



From the Office of the American Secretary

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

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703 821 5960
Fax 703 821 2770
admin@rhodesscholar.org
www.rhodesscholar.org

American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2022

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

DISTRICT 1

Massachusetts

Krista R. Flinkstrom, Stow, is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where she majors in Economics. During high school, Krista became certified as a volunteer emergency medical technician and led a team of other EMTs. She has served in multiple important leadership roles at West Point, including as a Regimental Adjutant and as an Academics Officer tutoring students. Krista has also researched community health and inclusion issues at West Point, ranging from a study of nicotine usage by cadets to analysis of factors that lead women and underrepresented minorities to major in economics. At Oxford, she plans to pursue both an MSc in Economics for Development and an MSc in Global Health Science and Epidemiology.

Massachusetts

Elena Frogameni, Florence, is a senior at Mt. Holyoke College, where she majors in Politics and French. Elena has won awards in French and English while conducting research and writing papers on the resilience of democracies, linguistic nationalism, and African and European politics. She is President of the Mt. Holyoke College Democrats, and is a varsity squash player. She is chief operating officer and political reporter for a newsletter designed for young people, has interned at the Department of State in the Africa Bureau in Paris and in political offices, and led church projects to support Syrian refugees. At Oxford, Elena intends to do the Master's in Public Policy and the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

DISTRICT 2

Connecticut

Sydni A. Scott, Unionville, is a senior at Columbia University majoring in Political Science. She has done significant work on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, including developing training for dozens of universities participating in The Women's Network. Sydni also founded The Amendment Project, an organization mobilizing high school students around the issue of reparations, and worked to help secure passage of a local reparations resolution in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was a Division I track and field athlete at Columbia, competing in the long jump and triple jump. While at Oxford, she plans to pursue an MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government).

New Jersey

Nicholas Hayes, Long Valley, is a senior at the University of Alabama, where he majors in Applied Mathematics and German. He also did an intensive course in Swahili language and culture in Tanzania as a Boren Scholar. An ultramarathoner, he was named the outstanding junior at the University of Alabama on the basis of scholarship, leadership and service. Nick edited an undergraduate science journal, interned at NOAA in fisheries science and has published in academic journals in politics and biology, and also published poetry, and translates between English and Swahili. Nick will do the MSC in Mathematical Science and the MSt in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics at Oxford.

DISTRICT 3

New York - South

Devashish Basnet, Hicksville, is a senior at City University of New York, Hunter College, majoring in Political Science. Devashish and his parents came to the U.S. as political asylees from Nepal, and he has worked extensively on international migration issues, including writing a senior honors thesis on unaccompanied minors and the criminalization of immigration in the United States. He currently serves as President of Hunter College's student government. An accomplished baritone, Devashish will perform the role of the Count in this fall's Hunter College Opera Theatre Project's production of the Marriage of Figaro. At Oxford, he will pursue an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and a Master's in Public Policy.

New York - South

Liam V. Elkind, New York, is a Yale College senior majoring in Ethics, Politics and Economics, and in Global Affairs. His senior thesis is on models of campaign finance reform, and he hopes to build on this work at Oxford. Liam won the prize for the top junior at Yale in character and achievement. He co-founded and serves as CEO of Invisible Hands, a non-profit with more than 15,000 volunteers nationally who deliver groceries and prescriptions to at-risk community members. He has won many awards and national recognition for this work, and has worked in college, city, and national politics. He is completing a novel and has been a lead actor and singer in many Yale productions. Liam intends to do the MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government) at Oxford.

DISTRICT 4

New York - North

Tawreak J. Gamble-Eddington, Springfield, Massachusetts, graduated in 2021 from Union College with honors in both History and Political Science. He is currently completing an MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict at Trinity College Dublin, where he is a Mitchell Scholar. Ty was a campus leader at Union College, serving as President of both the Black Student Union and Union Pride and helping found a My Brother's Keeper program. He was also named to the steering committee for the Presidential Initiative on Race, Power, and Privilege and awarded the university's top prizes for service to the college, contributions to campus

diversity, and accomplishments in political science. At Oxford, he proposes to complete the MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government).

Pennsylvania

Michael Y. Cheng, Wynnewood, is a Harvard College senior concentrating in History and Mathematics, concurrently with a Master's degree in Computer Science. From an immigrant household, he struggled with English and received special language training until he was 16, yet managed to begin his studies at Drexel University while still in high school. Michael's career interests are in energy technology and policy. He has researched perovskite solar panels in Taiwan, urban development policy in Argentina, and the history of energy transitions worldwide. He taught himself to swim by watching YouTube videos before walking on the Harvard varsity men's lightweight crew. He was elected as a junior to Phi Beta Kappa. Michael plans to do the MSc in Energy Systems and the MSc in Political Theory Research at Oxford.

