



From the Office of the American Secretary

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American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2026

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

DISTRICT 1

Rhode Island

Yael S. Goldstein, Barrington, is a senior at Harvard University completing a major in Philosophy. Yael's senior thesis examines philosophical justifications for a right to housing, and she has worked extensively on housing issues while an undergraduate, including as a guest services director and case manager at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter. Yael is an accomplished musician who performs oboe and English horn with the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra. She also volunteers as a classical music host for Harvard's student radio station. At Oxford, Yael intends to pursue the B.Phil. in Philosophy.

Rhode Island

Nicholas G. Sanzi, Providence, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University in May of 2025 with a B.Sc. in International and Public Affairs. He was the Managing Editor for the Brown Journal of World Affairs and is currently a legislative intern with Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. Nicholas paints portraiture and has filmed multiple funded video journalism projects, including a documentary on graffiti artists in France and a short film about an Afghan refugee in Providence, R.I. He is a triathlete. At Oxford, he intends to read for the M.Phil. in Politics.

DISTRICT 2

Connecticut

Sophia J. Wang, Woodbridge, received a B.S. in Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2024. Sophia currently works in the country of Bhutan, leading a sustainability policy taskforce. She is also a founding researcher at a new laboratory in Japan and a research associate at a venture capital fund focused on space technologies. During the summer following her graduation from MIT, she cycled more than 4,000 miles as part of MIT Spokes, a program that runs learning festivals across the country. At Oxford, she intends to complete an M.Sc. in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics followed by an M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

New Jersey

Omar M. Abuattieh, Holmdel, is a senior at Rutgers University, where he is completing an accelerated degree as a Doctor of Pharmacy. He is a Truman Scholar. As an elected township representative, he has helped to secure federal grants and organized health clinics for local residents. Omar is a founding member of the New Jersey Muslim Civic Coalition and in 2023 established a scholarship fund for displaced Gazan students seeking higher education. He is also a commissioner for campus intramural sports. At Oxford, he intends to complete an M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation and a Master of Public Policy.

DISTRICT 3

New York - South

Esmeralda Abreau Jerez, Bronx, graduated from Dartmouth College in 2025 with a B.A. in Geography and Quantitative Social Science. Esmeralda is currently working at Pfizer, where she focuses on research on patient outcomes and quality of life. Her senior honors thesis, which examined labor organizing among home health aides in New York City, received high honors. While at Dartmouth, she was an organizer and steward with the Student Worker's Collective and founded a women's health committee serving migrant farm workers in the Upper Valley. At Oxford, Esmeralda proposes to complete an M.Sc. in Global Health Sciences and Epidemiology and an M.Sc. in Health Service Improvement and Evaluation.

New York - South

Noah B. Tirschwell, Dobbs Ferry, is a senior at Yale University, where he is majoring in History and Philosophy. As a junior, he was nominated to Phi Beta Kappa. He is co-president of the Yale Hillel Student Board, a peer tutor, and serves on an advisory committee fostering constructive dialogue at Yale. As a leader of Yale's first-year outdoor orientation trips, he guides backpacking trips for incoming undergraduates along the Appalachian Trail. At Oxford, Noah intends to pursue an M.St. in History and M.St. in Jewish Studies.

DISTRICT 4

Pennsylvania

Aruna B. Balasubramanian, Bala Cynwyd, is a senior at Yale University, where she is completing double majors in Anthropology and History. Her senior thesis examines the role that the arts can play in rural development and focuses on a Japanese fishing village that has developed a system of art galleries to help boost the local economy. Aruna has published multiple peer-reviewed articles and is the founder and editor-in-chief of the country's first digital humanities journal for undergraduates. She is also a trainee and guide at the Yale Center for British Art museum. At Oxford, Aruna will pursue an M.Phil. in Global and Area Studies.

Pennsylvania

Alice L. Hall, Philadelphia, is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she is completing degrees in Chemical Engineering and Spanish. She was elected MIT student body president, where she leads an executive committee of more than forty student leaders. As a leader in the MIT D-Lab, she collaborated with a women's collective in Ghana to design sustainably powered tools for shea nut processing. She is a member of the women's varsity basketball team. At Oxford, Alice intends to pursue a D.Phil. in Engineering Science.

DISTRICT 5

District of Columbia

Andrew H. Tomusiak, Washington, earned a B.A. in International Affairs from George Washington University, where he also earned his commission in the U.S. Army Reserves. In his reservist capacity, he leads a platoon of twenty-five soldiers in human intelligence operations,

while working full-time as a program analyst in the U.S. State Department. At GW, he co-founded a fellowship focused on interfaith dialogue and participated in multiple internships focused on peace and reconciliation. At Oxford, he intends to pursue a Master's of Public Policy and M.Sc. in Public Policy Research.

