



From the Office of the American Secretary

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American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2024

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

DISTRICT 1

Massachusetts

Mira-Rose Kingsbury Lee, Cambridge, is a senior at Harvard University with a double major in Human Evolutionary Biology and History. Her scientific thesis focuses on the effects of industrialization on the gut microbiome and possible impacts on human health, including metabolic and autoimmune disorders. She was awarded the 2023 Harvard-Magdalenne fellowship at Cambridge University for her research towards a proposed pop-science book aimed at engaging the lay public on climate change from a microscopic perspective and outlining potential microbial solutions to the climate crisis. An ice hockey aficionado, Mira-Rose also writes musicals, including “Atalanta,” which made its international debut at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She participated in a not-for-profit to teach science and ethics to college-bound students from underserved communities in New York City. At Oxford, she hopes to pursue a Masters or DPhil in Interdisciplinary Bioscience.

Massachusetts

Lyndsey R. Mugford, Cambridge, is a senior at Harvard University where she majors in Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology. Lyndsey's thesis is on how somatosensory dysfunction impacts neurodevelopment in autism. She plans to apply this neurodevelopmental research to study regenerative therapeutics for peripheral neuropathy with an interest in addressing chronic and age-related pain. Lyndsey has volunteered regularly at the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and was a cast member and leader in Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals, where she was elected as the first female Cast Vice President in the company's 178-year history and President. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. by Research in Clinical Neurosciences.

DISTRICT 2

New Hampshire

Zachary Lang, Franconia, graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College in June 2023 with a B.A. in Philosophy and a B.A. in History and is currently working as an English Teaching Assistant through the Fulbright Program. Zachary's thesis was on the epistemic defects of ideological beliefs for which he won the Story Philosophy Prize. He has conducted research in meta-ethics, philosophy of law, and conceptual engineering. He was also a winner of the Charles Downer Hazen Prize in History. Zachary co-led the Student and Presidential Committee on Sexual Assault. He is fluent in French and German and is an avid rock climber. Zachary will pursue a Bachelor's in Philosophy at Oxford.

New Jersey

Samuel J. Harshbarger, Cranbury, is a senior at Princeton University where he majors in History. His studies focus on twentieth-century Turkey, the Cold War, and decolonization. Sam is also a Research Assistant at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. He was granted the Stone Davis Thesis Award to fund his senior thesis archival research in Ankara, Turkey. Sam is a lover of Szechuanese food and enjoys following local New Jersey politics in his free time. Sam will pursue an M.Phil. in History at Oxford.

DISTRICT 3

New York - South

Jacqueline N. Testamark, Levittown, is a Yale College senior majoring in Classical Civilizations and History. Much of her academic work has centered on examining minority histories in classical art and literature. Jackie has worked as a field archaeologist in Rome, contributed to a gallery exhibition and associated catalogue, and currently serves as a provenance researcher for the Yale University Art Gallery. She is the co-organizer of Yale's Classics Anti-Racism Reading Group, served as the Head Delegate of the Model United Nations Team, and performs with her a cappella group, Yale Out of the Blue. At Oxford, Jackie will pursue an M.St. in History of Art and Visual Culture.

New York - South

Mrinalini S. Wadhwa, New York City, is a senior at Columbia University where she majors in History and Mathematics. She is co-editor-in-chief of multiple student journals, including the Columbia Journal of Asia, which she co-founded. She has won fellowships to support research in archives around the world, including in India, France, and the United Kingdom, and is current chair of the Columbia History Association. Mrinalini also co-founded a program providing a three-year English curriculum for low-income Indian students in New Delhi. At Oxford, Mrinalini will pursue an M.Phil. in Modern European History.

DISTRICT 4

New York - North

Grant J. GianGrasso, Buffalo, graduated from the University of Virginia in 2023 with a B.A. in Human Biology and French and where he is currently completing a Master's in Public Health. He conducts infectious disease research on genetic determinants of the illness cryptosporidiosis, volunteers as a firefighter and EMT in Charlottesville, and founded The Virginia Medical Review student science publication. At UVA, Grant is a Jefferson Scholar honoring his leadership, scholarship, and citizenship. He is lead trumpeter of the UVA Jazz Ensemble and an active stand-up comedian. At Oxford, Grant will pursue a D.Phil. in Clinical Medicine.

Pennsylvania

Donovan D. Dixon, Philadelphia, graduated from New York University in 2023 with a B.A. in Public Policy. Donovan previously interned in the White House's Office of the First Lady; the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and the African American Mayors Association. He wrote his honors thesis on establishing a climate-centric home-repair program for Philadelphia. A junior inductee into Phi Beta Kappa, Donovan attended NYU as an AnBryce Scholar, was a peer mentor for community-service projects across New York City, and was the student speaker at NYU's commencement exercises. At Oxford, Donovan will pursue an M.Phil. in Comparative Social Policy.

