



CARS

**Canadian Association
of Rhodes Scholars**

**Volume LXVII, I
ISBN 0821/039X
Hilary 2019**

CONTENTS

From the Editor	3
From the President of CARS	4
Sailing Weekend Information	5
Letter from Oxford	6
In Memoriam	7
Scholars in the News	11
Scholars-Elect 2019	12

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and an opportunity for some rest, and time with family and friends and loved ones.

This issue features what to the committee's knowledge is the first ever article in French in the CARS Newsletter. Those at the 2018 Sailing Dinner will recall Richard French's (British Columbia & Magdalen 1968) tribute to Paul Gérin-Lajoie (Québec & Pembroke 1939). Richard has kindly written down these thoughts and we are extremely pleased to have Marc Gaudry (Québec & Oriel 1961) write a tribute en français as well.

Nous voulons inclure des articles en français dans tous les bulletins, donc n'hésitez pas à m'envoyer un message si vous êtes intéressés.

We have included biographies of all the 2019 Canadian Scholars-Elect, whom we look forward to meeting at the Sailing Weekend in September. We hope that Scholars around the country have the opportunity to meet their local Scholars-Elect sooner, at regional meet-ups. If you do come together for an event, please let us know – and send pictures!

And finally thank you to Levi Hord (Ontario & Wadham 2018) for bringing us all back to Oxford in 'Notes from a Current Scholar'. They have beautifully described some of the intellectual and personal challenges of coming to Oxford, reflecting on how this prepares one for the future. (I have to admit this is always my favourite part of the newsletter, seeing Oxford through a current Scholar's eyes in their letter!)

The Sailing Dinner 2019 will be held in Toronto September 27-29, and we hope to see you there – see the President's letter for more details.

And as always, we enjoy hearing from you – let us know if there is anything you would like us to highlight in the newsletter, whether it is about new additions to the family, appointments, new books, or anything else.

Sincerely,



Braden O'Neill (Alberta & University College 2011)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear CARS Members,

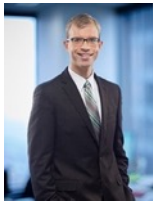
It is hard to believe that yet another year of scholars has been selected. It seems like only yesterday that we were sending off the 2018 scholars elect in Ottawa. As you will see from the information in this issue of the newsletter, the selection committees across the country have outdone themselves in their 2019 selections.

In the months to come, CARS will be organizing regional meet-ups across the country to welcome the new scholars elect and to reconnect with old friends. If an event hasn't been held in your area recently, please feel to contact me – CARS would be happy to support expanding the regional meet-ups.

We have already begun planning for this year's Sailing Weekend. The Sailing Weekend will take place in Toronto from September 27-29, 2019. Following the precedent set in recent years, every third year the Sailing Weekend takes place in Toronto to coincide with an alumni weekend. As such, there will be a full weekend of programming for alumni, with the centrepiece being the Sailing Dinner, which will take place at Massey College at the University of Toronto on Saturday, September 28. Tickets will go on sale in late spring, so watch for further information.

We are currently considering a number of exciting proposals for presenters on the 2019 Sailing Weekend. Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a speaker or someone to give a toast. We are committed to presenting toasts that reflect the diversity of our community.

Yours truly,



Stephen Aylward

Stephen Aylward (NL & St. Hilda's, 2009)

*The Canadian Association of Rhodes Scholars
cordially invites you to attend*

Sailing Weekend 2019



Friday September 27 – Sunday September 29, 2019
Toronto, Ontario
Further details to come

LETTER FROM OXFORD

Just over a year ago, the committee who would elect me a 2018 Rhodes Scholar asked why I would want to transport my work in transgender studies – a field struggling and neglected at the most liberal of institutions – to Oxford’s hallowed halls.

I responded that, besides a few dedicated mentors, my undergraduate university had similarly challenged me to prove the worth and validity of my research. I did not intend to confine myself to an echo chamber: I needed Oxford’s potentially traditional approach to not only provide me with intellectual context, but to give me something to respond to, to expose the gaps that need filling.

I set out to find a balance between humility and veracity, between openness and a commitment to my frameworks. But Oxford, as many of you will doubtless remember, sweeps you up in its own gravity. It stuns you with its heady sense of certainty before you realize that it has done a number on your personal continuity, prompting cracks of the sort that emerge when you hold your own life up to the light of accumulated historicity.

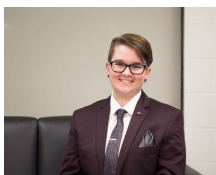
Which is all to say that my first semester at Oxford was less a smooth transition than it was a period of doubt.

Many current Rhodes Scholars, especially those in the humanities, are working in cutting-edge, topical fields. Many of us come from universities that pride themselves on 21st century relevance. There is tension between the worth of tradition that Oxford wields, and the need for exploration of new ideas, of those which are not yet fully proven, of the contentious and the radical.

