summer, was the first of its kind and involved an advisory team of violence epidemiologists from the University of Oxford, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Universidade Federal de Pelotas.

Out of over 10,000 studies screened, we identified 60 longitudinal studies that investigated any risk or protective factor for intimate partner violence against women. The most important risk factors identified from these studies were unplanned pregnancy and having parents with less than a high school education, a plausible proxy for lower socioeconomic status. We also found that young, unmarried women were at greatest risk of experiencing intimate partner violence. Since age and marital status are not amenable to intervention, this informs who should be targeted in preventive efforts – younger women and men who are single or separated rather than which factors should be targeted. Most importantly, however, our review systematically identified the gaps in our longitudinal understanding of intimate partner violence against women for the first time. These gaps ultimately limit what we can currently say should be intervention or policy priorities. The vast majority of studies (90%) were from the United States. Crucially, most longitudinal studies focused on how women’s characteristics related to their own experiences of intimate partner violence, with few studies investigating risks related to women’s partners, communities, or broader societal contexts. It is therefore essential that more longitudinal research is carried out investigating partner- and contextual-related risk factors, such as alcohol availability and societal norms, especially outside the USA and in low- and middle-income countries, before global policy recommendations can be drawn.

Intimate partner violence remains highly prevalent and devastating to women worldwide. Unfortunately, it will remain so until more rigorous studies are conducted to determine the conditions most likely to cause this violence in the first instance and how these conditions interact at the societal, community, and individual levels to identify pathways for intervention. Advocacy and intervention are essential tools for ameliorating health and social problems, but maximising the odds of achieving equity also requires the guidance of sound epidemiology.
The Rhodes Social Impact Group (RSIG) tells us about their ‘1,000 Hours of Service’ project, which brings Scholars together to serve the Oxford community.

When did the RSIG start and what is your purpose?

The Rhodes Social Impact Group (RSIG) was founded in 2011 by Caroline Huang (Delaware & Merton 2010), Rohan Paul (India & St Catherine’s 2008), Alia Whitney-Johnson (North Carolina & St John’s 2009), and Bhaskar Bhushan (India & Exeter 2010). Like many Scholar groups, it has existed in various forms throughout the years, mainly as a way to spark conversations about social causes and service. This year, RSIG continued to host discussions about social impact, both online and with our Michaelmas Term Scholars’ Tea about the role of solidarity in service, facilitated by Ilhan Dahir (Ohio & St Antony’s 2016). However, beyond simply talking about service, RSIG convenors wanted to take an action-oriented approach to social impact. We decided to focus on the importance of volunteering in Scholars’ lives and communities, and got to work organising the ‘1,000 Hours of Service’ project to make it happen!

What is the aim of your ‘1,000 Hours of Service’ project?

Simply put, the ‘1,000 Hours of Service’ project aimed to have Rhodes Scholars, as a community, volunteer for one thousand hours in the city of Oxford this year. This service took many forms, including volunteering to serve hot lunches for rough sleepers, tutoring low-income and refugee children, working at sexual abuse hotlines and helping at sports outings for young adults with intellectual disabilities. Despite the broad range of Scholar volunteer activities, we wanted a collective service goal to work towards as a Rhodes community to bring these diverse contributions together into one celebration of giving back.

The Oxford experience can feel very transient and remove Scholars from the action-oriented community work many of us participated in at home. In addition to supporting the Oxford community, ‘1,000 Hours of Service’ was meant to remind Scholars of the role volunteering can take in feeling connected to a place, even one we might not call home!

What value have Rhodes Scholars found in volunteering in the local community?

Now that we have reached our 1,000-hour goal, Scholars have some great stories of volunteering in Oxford! For most, the feeling of being able to ‘do something’ while studying here has been a grounding experience amid formal halls and ornate libraries. Working on immediate, on-the-ground issues has allowed Scholars to take time away from university life, and many say their service experiences act as ongoing reminders of the reasons they came to Oxford. While Scholars have found themselves invigorated in their desire to create change around the world, participating in the project has also allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the social issues faced by residents of Oxford. This served as a reminder that a lot of the hard work in societies is tackled locally (and that there are usually ways to help with this work, no matter where we live!). Perhaps most exciting, however, is how volunteering has offered opportunities for Rhodes Scholars to come together across years, constituencies, and academic interests to get to know each other in an entirely different context than the halls of Rhodes House.

Have there been any surprising lessons along the way?

The most surprising outcome of the ‘1,000 Hours of Service’ project has been the role of gender in Scholars’ participation in community service. As convenors, we were a bit taken aback to see that 82% of the 1,000 hours served were completed by women! While the idea that women do more hands-on volunteering and community-based work is not a new one, given the recent celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Rhodes Women and our conversations about work-life balance at the Service and Leadership retreats, we think it is important to discuss the imbalance of volunteerism and hidden work between women and men in our Rhodes community.

Are there any future plans for the RSIG group next year?

The RSIG is hoping to continue our focus on service, while building upon the lessons we’ve learned from the ‘1,000 Hours of Service’ project this year. We hope to strengthen our relationships with Oxford’s charitable organisations and continue developing a culture of service within the Rhodes community. Of course, we’re always looking for Scholars-in-Residence and Senior Scholars to join our team with their ideas!

If you would like to find out more about RSIG, please email rhodes.sig@gmail.com, follow them on Instagram @rhodes_social_impact or join their Facebook group.

Many say their service experiences act as ongoing reminders of the reasons they came to Oxford
Sins of the Father: How Do We Address Historical Pain and Intergenerational Responsibility?

Kaleem M. Hawa (Ontario & Lincoln 2016) interviews Wilhelm Verwoerd (Paul Roos Gymnasium Stellenbosch & Corpus Christi 1986), the grandson of H.F. Verwoerd, the South African Prime Minister and architect of apartheid.

It is May 2015 and Wilhelm Verwoerd is giving a speech entitled ‘Salve or Salt? To Transform or Transmit Historical Pain’. Verwoerd stands at the dais in the largely nondescript Accounting and Statistics building at Stellenbosch University – long one of South Africa’s premier academic institutions and seat of its Afrikaner establishment. He speaks rousingly to intermittent applause:

‘The most daunting question continues to be: how do I listen…listen…really listen to the heartbeat of untransformed pain behind the clenched fists and the bubbling anger of our mostly black fellow citizens? How can I play a positive role with regard to the deeply-rooted, unhealed, emotional, moral and soul injuries from our apartheid past?’

At this particular moment, the answer seems clear. The crowd is gathered to watch as the university removes its commemorative plaque honouring South Africa’s 6th Prime Minister, an Afrikaner nationalist who served from 1958 until his assassination in 1966, and who, in the eyes of many, was the architect of apartheid.

That man, H.F. Verwoerd, is Wilhelm’s grandfather. Even today, Wilhelm adds, ‘the name Verwoerd is synonymous with apartheid’.

The story of how Wilhelm got to this place – disowned by members of his family, compassionately fighting for reconciliation and against structural injustice – is powerful and fascinating. But while he is on stage it is clear to all that he is present, deeply felt and centring the stories and narratives of others outside that room.

I reach Wilhelm at his home in Lynedoch Ecovillage, where he reflects on that day: ‘what I wanted to highlight was the ways that ordinary people – not just people in positions of political power – played a role within the system. How white South Africans benefitted systemically from better education, housing, access to wealth, access to land, and how to this day, our children are now benefitting’. To him, this is an argument for reparations – he uses ‘the language of social restitution’ – but is also an argument for spatial and symbolic restructuring of our systems.

In many ways, the story behind the removal of his grandfather’s plaque is a story being replicated across the world, from ‘Open Stellenbosch’ to ‘Decolonize Harvard’, institutions of cultural and political power are reckoning with the legacies of pain caused by their histories. As Wilhelm says: ‘I find it unconscionable to publicly honour those who represent so much pain to the world. You may think you are not responsible for an original wounding, but in continuing to honour people like my grandfather, in not fighting for justice, we are in effect rubbing salt in the wounds, and we ultimately become responsible for the further wounding of our fellow human beings.’

The legacy of the Rhodes Scholarships in South Africa is long and complicated; one can invoke in the same breath names like Edwin Cameron (South Africa-at-Large & Keble 1976), a Justice of the Constitutional Court and prominent HIV/AIDS activist, with that of Piet Koornhof (Paul Roos Gymnasium Stellenbosch & Hertford 1948), an apartheid-era National Party cabinet minister complicit in implementing policies of forced relocation of black South Africans. The first black South African Rhodes scholar – Loyiso Nongxa (South Africa-at-Large & Balliol 1978), a decorated mathematician and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand – would not be chosen until 1978.

Eight years later, a young Wilhelm would arrive at Oxford. ‘I was in the middle of an existential crisis,’ he recalls. ‘It really was a time when I was confronted with a lot of things going on in South Africa that I had not really been exposed to in the white Afrikaner community. I had been the recipient of an ethnicised and selective remembrance of past conflicts used to justify the system of apartheid, and so, I became engaged in a pretty fundamental questioning of the system, of my own community, of my own family.’

He continues: ‘In many ways, the success of apartheid was in the barriers it constructed between peoples. We grew up in very segregated communities. I grew up in a whites-only neighbourhood, going to whites-only schools, churches, cultural organisations. So, there was very limited real exposure to the life experiences of black South
The core of social justice must be ubuntu (a Nguni Bantu term meaning 'humanity')

No one can discount the cost he has borne in the process. Newly married, Wilhelm finished his studies and returned to South Africa with his wife Melanie, where they both joined the African National Congress (ANC) and became active in the run-up to the 1994 election (she, as a soon-to-be Member of Parliament). He adds, ‘This was around the time Mandela had been released, the ANC was unbanned, there was a sense of hope, and we wanted to become part of this larger movement. We were in meetings all around the country. They would send me to white Afrikaner communities where people were pretty hostile to the message, but it was important to go there.’

As expected, the Verwoerd connection garnered immense interest from the media, breaking Wilhelm’s increasingly strained relationship with his family. His father, the eldest son and family patriarch, took it particularly hard. ‘I think it was quite a shock to my father when we joined the ANC, he could not accept that. He reacted strongly and publicly, basically disowning me and saying that I was no longer welcome in the family home. Many of the older members of the family agreed.’