DISTRICT 5

District of Columbia

Thomas E. Batterman, Washington, D.C., graduated from Georgetown University in May 2022 with a B.A. in History. He currently serves as a research specialist at the U.S. Department of Justice. At Georgetown, his undergraduate thesis focused on the history of plague and challenged the narrative of the fall of Byzantine northern Italy. While at Georgetown Tommy was the lead percussionist in the Georgetown University Jazz Ensemble and bandleader and general manager for Georgetown Cabaret. He also volunteered as a zookeeper aide in the National Zoo's primate unit, a commitment he continues today. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.St. degree in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies followed by an M.St. in History (History of War).

Maryland

Abigail Ward, Pasadena, is a senior at United States Naval Academy with a B.S. in Computer Science. Abigail's academic work has centered on applying computer science to detect foreign misinformation campaigns that sow division and threaten cybersecurity in the United States. A recipient of the USNA Stamps scholarship, Abigail has traveled and studied in Asia to deepen her cross-cultural experiences. On campus, she is raising cultural awareness as president of the Chinese Culture Club and plays fullback on the two-time national champion Varsity Women's Rugby team. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Social Science of the Internet and a Master of Public Policy.

DISTRICT 6

Georgia

Mariah L. Cady, Midland, is a senior at the University of Georgia where she majors in International Affairs and Russian, with minors in Geography, German and Teaching Second Languages. She is founder and leader of the Native American Students Association at UGA and worked as a tutor for Paper Airplanes, Inc., an organization that supports refugee populations and displaced persons through educational services. Mariah is a Foundation Fellow at UGA, the University's highest undergraduate scholarship and is currently studying in Kazakhstan as a Boren Scholar. Mariah speaks eight languages including Russian, German, Serbo-Croatian and Lakota. Mariah hopes to pursue a career as a diplomat. At Oxford she will pursue an M.St. in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics and an M.Sc. in Forced Migration Studies.

Georgia

Madison M. Jennings, Savannah, is a senior at Agnes Scott College with a major in Political Science. She is president of the pre-law society and an intern at the Carter Center, where she has worked on issues ranging from supporting civil society organizations in Liberia to identifying policing alternatives in Georgia. She is also a project executive for the Pop Up Library for Peace, which creates mobile outdoor libraries for youth in the Savannah area. She is classically trained in ballet and has led three ballet productions. At Oxford, Madison will pursue a Master of Public Policy and an M.Sc. in Public Policy Research.

DISTRICT 7

Florida

Madelyn L. Letendre, Crestview, is a senior at the United States Air Force Academy where she majors in Biochemistry. She had done research on disability support systems in the military. Madelyn received a Stamps Scholarship to support her research and won the Humanities Division Research Award from USAFA. She is All-Mountain West Conference for swimming and competes as a varsity swimmer in long distances. Madelyn is an avid skier, enjoys backpacking, and has also taught children to backpack. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Therapeutic and Translational Neuroscience and a Master of Public Policy.

Puerto Rico

Xavier R. Morales, San Juan, is a senior at Harvard College, where he majors in Applied Mathematics and Economics with a secondary concentration in Philosophy. Xavier is president of Voters Choose, an electoral reform organization at Harvard and also completed an internship at Jane Street Capital. He is a John Harvard Scholar who has published a paper on fake news and neural networks in the Pacific Asia Conference on Knowledge, Discovery, and Data Mining. Xavier is an Eagle Scout who also plays keyboard and founded a band with friends in San Juan. At Oxford Xavier will pursue a B.Phil. in Philosophy.

DISTRICT 8

Texas

Tatyana Nieves Brown, San Antonio, graduated from New York University Abu Dhabi in 2022 with a B.A. in Social Research and Public Policy. She is now a Henry Luce Scholar in Taiwan working with the 2023 Taipei Biennial at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum. Tatyana's practice is at the crossroads of international social justice movements and culture work. She builds cultural and policy innovation spaces that connect Puerto Rico's transition from a U.S. Territory status to similar plights in the wider world. She has developed programs at the National Museum of African American History and Culture and co-founded a Black feminist space in Abu Dhabi. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy and an M.Sc. in Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology.

Texas

Isabella G. Sullivan, San Antonio, is a senior at the United States Military Academy where she majors in International History with Honors. She serves as the Deputy Brigade Commander of the Corps of Cadets and is a two-time captain of the women's volleyball team at West Point. She volunteers at the West Point Mounger Writing Center as a senior writing fellow, and she has interned at the U.S. Army War College and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Historical Research Office. She recently earned the Dean's Pentathlete Award for her overall academic, military, and physical performance in the spring of 2023. Isabella will pursue an M.Sc. in Evidence Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at Oxford.