DISTRICT 5

Delaware

Veronica M. Lucian, Ocean View, is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where she majors in Life Science. Veronica served as a Company Commander leading 150 new cadets through boot camp. Her academic research examines interactions between heart cells and synthetic fibers, and is aimed at addressing blood clots in pediatric patients using extracorporeal membrane oxygenation machines. She is also the founder and president of the Cadet Women's Mentorship Group, which provides women cadets at the United States Military Academy a forum for learning about the unique opportunities and challenges they will face as Army officers. Veronica intends to pursue an MSc by Research in Materials at Oxford.

District of Columbia

Samantha C.W. O'Sullivan, Washington, DC, is a senior at Harvard College, where she majors in Physics and African-American Studies. Sam founded and led a student organization that promotes activism related to the legacy of slavery and has published articles on dress codes and bias against Black girls. She has done advanced research in plasma physics at Princeton and nanoscale systems at Harvard and the University of Maryland, and astrophysics at the Carnegie Institute of Astrophysics. She is fascinated by how different languages, including the language of the African diaspora, Gullah, provide insights into different

perceptions of the physical universe. Sam will do the MSt in Philosophy of Physics and the MSc in Applied Linguistics at Oxford.

DISTRICT 6

Georgia

Sarah A. Skinner, Atlanta, is a senior at the United States Naval Academy, where she majors in Political Science. Sarah has held multiple leadership posts at the Naval Academy and currently serves as a Company Commander responsible for 150 midshipmen. She joined the rugby team having never played the sport and last year was one of five finalists for the Sorenson Award, given to the nation's top female collegiate rugby player. She is currently the rugby team captain and was selected for USA Rugby's Olympic Development Program. Her honors thesis examines the role of "middle powers" in international competition and their capacity to mitigate hegemonic war. At Oxford, Sarah plans to complete an MPhil in International Relations.

South Carolina

Louise Franke, Spartanburg, is a senior at Clemson University, where she majors in Biochemistry. She has won public policy fellowships in philosophy and public policy at the Hudson Institute and from Clemson, and has combined research in biochemistry labs with work in classical philosophy and American politics. Louise is also a senator in student government, president of a literary society, and founder of a journal in undergraduate humanities research. She is Clemson's first Rhodes Scholar and plans for a career in healthcare policy. Louise will read Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford.

DISTRICT 7

Florida

Aimee B. Clesi, O'Brien, is a senior at the University of Florida, where she is completing double majors in Philosophy and History. A first-generation college student, Aimee is a member of the University of Florida's Honors Program. Her honors thesis focuses on racial disparities in death penalty sentencing in the U.S. She has pursued multiple legal internships, including with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Florida and the American Bar Association Death Penalty Representation Project. At Oxford, Aimee

plans to pursue a DPhil in Criminology and focus her research on wrongful conviction and the execution of innocent persons.

Florida

Shreeya Singh, Pembroke Pines, is a senior at Yale College, majoring in History. At Yale, she is founder and president of Students Against Hindutva, from which she organized nationwide protests against India's anti-Muslim policies, political chair of the South Asian Society and Managing Editor of its International Relations magazine. Shreeya, who was born in India, is also an extraordinarily accomplished debator, nationally and globally. She has worked in Congressional offices and on a U.S. Presidential campaign and has been active across the world in causes of political justice and human rights. At Oxford, Shreeya plans to do the MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies.

DISTRICT 8

Texas

Elizabeth Guo, Plano, is a senior at Harvard College, where she majors in Physics. Elizabeth's undergraduate research explores the intersection of science and the law. As an intern at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Elizabeth's work helped inform the incoming president's Strategic Plan. She currently serves as a News Executive of The Harvard Crimson and is a member of the Harvard College Honor Council. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. While at Oxford, she plans to pursue an MSc in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics, and an MSc in Social Science of the Internet.

Texas

Mary E. Orsak, Dallas, is a senior at Yale College majoring in Russian. Mary serves as the Managing Editor of the Yale Review of International Studies. She directs Walden Peer Counseling, which provides anonymous, non-directive peer guidance to undergraduates. In her home community in Dallas, Mary founded and served as president of Story Power, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of young girls through the donation of books about and by inspiring women. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. At Oxford, Mary will pursue an MPhil in Russian and East European Studies.