Wilhelm sees all these struggles as interconnected. ‘I have been very privileged to do some peace work with people deeply committed to stopping the occupation, but to do it in non-violent ways and with an understanding of the different histories that people bring to this. Visiting there, working there, a number of times, you really do get exposed to the realities that the Palestinian people are faced with. When you look at the way that the system operates, it really does feel like a lot of what we had here in South Africa. Even though one needs to be careful – I don’t want to make simplistic comparisons – but my Israeli colleagues themselves will say that the way that the system is functioning is undermining the moral fibre of Israeli society. And this is exactly what we had in South Africa too. I was trying to say to my father, to my community that we cannot defend the system, that this is actually undermining our deepest values and convictions.’

If we want to claim any morality, any Christianity for our system, then we cannot treat fellow human beings like this. ‘To me, it is a conception of radical connectedness. When my destiny is caught up with that of the communities I work with, I become them, and they become me.’

A former Secretary of State for the Colonies, Milner was instrumental in the scorched-earth policies of the Anglo-Boer War. ‘This man was really a hate figure in terms of my childhood,’ Wilhelm says. ‘The abuses committed by the British were a very powerful mobilising memory for our community and for the rise of the Afrikaner nationalist parties that led to the system of apartheid.’

He continues: ‘It’s tragic to see how we were blinded by the history. To go to Rhodes House and have this reminder of the past and how my ethnic community then used these historical memories to justify their abuse against black South Africans – it became this very intense space.’

Wilhelm used this understanding to inform two decades of work, first with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and later, as a coordinator of a programme for survivors and former combatants linked to the Glencoe Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in Ireland. There, he worked mainly with veterans, ex-prisoners, and people who had been impacted by the conflict ‘in and about’ Northern Ireland. He has also worked with Combatants for Peace and with The Parents Circle-Families Forum in Israel and Palestine to run storytelling workshops and to help reinforce cross-cultural reconciliation.

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If we want to claim any morality, any Christianity for our system, then we cannot treat fellow human beings like this. ‘To me, it is a conception of radical connectedness. When my destiny is caught up with that of the communities I work with, I become them, and they become me.’
Journeys: an American Story

Rhodes Scholars Ahmed Ahmed (Minnesota & Lady Margaret Hall 2017), Wes Moore (Maryland/DC & Wolfson 2001), and Senator Cory Booker (New Jersey & Queen’s 1992) are all contributors to a new book, Journeys: An American Story. Here, Ahmed reflects on the process of writing his contribution.

Journeys: An American Story is a project and book that profoundly exemplifies the vast diversity of American culture, and the common theme of immigration and migration in our history. Most of us have an immigration story whether intergenerationally or four generations removed. Unraveling that history and giving it voice propels us one step forward towards disposing of mythological ideas about refugees and immigrants – those seeking a new chance at life. Because the peculiar irony is that we were once them. And at our core, we are a nation of immigrants.

Helping contribute to Journeys was a daunting yet liberating writing experience for me. Daunting because I understood the rhetoric surrounding immigrants and refugees in these polarised times. In my periphery I held onto policies, such as Executive Order 13780, which banned immigration from my native country of Somalia. Empathising with my community and understanding that I could have been on that travel ban list, I wanted to give a voice and platform to that issue. And I wanted to do it justice.

The process of writing the piece was liberating because I could speak to my audience. Prior to this book, it was news journals and media outlets that would craft and mould my story to fit their preconceived narrative. I often felt shackled by the cherry-picked quotes, loss of substance, and misleading content disseminated to the masses. This book would be different: it would accurately capture the untethered truth of my family’s immigration story. I found myself relearning and better understanding my own family history before writing the piece. Throughout my childhood, my parents would relate affectionate stories about life in Somalia – how beautiful it was, the deep roots of our ancestry, and the collectivist culture predicated on community. Alongside this, I was familiar with our life in the US: the struggles and hardships we faced living as a family of ten in a two-bedroom apartment. Interestingly however, we would often neglect or minimally discuss life in between those two periods – life before it, during, and after. Etching a piece of that history on paper was therapeutic and a deep reminder of the struggles that refugees face. My family’s journey – just as the ‘beaten path’ we traversed from Mogadishu to Mombasa – was a common one. It was filled with hope but barren pockets, entrenched with virtuous ideals but harsh circumstances; thoughts of tomorrow but realities of today. We weren’t special. We were fortunate. And as readers go through Journeys, this theme becomes salient – giving rise to an inherent dissonance between American history and current actions.

Ahmed Ahmed

Ahmed Ahmed is a Somali-American who was born in a refugee camp in Kenya and immigrated to the US as a child. He is a graduate of Cornell University, where he studied Biology and conducted research in Organic and Polymer Chemistry. Currently, he is reading for an MSc in Higher Education at Oxford, with the hopes of better understanding and addressing educational inequalities in medicine. He aspires to become a physician-scientist, with the hopes of serving in the communities he once grew up in. During his free time, Ahmed enjoys writing, playing basketball, and listening to Pulitzer Prize winner Kendrick Lamar.

Wes Moore

Wes Moore (Maryland/DC & Wolfson 2001) is an author and social entrepreneur. During his time at Oxford, Moore was at Wolfson College reading for a Master’s in International Relations. He is the author of The Other Wes Moore and The Work, which were both New York Times Bestsellers. Moore is the Founder and CEO of BridgeEdU, a social enterprise designed to improve persistence among students of promise (i.e. first-generation, Pell-Grant eligible) to surpass national performance indicators. He is also the CEO of the Robin Hood Foundation, a poverty-fighting organisation funding schools, food pantries, and shelters in New York City.

Senator Cory Booker

Senator Cory Booker is an American politician and author. During his time at Oxford, he studied US History. In 2006, Booker was elected the 36th Mayor of Newark. His first term led to the doubling of affordable housing under development and the reduction of the city budget deficit. In 2013, Booker was elected to the US Senate, becoming the first black US Senator from New Jersey. Senator Booker is passionate about public service and has continued to make it his life’s work. He is also the author of United: Thoughts on Finding Common Ground and Advancing the Common Good, which was a New York Times Bestseller.
How Can Liberia Feed Itself? Identifying the Gaps in One of the World’s Worst Food Systems

Sarah Burns (Maritimes & Oriel 2016) undertook this research for a submission in the Skoll Centre’s ‘Map the System’ research competition. She completed this work in conjunction with Aaron Bartnick, Natalie Wong, Alex Barnes and Taylor Quinn.

Liberia, a small country of 4.6 million people in West Africa, suffers from extreme hunger and malnutrition. The International Food Policy Research Institute rates Liberia the second highest on its hunger index in the region and conditions have only worsened. Food insecurity affects over 640,000 Liberians and 41% of households struggle with a lack of food or money to purchase food. Yet Liberia possesses some of the most fertile land in the world and a good climate for agriculture production. When questioned, a local food processor said: ‘Looking at the world and a good climate for agriculture production. Yet Liberia possesses some of the most fertile land in the region and conditions have only worsened. Food insecurity affects over 640,000 Liberians and 41% of households struggle with a lack of food or money to purchase food. In addition, due to inadequate business records and collateral, 61% of farmers do not have access to capital. Typically, a substantial amount of agricultural knowledge is passed down to sons from their fathers, but in Liberia, this tradition was disrupted by the civil wars, causing a generational knowledge gap. Even if farmers produced more, there is currently a disconnect between the farmers and the processors because of poor infrastructure (roads, electricity and mobile service) and only a few processing plants.

No roads, no money, no regulations
The ability to transport and process agricultural products is very limited in Liberia because only 5% of the roads are paved and only 2% of Liberians have access to electricity. Government spending in agriculture is also low, at 1.8%. To show the impact of this, a public economist stated that ‘there is not enough budget for the Ministry [of Agriculture] so the generators only run to 2pm. This means no one can even do a full day’s work’ (2018 interview). Further, if a company wants to export food products, there are numerous barriers to this process. The primary barrier is that there are no food standards or regulations, which means other countries will not accept imports. On top of that, corruption is ubiquitous, making the process unaffordable.

Aid to the rescue! Or not...
The blood both the wars and the Ebola crisis, aid has flooded into Liberia but has in many cases caused more harm than good. One of the main problems in the not-for-profit sector is that aid organisations have been giving free inputs to farmers. These organisations purchase their inputs from a foreign-owned importing company that holds a monopoly in the market. The large aid companies can purchase these inputs at a higher price and in more bulk than an agro-dealer (local middle-man) or farmer can. Thus, the importer decides that they will only sell to the aid organisations for a higher profit, leaving smallholder farmers dependent on aid organisations for their inputs. Further, receiving these inputs for free removes any incentive for that farmer to grow more than his family needs. As a local business start-up manager put it: ‘If [the farmer] was paying for it, operating the farm as a business, then he would need to produce more to sell to the market’ (2018 interview).

When questioned, a local food processor said: ‘Looking at Liberia right now, we should be able to feed ourselves. I don’t understand why we can’t’

So what are the next steps?
Through the food system is currently broken in Liberia, there are numerous actions that can be taken to give Liberians more agency in this area:

- For entrepreneurs and farmers: Building links in the value-chain, with a stronger focus on technical skills in education. Entrepreneurs need to form cooperatives with farmers so that they can become larger entities in order to negotiate better prices and contracts.
- For the investor: Building a positive exposure of the country whilst bringing in more seed-stage capital through philanthropic ventures.
- For the policy-maker: A commitment from the government on higher spending in agriculture and greater government engagement with all stakeholders in the sector through working groups, investment promotion, etc.

For the aid workers: Consultation with farmers before designing a programme in order to identify the true cost and sustainability of an intervention and look for a true market opportunity so that business can flourish. As one local fund manager said, ‘it’s not just possible, it’s probable that you can do something really exciting with agribusiness here in Liberia’ (2018 interview).

If you have any interest in learning more or becoming involved in some of the projects around this issue, please contact sarah.burns@qeh.ox.ac.uk
Fighting for the Human Rights of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants

Emilie McDonnell (Tasmania & University 2016) is undertaking the MPhil in Law with a passion for refugee and human rights law. In this piece, she explores her commitment to addressing the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, her research and the impact her time here at Oxford has had.