Maryland

Emma L.B. Finn, Annapolis, is a senior at Harvard University, where she is completing double majors in Mathematics and Classics as well as a concurrent master's degree in Statistics. Her Classics thesis explores how developments in the theory of quantification shaped how Greek historians understood their past and future, and her second thesis in Mathematics examines when and why generative models fail to generalize beyond their training data. Emma is active in numerous campus organizations, including coordinating a weekly lunch forum for researchers to discuss machine learning and neuroscience. At Oxford, Emma intends to pursue the M.Sc. by Research in Statistics followed by a D.Phil. course in Statistics and Machine learning.

DISTRICT 6

North Carolina

Robert J. Miller, Arden, is a senior at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he majors in Electrical & Computer Engineering and minors in Robotics. He serves as the Air Force Academy's Cadet Wing Commander, the highest-ranking cadet position at the Academy. Jake's academic work is grounded in the field of neuroprosthetics, the bridge between robotics and biology, where he focuses on enhancing the human nervous system. He has conducted research at the MIT Lincoln Laboratory and Carnegie Mellon NeuroMechatronics Lab. Jake is a part of the Academy's Wings of Blue Parachuting Team, where he conducts complex parachuting operations and serves as an instructor of the military's premier free-fall airmanship program. Jake will pursue an M.Sc. in Engineering Science at Oxford.

South Carolina

August A. Rios, Bluffton, is a senior at Yale University majoring in Sociology. A Truman Scholar, his academic work has focused on urban sociology with a particular emphasis on

housing policy. August serves as a commissioner on the New Haven Affordable Housing Commission and co-founded a student organization at Yale to provide free legal information to Connecticut residents in small claims court. While completing his undergraduate studies, August also obtained a real-estate license and worked with first-time homebuyers. At Oxford, August will pursue an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy followed by an M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Policy Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

DISTRICT 7

Alabama

Olurotimi M. Kukoyi, Hoover, is a senior at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) where he majors in Health Policy and Management. As an intern in the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, he developed policies to advance value-based care for residents across the state. As a summer intern in Nigeria, he designed and built digital tools to support the implementation of better health care decision-making. Olurotimi has worked with the UNC Student Health Action Coalition to help provide free health services to uninsured and underinsured state residents. He was elected senior class president and is a Truman Scholar. He also recently completed his first marathon. At Oxford, Olurotimi will pursue the M.Sc. in Health Improvement and Evaluation and the M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation.

Florida

Florence N. Onyiuke, Altamonte Springs, is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is completing a dual degree in International Studies and Business. Her senior thesis focuses on the informal economy and socioeconomic mobility and is based on ethnographic interviews that she conducted in Spanish with West African scrap metal collectors in Barcelona. Florence directs Black Wharton Consulting, using data to help Black-owned businesses and nonprofits in West Philadelphia. Her professional experiences include internships at J.P. Morgan and McKinsey & Company. At Oxford, she intends to pursue an M.Sc. in African Studies followed by the M.Sc. in Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment.

DISTRICT 8

Texas

Victoria M. Harris, Houston, is a senior at the University of Chicago, where she majors in Anthropology and Creative Writing. Tori's academic work as an archaeologist aims to excavate the legacy of the African diaspora. She has conducted archaeological excavations across the U.S., from Tulsa to New Orleans, and has served as a research assistant for the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies and the Chicago History Museum. Tori's creative writing, including a selection of poems and short stories, has been published in Blacklight Magazine. She is also an accomplished violinist who performs with the University Chamber Orchestra of the University of Chicago. At Oxford, Tori will pursue an M.Sc. in African Studies followed by an M.Sc. in Archaeology.

Texas

Keidy L. Palma Ramirez, El Paso, is a senior at Brown University, pursuing a double major in Education Studies and Social Analysis and Research. Keidy is a campus leader in advocating for immigrant and refugee students and peer counselor and tutor at Brown and in the surrounding community. Keidy served as an intern in the office of Congresswoman Veronica Escobar and was awarded the Royce Fellowship to support an original project focused on youth living along the US-Mexico border. At Oxford, Keidy will pursue the M.Sc. in Migration Studies and the M.Sc. in Social Data Science.

