From the Office of the American Secretary

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American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2027

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

DISTRICT 1

Massachusetts

Michael H. Bueker, Wellesley, is a senior at Dartmouth College, where he is majoring in Biomedical Engineering. His research focuses on ultrathin bioelectronic devices, such as biodegradable, implantable neural stimulators. He competes as a middle-distance athlete on the Dartmouth varsity track and field team. Michael also grows giant pumpkins. At Oxford, Michael will pursue an M.Sc. by Research in Engineering Science.

Massachusetts

Thomas S. Politano, Lynn, is a senior at Brown University, where he majors in English. His honors thesis examines space and narrative perspective in Woolf and Nabokov. A student of Mandarin, Thomas completed the Princeton in Beijing program this summer. He is a landscaper and greenskeeper who also tutors at a high school in Providence and serves as an editor and proofreader at the Brown Film Magazine. Thomas formerly played violin with the Salem Philharmonic Orchestra. At Oxford, Thomas will pursue the M.St. in English and the M.St. in World Literatures in English.

DISTRICT 2

New Jersey

Richard "Richie" O. George, Monroe, is currently a senior at Yale University, majoring in History. Richie's academic work centers on political theory, informed by ethnographic and archival research. At Yale, Richie is editor-in-chief of a student-run magazine, and wrote and directed an Afro-futurist adaptation of Aeschylus's Oresteia. Outside of the classroom, Richie has worked alongside local labor unions as an organizer for Students United Now. At Oxford, Richie plans to pursue an M.Phil. in Politics.

New Jersey

Christopher "Chris" Y. Shin, Cherry Hill, is a senior at Harvard University, where he is a double major in Chemical and Physical Biology and Government. His research in infectious disease epidemiology uses mathematical modeling to understand what makes a disease outbreak containable. He volunteers at Massachusetts General Hospital and participates in the Harvard Model Congress. An accomplished pianist and trumpet player, Chris plays in the Harvard Jazz Orchestra, is president of the Harvard Piano Society, and performs in a pop/funk student band. At Oxford, Chris will pursue an M.Sc. in Modelling for Global Health and an M.Sc. in Genomic Medicine.

DISTRICT 3

New York - South

Asuka Koda, New York, is a senior at Yale University majoring in Mathematics and Philosophy. She has conducted research on AI adoption in healthcare with the Yale Digital Ethics Center. As a health and science writer for CNN, Asuka has published dozens of articles and contributed to broadcast segments. A Truman Scholar, she led the Yale Scientific Magazine, the nation's oldest college science publication. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Social Science of the Internet and an M.Sc. in International Health and Tropical Medicine.

New York - South

Marina Milea, New York, is a senior at The City College of New York (CUNY) majoring in Biology. Her research explores mechanisms of therapy resistance in cancer and strategies to improve T-cell immunotherapy for brain tumors. Marina founded CCNY's Chronic Illness Support Group, which focuses on destigmatizing imperceptible symptoms, advocating for long-term student accommodations, and supporting students living with chronic conditions. A Barry Goldwater Scholar, she volunteers to support domestic violence survivors in emergency departments across New York City. At Oxford, Marina intends to pursue an M.Sc. in Women's and Reproductive Health.

DISTRICT 4

Pennsylvania

Mary I. Cipperman, Devon, graduated from Harvard University in 2026 with a B.A. in Physics and an M.S. in Applied Physics. She currently researches applications of AI for clinical trial emulation and patient diagnosis as an Alex G. Booth Fellow at the Mahmood Lab. Mary volunteers with hospice patients, was the president of the Harvard-Radcliffe Society of Physics Students, and has conducted research at CERN to improve collision detection. At Oxford, Mary will pursue an M.Sc. in Applied Digital Health and an M.Sc. in Medical Physics with Radiobiology.

Pennsylvania

Ian N. Fox, Hooversville, is a senior at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he majors in English. His research focuses on the ethics and design of artificial intelligence-enabled military technology. He served as a research intern with the Army's AI Integration Center and MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, where he helped develop machine learning technology supporting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and international partners. Ian currently serves as the Brigade Honor Secretary, supporting the character development of 4,400 cadets, and previously completed an international exchange program at the Royal Military College of Canada. At Oxford, Ian intends to pursue an M.Sc. in Social Science of the Internet and a Master of Public Policy.