DISTRICT 9

Indiana

Elvin N. Irihamye, Sammamish, Washington, is a senior at Indiana University majoring in Neuroscience and where he is a Herman B. Wells Scholar. In Bloomington, he co-founded and is president of a charitable corporation using industry and academic partnerships to strengthen the pipeline of Black, Latinx and Native American talent into the workforce. He is also active in a start-up to assist nursing home residents during the pandemic. Elvin has been a student advisor to the Indiana University president and also to the Vice Provost for undergraduate education. He is a co-author of three scientific publications in peer-reviewed publications, including Nature and Cells relating to cancer chemotherapy treatments. Elvin plans to do the MSc in Translational Health Science and the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at Oxford.

Indiana

MacKenzie E. Isaac, Indianapolis, received a BA in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame in 2020 and is currently completing a master's degree in Health Education at Columbia University's Teachers College. Kenzie has served in leadership roles both on campus and in her community, including as the University of Notre Dame's Student Body Director of Diversity and Inclusion. Following graduation from Notre Dame, Kenzie worked for a year as an AmeriCorps Public Ally in her hometown of Indianapolis, focusing on public health issues such as pedestrian safety and chronic disease prevention. She currently works for Health by Design, an Indianapolis-based non-profit organization, overseeing the organization and implementation of park remodeling projects in two historically African-American neighborhoods. At Oxford, she will pursue a DPhil in Population Health.

DISTRICT 10

Illinois

Trisha N. Prabhu, Naperville, is a senior at Harvard College, where she majors in Government. Trisha is the founder and CEO of ReThink, Inc., an app that proactively detects offensive digital content and gives users a chance to reconsider posting it. She is the holder of several United States patents. As a Civic Digital Fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Trisha helped lead the KidneyX Accelerator, which incentivized innovators

and businesses to create kidney care technology solutions. At Oxford, she plans to pursue an MSc in Social Science of the Internet and a Masters of Public Policy.

Ohio

Justin G. Hadad, Dublin, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he majored in Economics, and was a Morehead-Cain Scholar. Justin is currently an Academic Visitor at the University of Zurich where he is researching how economic theory can optimize the placement of refugees into new communities. Justin has significant social entrepreneurial experience. He is the co-founder of UNCUT, INC. a non-profit media company that shares stories about the mental health of student-athletes. He is also the President of The Propertius Project, which makes Elegies, a historically inaccessible text, public and free for use. Justin was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. At Oxford, Justin will pursue an MPhil in Economics.

DISTRICT 11

Michigan

Hannah M. T. Blakey, Detroit, is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where she majors in Persian and French. Hannah is third-in-command of West Point's entire Corps of Cadets as well as President of a leadership initiative for students from underrepresented backgrounds. A Division I track and field athlete, she has set school records in the 400-meter relay and 400-meter hurdles. Hannah's academic work explores the effects of forced migration in Persian-speaking communities. At Oxford, Hannah will pursue both an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and an MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

Michigan

Rachael L.M. Merritt, Grand Rapids, is a senior at the University of Michigan, where she majors in International Studies and Russian Language and Culture. She has also studied at two Russian universities. She is currently doing research on human trafficking in central Asia and has published articles on global threats to democracy. Rachael writes guitar music and is a founding member of a project that gives student films from Russia greater visibility. She is passionate about digital democracy, internet rights and providing voices for the

underrepresented. Rachael will do the MSc in Russian and Eastern European Studies and the MSc in Social Science and the Internet at Oxford.

DISTRICT 12

Arkansas

Coleman L. Warren, Farmington, is a senior at the University of Arkansas majoring in Industrial Engineering and Political Science. Coleman currently serves as Student Body President. His undergraduate honors thesis studies the accessibility of food pantries in Washington County, Arkansas. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Coleman founded Simple + Sweet Creamery, a small-batch ice cream company focused on fighting child hunger. Since its inception, Simple + Sweet Creamery has donated more than 12,500 meals to local food banks. Coleman is a Truman Scholar. At Oxford, he will pursue an MPhil in Comparative Social Policy.

Tennessee

Klarke J. Stricklen, Chattanooga, is a senior at the University of the South, where she majors in American Studies and African American Studies. Klarke's undergraduate honors thesis concentrates on Black reparations by arguing for the moral responsibility of higher educational institutions with ties to the slave trade and slavery. She is also a research assistant for The Roberson Project on Slavery, Race, and Reconciliation. Klarke also serves as president of the local NAACP chapter in Sewanee. Previously, she interned in the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. Klarke is a Truman Scholar. At Oxford, she will pursue an MSc in Economic and Social History.

