CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR ......................................................................................................................... 3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ............................................................................................ 4

SAILING DINNER INFORMATION ............................................................................................ 5

LETTER FROM OXFORD (February 2020) ................................................................................. 6

OXFORD COVID JOURNAL (18 March 2020) ........................................................................... 7

TRIBUTES TO ARTHUR SCACE............................................................................................... 9

IN MEMORIAM .......................................................................................................................... 13

SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS ....................................................................................................... 14

CANADIAN RHODES SCHOLARS ELECT FOR 2020 ............................................................. 15

CARS EXECUTIVE 2019 – 2021 ............................................................................................ 19
FROM THE EDITOR

This newsletter was being compiled as a Hilary Term newsletter when March arrived and the world changed. From the daily lives that each of us lead, to global politics, economics, anti-racism and human welfare, there doesn’t seem to be a realm of life that isn’t undergoing a seismic shift this year.

While riding the roller coaster of 2020, I have asked myself, “What is the role of a CARS newsletter in this time?” CARS aims to support a vibrant Rhodes alumni community in Canada, and this newsletter is meant to support this aim.

A vibrant community.

In my mind, to be part of a community is to feel and know that one is not alone. And to be vibrant, a community must have energy and colour – a diversity of people and perspectives, and many interactions between them.

I will let you in on a secret. I don’t always feel that I belong to this community. At times I feel the weight of the scholarship. I wonder if one day my CV will prove that I was worthy of it and prove my value to this community. No one has suggested to me that I must somehow prove my value. I have been warmly welcomed by each person I have spoken with at every Rhodes event I have attended. It is only when I am disconnected and looking at this group from afar that my doubts creep back in.

One of my 2007 classmates organized a Zoom call for our cohort this summer. On that call were friends who I adore – friends I admire not for their CV’s, but for the lovely humans that they are. During that call I was reminded again that this community is here for me, I am a part of it, it will welcome me for the energy and colour that I can bring, and it will be more energetic and colourful for my presence.

In this time, we may all feel more disconnected from the communities that we are a part of. People are working to find new ways to connect, and to remind ourselves and others that we are not alone. With this newsletter, I hope all who read it feel closer to our community and are reminded of the colour and energy that exists here, and that they themselves can bring.

I hope you will accept our invitation to join the first ever virtual sailing dinner on September 12 to welcome our newest scholars to the community, to add your unique energy and colour to the celebration, and to be reminded that you are valuable and you are not alone. I hope to see you there!

Warmly,

Katherine Trajan (British Columbia & Linacre 2007)
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At this time of the year we are usually finalizing arrangements for the Sailing Weekend, eagerly anticipating the opportunity to meet the new Scholars and to spend time with old friends. I remember my own Sailing Dinner like it was yesterday, my heart racing as the taxi pulled up to the hotel, with excitement and trepidation about what the future might hold. So it is with sadness that I start this message confirming that as with so many of our experiences these days, our Sailing Dinner will be virtual, on September 12. Look on the next page for details of how to sign up. We will do everything we can to welcome the new Scholars to the community and give them the send-off they deserve as they take up the Scholarship. Some are going up to Oxford in person and some will have an entirely ‘virtual’ Michaelmas. We are hopeful everyone will have their (physical) turn under the dreaming spires, walking down Broad Street in the evening alive with the sounds of students and dreams and the persistent awe of that otherworldly place we have shared through the years.

The scope and scale of the effect of COVID-19 on every aspect of our lives is remarkable. So much is still unknown, with the right way to ‘land the plane’ still unclear. I have heard from many members of our community who are working on efforts to limit the detrimental effect of COVID-19. From working parents figuring out how to do conference calls while concurrently ensuring three elementary school aged children are paying attention to school (a feat about which I remain in awe!) to those in government crafting economic policy, everyone has had their fair share of challenges. Whether you are deciding how many billions of dollars to allocate to a program, leading a randomized controlled trial of a COVID treatment, or adapting your seminars to Zoom, the Rhodes community is there to support you and to act as a resource if you need help. Please don’t hesitate to reach out.

This message is bookended by sad news. Our community lost one of its brightest stars in May of this year. Arthur Scace (Ontario & Corpus Christi, 1961) was a National Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarships in Canada and a giant of Canadian law and business. He was also an exceptionally generous, thoughtful friend to so many. I had the opportunity to speak with some of Arthur’s friends over the last few months who shared a series of reflections about their friendship and about what Arthur meant to them. You’ll see these later on in the newsletter; together they paint a picture of someone who was at once extraordinary and approachable. He will be greatly missed.