DISTRICT 5

District of Columbia

Jupiter K. Huang, Arlington, Virginia, graduated from Georgetown University with a B.S. in Foreign Service and an M.A. in Security Studies. Currently, he works as a graduate fellow at the National Nuclear Security Administration. At Georgetown, he published peer-reviewed research on national security and emerging technologies. He also served as an editor for the Georgetown Security Studies Review and competed on the club table tennis team. At Oxford, Jupiter will pursue a D.Phil. in International Relations.

Maryland

Quentin A. Walsh, Silver Spring, is a senior at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, pursuing a triple major in English, German, and Physics. He serves as a Cadet Battalion Commander, leading the character, military, and academic development of over 400 cadets. His interdisciplinary research explores the changing meaning and interpretation of monuments across historical contexts, electrohydrodynamic lift in wind generators, and flywheel designs in vertical-lift aircraft. Quentin is also the founder of the Turbela Verborum English Club and refounder of The Calliopean Debate Society. At Oxford, he intends to read for an M.Phil. in International Relations.

DISTRICT 6

Georgia

Bryson A. Handy, Lawrenceville, is a senior at George Washington University, where he majors in International Affairs and Economics. A Truman Scholar, he has conducted research on topics ranging from sovereign bond markets to the philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr. He has also worked as a Jeff Ubben Fellow at the Brookings Institution and an intern at the Council on Foreign Relations. At GW, he co-founded and serves as president of GWU Black Professionals in International Affairs. Bryson is an Eagle Scout who also plays badminton. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Phil. in Economics.

Georgia

Aran Sonnad-Joshi, Atlanta, is a senior at Harvard University, where he double majors in Social Studies and Molecular and Cellular Biology. Aran's research focuses on intergenerational substance abuse, addiction prevention, and the origins of American international drug policy. He currently serves as the Director for Y2Y Harvard Square, a student-run homeless shelter and the largest source of youth-specific beds in the Greater Boston area. Aran is also the President of the Harvard Advocate and a research associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. At Oxford, he intends to pursue an M.Sc. in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation and an M.Sc. in Health Service Improvement and Evaluation.

DISTRICT 7

Alabama

Liana R. Cutter, Birmingham, is a senior at Fordham University, where she majors in Biochemistry. Liana's research has focused on novel drug discovery vehicles for triple-negative breast cancer, the most lethal breast cancer subtype. She has published multiple peer-reviewed articles and has received the Barry Goldwater Scholarship. At Fordham, Liana mentored STEM students and designed a bilingual curriculum and workshop series to assist communities navigating trauma. At Oxford, Liana will pursue an M.Sc. in Applied Cancer Science followed by the M.Sc. by Research in Oncology.

Florida

José E. Caballero, Miami, graduated from Columbia University in 2026 with a B.A. in Cognitive Science. A transfer student from Florida International University, José conducted research at Columbia's Center on Poverty and Social Policy analyzing the measurement of poverty using Census data. José founded a bilingual mental health nonprofit and served as a youth advisor to the White House. His work as the editor-in-chief of the Columbia Hispanic Pre-Law Review garnered the campus's top prize for contributions to student publications. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Phil. in Comparative Social Policy.

DISTRICT 8

Texas

Arianna G. Doss, Houston, is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she is majoring in Biological Engineering and Political Science. She has conducted research in molecular biology and interned at Northwestern Medicine's Bronzeville Outpatient Center. Arianna has also worked on maternal health policy as an intern in the office of U.S Representative Lauren Underwood. She is a member of the varsity soccer team and a tutor for organic chemistry. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy and an M.Sc. in Global Health Science and Epidemiology.

Texas

Kailynn M. Weaver, Greenwood, Louisiana, is a senior at Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University where she majors in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Spanish. Her academic research focuses on endothelial dysfunction, congenital heart defects, and socioeconomic impacts on health. As chairperson of the Student Advisory Board for Prairie View A&M's Honors College, Kailynn organizes large-scale campus events promoting sustainability and community service and serves as the primary conduit between the student body and university leadership. At Oxford, she intends to pursue an M.Sc. in Translational Health Sciences and an M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

DISTRICT 9

Virginia

Anish S. Aradhey, Harrisonburg, is a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he majors in Physics. His research examines the relationship between supermassive black holes and their host galaxies. A recipient of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, he has operated telescopes at a Chilean observatory, presented his research at international conferences, and published multiple peer-reviewed articles. As a summer teaching intern in rural Mississippi, he designed a curriculum for a middle school astronomy class. Anish plans to pursue a D.Phil. in Astrophysics.