DISTRICT 9

Virginia

Fahad B. Abdulrazzaq, Woodbridge, is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where he majors in International Affairs / Cyber Engineering Sequence. Fahad was a research fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies where he co-authored a recent report on disarming cyber threats. Fahrad was also an intern on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a regimental commander at the United States Military Academy and a Stamps Scholar at the Academy. Fahad is also Leader of the West Point boxing team. He will pursue a M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at Oxford.

Virginia

Alexandra A. Wong, Alexandria, is a senior at Johns Hopkins University where she majors in Public Health. Alexandra is founder of the NextGen Accessibility Initiative which works with Gen Z organizations to fix accessibility gaps in their digital content. She has conducted research at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine focusing on hearing loss. Alexandra is also a Youth Advisor to the Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy. She has been recognized by the Varkey Foundation as a Global Student Prize top 50 Finalist for academic achievement and community service, and she is a Heumann-Armstrong Education Awards National winner. Alexandra is a member of the Johns Hopkins University Dragon Boat team. Alexandra will pursue an M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation at Oxford.

DISTRICT 10

Illinois

Isabella B. Cho, Wilmette, is a senior at Harvard University where she majors in English. A published poet and journalist, she is a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow and a News Executive at The Harvard Crimson. Isabella was a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, a Yun Family Research Fellow for Revolutionary Thinking, and a Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards Finalist for Breaking News Reporting. She is interested in the future of the humanities, campus free speech, and constitutional jurisprudence. At Oxford, Isabella will pursue an M.Sc. in Education with an emphasis in Higher Education.

Illinois

Madison I. Hahamy, Lake Forest, is a senior at Yale University, majoring in English. Since high school, she has been a journalist, and now contributes to investigative journalism in a variety of news outlets. Madison is an intern at NBC News Investigations and was previously a senior editor at The New Journal at Yale. She received the John Hersey Prize in journalism for her engagement with moral and social issues, responsible reportage, and craftsmanship. In her spare time, Madison is a singer in a Jewish a cappella group. She has a twin brother, Garrett. Madison will pursue the M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies at Oxford.

DISTRICT 11

Michigan

Emmanuel Orozco Castellanos, Jalisco, Mexico, graduated from the University of Michigan in 2022 with a major in International Studies. He was the recipient of the 2023 University of Michigan MLK Spirit award, and was selected for the 2021-2022 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship. During his time at the University of Michigan, he served as President of the Global Scholars program. He was a delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the Youth Forum. His publications include an article on the U.N. Convention against Torture and contributions to the Organization of American States' first-ever report on the Responsibility to Protect. At Oxford, Emmanuel will pursue an M.Sc. in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and an M.Sc. in Latin American Studies.

Wisconsin

Suhaas Bhat, Marshfield, is a senior at Harvard University majoring in Social Studies and Physics. He co-founded an organization at Harvard that provides peer-facilitated group psychotherapy to students. He has developed machine learning models for designing novel drugs. He helped organize Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, resulting in the university divesting its endowment from the fossil fuel industry. He has eight peer-reviewed publications and was selected as part of the Junior 24 cohort for Phi Beta Kappa. He has worked as a machine learning researcher at DE Shaw Research, American Family Insurance, UbiquiTx, and the Church and Chatterjee labs at Harvard and Duke, respectively. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Sc. in

Mathematical Modeling and Scientific Computing and an M.Sc. in International Health and Tropical Medicine.

DISTRICT 12

Missouri

Victoria Harwell, Denver, Colorado, is a senior at Washington University in St. Louis, where they major in African and African American Studies and Environmental Analysis. Victoria does community empowerment work with Black communities in St. Louis and Denver, addressing systemic problems like youth violence. Victoria is also a Udall Scholar, volunteers with urban farmers in St. Louis, and is currently completing research on Black and Queer farming, focused on how communities that experience extractivism adapt to and mitigate climate change. At Oxford, Victoria will pursue an M.Phil. in African Studies and an M.Sc. in Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance.

Tennessee

Mariam H. Khayata, Memphis, graduated from Rhodes College in 2022 with a degree in International Studies and Political Science. She currently works as an education coordinator at American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities, the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. She is also the executive director of a Memphis-based Muslim nonprofit that works to bring young Muslims closer to their faith. During her time at Rhodes College, she served as chair of the student government's diversity and inclusion committee and successfully advocated for the creation of interfaith prayer spaces on campus. Mariam will pursue an M.Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at Oxford.

DISTRICT 13

Colorado

Cole W. Mason, Berthoud, is a senior at Williams College, where he majors in Environmental Studies and Political Science. He works as a researcher in the Wylie Environmental Data Justice Lab with a focus on the social and political implications of oil and gas technologies. Cole was an intern in US Congressman Joe Neguse's office and at NGO Sustainability Inc., a nonprofit organization in consultative status with the United Nations. He serves as a student liaison to his college's Political Science Department and as captain of the Williams Swim and Dive team.