Please join us virtually on September 12 to help introduce the new Scholars to our community.

Sincerely,

Braden O’Neill (Alberta & University 2011)
(VIRTUAL) SAILING DINNER INFORMATION

The Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars cordially invites you to attend

The 2020 Canadian Rhodes Scholars (Virtual) Sailing Dinner

Saturday 12 September 2020
17:00 to 19:00 Eastern Time (14:00 to 16:00 Pacific Time)

Join us for an online event to welcome Canada’s newest scholars and visit with friends.

17:00 – 18:00 “Cocktail party”
18:00 – 19:00 “Sailing dinner”

Register for the event online via this link.
LETTER FROM OXFORD (February 2020)

Friends and family have asked if Oxford is all that I expected it to be. Prior to arriving, I perused travel and student blogs that portrayed Oxford as this ethereal and magical place, filled with awe-inspiring architecture and sandstone. Nothing could have prepared me for the torrential downpours or the fact that the rarity of sunlight would necessitate a daily supplement of Vitamin D. However, even despite the unfavorable weather conditions, my time at Oxford has been nothing short of extraordinary. Not a day goes by when I do not think about how lucky I am to have been given this incredible opportunity to reflect on past experiences, present passions, and future aspirations.

I have met some of the most diverse and brilliant scholars within the Rhodes community. We have spent countless hours engaged in conversations over tea in Milner Hall, on runs through Port Meadow, or even at the occasional bop! My fellow scholars have shared narratives of surfing trains in Bangladesh, delivering social circus therapy in Turkey, and climbing Kilimanjaro. We have debated everything from the profound to the frivolous, from the appropriateness of the Rhodes Israel trip to the best coffee shop in Oxford.

It is during one of these many discussions that the most difficult topic of my time at Oxford had come up. A friend of mine and I were discussing what it meant for us to embody the Rhodes mantra of “standing up for the world”. She – an impassioned climate activist – was finding it difficult to reconcile the urgency of the current global crisis with her relative inaction within the Oxford classroom. How could we rationalize spending two years within this sheltered community while there were challenges to be faced back home and around the world? With a background in health and public service, I shared the same sentiment. There is a certain degree of irony sitting in a classroom learning about welfare states and distribution theories while people are suffering in real time at the hands of our failing health and social systems.

To this day, I have not been able to pull together a rational explanation to defend my decision. I might not be fulfilled, but I am happy, learning, and growing. There is something important and special about the Oxford and Rhodes experiences that render them valuable in and of themselves. Perhaps it is the opportunity to broaden my worldview among this unique community of global scholars. Perhaps it is the space given to me to challenge and be challenged both academically and personally. Or perhaps it is simply the time afforded to me to finally breathe and be more intentional with my future pursuits. I have a lifetime to fight the world’s fight. For now, I am still figuring out what that means for me and learning to lean into the Rhodes experience – enjoying every moment among inspiring company and within this picturesque (yet stormy) city.

Michael Liu (Ontario & St. Hilda’s 2019)
Our dissertations were due that afternoon.
No-one was as stressed about it as we should have been. We were mostly baffled.
I had done mine on children’s picture books because I’d thought it would be fun; now I alternated between scrolling up and down a draft full of Beatrix Potter and Frog and Toad illustrations and checking the Live Covid News updates.
The idea of leaving Oxford had gone from not-thought-of, to a vague possibility, to maybe-inevitable over the course of two days.
I sat with a few classmates in the dining hall, spread out far apart down the table eating dinners that we had brought from our rooms. There was no-one else in the hall. The college had asked people to leave if at all possible, but most of our seven-person class was still lingering, scrambling with their submissions.
One classmate ran back into the hall.
“They changed the college library codes! It’s all closed. And my laptop is still in there—”
“What??”
“We’ve only got four hours left!”
He ran off to find the porter.
The drama was resolved; I scrolled through my draft a final time and then sent it in, anti-climatically.
I went for a walk.
There were no tourists, hardly any undergraduates. I walked up through the fields behind University Parks and got covered in mud; I wandered down Broad Street and considered rewarding myself with a post-dissertation book from Blackwell’s. I opened the door and got as far as the first shelf before feeling overwhelmingly guilty about being in a shop for anything other than a necessary Tesco’s run. I hurried out again and scrubbed my fingers with hand sanitizer.
On High Street I ran into another of my classmates.
“Did you make it to the Faculty Library on time?” he said.
I hadn’t checked my e-mail in hours. “No...?”
“They announced they were locking up and extending all the holds. Everyone went and cleaned out the shelves. It’s pretty grim in there.”
I got ready to run. “How much time do I have?”
The church bell rang. We were just down the street from St. Mary’s. Five-thirty exactly; closing time.
“Damn,” he said. “That’s bad luck.”
I contemplated the reality of preparing for finals using on-line editions of novels.
“Are you staying in Oxford or going?” he said, which was the question everyone was asking.
“I’ve given myself twelve hours to decide.”
I kept walking. I walked down Merton Street, went down along the river, doubled back again. It was dusk, now, and the lamps were coming on under the newly-opened magnolias.
I stood for ten minutes on the corner of the Rad Cam square, and only one person walked by.