For as long as I can remember, I have been committed to making a difference to the lives of the disadvantaged and to making our world a more inclusive place. From a young age, I would accompany my parents to volunteering events in Tasmania, like ‘Clean Up Australia Day’, and at school I would always put my hand up to volunteer for Amnesty and St Vincent de Paul events, such as attending outdoor camps with young refugees. I have strong memories of feeling deeply affected by the injustices I saw, whether on the news, in the schoolyard, or in my community.

At the end of my first year at the University of Tasmania, where I was studying for a Bachelor of Arts (Criminology) and a Bachelor of Laws, I decided to volunteer at a dilapidated village in Fiji. On my final day in the village, the school committee thanked us for the work we had done. Tears welled up in their eyes as they shared how grateful they were that a group of young Australians had come to their small village. It was this life-changing experience that made me realise I wanted to devote my life to human rights and social justice causes.

During law school, my true passion was revealed: the fight for the human rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Motivated by the lack of free legal support for such people, I co-founded Tasmania’s first community legal centre for asylum seekers and refugees – the Tasmanian Refugee Legal Service – with a group of Tasmanian lawyers and community members. I became committed to pursuing a career dedicated to addressing the plight of asylum seekers and refugees and improving the legal protections afforded to them. I began to explore how I could harness the power of the law to improve their lives and work with governments to bring their domestic laws in line with human rights and refugee law. This led me to the Rhodes Scholarship.

In my first year at Oxford, I read for the BCL, which I obtained with distinction in 2017. I am currently undertaking the MPhil in Law, where I research how to protect the human rights of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants when migration control practices have been offshoreed to other states (examples include Australia and its cooperation with Papua New Guinea and Nauru, as well as the European Union with Turkey and Libya). In October 2018, I will begin the DPhil. Through my research I hope to formulate legal parameters to enable countries to understand and truly fulfil their protective obligations towards refugees and migrants.

In March 2018, I visited Pakistan and the Lahore School of Economics with the Oxford School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies and presented my research. I also interviewed the Minister for Foreign Affairs about the repatriation of Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan and how to ensure their safety, and about what Pakistan is doing to address the current Rohingya crisis. This was a truly eye-opening experience where I explored refugee law from the perspective of a country that is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention. This opportunity would never have been possible without the Scholarship bringing me to Oxford.

Oxford and Rhodes have been so much more than a degree to me. My experience has been an opportunity to volunteer at a detention and deportation team, assisting clients with their UK asylum and human rights claims. I have also been using my time to write for the Oxford Human Rights Hub and to volunteer for Amnesty and St Vincent de Paul events, such as attending outdoor camps with young refugees. I have strong memories of feeling deeply affected by the injustices I saw, whether on the news, in the schoolyard, or in my community.

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Our Community Online

Connect with your amazing online community to see the latest updates from the current Scholars and alumni around the globe. It is the easiest way to remain connect to your Rhodes Scholar experience and the community.

Give us a shout out on Twitter @rhodes_trust or Instagram @rhodestrust!

Get involved

Send in your photos of you at Oxford/Rhodes House to claire.skilton@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk or direct message us and we will feature them on our channels.

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Some great photos from the Spring Festival at Rhodes House! RhodesScholars got together to celebrate local culture, Chinese cuisine and to have some good fun! RhodesScholarships RhodesScholars

Today we're delighted to announce that Dr. Elizabeth Kinn OPendler will be the new Warden & CEO from August 2023. Dr. Kinn is the first female Warden of the Rhodes Trust.

Rhodes Trust
Rhodes Scholar

#OxfordOlympiad

Happy #AlmaDay! See how some of our current RhodesScholars use their time at Oxford to study earth-related subjects and explore the natural life around us. #standingupforourworld

#AlmaDay

Rhodes Scholar

Get involved

Send in your photos of you at Oxford/Rhodes House to claire.skilton@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk or direct message us and we will feature them on our channels.

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Around the Rhodes World

With recent expansions to the Rhodes Scholarship regions & countries, we celebrate the many new constituencies which have been introduced, as well as the first ever Global Rhodes Scholarships.
New podcast series

An ‘Inspirational Rhodes Women’ podcast series has been produced by Kira Allmann (Virginia & Magdalen 2010) and covers interviews with female Rhodes Scholars who share their stories, experiences and lessons from their time at Oxford. Podcasts focusing on Innovation and on Social Justice will be added later this year so do check www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/impact/podcasts.

4th Annual Rhodes Healthcare Forum

Delivery of Healthcare: From Surviving towards Thriving
9 – 10 February 2019

As many countries globally experience growing inequities, the need to improve access to healthcare has never been more urgent. The era of Sustainable Development goals has brought with it a renewed commitment by countries to improve the health of all individuals. Universal health coverage holds promise for populations to access quality healthcare services without experiencing catastrophic health expenditure. For this to be effective, health system factors and the social determinants of health must be addressed. How might health systems address the gap between individuals and their point of accessing healthcare? What opportunities exist for emerging technologies to facilitate delivery of healthcare that is equitable and of a high quality? In a world where mortality is falling, the promotion of thriving health is vital. Acknowledging the complexity of health systems, interventions and models of healthcare delivery that promote the health of all individuals will be discussed. This year’s conference will bring together clinicians, researchers, policy makers and advocacy workers to produce actionable opportunities for emerging technologies to facilitate delivery of healthcare that is equitable and of a high quality?

Email for life

You are invited to register for your lifelong Rhodes Trust forwarding email address, allowing you to stay connected with your Rhodes network wherever life’s journey may take you. Once registered, you will be assigned a standard Rhodes email address in the format: firstname.lastname.electionyear@rhodestrust.com. All emails sent to this address will be forwarded to your personal email address. If you have not yet signed up for this service you can do so at https://mail.rhodestrust.com/register and if you have any questions please contact alumni@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.

Alumni News

Diverse Oxford portraits go on show at Weston Library

An exhibition of portraits commissioned to showcase the diversity of staff and past students at Oxford University opened in November 2017. ‘The Full Picture: Oxford in Portraits’ featured more than 20 paintings, drawings and photographs commissioned earlier this year as part of the University’s Diversifying Portraiture project. The initiative aims to broaden the range of people represented around the University and features living Oxonians including BBC journalist Reeta Chakrabarti, eminent astrophysicist Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, human rights activist and Rhodes Scholar Kumi Naidoo (South Africa-at-Large & Magdalen 1987), film and television director Ken Loach, and broadcaster and charity campaigner Dame Esther Rantzen.

Oxford to be key player in new AI accountability project

The University of Oxford is to play a central role in ground-breaking new research intended to make future artificial intelligence (AI) systems more transparent and accountable. In collaboration with the universities of Aberdeen and Cambridge, Oxford will develop auditing systems akin to ‘black box’ flight recorders for AI systems. The Realising Accountable Intelligent Systems (RAInS) project is a multi-disciplinary initiative running in collaboration between the three universities. Backed by £1.1 million of funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funding, the project is a direct response to the EPSRC’s 2017 call for research to further the understanding of Trust, Identity, Privacy and Security (TIPS) issues in the Digital Economy.

The Oxford Foundry

An entrepreneurial mind-set to drive innovation from one another, and generate ideas and initiatives that address business and societal issues: whether their ambition is to launch their own start-up or to develop an entrepreneurial mindset to drive innovation from within an organisation. Students will be encouraged to play a major role in designing and leading activities.
If you have recently published a book and would like to get your work in the forefront of political online struggles, a Kenyan activist and researcher at the front of the debate on digital democracy.

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Appointments and Awards

Congratulations to these Rhodes Scholars for their recent awards and appointments. Do visit the Rhodes House website for a more complete list.

ZOHAR ATKINS
(New Jersey & Balliol 2010)
Won the Eric Gregory Award for Poetry 2018.

DOMINIC BARTON
(British Columbia & Brasenose 1984)
Awarded honorary degree from the University of Toronto.

THE HON. KIM BEAZLEY
(Western Australia & Balliol 1973)
Appointed the next Governor of Western Australia.

HERBERT BEHRENDT
(Germany & University 1980)
Appointed First Counsellor and head of Cultural Affairs of the German Embassy at Pretoria.

GAUTAM BHATIA
(India & Balliol 2011)
Named in the Forbes India 30 under 30 list.

PROFESSOR RUFUS BLACK
(Victoria & Keble 1991)
Appointed Vice-Chancellor and President at the university of Tasmania.

MAJOR SETH BODNAR
(Pennsylvania & Hart ford 2009)
Appointed President of the University of Montana.

PROFESSOR ANN COULBOURNE
(Newfoundland & Corpus Christi 1980)
Selected as Board Chair of NeOuest College.

RONAN FARROW
(Maryland/DC & Magdalen 2012)

JORY FLEMING
(South Carolina & Worcester 2017)
Won Gold in the Rising Star category at the Kantor Information is Beautiful Awards 2017. "As a geography student I love making maps, and after Obama’s last State of the Union address I became interested in gerrymandering. So of course I made maps! I hope they can help others become interested in an exciting yet important subject.”

DR ATUL GAWANDE
(Illinois & New College 1976)
Appointed Inaugural Fellow of the American Society for Cell Biology.

DR KUMI NAIDOO
(South Africa-at-Large & Magdalen 1987)
Human rights activist featured in the new ‘The Full Picture: Oxford in Portraits’ exhibit at the Weston Library as part of Oxford University’s Diversifying Portraiture project.

JOSEPH SINGH
(Ontario & St John’s 2004)
Hired as Policy Advisor to Chrystia Freeland PC MP (Prairies & St Antony’s 1991), Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs.

RALPH SMITH
(Alabama & Corpus Christi 1973)
Appointed as special envoy on investment to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

PROFESSOR MARGARET MACMILLAN CC
(Rhodes Trustee)
Appointed Companion of Honour (CH) for services to Higher Education, History and International Affairs.

TRUDI MAKHAYA
(South Africa-at-Large & St Antony’s 2002)
Appointed as economic advisor to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

JACKO MAREE
(St Andrew’s College, Grahamstown & Pembroke 1978)
Appointed as special envoy on investment to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

DR DON MARKWELL
(Queensland & Treaty 1949)
Appointed Warden at St Paul’s College at the university of Oxford.

SHAMMA AL MAZRI
(United Arab Emirates & University 2014)
The UAE’s Minister of State for Youth Affairs and the world’s youngest ever minister named in the inaugural Forbes Middle East Arab 30 under 30 list, celebrating the talented young individuals in the Middle East that are shaking up their chosen fields.