DISTRICT 9

Virginia

Sydney E. Barta, Arlington, is a senior at Stanford University, where she majors in bioengineering. She has won multiple medals as a member of the U.S. Paralympic National Team and is the first Paralympian on the Stanford track team. Sydney is the co-president of Stanford's chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society, and has earned academic distinction across courses in the sciences and humanities. Sydney serves on the Collegiate Athlete Advisory Council for the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee and was elected by Team USA athletes to advocate for all Paralympians as the General Paralympic Representative on the Team USA Athletes Commission. She sings in the Stanford acapella

group “Counterpoint.” At Oxford, Sydney hopes to complete a graduate course in Musculoskeletal Sciences.

Virginia

Hadi M. Kamara, Alexandria, is a senior at Princeton University, where he majors in Politics. Before coming to Princeton, Hadi enlisted in the military, where he served as a C-130 crew chief in the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command. In this role he helped direct logistics and food distribution for thousands of refugees during the 2021 evacuation of U.S. allies from Afghanistan. Following his service, he went on to complete an associate’s degree in business administration at Northern Virginia Community College. Hadi’s academic work as an undergraduate focused on international relations, and he also completed an internship at the Pentagon’s Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. At Oxford, Hadi will pursue an M.Phil. in International Relations.

DISTRICT 10

Illinois

William C. Lieber, Springfield, graduated from Duke University with a B.A. in Health and Incarceration. An advocate for prison and reentry system reform, he has co-lead educational programs in prisons throughout North Carolina, worked as an EMT and restorative justice facilitator, and led an interview team working with victims of gun violence in Durham to inform local policy reform. He is the co-author of six published articles. As a transfer student from Illinois Wesleyan University, Lieber held a leadership role in supporting transfer students in Duke’s Office of New Student and Family Programs. At Oxford, he plans to complete the M.Sc. in Criminology and Criminal Justice and the M.Sc. in Education.

Ohio

Johnathan R. Pinc, is a senior at the U.S. Military Academy, where he majors in Chemistry. He is a researcher with the Academy’s Protein Biophysics Research Group that focuses its work on small-molecule treatment. Johnathan has received the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and serves as the President of the West Point American Chemical Society Chapter. As a cadet, he also competed as a Division 1-level gymnast, during which he was an NCAA Academic All-

American and received the Black Knight Award for Academic Excellence, awarded to the student-athlete with the highest academic GPA. Jonathan will pursue an M.Sc. in Chemistry at Oxford.

DISTRICT 11

Michigan

Yumna A. Dagher, Ann Arbor, graduated in 2025 from the University of Michigan, where she completed double majors in English and Environment and Sustainability. Her senior honors thesis in creative writing received numerous campus awards. She is currently a Dean's Fellow at the University of Michigan, focused on implementing sustainability initiatives, and she also works with an arts alliance on establishing a neighborhood arts hub. While an undergraduate, Yumna was the program lead of the university's sustainable food program. At Oxford, she intends to complete an M.Sc. in Nature, Society and Environmental Governance followed by an M.Sc. in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology.

Michigan

Daniel I. Juzych, Bloomfield Hills, is a senior at Colby College, where he is majoring in Biology with a concentration in Neuroscience. A leader in the Ukrainian-American community, Daniel launched a project to establish ophthalmic surgical training centers in Ukraine and created a process to import donor corneas. He is a member of the Colby men's varsity hockey team and performs Ukrainian dance. At Oxford, he intends to complete an M.Sc. in Modelling for Global Health and an M.Sc. in History of Science, Medicine and Technology.

DISTRICT 12

Tennessee

Stanley W. Davis is a senior at Columbia University, where he is completing a B.A. in Psychology and has distinguished himself in courses in multiple disciplines. He led dialogues across Columbia as part of a conflict resolution initiative, furthering his research interests in group reconciliation and using his findings to advocate with campus administrators. He served as a summer law clerk on the Eighth Circuit and works as a personal trainer in Morningside

Heights and a lab coordinator in clinical psychology. He plans to pursue an M.Sc. by Research in Experimental Psychology and an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy at Oxford.

Tennessee

Kylene J. Monaghan, Blacksburg, Virginia, is a senior at Sewanee, The University of the South, where she is majoring in Mathematics and Physics. She is ranked first in her class and has interned at CERN's Large Hadron Collider and worked as a research assistant for courses in quantum computing and thermal engineering. She is the captain of the Sewanee varsity soccer team and president of the Sewanee Society of Physics students. At Oxford, she intends to pursue an M.Sc. by Research in Engineering Science and an M.Sc. in Quantum Technologies.

DISTRICT 13

Colorado

Samuel N. Johnson-Saeger, Boulder, is a senior at Claremont McKenna College, where he is majoring in Economic and International Relations. He has interned at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and Council on Foreign Relations. Samuel is a member of the Claremont McKenna model United Nations team and serves as the first student manager of the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies. In his spare time, he enjoys backpacking and board games. At Oxford, he intends to pursue an M.Sc. in Economics for Development and an M.Sc. in Global Governance and Diplomacy.