I had never seen Oxford so empty; I wondered how many people had.
The city had never been so beautiful.

Nayani Jensen (Maritimes & Univ 2018)
I first met Arthur in 1958 on the playing fields of Trinity College. We had made the University of Toronto Intermediate football team. He was in 3rd year at Trinity; I was in first year EngBus. He was a centre and I a guard - leg to leg and shoulder to shoulder. I liked him - he was genuine. UofT cut out EngBus and I cut out for Business at Western. I did not see him again till 1962.

Arthur got the Rhodes for 1961 after detouring to Harvard to pick up a MA. I was very surprised to get one the next year. I thought the knock on my door 20 minutes after arriving at Oriel was probably my scout to advise this wild colonial boy that dinner in hall was in half an hour and not to forget my gown. It was Arthur who said: "Welcome to Oxford and by the way you're on the hockey team." I croaked out a thanks but admitted that I could not skate. His response: "Perfect, you'll be the goalie." Fortunately, Michel Vennat arrived, an experienced goalie and we won against Cambridge; I was the non-playing captain.

Arthur's fiancée, Susie, decided to keep an eye on him and came to Oxford in 1962. She also kept a friendly eye on a number of his wild Canadian friends. To know Arthur was to know Susie, and vice versa. They have operated as a team since they met 62 years ago. Frequently people who take leading roles in society provide a good image, inspiration and/or direction. Some do a tremendous amount of heavy lifting behind the scene. Arthur excelled in both roles and so did Susie - so the result was that any organization (cultural, philanthropic, educational or business) got not a twofer, but a 4-4.

Arthur went to Osgoode Hall to get his Canadian Law degree. He specialized in tax law as a solicitor and litigator while climbing the ladder at the venerable McCarthys firm where he became managing partner and chair. He led the legal charge to allow the firm to become Canada's first national (and international) law firm. He was very respected in the profession not only for his legal knowledge but also for his trait of listening, learning and then persuading - very smart, but better still, wise. He was highly regarded and well liked by his clients. He was similarly regarded by the profession, becoming the Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Arthur became a Member of the Order of Canada in 2004. He had contributed not only financially in a major way to many good causes including the University Health Network, Sunnybrook Hospital, United Way, MaRS Discovery District, University of Toronto Schools, the National Ballet of Canada, the Canadian Opera Company and the Rhodes Trust, but he also served in many instances as a trustee, director, secretary, etc. He was doggedly dedicated - if funds had to be raised, he donated and he sought and obtained money from others. An example of the Scaces' philanthropy was their lead gift for the David Naylor Medical Scholarships. He was asked to raise funds for a new opera house to be located near the Legislative Buildings, but in a recession the government support collapsed. Not to be put off, he teamed up with Richard Bradshaw to head the campaign to build the magnificent...
hall just south of Osgoode Hall. I refer to it as "the House that Arthur built". He was the Canadian Rhodes Secretary for 33 years. Many of you will recall the effort that Susie and Arthur put into keeping in touch with Canadian Scholars in Oxford and here in Canada. Corpus loved him and made him an Honourary Fellow. On an individual basis, their long time home had a semi-suite on the 3rd floor. It was available and busy for Scholars and other friends passing through, young people from other countries and for those who needed to get back on their feet.