JOHN MCCALL MACBAIN O.C.
(New Zealand & Balliol 1987)
Appointed Commander of the Most Excellent order of St Michael and St George (CBE) for services to higher education, history and public policy.

JOSEPH SINGH
(Ontario & St John’s 2004)
Hired as Policy Advisor to Chrystia Freeland PC MP (Prairies & St Antony’s 1991), Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs.

DR ELSINA WAINWRIGHT
(Queensland & Christ Church 1994)
Appointed Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2018 honours list, for significant service to international affairs, through Australian defence and foreign policy and conflict prevention studies, as an analyst and academic.

STEVEN WANG
(Ontario & Lincoln 2014)
One of the Forbes China “30 under 30”.

PROFESSOR NGAIRE WOODS
(New Zealand & Balliol 1987)
Appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Higher Education and Public Policy.

If you have a new appointment, please email babette.tegldal@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk to be listed on the Rhodes House website.
1958

Clif Cleveland (South Carolina & St John’s 1958) Since retiring from clinical practice of internal medicine in 2004, Clif has served as an adjunct professor in the Honors Program at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. His seminars focus upon the linked history of biology, medicine and public health. He writes a weekly column on health-related issues for the Chattanooga Times Free Press. He and his wife, Rutha, take special delight in their ten grandchildren and in yearly visits to Scotland.

Dan Feldman (Texas & Brasenose 1958) currently devotes his time to family, friends, philanthropy, medical start-up companies, neuroscience research projects, and swinging kettlebells.

Yves Fortier (Québec & Magdalen 1958) continues to practise law today as an international arbitrator. From 1988 to 1992, Yves was the Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations in New York. In 1995, he served as President of the UN Security Council. Yves has been President of the Canadian Bar Association and the London Court of International Arbitration. He is a past Chairman of the World Bank’s Sanction Board and, since 2013, has been a member of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Review Committee. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada and, since 2013, has been a member of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Review Committee. He is still a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the London Court of International Arbitration. He is a past Chairman of the World Bank’s Sanction Board and, since 2013, has been a member of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Review Committee. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada and, since 2013, has been a member of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Review Committee. He is still a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the London Court of International Arbitration. He is a past Chairman of the World Bank’s Sanction Board and, since 2013, has been a member of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Review Committee. He is a Companion of the Order of Canada and, since 2013, has been a member of the Canadian Security and Intelligence Review Committee. He is still a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the London Court of International Arbitration.

Lawrence Hartmann (New York & Merton 1958) is a retired psychiatrist and professor who continues to live in Oregon with his spouse of many years, Brian Pfeffer, in Cambridge, Mass., where he reads and sees friends, and in Somesville, Maine, where he walks and swims and plays with birchbark. Before going to a cheerful wedding in an ice-chapel in Norway this winter, he was in California, where he happily went to a memorable dinner party with four old friends (all of them Rhodes classmates) and spouses and partners: Sandy Fetter and Lynn Burne, Jack and Elizabeth Stromberg, Joe and Molly Nye, and Dave and Nancy Heilbron. ‘In a splendid Pacific Heights mansion, we all enthusiastically liked seeing one another, and we agreed on many things, and disagreed on a few things agreeably.’

Selwyn Kossuth (Transvaal & University 1958) continues to sit on Disciplinary Hearing Panels for two Investment Industry trade associations in Ontario. Over a 43-year career, he has worked for Shell International in England, Argentina and Colombia, for the South African Foreign Trade Association, and for the mining group Anglo American in South Africa and Brazil. He and his family emigrated to Canada in 1980 and here he has been associated with a number of financial organisations, among others with Nesbitt Thomson (financial services), the Ontario Securities Commission (as Executive Director), the Mutual Fund Dealers’ Association (as President) and RBC as a member of its Global Asset Management Board of Governors and Independent Review Committee. He is still happy to maintain contact with Rhodes House and the Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars.

Jonathan Kozol (Massachusetts & Magdalen 1958) has spent his career in the deeply segregated and persistently unequal public schools of New York and Boston and other major cities. His best-known books are Savage Inequalities, The Shame of the Nation, and, most recently, with children of Mexican-American families who live with the fear of deportation at the hands of xenophobic politicians in the nation’s capital.

Jason McManus (North Carolina & New College 1958) retired in 1994 as the 6th Time Inc. Editor-in-Chief after Henry Luce, who launched what became the world’s largest magazine empire, now a digital casualty. He and Deborah migrated matrimonially to Manhattan’s Soho, the Hudson Valley and the Côte d’Azur. Elder daughter Sophie’s critically acclaimed novel The Unfortunates was published in 2015 and granddaughter Vivien born two years before. Multi-talented daughter Mage marries this fall. Deborah started a woman’s choir 12 years ago with six singers in our loft. The Soharmoniums are now 60-strong and perform spring and fall at Lincoln Center, but still rehearse in the Soho loft from whence the family foundation is also managed. Jason pursues his interests in prehistoric cave paintings, the genetic origins of man and archaeology. His DNA shows a Denisovan trace and a 2.6% Neanderthal heritage, which pleases him.

Mervyn Morris (Jamaica & Magdalen 1958) is a Professor Emeritus of the University of the West Indies, from which he retired in 2002. He is the author of seven books of poetry, including I have been there, sort of (2004) and his Collected Poems, Rezin Orange (2017). He reads a selection on a Poetry Archive recording (2017). He was the 2016-17 Poet Laureate of Jamaica, the first since Independence in 1962. He has published many articles on West Indian Literature and three books of biography and criticism: A English We Speaking and Other Essays (1991), Making West Indian Literature (2005) and Miss Lou: Louise Bennett and Jamaican Culture (2016).

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. (New Jersey & Exeter 1958) is a University Distinguished Service Professor emeritus and former Dean of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. After Oxford, he earned a PhD in political science from Harvard, doing field work in East Africa. He has served as Assistant Secretary of Defense, Chair of the National Intelligence Council, and Deputy Under Secretary of State. Recent books include The Powers to Lead, The Future of Power is the American Century? and The Power Game: A Washington Novel. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the British Academy, and the American Academy of Diplomacy. A recent survey of international relations scholars ranked him as the most influential scholar on American foreign policy, and in 2011, Foreign Policy named him one of the top 100 Global Thinkers. In 2016, Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun. He and his wife have three sons and nine grandchildren.
David ‘Sam’ van Collier (St Andrew’s College & St Edmund Hall 1958) started working for Anglo America Corporation in 1963, ending up as Group Industrial Consultant. He became Executive Director of the steel and engineering industry employer organisation, representing them as their negotiator. He was involved in negotiations to remove job reservation for apprenticeships and the acceptance of a single industry bargaining unit which included all trade unions. He became CEO of The Urban Foundation, a joint employer-community NGO involved in urban policy and development. After retiring in 1995, he started a rural hospitality business. He has recently privately circulated two essays ‘Power and the Pier’ after the Marikana tragedy and ‘Inequality – Redistribution and Redistribution’ addressing South Africa’s extremely high levels of inequality.

John van Zyl (Orange Free State & Exeter 1958) joined the English Department at Witwatersrand University in 1962. In 1972, he was awarded a PhD and became a Senior Lecturer. In 1976, he created the School of Dramatic Art at Wits University. With the rank of Associate Professor he became the first Head of Media Studies in 1990. He was actively involved in the democratisation of the national broadcaster. From 1984 to 1989, he was concurrently the Programme Director of the French Community Filmmaking Project in Southern Africa. For this service he was made a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques. On retirement, he formed The Applied Broadcasting Centre to create a community broadcasting environment in SA. His son Paul was the Executive Secretary of the TSC.

Bernard Wolfe (Saskatchewan & Exeter 1958) After a long career as a medical researcher and an endocrinologist at University Hospital and Western University in London, Ontario, Bernard Wolfe retired from medical research and practice. He continues to attend meetings with leaders. He is cautiously optimistic that conflict can be avoided and prosperity can continue.

Graham Wright (New Zealand & Balliol 1958) retired from the University of Auckland in 2000, after 36 years teaching and researching on Electrochemistry. He served as Dean of Science and President of the NZ Institute of Chemistry, and was active as a consultant to various industries such as geothermal energy, offshore gas platforms, batteries and anodic coatings. He has maintained a close interest in Denmark, where he was a research fellow when he completed his DPhil at Oxford in 1960. In retirement he was involved in converting low standard pasture into native bush, which is now an important issue in New Zealand where European settlers, and before them the Maoris, were responsible for decimating the original forests.

Bruce Amos (Ontario & Balliol 1968) retired from a career with Parks Canada where he was Director General of National Parks and responsible for the planning and negotiations which led to the establishment of many new national parks and marine conservation areas across Canada. He pioneered new forms of cooperative park management with local communities and indigenous peoples. On the international level, he was active with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. He was awarded the Parkland International Parks Award for lifelong commitment to protected areas and heritage conservation in Canada and worldwide, and the Cassell Medal for outstanding service to the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Since retirement he has pursued his passion for photography (www.bruceamos.com). He lives in Ottawa with his wife Stephanie, a jewellery designer/maker.

Dennis Blair (Virginia & Worcester 1968) and Diane have moved to Durham, North Carolina, nearer to their grandchildren. Dennis’s interests and activities centre on East and South Asia, where the challenges of nationalism, historical resentments and authoritarian ambitions threaten to and the recent era of security, peace and prosperity. He chairs the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, a US-Japan think tank, is on the board of the National Committee of US-China Relations and the National Bureau of Asian Research, Freedom House and often travels to the region for conferences and meetings with leaders. He is cautiously optimistic that conflict can be avoided and prosperity can continue.

Robert Calderisi (Queens & St Peter’s 1968) has just completed Quebec in a Global Light: Striving for Balance which will be published by the University of Toronto Press later this year. A former director of The World Bank, he has also written The Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid isn’t Working (2006) and Earthly Mission: The Catholic Church and World Development (2013). His next project, to be co-authored with Edwin Cameron (South Africa-at-Large & Keble 1976) is a new biography of Cecil Rhodes.

