



From the Office of the American Secretary

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******* NEWS RELEASE ***** NEWS RELEASE ***** NEWS RELEASE *******

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, DC / November 20, 2021 – Elliot F. Gerson, American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, today announced the names of the 32 Americans chosen as Rhodes Scholars. “For the second year, a class of Rhodes Scholars has been elected entirely virtually, with both candidates and selectors participating remotely, safely, and independently. As successful as the process was, we of course hope to return to in-person interviews and selection next year in cities across the country, as had been done for over a century.”

Gerson described this year’s class: “This year’s Rhodes Scholars representing the United States—elected by 16 committees around the country meeting simultaneously—will go to England next October to study in fields across the full breadth of the University of Oxford. They are inspiring young leaders already, and we are confident that their contributions to public welfare nationally and globally will expand exponentially over the course of their careers in varied sectors and disciplines.”

Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford—ranked the #1 university in the world in some global rankings—and may allow funding in some instances for four years. Mr. Gerson called the Rhodes Scholarships, "the oldest and best-known award for international study, and arguably the most famous academic award available to American college graduates." The Scholarships were created in 1902 by the Will of Cecil Rhodes and are provided in partnership with the Second Century Founders, John McCall MacBain O.C. and The Atlantic Philanthropies, and many other generous benefactors. The first class of American Rhodes Scholars entered Oxford in 1904; those elected today will enter Oxford in October 2022.

Rhodes Scholars are chosen in a two-stage process. First, applicants must be endorsed by their college or university. This year more than 2,300 students began the application process; 826 were endorsed by 247 different colleges and universities. Committees of Selection in each of 16 U.S. districts then invite the strongest applicants to appear before them for interview. Each district interviewed at least 14 finalists.

The class includes 22 women, the most ever elected in a year, and has winners from 24 different colleges and universities. It includes the first Rhodes Scholar ever elected from Clemson University. Also elected were three Rhodes Scholars from colleges that had not had winners for more than 25 years, the second ever from Mount Holyoke College and Union College, and the third from Claremont McKenna College.

The American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust explained that applicants are chosen on the basis of the criteria set down in the Will of Cecil Rhodes. "These criteria include first and fundamentally, academic excellence. This is a critical but only threshold condition. A Rhodes Scholar should also have great ambition for social impact, and an uncommon ability to work with others to achieve one's goals. They should be committed to make a strong difference for good in the world, be concerned for the welfare of others, and be acutely conscious of inequities." Mr. Gerson added that "although the Trust strives for the most inclusive application pool possible through outreach efforts, consideration of balance or

diversity are not factors in selection.” And finally, he said, “a Rhodes Scholar should show great promise of leadership. In short, we seek outstanding young people of intellect, character, leadership and commitment to service. These basic characteristics are directed at fulfilling Mr. Rhodes’s hopes that the Rhodes Scholars would make an important and positive contribution throughout the world. In Rhodes’s words, his Scholars should 'esteem the performance of public duties as their highest aim.'”

Applicants in the United States may apply either through the State where they are legally resident or where they have attended college for at least two years. The district committees met separately, November 18, 19 and 20, through a virtual platform across the country. Each district committee made a final selection of two Rhodes Scholars from the candidates of the state or states within the district. Two-hundred thirty-five applicants from 76 different colleges and universities reached the final stage of the competition, including 12 that had never before had a student win a Rhodes Scholarship.

The 32 Rhodes Scholars chosen from the United States will join an international group of Scholars chosen from 23 other jurisdictions (more than 60 countries) around the world, and for the third year, two Scholars from any country in the world without its own Scholarship. Over one hundred Rhodes Scholars will be selected worldwide this year, including several who have attended American colleges and universities but who are not U.S. citizens and who have applied through their home country.

With the elections announced today, 3,578 Americans have won Rhodes Scholarships, representing 327 colleges and universities. Since 1976, women have been eligible to apply, and 627 American women have now won the coveted scholarship. Approximately 2,000 American Rhodes Scholars are living in all parts of the U.S. and abroad.

The value of the Rhodes Scholarship varies depending on the academic field and the degree (B.A., master’s, doctoral) chosen. The Rhodes Trust pays all college and university fees, provides a stipend to cover necessary expenses while in residence in Oxford as well as

during vacations, and transportation to and from England. The total value of the Scholarship averages approximately \$75,000 per year, and up to as much as approximately US\$250,000 for Scholars who remain at Oxford for four years in certain departments.

For more information about the Rhodes Trust in Oxford and in the rest of the world, please contact Ben Russell at ben.russell@rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk.

The full list of the newly elected United States Rhodes Scholars, with the states from which they were chosen, their hometowns, and their American colleges or universities, follows. Very brief profiles follow the list.

For further information about the U.S. Rhodes Scholarships, please contact:

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Beginning Sunday, November 21 and through next week. Mr. Gerson may be reached for press inquiries or comments at elliottgerson@gmail.com. Joyce Knight and Thom Yu of the American Secretary's Office will be able to provide details on how to reach Scholars-elect, and may be reached at joyceknight@rhodesscholar.org or thom@rhodesscholar.org. Beginning Monday, November 22, questions can be directed to Ms. Knight and Mr. Yu, or Mr. Gerson, at the Rhodes Trust office in Vienna, Virginia at 703-821-5960.

PLEASE NOTE: Given the time challenge and complexity of 16 concurrent district selections across the United States, initial versions of the short bios and winners' list included with this press release may contain small errors, typographical and otherwise. Most are corrected within 24 hours, so always check www.rhodesscholar.org for the most up-to-date versions. In addition, you may find photos of the winners on the global Rhodes Trust website, www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk, where they will be uploaded as soon as practicable, along with accurate updated short biographies.