On the business side, Arthur was sought after for boards. He provided solid advice to many companies including Scotiabank, WestJet and Canada Life. I know of his value first hand. I retired from the Lallemand board in 1989 when I became a judge. Its CEO, Jean Chagnon, asked me to give him 3 names as replacement. When I gave him Arthur’s name, Jean exclaimed that we had to persuade him to accept. Some years before I joined the company, Arthur won a dumping case brought by Lallemand against his foreign competitor client. Jean was impressed by Arthur’s brilliance. Seventeen years later, on hearing of my retirement from the bench Jean sent me a message that he wanted me back and he was also keeping Arthur.

Over the years Arthur and I kept in touch on a number of planes - Rhodes matters, politics (we were Progressive Conservatives, emphasis Progressive), get togethers/ trips and golf. One time we determined independently that each of us had contributed to Bob Rae’s campaign with each requesting Bob that our name not go into an annual solicitation list. The Scaces and the Farleys have had close-by Florida condos for over 30 years and lots of fun trips to various overseas destinations. We were ardent but mediocre golfers - our favourite flagellation was the alternate shot competition when each of us put the other into impossible lies with great apologies/giggles. We knew that Susie was the best of any of our foursomes, with my Sandy next. And now we are a threesome.

Godspeed Arthur.  Farewell old friend, my brother that I never had.

Jim Farley (Ontario & Oriel 1962)

I suspect that I have known Arthur longer than anyone in the Rhodes community since he was an undergraduate in the Department of Political Economy (1956-1960) when I was a young professor (1955-1965). As well, Arthur was a classmate of my wife, Dorothy, and both part of a brilliant small group in Political Science and Economics. Unfortunately, in the first case and, providentially in the second case, I did not teach either of them.

It was impossible not to note Art (as we knew him) – tall, fit, and ever-present, both socially and intellectually, in the halls of the Department. Happily, those qualities were characteristic of Arthur to the very end of his days and it was always a great treat whenever Dorothy and I shared any situation with him and Susan.

H. Ian Macdonald (Ontario & Balliol 1952)
I did not meet Arthur and Susie until well after I left Oxford, came back to U of T for law school, and went into politics. I studied for the Bar Ad while an MP, and Arthur taught me tax.

He was brilliant, I was less so but thoroughly enjoyed the laconic humour with which he explained the fundamentals of a subject he grasped more clearly than everyone else. He was also very funny - ribbing me mercilessly about my politics but encouraging in so many other ways.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Trust, Arlene and I went to the reunion in South Africa. We spent much good time with Art and Susie at this extraordinary event, the highlight of which was Nelson Mandela’s speech at a celebratory dinner where he began by saying “I am speaking to you as Cecil Rhodes’s successor as President of South Africa” which prompted Art to whisper (loudly) to me “smartest opening to a speech I’ve ever heard. Why didn’t you think of that, Rae?”

When the NDP government I led was defeated Arthur picked up the phone and offered good advice, and as time passed I realized he had become a mentor. He got me more involved in the life of the Trust, I went on the selection committee and when I was recruited to restructure the TSO Arthur was there with great kindness and, again, encouragement. And when I jumped back into politics Arthur was there again, forgiving me for my enthusiasms and, yes, supporting me all the same (albeit, as Jim reminds us, anonymously).

He was one of the best people I have known: thoughtful, wise, funny, generous, and a valued counsellor at many challenging moments.

Much love to Susie and the family. The Rhodes community in Canada has lost its leader, but they have loved and lost even more intensely. Art Scace was a very, very fine man. We were lucky to have travelled on the same voyage with him.

Bob Rae (Ontario & Balliol 1969)

1977 was a very good year: for the first time, women could apply for the Rhodes Scholarship; I was fortunate enough to be awarded one; and, I met Art Scace.

I met Art shortly after being awarded the Scholarship. That meeting set the tone for our friendship, which continued for 43 years, and tells you much about Art. Here’s what happened.

Eileen: Pleased to meet you, Mr. Scace.
Art: There is no need to call me “Mr. Scace”.
Eileen: All right. Pleased to meet you Scace.

To which Art burst out laughing. He thought I was being a bit cheeky. In truth, I was so awestruck at meeting the already infamous Art Scace that it never dawned on me that he was inviting me to call him by his first name. But, from that day forward, whenever we met, Art would call me “Gillese” and I would call him “Scace”.

