



From the Office of the American Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, DC / November 16, 2024 – Dr. Ramona L. Doyle, American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust, today announced the names of the 32 Americans chosen as Rhodes Scholars. This year’s Rhodes Scholars representing the United States will go to Oxford University in England in October 2025 to pursue graduate studies and were elected by 16 independent committees around the country meeting simultaneously on Saturday. This year nearly 3,000 students began the application process; 865 were ultimately endorsed by 243 different colleges and universities. Committees of Selection in each of 16 U.S. districts then invited 238 finalists to appear before them for interviews. All districts interviewed 14 or more finalists.

The year’s class includes students from 20 unique colleges and universities, including the first ever Rhodes Scholar elected from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia and the first ever Rhodes Scholar elected from Pepperdine University in California. Also elected were two Rhodes Scholars from colleges that had not had a winner for more than fifty-three years (Coe College, Iowa) and twenty-five years (Davidson College, North Carolina), respectively.

Four scholars were selected from the U.S. Military Academy this year, the second time West Point has had this many Rhodes Scholars since 1959. This class of U.S. Rhodes Scholars will be pursuing studies across the breadth of the social sciences, humanities, and biological and physical sciences. In addition to their remarkable academic achievements, they are all also distinguished by exceptional leadership and their determination to improve the lives of others, their communities and the world. Amongst this year's U.S. Scholars-elect are: a former 4H club member who is Harvard's first major in Animal Studies; a scientist/DJ who uses AI to transform musical beats and solve medical problems; a mathematics major who is the youngest elected official in Missouri; a religious studies major who is proficient in six languages including Sanskrit, Persian, German, Biblical Hebrew, Latin and Arabic; and a political science major who has interned at the Department of Defense, the State Department, and the United Nations, while also pursuing amateur boxing.

The 32 Rhodes Scholars chosen from the United States will join an international group of Scholars chosen from 25 other jurisdictions (more than 70 countries) around the world, and two Global 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, 3674 Americans have won Rhodes Scholarships, representing 329 colleges and universities. Since 1976, women have been eligible to apply, and 675 American women have now won the coveted scholarship. More than 2,000 American Rhodes Scholars are living in all parts of the U.S. and abroad.

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. Dr. Doyle 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 2025.

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. According to Dr. Doyle, “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.” Dr. Doyle added, “Although the Trust strives for the most inclusive application pool possible through outreach and other efforts, consideration of balance or diversity are not factors in selection at either the national or district level in the U.S. She added, “A Rhodes Scholar should show great promise of leadership and character as well as an exceptionally strong commitment to service.”

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 on November 15 and 16 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. 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 \$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 Babette Littlemore at babette.littlemore@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. Brief profiles follow the list.

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

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Beginning Sunday, November 17, and through next week, Dr. Doyle may be reached for press inquiries or comments at american.secretary@rhodesscholar.org. Thom Yu, Director of the Rhodes Trust Office of the American Secretary, will be able to provide details on how to reach Scholars-elect and may be reached at thom@rhodesscholar.org.

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.