DISTRICT 13

Nebraska

Nicholas A.E. Thomas-Lewis, Kimball, is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania majoring in Cognitive Science and Health and Societies. Nicholas's honors thesis investigates the dual 'neuromedicalization' of addiction and adolescence. He is a research assistant at the Boundaries of Anxiety and Depression Laboratory. Nicholas has extensive experience and expertise in working with young people, is a student mentor, and was a teacher at Mary Lynch Elementary School in his hometown. Nicholas is also a varsity cheerleader and currently the

team captain. At Oxford, he will pursue an MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

Utah

Sabah Sial, Sandy, is a senior at the University of Utah, where she majors in Finance. A recipient of one of the University of Utah's top scholarships, her academic interests center on racial disparities in banking and finance as well as white collar crime and money laundering. Sabah has held numerous campus leadership positions, including serving as the Chief Justice for the University of Utah's Supreme Court, in the university's student government. She also worked with the Office of the Chief Safety Officer to create and implement a student safety ambassador program. At Oxford, she intends to pursue an MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice and an MSc in Financial Economics.

DISTRICT 14

Alaska

Sarah Chen, Anchorage, is a senior at Claremont McKenna College, where she is completing a double major in International Relations and Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. A recipient of one of the college's top scholarships, Sarah's academic work engages the emerging fields of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and wargaming. Sarah currently serves as the President of the Claremont International Relations Society. She has also done extensive work with the campus's Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies. At Oxford, she proposes to complete both an MSc in Social Science of the Internet and an MSc in Social Data Science.

Washington

Holland F. Pratt, Liberty Lake, is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where she majors in Military History. Holland is West Point's top cadet by Cadet Performance Score, a holistic measure of academic, physical, and military performance. Her undergraduate research focuses on strengthening civil-military cooperation. Holland currently serves as the Brigade Commander First Captain, leading the entire Corps of 4,400 cadets. She served as team captain of West Point Women's Team Handball, ranked #1 in the United States. At Oxford, she will pursue an MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy and an MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

DISTRICT 15

Arizona

Joshua A. Babu, Scottsdale, is a senior at Princeton University majoring in Molecular Biology. Josh's senior thesis set out to determine the longitudinal effects of gender-affirming hormone treatment on the psychological health and telomere homeostasis of trans youth. Active in policy and advocacy, Josh drafts proposals on how state representatives can rectify legislation that discriminates against LGBTQI people in healthcare. He is the president of the Princeton Footnotes, a campus a cappella group that recently toured England. Josh was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. At Oxford, Josh will pursue an MSc in Comparative Social Policy and an MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

California - North

Varsha Sarveshwar, Sacramento, graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2020 in Political Science, with minors in Public Policy and History. She won highest honors in each discipline with a perfect academic record, along with numerous university and national honors and awards. Since graduation, she has worked as a Public Service Fellow and then as Executive Assistant for Cabinet Affairs in the office of California Governor Gavin Newsom. While at Berkeley she was the president of the University's Student Association and president of the Cal Berkeley Democrats. She is deeply interested in educational policy as it relates to equity and access. At Oxford, Varsha plans to do the MSc in Comparative Social Policy and the Master's in Public Policy.

DISTRICT 16

California - South

Sayeh K. Kohani, San Diego, is a senior at Stanford University majoring in Bioengineering. Sayeh's academic work aims to understand how aberrant wiring in memory circuits contributes to neurological disorders, and she has conducted research in multiple Stanford labs. She is the inventor of a proprietary solar-powered water purification system to combat waterborne disease. She is also founder and president of NeuroConnect, a volunteer program matching students with patients with neurodegenerative disorders to limit the effects of social isolation on disease progression. While at Oxford, she proposes to complete an MSc in

Physiology, Anatomy, and Genetics and an MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

California – South

Alexandra Ali Martínez, Chula Vista, is a senior at Brown University, where she majors in International and Public Affairs, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Her honors theses involve an oral history project for families living at the U.S.-Mexico border, and one on the effects of U.S. immigration policies on unaccompanied minors. A tri-sport varsity distance runner, Ali has been a human rights intern at the Organization of American States and has done extensive public interest legal work with a focus on criminal justice reform and immigration. Her aspirations are to be a lifelong advocate to overlooked, underserved, and vulnerable migrant communities worldwide. At Oxford, Ali will do the MSc in Latin American Studies and the MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

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.rhodestrust.ox.ac.uk, where they will be uploaded as soon as practicable.