



THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

NEWS

30 NOVEMBER 2021

Meet the Southern African Rhodes Scholars-Elect, 2022

TAKHONA HLATSHWAKO (BLMNS (eSwatini), Scholar-Elect, 2022)

Takhona grew up in eSwatini and completed high school on a scholarship at the United World College in Armenia. She is a Morehead-Cain Scholar pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Public Health at UNC Chapel Hill. At her university, she is the co-chair of the Minority Health Conference, the longest running student-led health conference in the U.S. She is passionate about advancing health equity locally and globally. In her home country, Takhona worked on a USAID-funded project aimed at improving HIV messaging. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, she joined a global team investigating the impact of isolation measures on sexual and reproductive health. In the U.S., Takhona interned at the Duke-Margolis Centre for Health Policy, where she researched low-value care. Her work inspired her honours thesis on decision modelling and cost-effectiveness analysis. At Oxford, Takhona hopes to continue researching methods for advancing health equity and to read for an MSc International Health & Tropical Medicine.



COLIN KINGHORN (Gauteng Regional Finalist, SA-Large Scholar-Elect, 2022)



Colin received his Bachelor's in Industrial Engineering *cum laude* from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and is an Allan Gray Fellow. He is currently an analyst at the Boston Consulting Group, focusing on the development of techno-economic decarbonisation pathways and green export opportunities for South Africa.

Colin co-founded and runs an app-based edtech start-up that has provided over 130 000 South African users with free educational resources and a low-cost online tutoring community. He has also published a paper studying statistical differences between iOS and Android e-learning userbases in South Africa.

Colin remains committed to understanding how digital technology can help create inclusive educational systems to enable South Africa's green transition opportunities. He intends to pursue an MSc Education (Digital and Social Change) at Oxford University.



Meet our Rhodes Scholars-Elect, 2022

MARINOS BOMIKAZI LUPINDO

(Gauteng Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2022)

Bomikazi hails from a small town in the Eastern Cape called Matatiele. She is a clinical psychologist completing her community service at the Krugersdorp Correctional Centre. She obtained her undergraduate and Honours degrees in Psychology at UKZN with first class and her Masters degree with upper second class at UCT. She is passionate about making mental health services more accessible to minority and vulnerable groups as she believes in their power to bring about critical consciousness and emancipation. As such, she co-founded a mental health NPO called Mind Matters and uses social media platforms to provide psychoeducation, advocacy and destigmatize mental illnesses. At Oxford, she hopes to read for a DPhil, conduct research on anxiety and trauma amongst adolescents, and gain skills in short-term interventions at the Cognitive Therapy Centre.



WAKITHI MABASO (KZN Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2022)



The first black African student to achieve consecutive academic *honours cum laude* awards at his high-school (Kearsney College), **Wakithi** graduated from UCT with an MBChB degree *cum laude*.

Publishing the country's largest study on depression and anxiety in medical students at the time, his work grew to influence institutional mental health policy and national media initiatives, earning him nomination for a South African Health Excellence, Rising Star Award. A founding member of the UCT Internal Medicine Society, he facilitated sponsored attendance at Africa's inaugural World Congress of Internal Medicine. His role on the UKZN Junior Doctor Mentorship programme has brought his work full circle. As an aspiring clinician-scientist, passionate about mental health, he intends to read for an MSc Global Health & Epidemiology at Oxford University.

Wakithi enjoys CrossFit, art and introspection, loves nature and is also learning German.

CLAIRE McCANN (Eastern Cape Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2022)

Claire holds a BA Honours degree in Economics and Political Studies from Rhodes University. Currently, she is pursuing a Master of Economics focusing on the perils and possibility in South Africa's early childhood development sector. Claire is interested in feminist economics and community-based participatory research, and hopes to orientate her research towards the construction of a more just education system and economy. Claire aims to combine her theory with practice and is a leader in the Nine Tenths matric mentoring programme. She also works part-time at the Rhodes University's Community Engagement Division, where she facilitates a research group exploring the impact of Nine Tenths and designs a Community Engagement short course for private schools. In 2022, Claire hopes to pursue an MSc in Economics for Development at Oxford, with the intention to progress to the DPhil in International Development.