Louisiana

Anil A.S. Cacodcar, Lafayette, is a senior at Harvard University double majoring in Economics and Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology. His senior thesis investigates the role of fear in regulating human behaviors during epidemics by examining local news coverage of fentanyl and its relationship to overdose deaths. Anil is the current chair of the Harvard Public Opinion Project, where he leads a group of researchers producing the nation's largest survey on the political attitudes of young Americans. He also volunteers with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless and a local homeless shelter. At Oxford, he proposes to complete an M.Phil. in Economics.

DISTRICT 14

Montana

Doriane R. Keiser, Wolf Point, is a senior at Montana State University, where she is double majoring in Psychology and Community Health. A Udall Scholar and a McNair Scholar, Doriane has completed numerous research projects, including examining how peer relationships influence academic success and how Native American and Alaska Native students experience cultural exchange. As a student government representative, Doriane worked to expand funding to mental health programs and increase access to low-cost legal services on campus. She also mentored middle-school students on reservations through her work with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. At Oxford, Doriane intends to complete an M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation and an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy.

Washington

Shubham Bansal, Mukilteo, is a senior at the University of Washington, where he majors in Neuroscience and Medical Anthropology. His academic and professional work is grounded in a commitment to both the individualized provision of medical care and the efficacy of community policies addressing public health. Shubham is the founder and executive director of NARCARE, a nonprofit that organizes certified Naloxone trainers to distribute emergency life-saving overdose supplies across the country. He also serves as the Mental Health and Social Justice Committee Member of the Washington State Department of Health Advisory Board. Shubham's work in the Benaroya Research Institute's Linsley Lab connects autoimmune disease properties to adaptive immune response to SARS-CoV-2. Shubham will pursue an M.Sc. in Health Service Improvement and Evaluation at Oxford.

DISTRICT 15

Arizona

Anirvin Puttur, Gilbert, is a senior at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he majors in Aeronautical Engineering and Applied Mathematics. He has conducted research with the German Aerospace Center where he focused on pitch recovery capabilities of the Center's future fighter concept. Anirvin is both an instructor pilot and flight commander in the 94th

Flying Training Squadron, while also competing at the national level on the Air Force Academy's Aerobatic Demonstration Team. Anirvin currently serves as the President of the Martinson Honors Program which offers interdisciplinary learning experiences for the Academy's highest academic performers. With a deep interest in linguistics, Anirvin is proficient in four languages: Kannada, Tamil, Latin and German. He is also a self-taught pianist, guitarist and drummer. Anirvin will pursue an M.Sc. in Engineering Science at Oxford.

California - North

Maxwell A. Felter, Palo Alto, is a senior at the U.S. Military Academy where he majors in Applied Statistics and Data Science. His thesis researches drone detection capabilities for the Army Special Operations Forces Autonomy Division, focusing on multimodal deep learning techniques that may improve 3D drone tracking. Maxwell presented his work at the 2025 MIT Undergraduate Research Conference and was a 2025 Summer Fellow at Palantir Technologies. Maxwell is a member of the Academy's Sandhurst Team where he competes against more than twenty foreign militaries in military skills such as rucking, marksmanship, and land navigation. He also represented the Corps of Cadets as one of the eight students to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy for an exchange semester. Maxwell will pursue an M.Sc. in Advanced Computer Science at Oxford.

DISTRICT 16

California - South

Sofia I. Lara, San Fernando, is a senior at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she is completing a major in Biological Engineering. Her research focuses on cell circuits and complex tissue immunology, and she is particularly interested in how sex variation shapes disease pathways. Sofia is president of MIT's Baker House residence. She is also co-captain of the campus archery team, music director for the Catholic Community, and volunteers at Massachusetts General Hospital. At Oxford, Sofia will pursue a D.Phil. in Clinical Medicine.

California - South

Brandon H. Tran, Fountain Valley, is a senior at the U.S. Military Academy where he majors in International Affairs and Chinese. He is a non-resident fellow of the Indo-Pacific Studies

Center, a research assistant for the U.S. Army War College's China Landpower Studies Center, and the Chief Administrative Officer for the Oxford Semiconductor Conference. Brandon's writing on geopolitics in South Asia has received awards, including from the Army Strategist Association. He is an editor for the West Point Journal of Politics and Security, a catechist for the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Chapel, and an active member of the Academy's Taekwondo team as a 1st-degree black belt. Brandon hopes to commission as a Military Intelligence Officer and will pursue an M.Sc. in Contemporary Chinese Studies at Oxford.

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.