Virginia

Elliot S. Lee, Great Falls, graduated in 2026 from Princeton University with a B.S.E. in Operations Research and Financial Engineering. Currently a predoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, he is researching Medicare policy as well as assisting Botswana's Ministry of Health in optimizing its national antimicrobial supply chain. Elliot previously served as an emergency medical technician, and, as part of Team Rubicon, responded to natural disasters in rural Florida. An avid cyclist and hiker, he was the founding librarian of Princeton's Wind Ensemble. At Oxford, Elliot will pursue an M.Sc. in Modelling for Global Health and an M.Sc. in Statistical Science.

DISTRICT 10

Illinois

Michelle C. Du, Vienna, Virginia, is a senior at the University of Chicago, where she is pursuing a B.A. in Law, Letters, and Society and a B.S. in Data Science. Her academic work has centered on privacy and digital governance, and she has completed internships with the Illinois Office of Broadband and the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer. Michelle volunteered to support STEM programming at the South Side YMCA in Chicago and received the Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award. A dancer, she has performed at the Hyde Park Art Center and the National Museum of Asian Art. At Oxford, Michelle will pursue an M.Sc. in Social Science of the Internet, followed by an M.Phil. in Socio-Legal Research.

Illinois

Almoatasim "Al" M.N. Shahbain, Burr Ridge, is a senior at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he majors in Political Science. Al transferred to the University of Illinois following coursework at the College of DuPage and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Al is a sergeant in the Illinois National Guard, where he has served since 2021, and a graduate of the U.S. Army Noncommissioned Officers (NCO) Academy. A student of multiple foreign languages, Al also serves as a tutor with the campus' Chinese Language Association for International Development. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.St. in Diplomatic Studies followed by the Master of Public Policy.

DISTRICT 11

Minnesota

Lucas D. Wagner, Eden Prairie, is a senior at Duke University, where he double majors in Mathematics and Economics. His honors thesis examines how election timing and voter turnout shape representation. Lucas has worked on political campaigns in Minnesota and developed a software platform that has helped more than a dozen campaigns in low-turnout races model voter turnout more accurately. He is president of Duke Cyber and has also undertaken university-funded research in Central Asia tracing the history of the Silk Road. At Oxford, Lucas will pursue the M.Phil. in Politics (Comparative Government).

Wisconsin

Mya M. Koffie, Appleton, is a senior at Princeton University, where she is a School of Public and International Affairs major. Mya's academic work has centered on strengthening legal frameworks that address sexual and domestic violence. The president of the Princeton Debate Panel, Mya won the public speaking competition at the 2025 World Universities Debating Championship. Mya has also completed internships at the Hawaii Department of Attorney General and UN Women. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Phil. in Socio-Legal Research, followed by an M.St. in History.

DISTRICT 12

Kansas

Ariona "Ari" J. Cook, Marysville, is a senior at Duke University, where she majors in Public Policy Studies. She is a Truman Scholar. Her work and research have focused on child and family policy issues and support for LGBTQ+ foster youth. She is the president of Duke QuestBridge, led initiatives to support first-generation, low-income students, and planned debates to promote civil discourse on campus. Ari volunteers to support youth theater. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Phil. in Comparative Social Policy.

Missouri

Evan C. Garrison, Webb City, is a senior at Mississippi State University, where he double majors in Aerospace Engineering and Mathematics. As a researcher with the Rapset Flight Laboratory and Applied Aerodynamics Research Group, he designs distributed sensing methodologies and mathematical frameworks for object detection in space. He is a Truman Scholar, the President of the Mississippi State Darkhorse Ultimate Frisbee Club, and serves as the Managing Editor of the Endeavors research journal. At Oxford, he intends to pursue an M.Sc. in Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing and an M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

DISTRICT 13

Colorado

Elizabeth G. Koenck, Aurora, is currently a senior at Georgetown University, where she is pursuing a B.S. and M.S. in Foreign Service. Her academic research examines water scarcity issues across the Middle East, North Africa, and the Colorado River Basin. She serves as the Chair of the Georgetown International Relations Club. An Arabic and Spanish speaker, Elizabeth has conducted field research in Jordan, Egypt, and South Africa. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Migration Studies and an M.Sc. in Water Science, Policy and Management.