Bob Rae (Ontario & Balliol 1969)
What does this story reveal about Art Scace? That he was humble and fun and immensely lovable. Others will speak of Art’s enormous contributions to the law, to over a generation of Rhodes Scholars, and to the community. I will talk about these personal qualities, for that is what I will miss most about Art.

Humble – When I met Art, I was a no-name kid from the Prairies who aspired to be a lawyer but had never even met one. Art was already one of Canada’s leading lawyers, playing a major role in a leading Canadian law firm. He was the Canadian National Secretary for the Rhodes Scholars Association and seemed to know everyone. Yet, he was inviting me to call him by his first name. No pretense. No ego. No artifice (no pun intended!) To know Art was to love Art.

Fun – I made a gaffe in calling him Scace, not realizing he had invited me to call him Art. Was it awkward? For me, the answer is a resounding “yes”. But Art’s response was his hearty laugh. In the over 40 years of our friendship, Art was unfailingly warm, smiling and laughing. He was always genuinely interested in me and those in my life – not looking around the room for “important” people with whom to speak. It was just plain fun to spend time with Art and Susie.

Immensely lovable – As I said above, to know Art was to love Art. But that sentence is incomplete: to know Art was to also know Susie – and to love them both. Their relationship was inspirational in so many ways. How fortunate I was to bask in their friendship and warmth, to see what a formidable duo can accomplish without sacrificing family, to watch philanthropy at work, and to know that love for life does actually exist.

Oh how I will miss you, Scace.

Justice Eileen Gillese (Prairies & Wadham 1977)

From the day I met him at our Sailing Day lunch in New York City in 1980 (when I was a rough-hewn Prairie boy and he was a grand but welcoming Toronto mandarin) to my last day as Canadian National Secretary in 2018, Arthur Scace was a constant and reassuring presence in Canadian Rhodes circles. He and Susie were an ever friendly, encouraging and welcoming couple, from that first Rhodes gathering before sailing to Southampton from New York, to the going down dinner every year at Rhodes House, to the dinner for all six regional secretaries held at their house in Toronto in 1995.

Everything always seemed to fall into place during a conversation with Arthur - a quick phone call about a selection committee issue, or an awkward applicant, would start with warm greetings, quickly get to an orderly solution for the issue, and end with exhortations to get out there and get the job done with a smile. On hanging up from a call with Arthur, or ending a conversation in person, you could hardly recall what the problem had been, as everything seemed so calm and manageable. We will miss Art’s steady hand, his warm words and that ever present and reassuring smile.

Andrew Wilkinson (Prairies & Magdalen 1980)
IN MEMORIAM

Allan Gotlieb (Manitoba & Christ Church 1951)
(1928 - 18 April 2020)

A long-time public servant and companion of the Order of Canada, Mr. Gotlieb became deputy minister of the department of communications in 1968 and was later named deputy minister of manpower and immigration. He became the ambassador to the U.S. in 1981, and held the position throughout Ronald Reagan’s administration. Mr. Gotlieb penned five books, including The Washington Diaries, recounting his time in the U.S. capital.

Read more of the Globe and Mail’s description of his life, and Canadian Lawyer Magazine’s tribute to him.

Desmond Morton (Ontario & Keble 1959)
(1937 – 4 September 2019)

The author of more than 40 books, Morton was a rare historian who was drawn more to the lives of ordinary people than those of famous leaders.

At the celebration of Morton’s 80th birthday in 2017, Ed Broadbent, former leader of the federal NDP praised Morton for being “intellectually honest.”

“Des is one of the best writers in Canada, bar none. His writing is a model of intelligence and clarity,” Broadbent told the Reporter at the time. “He was never interested in the so called ‘great men’ of history, but rather the working people, the soldiers and their families, always including the women. Inclusive and unpredictable, he always reached out to people with whom he personally disagreed.”

Read more of the McGill Reporter’s article, and the Globe and Mail’s article.
SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS

Winner of the 2018 Griffin Prize for Poetry for his book *This Wound is a World*, **Billy-Ray Belcourt (Prairies & Wadham 2016)** has published his third book, *A History of My Brief Body*. The memoir takes the form of lyric essays that explore the experience of being Indigenous and queer, and invite joy as a form of resistance to the colonial state.

**Chrystia Freeland (Prairies & St Antony’s 1991)** has been named Canada’s first female finance minister. She steps into the role at a time when Canada is facing an historic deficit related to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Freeland will also continue in her role as deputy prime minister.