He is also in an a cappella choir, where he has been a business manager and president. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Sc. in Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance and a Master of Public Policy.

Nebraska

Lucy Tu, Omaha, is a senior at Harvard College, where she majors in Sociology and History of Science. She is a research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Kennedy School. Tu was the first undergraduate to be sponsored by the American Statistical Association for the AAAS Mass Media Fellowship, which funded her reporting fellowship at Scientific American. She served as the President of the Harvard Undergraduate Law Review and the Director of the Boston Youth Enrichment Extension Program. She also skates for the Harvard Figure Skating Club. At Oxford, she will pursue an M.Phil. in Socio-legal Research and an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy.

DISTRICT 14

Montana

J. Kolter Stevenson, Amsterdam, is a senior and Presidential Leadership Scholar at the University of Montana where he is majoring in International Business, Finance, Management Information Systems and Russian. Kolter spent a summer in Kyrgyzstan on a Critical Language Scholarship studying Russian and analyzing energy infrastructure across Central Asia. Back in Missoula, he founded Smart Dorm, an energy management system to reduce energy consumption in dormitories and barracks. Inspired by his love for the Montana outdoors, he serves as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the East Missoula and Frenchtown Rural Fire Districts. He is also a certified ski instructor at The Yellowstone Club. At Oxford, Kolter will pursue the M.Sc. in Energy Systems and the M.Sc. in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

Oregon

Nayantara K. Arora, Portland, is a senior at the University of Oregon, Clark Honors College, where she majors in Neuroscience, with minors in Global Health and Chemistry. She conducts research in two areas: global health biomarkers in Tunisia and the relationship between the vasculature and Alzheimer's disease. She is a Stamps Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa Public Service Scholar, and has traveled to Israel, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, and the UK to pursue

interests in global health. Nayantara is currently an intern with the State Department, and produces a podcast dedicated to uplifting immigrant youth stories, plays the violin, and loves learning new languages. At Oxford, Nayantara will pursue an M.Sc. in Modelling for Global Health and M.Sc. in International Health and Tropical Medicine.

DISTRICT 15

California - North

Aishani Aatresh, Saratoga, is a senior at Harvard College where she is majoring in complex biosocial systems. Aishani is also a fellow at the Program on Science, Technology & Society at the Kennedy School of Government, where she balances research in preventing infectious diseases with a commitment to global public health. During the global pandemic, she worked with the New York City health and hospital system emergency response and then undertook studies to understand the dynamics of COVID-19 with the global Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. She worked as a computational immuno-engineer with companies to develop monoclonal antibody therapies against human disease targets. Aishani tutors at the Harvard College Writing Center. At Oxford, she plans to complete an M.Phil. degree in Nature, Society and Environmental Governance.

California - North

Eleanor M. Wikstrom, Oakland, is a senior at Harvard College where she majors in Social Studies and is a junior Phi Beta Kappa. Her research is focused on the twentieth-century U.S. system of English-only education in the Philippines as an extension of colonialism. She also spearheaded efforts to get Tagalog added as a course in the Harvard Asia Center. She is the editorial chair for the Harvard Crimson and was on the Track and Field team and has qualified for the Boston Marathon. At Oxford, she will pursue an M. St. in Imperial and Global History followed by a M.St. in History.

DISTRICT 16

California - South

Benjamin Chang, Irvine, is a senior at Harvard University, where he double majors in Chemical and Physical Biology and Computer Science. Benjamin has pursued research to develop gene circuits for mammalian synthetic biology at Harvard and MIT, and founded OpenBio, a

student-run laboratory focused on making biological research more accessible. He was a director at the Y2Y Youth Homeless Shelter in Cambridge, led the Harvard-Radcliffe Asian American Association, and was an organizer on the 2020 Biden campaign. At Oxford, he will pursue an M.Sc. by Research in Engineering Science to advance machine learning for synthetic biology.

California – South

Jessica M. Chiriboga, Glendora, is a senior at Dartmouth College where she is majoring in History and minoring in Government. As a Stamps Scholar, her research on the history of Mexican presence in the San Gabriel Mountains around Los Angeles received the Louis Morton Memorial Prize in American History. At Dartmouth, Jess serves as Student Body President and President of the non-partisan Dartmouth Political Union. She oversaw the development of a strategic plan for student mental health and led student advocacy to bring teletherapy to campus. She has interned at the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, where she produced a report on alternative pathways to bar admission. Jess is a quadruplet and enjoys backpacking with the Dartmouth Outing Club in her spare time. She will pursue an M.Phil. in History 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.