Geoff Cumming (Victoria & Magdalen 1968) and wife Lindsay (Lady Margaret Hall, 1969) returned from Oxford by driving a Morris Minor Traveller for seven months to Kathmandu. Geoff joined the Department of Psychology, La Trobe University, Melbourne, in 1976, and retired as Emeritus Professor in 2008. ‘Retired’, that is, to write two statistics textbooks with the aim of changing the world. The second was released in 2016. Introduction to The New Statistics: Estimation, Open Science, & Beyond, with co-author Bob Calin-Jageman. See www.thenewstatistics.com. TNS is the first statistics textbook to integrate estimation and Open Science all through. Chapter 1 is a free download from that site, and explains the book’s approach – which is the way of the future for students and researchers. Geoff and Lindsay have three children, seven grandchildren, and a wonderful new house in Woodend, one hour out of Melbourne. There are eight coffee shops within a seven-minute walk.

Doug Eakley (Yale & University College 1968) joined the faculty of Rutgers University School of Law in 2012 as the Alan L. Lowenstein Chair and Distinguished Professor of Professional Practice. He teaches courses in business associations, corporate governance, and compliance and enterprise risk management, founded and directs the Rutgers Law School Entrepreneurship Clinic, and founded and co-directs the Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance. He continues to serve as the Chair of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and as a Trustee of Legal Services of New Jersey.

Robert L. Earl (Pennsylvania & Exeter 1968) retired three times before succeeding: A 22-year career in the Marine Corps produced diverse tours of duty in California, North Carolina, Okinawa, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Virginia and at the CIA and on the NSC staff. The CIA tour introduced Bob to the wonderful women who later married, Linda, and that union produced their two boys, Lawson and Nick. A second career followed with General Dynamics, a major US defense contractor. After 9/11, however, Bob retired from GD and went back into government, serving at the new Homeland Security Department. After completing his DPhil Lee’s career was in medical research, using molecular genetics to study cell proliferation. In 1971, he was awarded a Fulbright Travelling Fellowship in India, and in 1979 a Pew Fellowship for Cancer Research. From 1971 to 1973, he was a Research Fellow at Berkeley, California. He spent 1974 at the Max Planck Institute, Tubingen, Germany. From 1975 to 2005, he worked at the National Institute for Medical Research in London and from 1990, he was Head of a Division of Genetics. Author of some 120 research papers, he was elected a Member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Science. He now lives happily with his wife in Devon, where he spends much of his time working for a local charity.

Richard French (British Columbia & Magdalen 1964) is Senior Fellow at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs of the University of Ottawa. He spent about a quarter of his career in each of academia, business, politics and public service. Business took him to India, the UK, Europe, and in 1997, as Member of the Quebec National Assembly for Wetamount and three years as a Minister. He continues to publish his research and is Chairman of the board and investor in a company which produces environmental and telematics products for the trucking industry. He is a Member of the Order of Canada.

John Isaacson (Maine & University 1968) started a recruiting career in 1973, working for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, serving Governors who won and lost. He started Isaacson, Miller in 1982, recruiting civic leadership and continues to work full time, though he has transitioned into ownership and management. John and Consuela have been married since 1982. It was a big year. They live in Cambridge in a town John’s brother says ‘makes them normal’. They have two children and a grandchild, all in Los Angeles, the other Brooklyn. Before John’s father died, he told John that ‘it all went better than I expected’. John feels the same way.

Robin Johnson (Minnesota & Magdalen 1968) After retiring from agribusiness company Cargill, Inc. in 2007, Robin served as President of the Cargill Foundation through 2016. In that role, he has become deeply involved in issues of early development (ages nought to five years) for low-income children, who frequently suffer poor nutrition and intellectual and social/emotional hurdles. He cofounded a series of non-profits addressing these issues and continues to serve actively on their boards and those of several related groups. The goal is to use public resources more effectively to foster better workforces and better citizens.

Leland H Johnston (Rhodesia & St Catherine’s 1968) After completing his DPhil Lee’s career was in medical research, using molecular genetics to study cell proliferation. In 1971, he was awarded a Fulbright Travelling Fellowship in India, and in 1979 a Pew Fellowship for Cancer Research. From 1971 to 1973, he was a Research Fellow at Berkeley, California. He spent 1974 at the Max Planck Institute, Tubingen, Germany. From 1975 to 2005, he worked at the National Institute for Medical Research in London and from 1990, he was Head of a Division of Genetics. Author of some 120 research papers, he was elected a Member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Science. He now lives happily with his wife in Devon, where he spends much of his time working for a local charity.
Robert McCallum (Tennessee & Christ Church 1968) was a trial attorney at Alston & Bird in Atlanta for thirty years. He served as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General of Georgia and received the Atlanta Bar Association Leadership Award. His son Davis was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1997. Robert joined the Department of Justice in Washington in 2001, serving as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division, Associate Attorney General, and Acting Deputy Attorney General. Robert and his wife Mimi joined the State Department in 2006 when he became the US Ambassador to Australia. Returning to DC in 2009, he served on the State Department’s Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Robert and Mimi returned to Atlanta fully retired in 2013 and are enjoying it, and a cabin in the North Carolina mountains immensely.

Robert Reich (New Hampshire & University 1968) Fifty years ago, a small board of brothers (no sisters yet) – disembarking from the SS United States in Southampton, England – were met by a small man in a bowler hat who introduced himself as Bill Williams, Warden of Rhodes House. They had no idea that this unassuming figure had been Chief of Intelligence to General Montgomery in the Second World War, so successful at finding weaknesses in enemy lines that he helped win the war and received the distinction of Commander of the Order of the British Empire. To them, he was the epitome of the quintessential Brit, a caricature. They came to know Bill as a deeply thoughtful, caring man. He vividly recalls Paul Parrish, Bill Clinton, and a fifth book, a history of Russia after the fall of communism. He is a frequent contributor on Russian affairs to the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal and is interviewed in both Russian and English by Radio Liberty, the BBC and the Voice of America. He is affiliated with the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC and Johns Hopkins University and presently divides his time between Washington, DC and Paris, also traveling frequently to London, Vilnius, Kiev and Chesterton, Indiana.

Michael A. Shea (Iowa & Balliol 1968) After receiving his BLit (Oxon) and then his JD from the University of Iowa, Michael practiced law in Hawaii and Colorado from 1974 to 2008. He collaborates extensively with, and has worked at, several universities and research institutions in Germany, and he spent a year in Germany on a Humboldt Foundation Award. Fred Ris (Colorado & Wadham 1968) Following his retirement from the private sector and a 22-year volunteer position with Colorado University’s annual Conference on World Affairs, the Harvard Alumni Association, and the governance of his condominium association. He also coordinates alumni interviews of Colorado applicants to Harvard College. In 2018, he participated in the selection of the first class of Schmidt Science Fellows, administered by the Rhodes Trust. Fred and Aylife downsized from their Boulder home to downtown Denver in 2010. They enjoy living close to where they play and the ability to see more of their four grandchildren. Urban life is complemented by a small community in central Colorado where their property adjoins the homestead of Fred’s great-grandfather. He is currently researching the dynamics of his family’s 1902 move there.
Eric Fornell (Michigan & Magdalen 1978) moved to Wells Fargo in 2012, where he is a vice-chairman of the investment bank and in charge of that business for Canada. Previously, he ran the natural resources investment banking business for J.P.Morgan Chase. Recently, Kent Banta (Massachusetts & University 1970) put him on a board. Ken chairs of a non-profit whose mission is to end homelessness - Community Solutions. Eric and his wife Stacy have three children. The oldest, Alston, teaches high school English a mile from their home on Long Island where they have lived for 25 years. Oliver graduated from Chicago and works in renewable energy in NYC. Pete is a freshman at Kenyon. Over the years, Eric has kept in touch and off with various classmates.

Barbara Grewe (Michigan & St Hilda’s 1978) has been on frequent trips to Japan this year to help the Government of Japan prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics. She works at MITRE, and her first ten years there were spent focusing on cyber/tradecraft issues in the context of Europe. She joined the University of Auckland, dividing her time between research and teaching. Two discoveries of which she is most proud are the structure and function of the breast cancer protein known as BRCA1, and the mechanism of the Parkin protein that is intimately involved in Parkinson’s disease. She is very proud to be a member of the Medical Women of New Zealand. Between these, she enjoys walking and bird-watching in the outdoors.

Mark Haddad (California & University 1978) has enjoyed teaching in a variety of roles, including most recently as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). He is a member of the international advisory council of China Investment Corporation (CIC), China's sovereign wealth fund, and Chairman of St Andrew's College. Jacko and Sandy are based in Johannesburg and value their continued to exchange and double degree programs with universities in the UK, France and Switzerland.

Richard Parker (Texas & Hartwick 1978) is happily re-married with two daughters and a stepdaughter. Although he is a full professor at the University of Connecticut School of Law, he runs a Semester in DC programme for his law school which keeps him there most of the year. His field is all things regulatory, both domestic and international, with a focus on health, safety and environmental regulation. Until recently, he had an active consulting practice that involved negotiated rulemakings for the federal government and advising the European Commission, but this ended with the change of administration. He is currently working on a project to bear witness to the consequences of the deregulatory movement.

Martin Poppe (Germany & Magdalen 1978) continued to work in the field of Physics at Deutsches Elektronen Synchrontron and CERN until 1988, receiving the degree of Habilitation from Hamburg University in 1986. Switching to Electrical and Electronic Engineering, he worked for Robert Bosch GmbH before finally joining Muenster University of Applied Sciences. In 1994. Between 1996 and 2009, he organised student exchange and double degree programmes with universities in the UK, France and Switzerland. And for a period of three years, he chaired VDE Rhein-Ruhr. He published two textbooks on Electrical Engineering, participated in the writing of two textbooks on Mechanical Engineering, and published two booklets with choral arrangements.

Harry Printz (Colorado & New College 1978) returning to the US, Harry worked on the ARPANet, precursor of the Internet, then earned a PhD in computer science at Carnegie Mellon. In addition to his thesis he contributed to a Medicine Sans Frontières project to build a battery-powered, handheld medical computer for deployment in Chad, and founded the university’s rowing team. Upon graduation he moved to France and explored software-reconfigurable computer hardware. In 1999, he returned home to join IBM, where he conducted research on machine learning for language translation and speech recognition. Author of over 25 US patents, presently he is CTO and VP of Engineering at a Silicon Valley technology startup. He and his wife Vanessa Zheng are proud parents of an eight-year-old who speaks fluent English, Mandarin and Pokémon.