**Geza Tatrallyay (Ontario & St Catherine’s 1972)** has published his first short story collection, *The Spinning Mind*, and his fourth collection of poetry, *Extinction Rebellion*.


**Maike van Niekerk (Maritimes & St John’s 2017)** has been awarded the Knight-Hennessy Scholarship from Stanford University. The first recipient from Atlantic Canada, Maike will be studying in the School of Medicine beginning this August.

*Lands of Lost Borders: A Journey on the Silk Road* by **Kate Harris (Ontario & Hertford 2006)** was awarded the 2019 RBC Taylor Prize for this memoir of her journey on bicycle along the Silk Road.

University of Toronto cosmologist **Renée Hložek (South Africa & Christ Church 2008)** was interviewed by the Financial Post on the potential for Canada’s space industry.

**Dominic Barton (British Columbia & Brasenose 1984)** was appointed as Canada’s Ambassador to China in September 2019.
Nina Acharya
Ontario, 2020
University: McMaster University

Nina Acharya is a first-year medical student at McMaster University. She received her Bachelor of Science in Human Biology, Health and Society from Cornell University where she was named a Merrill Presidential Scholar. Her research interests include nutrition interventions in vulnerable pediatric populations, specifically looking at vitamin D supplementation at the national and international level. Through work in nutrition assistance policy at Global Affairs Canada she developed a further interest in exploring this area from a public service perspective. Nina also helped create the Canadian Science Fair Journal, a virtual mentorship program for children ages 6-18 to introduce students to scientific writing and publishing. Outside of her academic work, she is involved in programs with people with disabilities through Best Buddies and the Dance Ability Movement. Nina has been dancing since the age of three and most recently served as president of Cornell Sitara Bollywood Fusion Dance Team. In the future, she hopes to become a pediatrician while also contributing to children’s health via global health policy.

Emily Boucher
Prairies, 2020
University: University of Calgary

Emily Boucher is a first-year medical student and a graduate of the Bachelor of Health Sciences program at the University of Calgary. She is passionate about raising the standard of care for older adults through clinical research and knowledge translation. Emily has experience in both clinical and basic science research and spent one summer evaluating the use of technologies for aging in Hong Kong. She has published her research in a first-author manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal. Emily founded the Campus Community Closet program at the University of Calgary, which allows students to obtain clothing, school supplies and hygiene products at no cost, being utilized by over 885 students to date and diverting over 5000 pounds of textiles from the landfill. In her free time, Emily enjoys skiing with the University of Calgary’s cross-country ski team and cooking with friends and family. Emily intends to continue her studies in population health.

Constance Bourguignon
Quebec, 2020
University: Harvard University

Constance Bourguignon holds a B.A. in Romance Languages & Literatures and Studies of Women, Gender & Sexuality from Harvard University. A Phi Beta Kappa member and John Harvard scholar, Constance has conducted multiple research projects focusing on the intersections of language, francophone cultures, education, and gender studies. They have worked in schools and other education-related organizations in multiple countries and have invested their time in awareness raising and policy work in support of Deaf activists. Constance intends to pursue postgraduate studies in the field of education at Oxford.
Manpreet Deol
Prairies, 2020
University: University of Calgary

Manpreet Deol is in her final year of studying Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at the University of Calgary as a Schulich Leader of Canada. Manpreet’s relationship with her intellectually-disabled brother influenced her perspective on the way humans communicate and interact with technology. She aspires to bring empathy and human factors to the forefront of her innovations, balancing qualitative and quantitative approaches to design more inclusive human-machine interfaces. To date, she has innovated 5 assistive technologies for individuals with varying needs and contributed to a provisional patent. As a proud Sikh and an active feminist, she advocates for equity in postsecondary STEM environments and community spaces.

Patrick Hickey
Newfoundland, 2020
University: Western University

Originally from St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Patrick Hickey is a Global Investment Banking Analyst with RBC Capital Markets’ Mergers and Acquisitions group. Patrick graduated from the Ivey School of Business at Western University, where he studied as a Ralph M. Barford Loran Scholar. With an interest in economic resilience and the fishing industry, Patrick plans to pursue a career that embraces culture, and uses business to generate returns for the economy, for people, and for the environment. Patrick has been involved with mental health advocacy in Canada, effective altruism on campus, and educational expeditions to the polar regions. After Oxford, Patrick plans to return to Newfoundland and Labrador to help redefine the province’s economy for the future.