Utah

Layla L. Hijjawi, Salt Lake City, is a senior at Harvard University, where she majors in Social Studies. Her research with the Harvard Immigrant Justice Lab focuses on Haitian country conditions and U.S. immigration policy toward Haiti. As a policy intern with Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), Layla led research projects combating misinformation in digital environments and drafted policy analyses for a weekly newsletter. She also directed logistics and biannual dance productions for Harvard's largest cultural and performing arts club. At Oxford, she intends to pursue an M.Sc. in Migration Studies and an M.Phil. in Socio-Legal Research.

DISTRICT 14

Montana

Emily E. Hove, Kalispell, is a senior at Princeton University, where she is a School of Public and International Affairs major. Her senior thesis research examines how U.S.-China technology competition shapes strategic alignment across Africa. Emily co-founded a venture-backed startup that uses AI to help founders connect to investors. She served as president of the Princeton Pre-Law Society and is an amateur boxer. At Oxford, Emily will pursue an M.Sc. in Social Science of the Internet followed by an M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

Washington

Lorenzo R.F. McCleese, Port Townsend, is a senior at the University of Washington, where he is completing two bachelor's degrees in Environmental Science and Resource Management and Informatics. Lorenzo is a two-time Udall Scholar and a Barry Goldwater Scholar. As a NOAA Hollings Scholar, he worked on a project to develop a computational methodology to identify extreme climate events. His work with the University of Washington Brotherhood Initiative aims to expand access to undergraduate research for students of color. He plays basketball, is a birder, and has a lifelong interest in plant identification and natural medicine. At Oxford, Lorenzo will pursue a D.Phil. in Earth Sciences.

DISTRICT 15

California - North

Elizabeth C. Fetter, Palo Alto, is a senior at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where she majors in International History. She serves as the Cadet Brigade Commander, also known as the First Captain, and is charged with leading the military, physical, and character development of 4,400 cadets. Previously, Elizabeth supported the Joint History Research Office (JHRO), analyzing periods of strategic disagreement between the United States and international partners. She is a graduate of the U.S. Army Jungle Operations Training Course and placed third in triathlon at the 2025 Collegiate Nationals. At Oxford, Elizabeth will pursue an M.Sc. in Contemporary Chinese Studies, followed by an M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

California - North

Charles D. Sander, Sacramento, is a senior at the University of Notre Dame, where he is completing a triple major in Biological Sciences, Economics, and Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics. His academic research focuses on neurobiology, particularly the cellular and molecular bases of schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease. A recipient of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, he is also active in student government, co-president of the Notre Dame biology club, and writes poetry for the campus arts magazine. At Oxford, Charles will pursue the M.Sc. in Statistical Science followed by the M.Sc. by Research in Psychiatry.

DISTRICT 16

California – South

Ashley K. Agatep, Los Alamitos, is a senior at Chapman University, where she majors in Environmental Science and Policy. A Barry Goldwater Scholar, she has conducted extensive undergraduate research, including projects with NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, that explore the intersection of climate change and public health. Ashley's current project examines inequities in park access in Los Angeles and the consequences for the health of marginalized communities. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Environmental Change and Policy, followed by an M.Sc. in Global Health Science and Epidemiology.

California – South

Sabrina D. Soriano, Azusa, is a senior at Yale University, where she majors in History of Art. A transfer student from Citrus College, she researches nineteenth-century French painting, with a particular interest in the relationship between art, religion, and cultural identity. Sabrina has conducted research at the J. Paul Getty Museum, Norton Simon Museum, and participated in an international symposium on Paul Cézanne in France. A former student trustee representing 20,000 community college students, she also served as a head transfer counselor at Yale. Her interests include analog photography and Japanese tea ceremony. At Oxford, Sabrina will pursue an M.St. in History of Art and Visual Culture, followed by an M.Phil. in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology.

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. For questions, please contact admin@rhodesscholar.org.