Jim Retallack (Ontario & St John’s 1978) recently celebrated his 30th year on the History faculty at the University of Toronto. With Helen Graham-McClure (St John’s 1979), in 2015 he moved into a new fully accessible house in Toronto, with two guest rooms. Killam and Guggenheim research fellowships helped him complete a 700-page doorstop, Red Saxony (OUP), on elections in nineteenth-century Germany. He has now embarked on a biography of the German Social Democratic leader August Bebel. Recent trips have taken him and Helen to Maui and Berlin and other ports of call. Their son Stuart (29) has launched a drone videography company in Toronto, and their daughter Hanna (21) is in the middle of a combined MD/PhD program at UC San Francisco.
Banuta Rubes (Ontario & St Antony’s 1978) continues to push the artistic envelope in two languages. Her work helped establish three companies in Toronto (remedial, youth theatre, new opera), and stabilises a fourth (Théâtre PasseMuraille). In 1998, she moved to Latvia to engage with the country’s renewed democracy, as a theatre artist and columnist. In 2012, she returned to Canada after the death of her husband, composer Nic Gotham. She teaches theatre at the University of Toronto, and directs the occasional edge show. She’s been writing a memoir and a novel about a glitching robot, and this year signed up for an MFA in Creative Non-Fiction. Her two kids are proud in the fields of medicine and math rock.

Bruce Rubin (Louisiana & Corpus Christi 1978) is Jesse Ball Dupont Distinguished Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at Virginia Commonwealth University and Physician in Chief of the Children’s Hospital of Richmond. After giving up, he completed his pediatric residency and pulmonary fellowship at Sick Kids in Toronto, remaining in Canada for a decade, becoming a Canadian citizen, and marrying a Canadian. In 2009, they moved to the States for ‘two years’ in 1991 and after a career as a physician, engineer, scientist, entrepreneur (MBA in 2016), and administrator, they emigrate to a beach house to return to Canada. Rubin holds academic appointments in five medical schools around the world and maintains an active research lab. He also taught close up academic appointments in five medical schools around the world these empty nesters plan to soon return to Canada. Rubin holds his pediatric residency and pulmonary fellowship at Sick Kids in Children’s Hospital of Richmond. After going down, he completed Ball Dupont Distinguished Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at Va Tech, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Eckerd College. For many years, he participated in Rhodes selection committees, and was the secretary for the state of Alabama. He has an interest in, most recently, caring and gilding. She lives with her husband, who practices law, serves on a number of boards, and plays the cello. Their daughter is a Harvard graduate doing a PhD in English at the University of North Carolina.

Doron Weber (Rhode Island & Exeter 1978) lives in DC and works as Vice President and Programme Director at the Sloan Foundation where he develops books, plays and films like Hidden Figures, and sits on the Board of Wikipedia. Doron is still writing – he’s working on his fifth book – and still recovering from his last project. With that freedom, she has been able to dedicate more time to gardening. She has fond memories of Oxford and has since returned to Canada after the death of her firstborn son, Damon. He is still residence in DC and works as a global manufacturer of polymers. He spent the past 25 years in the steel, building and construction and chemicals industries. He has managed businesses globally and has been located in Australia, SE Asia and the USA. After his PhDs he spent his early career as an Oberlin Scholar then moved to the State Department as a board member of the University of New South Wales Foundation and pursing a part-time career as a non-executive director, as well as managing the family vineyard in the Barossa Valley in South Australia. Emery currently lives in Sydney and is married with two adult sons.

Jane Stromseth (Minnesota & Wadham 1978) has been a law professor at Georgetown for a quarter century focusing on Constitutional Law, International Human Rights, Post-Conflict Justice, and occasional forays into government. Towards the end of the Obama Administration, she spent two and a half years at Deputy to the Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice of the State Department. Prior to that, she spent a decade with the Washington Research and Development Branch of the US State Department, not only the first portrait of a woman there, but the first portrait of a Rhodes Scholar of colour. She then launched recently a non-profit organisation called the PeaceTech Lab dedicated to preventing violence and promoting peace-building using technology. They have two daughters: Danielle is a psychiatrist and first-year resident at NYU (Bellevue), and Madeline is in her senior year at NYU’s Tisch School as a dramatic arts theater student. They all visited Oxford (where Deirdre and Sheldon were engaged) last year.

Virginia Seitz (Delaware & Brasenose 1978) is in DC practicing law at Sidley Austin following a couple years as Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice during the Obama administration. She has been happily married to Judge Roy McLeese for almost 30 years. Their son Roy just graduated from the Naval Academy and is in Pensacola in flight school, and their daughter does applied math at the Institute for Defense Analyses and is getting her Masters’ at night at Georgetown.

Kim Severson (Minnesota & Somerville 1978) graduated from Stanford with a JD in 1984, and spent her first six years of practice at a large LA firm. She is married to Phil Jamieson, a Canadian whom she met at Oxford, and together they have three sons – a post doc in bio-physics at Princeton, a scientist on oncology research at Merck, and a senior at the University of Chicago. After living in the Netherlands and Germany, they moved to Minnesota in 1997, where she has worked over the last 12 years for the law firm Dinsay & Whitney. She is involved with arts organisations and likes to do gardening. She has fond memories of Oxford and has since been back to visit with her family.

Emery Severin (South Australia & St Catherine’s 1978) recently retired as CEO and Executive Director of Nuplex Industries, a global manufacturer of polymers. He spent the past 25 years in the steel, building and construction and chemicals industries. He has managed businesses globally and has been located in Australia, SE Asia and the USA. After his PhDs he spent his early career as an Oberlin Scholar then moved to the State Department as a board member of the University of New South Wales Foundation and pursing a part-time career as a non-executive director, as well as managing the family vineyard in the Barossa Valley in South Australia. Emery currently lives in Sydney and is married with two adult sons.

Michael Wagg (Tasmania & Merton 1978) left Oxford, in late 1981 after completing his DPhil, for a job at the Australian research organisation CSIRO which disappointed due to a budget cut during his return journey. This forced an early career change into the world of satellite communications including leading the introduction of Australia’s pioneering mobile satellite service. He has continued in telecommunications roles but has also dabbled in university. He is an industry advisor and guest lecturer. He met his partner Jo (a fellow Tasmanian, quality attracts) in Sydney and they have two children and a granddaughter. Their daughter’s recent three years in London was the excuse for frequent trips to the UK including enjoyable stays with old friends from Oxford.

Susan (Russ) Walker (Tennessee & Somerville 1978) lives in Montgomery, Alabama where, in 1996, she was appointed United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, and has served on the federal bench ever since. She has taught law and literature at national seminars for federal judges for nearly 15 years, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of Eckerd College. For many years, she participated in Rhodes selection committees, and was the secretary for the state of Alabama. She has an interest in art, most recently carving and gilding. She lives with her husband, who practices law, serves on a number of boards, and plays the cello. Their daughter is a Harvard graduate doing a PhD in English at the University of North Carolina.

Deirdre Saunders (Rhodesia & Somerville 1978) lives in Maryland with her husband Sheldon, Sheldon lived and works as an artist and teacher. One of her highlights of the last couple of years was being asked (through Ann Oliveras) to paint a portrait of Lucy Banda-Sichone (Zambia & St Catherine’s 1978) for Rhodes House – not only the first portrait of a woman there, but the first portrait of a Rhodes Scholar of colour. Sheldon recently launched a non-profit organisation called the PeaceTech Lab dedicated to preventing violence and promoting peace-building using technology. They have two daughters: Danielle is a psychiatrist and first-year resident at NYU (Bellevue), and Madeline is in her senior year at NYU’s Tisch School as a dramatic arts theater student. They all visited Oxford (where Deirdre and Sheldon were engaged) last year.

Sarah Crosby Campbell (Mississippi & Corpus Christi 1988) sent the last of her three sons to college in 2016 which lessened the time commitment to her 21-year mom-at-home project. With that freedom, she has been able to dedicate more time to writing and illustrating children’s picture books and promoting a love of nature, science and math among elementary school students. She expats her fourth book, this one on the subject of infinity, from Boyds Mills Press to issue in 2019. She and Richard (Corpus Christi, 1987) spent two glorious weekends in Oxford in September 2017, celebrating the 40th anniversary of Women-Rhodes Scholars and the 50th anniversary of Corpus Christi College.

Knute Buehler (Oregon & Merton 1988) continues to see patients as an orthopedic surgeon in Bend, Oregon but over the last half decade he’s been called to serve in the public arena, representing the people and city of Bend in the Oregon State Legislature. In 2017, he announced his candidacy for Oregon Governor and has advanced a campaign founded on a set of big audacious policy initiatives to transform his beloved Oregon. Knute and his wife Patty have raised two grown children, established an award-winning business and today are striving to finally put Knute’s Oxford degree work in politics and economics to good use for all Oregonians.

David Cash (Bermuda & St John’s 1988) has moved with his family to Melbourne Australia, where he is engaged with the Rhodes community and served on the 2017 selection panel for Victoria. David is retired from the reinsurance industry and has joined forces with Joshun Fisher (Victoria & St Catherine’s 1996) to launch a new lending business in Australia targeting retirees. Beyond reengaging with the world of finance, David continues to serve on boards of the arts and advisory boards in Bermuda as well as raising a family with his wife Judith Liansberg. Currently David and Judith have two children at Melbourne University and one finishing high school in Melbourne. David and Judith remain in contact with their 1988 and 1989 Rhodes alumni in Australia, Bermuda and America.
Richard Chin (Kansas & St John’s 1988) After finishing his medical training, Richard spent fifteen years in human biotech, much of that time as CEO of various companies including OnoWorld Health, a nonprofit funded by the Gates Foundation. Drugs he developed include Lucentis, that can return vision to patients blinded by macular degeneration, and low-cost antiretrovirus for malaria that saves tens of millions of lives every year. In 2012, he started KindMedBio, a biotech that develops drugs for pets, and subsequently took it public on NASDAQ. Richard has published several textbooks on clinical research, and teaches drug development at UCSF. Richard, his wife, and four children live in San Francisco, and he runs triathlons (slowly) in his spare time.