Rory Hills
British Columbia, 2020
University: University of Victoria

Rory Hills is currently completing a BSc Honours in biochemistry at the University of Victoria. His honours thesis focuses on characterizing proteins that have applicability in producing biofuels from seaweed. He has previously worked as part of a harm reduction pilot project that uses analytical chemistry to determine the composition of street drugs in an effort to help address the ongoing overdose crisis. He helped found the UVic Synthetic Biology Club which provides a space for undergraduate-led research. He has worked with Dr. Andrew Weaver, MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head, in his legislative office, constituency office, and re-election campaign. Rory has a deep interest in the intersection between science and society. At the University of Oxford, Rory is hoping to pursue a DPhil in Biochemistry.
Sai Rajagopal
Prairies, 2020
University: Harvard University

Sai Shanthanand Rajagopal is a student studying women’s studies and engineering at Harvard University. A biomedical device designer, Sai has worked with a team to design an electric rowing machine for paraplegic patients and currently focuses on designing safe penile prostheses for transgender people. Sai's development work with the MIT D-Lab and the non-profit Azal focuses on the intersection of gender, technology, and 3D-printed prostheses in conflict-prone areas in Colombia and the Middle East. Sai is passionate about mitigating the effects of climate change and moving towards a green economy. As a candidate in the 2019 Canadian Federal Election, Sai increased the vote share of the Green Party in Winnipeg North. In the future, Sai wants to work at the intersection of gender-affirming clinical care and policy.

Sara Rotenberg
Ontario, 2020
University: Georgetown University

Sara Rotenberg is a senior studying Global Health at Georgetown University’s School of Nursing and Health Studies. She is currently applying her passion for disability inclusion by working on making the Mumbai Metro accessible and designing a stool for people with disabilities. Her previous research as a Global Health Fellow focused on rights-based population policies. Sara is a strong advocate for equity and international development and has previously worked with the Embassy of Canada to the United States, the World Health Organization, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and the Canadian Pediatric Society in various health equity and international development-focused positions. She is also deeply committed to reconciliation, and worked to create Whose.Land, Canada’s first comprehensive app for Indigenous land acknowledgement.

Isabelle Roach
Maritimes, 2020
University: University of King’s College

Isabelle Roach is a fourth year student at the University of King’s College in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she is pursuing a BSc with Honours in Biology. She currently works in Dalhousie’s Department of Medical Neuroscience as an undergraduate student researcher, studying traumatic brain injury and its effects on the blood-brain barrier. She has also worked as a research assistant with the Nova Scotia Health Authority, studying the effects of anesthesia in elderly patients. Outside of the classroom, she is the captain of the varsity volleyball team, volunteers at the IWK Health Center and sings in a local choir. Isabelle intends to pursue studies in neuroscience.
Virginie Simoneau-Gilbert  
Quebec, 2020  
University: Universite de Montreal

Virginie holds a B.A. in Philosophy and is currently pursuing a Master’s Degree at the Universite de Montreal. She has a keen interest in animal ethics and legal philosophy. In her Master’s thesis, she studies the foundations and evolution of legal personhood, and intends to demonstrate that we should grant non-human animals the status of person not on the basis of moral autonomy, but on the basis of animals’ sensitivity to pleasure and pain. Virginie is also highly involved in the Montreal SPCA. In 2019, she wrote a book entitled Au nom des animaux: l’histoire de la SPCA de Montreal (1869 - 2019) which was published as part of the celebrations for the Montreal SPCA’s 150th anniversary. Virginie intends to continue her studies in philosophy, with a focus on animals’ moral behaviors and capacity to respond to norms.

Elizabeth Tuck  
Maritimes, 2020  
University: St. Thomas University

Elizabeth Tuck is in her final year of studies at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick completing an honours degree in Human Rights with accompanying majors in Political Science and Great Books. Hailing from Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador, Elizabeth’s research is looking at the impact of the #MeToo Movement on workplace sexual harassment jurisprudence in the United States. She has a passion for both gender and the law and to this end is looking to pursue an MSt in Women’s Studies and an MPhil in Socio-Legal Research at Oxford. Elizabeth is a dedicated member of Girl Guides of Canada, a Young Director with Girls20 Girls on Boards Program, and a volunteer with YWCA Canada.
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