Meet our Rhodes Scholars-Elect, 2022

GARETH MCHARDY (SACS & Partner Schools, Newlands, Scholar-Elect, 2022)



Gareth is currently completing a Master of Commerce in Economic Development at the University of Cape Town. Previously, he graduated with an undergraduate degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) followed by an Honours degree in Economics, at the same institution. Concurrently, Gareth works as a volunteer consultant for Phaphama SEDI and will begin work as a student associate with University Impact – an impact investing firm – in January 2022. He is passionate about solving vexing socio-economic problems, specifically the prevalent issue of financial exclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa. Outside of academia, Gareth is an avid hiker taking full advantage of the mountains in Cape Town. At Oxford, he intends to read for a DPhil (Economics), investigating the role of financial inclusion in fostering wider economic development on the African continent.

RUAN SPIES

(Paul Roos Gymnasium & Partner Schools, Stellenbosch, Scholar-Elect, 2022)

Ruan is an aspiring clinician-scientist with an interest in infectious diseases. He hopes to ask important questions about the health of Africans and to use research as a tool to answer these questions. He graduated from the University of Cape Town with first-class honours and was recognised as the best final year student in clinical medicine. At UCT, Ruan founded the Internal Medicine Society and introduced a peer-tutoring programme from which he has subsequently published a quantitative analysis. Ruan is completing his medical internship in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape and remains active in research. He has embraced a grass-roots approach to research, bringing his peers into his projects. When not working, Ruan can be found chasing vistas, drinking good coffee and picking up heavy things in the gym! At Oxford he intends to read for an MSc Global Health & Epidemiology.



KUKHOKUHLE TSENGWA

(Eastern Cape Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2022)



Kukhokuhle graduated *cum laude* from the mechatronics engineering programme at the University of Cape Town. During this time, he worked on projects involving autonomous systems such as drones, wireless charging and as part of a start-up team building a mobile phone independent panic button. After this, he joined Toyota South Africa Motors as part of the team that brought the first hybrid vehicle to South Africa. He is passionate about building robots that can leap out of the lab into the world and add value to real people's lives. His current Master's research uses signal processing techniques to monitor muscle activity non-invasively, with potential applications to orthopaedic and neurological rehabilitation. He is an amateur mathematician, taking pure Mathematics courses alongside his research and excited to see how this experience will influence his future DPhil research at Oxford. In his spare time, he enjoys jogging, reading, and recording educational YouTube videos.



Meet our Rhodes Scholars-Elect, 2022

JUSTIN WINCHESTER

(KZN Regional Finalist, SA-at-Large Scholar-Elect, 2022)



Justin hails from Matatiele, a small town on the border of KZN and the Eastern Cape. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree (with distinctions in Economics and Law) and a Bachelor of Laws degree (expected *magna cum laude*) from the University of Cape Town (UCT). While at UCT, Justin was an active student leader and decorated public speaker achieving success nationally and internationally in moot court and debating competitions respectively. Fascinated by the public-private divide and the intersection of economics and law, Justin intends to read for a Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) followed by an MPhil in Law at the University of Oxford to better understand and develop the role that private persons can play in the achievement of economic justice and substantive equality in South Africa.

WISEMAN ZONDI (KwaZulu-Natal Scholar-Elect, 2022)

Wiseman is currently completing an Honours degree in Philosophy at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is also currently a Philosophy tutor, and the postgraduate student representative for the School of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics. He holds a BA degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Law *cum laude* from the same university.

Wiseman is interested in hate speech and the role of dignity in crafting effective hate speech legislation. This was the focus of his Honours dissertation. At Oxford, Wiseman intends to continue pursuing important social, political and legal issues in his research. He has applied for a BPhil in Philosophy.

In his free time, Wiseman can be found either tutoring students, taking long walks, or reading a book.



We are very proud of the Rhodes Scholars-Elect of 2022. Ten exceptional young leaders, including a graduate from eSwatini (thought to be the first BLMNS Scholar from that country) and two Scholars hailing from the same small town in the Eastern Cape. Diverse in backgrounds and disciplines, we are excited by the potential of this cohort to impact on Africa and the world in the years to come. Congratulations to our inspirational Scholars-Elect (2022) - we wish them every success and happiness at Oxford University going forward.