Anuja Dokras (India & Green 1988) After her DPhils, Anuja transitioned from bench to bedside allowing her to direct the University of Pennsylvania and is passionate about her research in Infertility at Yale University. She is currently Professor at the Anuja Dokras (India & Green 1988)

Ceri Evans (New Zealand & Worcester 1988) After Oxford, Ceri played professional football in the English first division for three further seasons before training in psychiatry at the Maundy Hospital in London, specialising as a forensic psychiatrist, and completing a PhD on traumatic memory based on his interviews with over 100 violent offenders. Ceri and Theresa returned to New Zealand with their three children where, as the Clinical Director of a Regional Forensic Psychiatric Service, he led national projects on violence risk assessment and mental health screening in prisons, and provided expert evidence in criminal and civil cases. In addition to private practice, Ceri is today combining his various interests as an independent consultant, working internationally with sporting, corporate, government, medical, legal and military clients in the area of ‘Performance Under Pressure’.

Charlie Galunic (Ontario & Kebbie 1988) continues his research at INSEAD business school, where he is the Aviva Chaired Professor (OB), working at the intersection of organisational behaviour and strategy, with a focus on social networks. He serves as an Associate Editor of the Academy of Management Annals and has directed and taught various executive programmes around the world, including the launch of INSEAD’s dual-degree (EMBA in China, serving as Dean of the EMBA, Oxford nuked him. Overnight, his family, into a cross-border lifestyle that blends Canadian, British and French identities, a lifestyle that means much to him, although with a great deal of personal nostalgia for Canada. Music and sport continue to fuel his alter ego.

Brian Glasser (West Virginia & Lincoln 1988) continues his late practice at Bailey & Glasser LLP, a firm he co-founded in 1999. He and Lena have four children, all grown or nearly grown.

David McBean (Jamaica & St John’s 1988) Armed with a DPhil in Engineering Science, David is currently the Executive Director of the Mona School of Business and Management at the University of West Indies, Mona in Jamaica. This comes after an eclectic career in Telecommunications, IT, Aviation, Media, Management Consulting, and Spectrum Management (radio frequency regulation). His eight-year twins are however not overly impressed, as they recently fummed him with the question “Who are God’s parents?” Three weeks later they solved the conundrum by announcing “God has no parents, as he is the first person.” He consoles himself with the tropical weather and the stunning views of the Blue Mountains (home of that famous coffee) from his office window.

Russell Muirhead (New Hampshire & Balliol 1988) continues juggling ten-year twins Alexander and Lily when he is not teaching American political thought and related things at Dartmouth College. At Balliol in 1989, as the Berlin Wall was crumbling, it seemed for a second that the political problem was solved and humanity could focus on religion and economics for the rest of eternity. That no longer is the case, which gives Muirhead renewed devotion to his professional work. Beyond work, he is addicted to skiing, as ever. He and the children will be living in London next year while he is at LSE: classmates welcome (bring food). Muirhead is married to Antonia Barry, a college classmate.

Ann Nicholson (Victoria & St John’s 1988) undertook a postdoc at Brown University, then returned to Australia as Lecturer at Monash University, later Senior Lecturer; Professor, Associate Dean Education and Deputy Dean. Ann researches in Artificial Intelligence, applying her work on probabilistic causal modelling with Bayesian networks to risk assessment and decision support in many domains, including medicine, environmental science, education and intelligence analysis; she also co-founded a consulting company, Bayesian Intelligence. Her sporting endeavours post-Oxford included playing and coaching rugby union into her 30s, cricketed in her 40s, and dalliances with Australian rules, Gaelic football and indoor soccer. These days, when a busy family life with two teenage children allows, her recreation includes walking, pilates, tending fruit trees, and most recently learning the saxophone.

Errol R Norwitz, MD, PhD, MBA (South Africa-at-Large & University 1988) After leaving Oxford, Errol completed his clinical training at Harvard (1992 to 2003), served as a physician-scientist at Yale (2003 to 2010), and returned to Boston in 2010 as Professor and Chairman of the Department of OB/GYN at Tufts University School of Medicine. He is a Founding Investigator of the Mother Infant Research Institute at Tufts MC, where he studies the genetic and molecular regulation of preterm birth. He received his MBA from Boston University, and was appointed Chief Scientific Officer at Tufts MC in 2016. He and his wife, Ann Hess, live in Newton, Massachusetts and have three children. Coming full circle, their eldest son will be starting his doctoral research at Oxford later this year.

Wolfgang D. Renczen (Paul Roos Gymnasium & Trinity 1988) After spending several years doing research on robotics and AI, Wolfgang embarked on a career in medical devices working for several large scale and start-up companies in executive and senior management positions. His interests include the impact of AI and digitalisation on the future of our society. Having worked in Cambridge and experienced life in light blue first hand, he truly appreciates having been a dark blue as a Rhodes Scholar and his family enjoy the occasional trips back to Oxford and walking down memory lane.

Marilynn Richtark (Kansas & Jesus 1988) is a Professor of English at George Washington University. Oxford University Press has published her two monographs to date, one on Ireland’s Field Day Theatre Company and one on playwright Stewart Parker, and Dublin’s LitPub Press recently brought out her edition of Hopdance, an autobiographical novel Parker wrote about the amputation of his left leg when he was 19. Last spring she was a US Fulbright Scholar at Queen’s University Belfast, teaching a class and doing research toward a new book project on literary reactions and contributions to the ongoing peace process in Northern Ireland. Her husband, Matt Bolsh, owns a corporate communications business, and their 13-year-old son, Declan, dreams about managing a European football team someday.

John Seybold (Québec & New College 1988) is retired and living in Aspen, Colorado, with his wife and two children. After leaving Oxford, he worked at a succession of startup companies in Silicon Valley before co-founding Guidewire Software in 2001, where he served in a variety of technical and managerial roles until 2016. He is currently engaged in modest education reform at the local level, board membership in two arts organisations, and assorted art projects.
Tony Abrahams (Australia-at-Large & Balliol 1998) has just moved to Toronto with his husband, Markus, to run the North American expansion of Ai-Media (the transcription technology business that Tony co-founded in 2003). Ai-Media is focusing on improving access to live and recorded transcription in broadcast, education, corporate and government, and online. Tony is a Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum.

Roy Bahat (New York & Lincoln 1998), despite bleeding Big Apple red for three decades, found itself in Silicon Valley. He and his wife Sara (an economics lecturer) reside with their two kids in a converted obstetrician’s clinic. Roy leads Bloomberg Beta, a venture capital fund (and sponsor of the Rhodes Incubator!) starting a company (a Kickstarter-backed videogame console) – and, yes, toured at McKinsey. He’s a board member of the Center for Investigative Reporting and co-chaired the Shift Commission on Work, Workers, & Technology. Fast Company named him one of the Most Creative People in Business. He writes about startups and work at http://also.roybahat.com.

Neeti Bhalla Johnson (Kenya & Templeton 1998) is EVP and Ovial Investment Officer for Liberty Mutual Insurance, a global Fortune 100 company. After Oxford, Neeti joined Goldman Sachs in London and then New York where she worked for about 13 years. Her husband, Chris (whom she met at Oxford) and she are proud parents of twin daughters who loved visiting Oxford last year to see where ‘mama and daddy met!’

Valerie (MacMillan) Braden (Idaho & Kelble 1998) has taken an entrepreneurial turn lately, joining one of her mentors in founding a new consulting company (Riverrock Consulting, Inc.) and practicing law together at Riverrock Law Group, P.C. That follows a seven-year stint in public service for the Michigan Governor, where she tried to fight the world’s fight by playing pivotal roles involving the City of Detroit’s lighting authority and bankruptcy, crafting bipartisan energy law reforms, ensuring construction of new power plants, and securing a safe, long-term water supply for Flint. Her “bankruptcy baby” is now an affectionate and very talkative five-year-old named Finn, and her husband Ted is happily tenured at the University of Michigan where he heads the American National Election Studies.

Fiona Rose Greenland (New Zealand & New College 1998) after five fantastic years in Chicago, Fiona, Will and the children are heading south. Charlottesville, VA, America’s second-happiest town (survey says), and home of her new employer. At the University of Virginia, Fiona is Assistant Professor of Sociology and continues her research on nationalism, cultural policy, and the antiquities trade. Will is joining the dean’s office to lead new institutional analysis initiatives. The kids aren’t convinced that this move will benefit them in any tangible way, but talk of a new dog has somewhat mitigated their recalcitrance.

Blaine Greteman (Oklahoma & Merton 1998) is a professor of English at the University of Iowa, where he teaches writing and the Renaissance and has authored two books and many articles for scholarly and popular publications. Iowa City is a UNESCO City of Literature, and Blaine enjoys working both with that programme and with the University’s International Writer’s Programme, which brings 30 to 40 global writers to town for residencies each year. With his wife Mandi, he is raising four children, a dog, and four chickens.

Andre Koch (Paul Roos Gymnasium, Stellenbosch & St John’s 1998) is currently serving financial services clients through a mix of artificial intelligence and human intelligence (the latter mostly that of his teams rather than his own!) with a company called Quantum in Melbourne Australia. Since finishing in Oxford, Andre has spent time with The Boston Consulting Group (BCG), and National Australia Bank (NAB) in Finance and Strategy. One of his proudest achievements at NAB was co-launching a work placement programme for recently arrived African migrants (many of whom are refugees) to Australia, which now runs across a number of companies. His wife Karin, a psychologist, and his two daughters Ella and Lily keep him well grounded.

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Jane Larkindale (New Zealand & New College 1998) works for several non-profit organizations dedicated to accelerating the development of treatments and cures for rare pediatric neuromuscular diseases. Specifically, she runs an international consortium (https://c-path.org/programs/d-rsc/) working on regulatory science projects, including developing mathematical models of disease progression for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. She also works with the Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance to help find new therapeutic targets and build collaborations and novel tools leading to effective drugs for FA. In her spare time, she volunteers with search and rescue in the mountains around Tucson, Arizona where she lives, and runs around in the mountains whenever she has time, preferably with her family – Jim, Amelia (seven) and Lucy, the badly behaved brown dog.

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Eboo Patel (Illinois & Lady Margaret Hall 1998) is Founder and President of Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based non-profit organisation building religious pluralism in the United States. He founded IFYC while doing his DPhil in the Sociology of Religion at Oxford, and has built it into the largest such organisation in North America. Eboo is the author of four books on interfaith cooperation, has spoken on over 100 college campuses and has been awarded 15 honorary degrees. He is married to the civil rights attorney Shahnaz Mansuri. They make their lives in the city, where they are the parents of two boys.

Shahana Rasool (South Africa-at-Large & St Cross 1998) has worked in the NGO sector in South Africa and Australia in the area of gender, HIV/AIDS, post-matual depression and domestic violence. She has lectured at the University of Witwatersrand in social work. Currently she is Associate Professor and head of department of the Department of Social work at the University of Johannesburg, lecturing in research, social issues and community development. She has published extensively on gender-based violence. She also does consulting in the areas of gender leadership and transformation. She is mother to a delightful and challenging 12- (going on 21)- year-old boy Meka’eel, who is the joy of her life. Travelling and exploring new beaches remains a passion. Email: shahanar@uj.ac.za
Laura Tavarez (Massachusetts & St John's 1998) has worked in education since leaving Oxford, first as a teacher of middle and high school, and for the past 12 years at the international non-profit Facing History and Ourselves, where she helps schools cultivate democratic citizenship through the study of the humanities. She lives outside Boston with her family and when not at work pursues interests in cooking and gardening first nurtured in Oxford's Covered Market and Botanical Gardens. In 2017, they took off for a different educational adventure, travelling around the world with husband David and road-schooling daughters Mira (eleven) and Jane (eight) along the way.

Manik Varma (India & Oriel 1998) is an artificial intelligence researcher at Microsoft Research India. He is the co-founder of extreme classification research in both academia and industry. Classifiers that he has developed have been deployed on millions of devices worldwide and have protected them from viruses and malware. His algorithms are also generating millions of dollars on the Bing search engine (up to sign ambiguity). He has been awarded the Microsoft Gold Star and Achievement awards, won the PASCAL object detection in images computer vision grand challenge and stood first in chicken chess tournaments and Paps drinking competitions. Manik will be a Visiting Miller Professor at Berkeley in Fall 2018 where he'll be hunting aliens.

S.S. Vasan (India & Trinity 1998) did his DPhil and went through the rite of passage (read McKinsey) before returning to Oxford as Visiting Fellow and Head of Public Health for the University’s spin-out Oxitec (successfully sold for $160m). Since 2011, he has been with Public Health England (PHE) and its predecessor body as senior business development manager for global health, innovation and international consultancy. As PHE’s business lead for Ebola and Zika he led his team to win the RCUK Impact Award 2015 and the British Expertise International Award 2019. Vasan has honorary professorships at the University of York and JIPMER, India. He lives near Porton Down with four females: his wife Pratibha, two daughters (one of them adopted), and their cat Carly.

Ben White (Queensland & University 1998) Ben is a Professor and Director of the Australian Centre for Health Law Research in the Faculty of Law at the Queensland University of Technology. He has been at QUT since returning from Oxford except for a two-year secondment as the Full-Time Commissioner at the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Ben’s interdisciplinary research focuses on the law, policy and practice of end-of-life decision-making. He is also the State Secretary for the Scholarship in Queensland and is enjoying working with the many inspirational young people applying for the Scholarship. Ben married Kylie (spending their first year of married life in Oxford) and together they are raising four wonderful daughters. Basketball is a family obsession and Ben coaches a series of teams in which the girls play.

Justin Whitten (South African College School, Newlands & Harris Manchester 1998) is Head of Economics at University College School in London and frequently finds it difficult to believe that it has been 15 years since he gave up a career in marketing to become a teacher. Having rediscovered a childhood love of bird-watching, he now volunteers on a regular basis for the RSPB at its Ramsham Marshes reserve. He is also heavily involved in his local parish church as a eucharistic minister and catechist. A love of travelling has already taken him to every continent bar Antarctica, and he and his wife, Jennifer, are looking forward to sharing future adventures with their four-year-old son, Joshua.

James ‘Jimmy’ Winfield (Diocesan College, Rondebosch & Exeter 1998) is an associate professor in the College of Accounting at the University of Cape Town. Since completing his PPE degree he has spent most of his time teaching, first at middle and high school in California, and more recently accounting and business ethics at undergraduate level and business school. He has written ten books for his teaching, including in 2016 his University’s Distinguished Teacher Award. His most notable scholarly achievements are his co-authorship of two substantial text books, Understanding Financial Statements, and Business Ethics and Other Paradigms. He is also a co-founder and director of Celerated, a private education and training venture based in Cape Town, where he lives happily with Laura, Tommy (ten) and Sarah (eight).

Rhodes Scholar
John Feddersen (Victoria & Magdalen 2008) After completing the DPhil in Economics in 2013, John remained living in Oxford with his wife, Katherine, and daughter, Audrey (b. 2011). In the intervening years the family has grown to include Gwendolen (b. 2016), and John has kept himself busy leading the business he co-founded in 2013, Aurora Energy Research. Aurora provides subscription research and consultancy services to enable Europe’s energy market participants to make policy and investment decisions. The company has grown to 80 employees across offices in Oxford and Berlin, and plans are currently underway to establish a presence in Australia in the near future (with the ancillary benefit of enabling more frequent travel home).

Sara Khalid (Pakistan & Oriel 2008) completed her doctorate in signal processing and machine learning for patient monitoring in 2016, after which she returned to Pakistan and developed a system for smart removal of unauthorised waste dumps in urban areas in the developing world. The system is being deployed in collaboration with WWP in Karachi, Pakistan. Sara holds a postdoctoral research position in biomedical data science at the University of Oxford.

Adam Levine (New Hampshire & Corpus Christi 2008) In 2012 decamped from Oxford to the Greek & Roman Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Certain he would stay in his native New York, Adam accepted an unusual opportunity as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow at the extraordinary but lesser-known Toledo Museum of Art in Toledo, Ohio. What was meant to be a two-year stint in the Midwest has evolved, five years later, into a role as the Deputy Director and Curator of Ancient Art. Adam retains a foot in the corporate world, having sold the business he co-founded (Art Research Technologies) to the London-based Podium Capital, where he serves as the Product Development Lead. Likewise, he continues to consult for other museums, both in the United States and abroad.

Hila Levy (Colorado & Exeter 2008) has returned to Oxford to work on a DPhil in Zoology (focused on penguin genetics) after serving as an Air Force intelligence officer in South Korea and Japan. She continues to balance her studies with work as a professional translator, part-time research officer based in Europe, and now wife and mother of two children under two. She would love to be in touch with any alumni making their way through Oxford.

Joyce Meng (Virginia & Balliol 2008) is Partner/Managing Director of Vermeer Capital, a global long short equity investment fund. This year, she also celebrates the 10th anniversary of Geology (www.geology.org), a 100% volunteer-run online going marketplace for education projects and student scholarships that she started with her co-founder in 2008. Last year (2017), she got married to Dave and moved from Brooklyn to Jackson Heights, where she enjoys long walks and the many great restaurants in the neighborhood. Joyce enjoys traveling and writing. Her website is www.joycemeng.com.

Sarah H. Miller (Texas & New College 2008) After some time in astrophysics academia at Caltech and the University of California on a Chancellor’s Fellowship, Dr Miller joined the bureaucratic ranks in DC to serve as a data scientist, and now works for the US Department of State. She and her husband Oliver King (Jesus, 2006) have recently welcomed their first daughter into the world. Sarah has also recently finished illustrating a children’s book, front a blues/jazz/rock band that gigs around Northern Virginia, and loves the precious chances she’s had to keep in touch with fellow Rhodes.

Nicole Novak (Iowa & Linacre 2008) graduated with a PhD in Epidemiology from University of Michigan in 2016. She has since returned to Iowa where she lives with her husband, Ethan Forsgren. Nicole conducts research with rural and immigrant communities through the University of Iowa College of Public Health. She also serves as a dedicated volunteer and board member for the Iowa Harm Reduction Coalition and the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa. Ethan studies medicine and public policy. Together they stay involved with Catholic Worker House on Cowley Road in Oxford. They were delighted to have Nicole’s Oxford flatmates join them at their wedding in 2016.

Pravin Rajan (New Mexico & Trinity 2008) continues his exploration on the application of evolutionary models to social phenomena. After Oxford, he served in the Pentagon and then Afghanistan, where he mapped local insurgent, narcotics, and political networks. He then worked in the hedge fund world, a period of having no impact whatsoever on the world’s light, but enjoying the intellectual stimulation of applying his models to a new arena. Bored with Excel, he decided to try his hand at insurgency and has founded a venture-backed startup which remains in stealth mode. He lives in New York City.

Kate Robson (Australia-at-Large & Christ Church 2008) completed her specialist nephrology training in Melbourne and Oxford; achieving Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2017. Now a nephrologist in Melbourne, Kate cares for individuals requiring dialysis and kidney transplantation, and was recently granted a NHMRC scholarship for her doctoral research investigating autoimmune kidney disease at Monash University’s Centre for Inflammatory Diseases. Awarded an MPH in History of Medicine at Oxford, Kate continues to share this passion with colleagues and students. She presented at the 2018 Australia & New Zealand Society for History of Medicine congress, and is an active member of the Medical History Society of Victoria and St Vincent’s Heritage & Archives Committee. She also enjoys playing cello with Melbourne’s Corpus Medicorum orchestra.

Landis Stankievech (Alberta & Exeter 2008) Following a two-and-a-half year stint at McKinley & Company in Calgary upon graduation, Landis returned to his hometown of Trochu, Alberta to help with his father’s latest business venture. He and his father work with their forty staff at their equipment dealership in the agricultural industry. He and his wife Teresa live in Three Hills, Alberta.

Andreas Witte (Germany & University 2008) works as Principal Legal Counsel in the European Central Bank, Frankfurt, dealing with legal questions of banking regulation and supervision in the euro area. He writes occasionally on these matters in law journals and is hopeful to publish his doctoral dissertation on third-party effects of public international law treaties ‘some time soon’. On the private side of things, he is working hard to overcome his long-standing lack of talent for sports (thanks to the Rhodes Trust for its more liberal interpretation of the ‘mainly outdoor sports’ selection criterion) and took up softball, skiing and surfing in recent years (with slow but motivating progress). He is also a reader (and less active contributor than previously) on the mailing list.
Images from the last year