The worldviews we develop will not be unequivocally accepted - nor should they be - and there are senses in which we can certainly learn more through disagreement than through affirmation. But it is easy to lose oneself against the authority of a place like Oxford. I began, in more difficult moments, to question whether such places can steward the kinds of minds that this generation requires. That tension followed me home, down George Street and past the canal, each night.

I discovered, in those first few months, that tradition could not be my steward. But I also realized that part of our purpose as Rhodes Scholars is to provide the very counterpart we need. Ideas cannot flourish on their own. Sometimes this is painful work. I found what I needed amongst the Rhodies in Oxford: others chosen for their ability to adapt to environments that may not be the friendliest to their aspirations.

I was reminded that we are not just here to learn, to be open, to be humble. We are also here to find moments to teach, to translate, to create and to challenge. In the moments of clarity I finally achieved I found myself thinking back to my interview, to the answer I gave, to the certainty I owe it to myself to cultivate. At Oxford, I am sharpening skills I would otherwise have let soften. I am becoming someone who can walk the knife’s edge of contradiction, as many of us will need to in current and coming worlds.



Levi Hord (Ontario & Wadham 2018)

IN MEMORIAM

PAUL GÉRIN-LAJOIE

(Quebec & Pembroke 1939) February 23, 1920 – June 25, 2018



(Photo credit: Le Devoir)

Paul Gérin-Lajoie : deux souvenirs Marc Gaudry (Québec et Oriel 1961)

L'annonce de la mort de Paul Gérin-Lajoie en juin 2018 fit remonter en moi le souvenir de l'avoir croisé deux fois. D'abord à l'occasion des interviews du Comité de sélection à la Bourse Rhodes de décembre 1960, alors qu'assis à la deuxième place à la droite du président ses yeux rieurs contrastaient avec ceux d'Omond Solandt, alors vice-président recherche et développement du Canadien National et la personne au regard le plus fixe et froid qu'il m'ait jamais été donné de rencontrer. Je reconnus immédiatement le député libéral de Vaudreuil-Soulanges, élu depuis juin (pas encore ministre de l'éducation, ce ministère n'existant pas encore), mais aucun autre membre du jury.

Paul Gérin-Lajoie me posa d'emblée en anglais une question sur mes connaissances des civilisations orientales et j'avouai n'y rien connaître du tout, ce qui lui fit répliquer dans la même langue : « Alors, nos programmes éducatifs doivent être très mal faits puisqu'ils ignorent la moitié de l'humanité ». Ma réponse : « Monsieur, il ne sont pas mal faits mais seulement surchargés », détendit l'atmosphère et mon tortionnaire sourit franchement en retour. Mais son voisin de gauche, le Professeur Clive Carruthers, spécialiste de langues anciennes à l'Université McGill enchaîna sur le champ en me demandant le sens du mot **Maranatha**, nom d'un groupe de prière dont j'étais co-fondateur : ma bonne réponse sur sa nature araméenne, son sens et son usage dans le Nouveau Testament fit visiblement plaisir à Carruthers et ferma la parenthèse orientale.

Je crois qu'ensuite Clarence Campbell, président de la Ligue Nationale de Hockey, réorienta la conversation vers les sports... Elle devint rapidement si agréable, malgré une discussion très technique sur les effets sur le corps humain des isothiocyanates sur lesquels j'avais travaillé chez Monsanto à Ville LaSalle l'été précédent sous la houlette d'un grand chimiste organicien, qu'à un moment donné, lorsqu'Omond Solandt me dit à travers ses grosses lunettes noires circulaires et en me regardant droit dans les yeux : « Thank you, Mr. Gaudry », il dut le répéter car je ne voyais aucune raison de mettre déjà fin à l'entretien...

Je croisai une autre fois Paul Gérin-Lajoie durant l'été 1964 alors que, ministre de l'éducation depuis mai, il vint discuter avec mon père (Roger Gaudry, Québec et Oriel 1937) à son domicile du 22 Fernlea Crescent à Ville Mont-Royal, où je me trouvais par hasard. Lorsque la porte de la maison sonna, je lui ouvris seul et il ...sourit de nouveau, malgré sa surprise de m'y voir, avant que je ne le conduisise à son hôte.

Il s'agit bien sûr de très petite histoire, mais la grande en est aussi faite...

Richard D. French (British Columbia & Magdalen 1968)

Paul Gérin-Lajoie died last year at the age of 98. As a Scholar at Oxford, he earned a doctorate in constitutional law in 1948. He was a major influence on modern Quebec, both as an educational reformer and as a theorist of its place in the world. Here I concentrate on the former. He was a minister in the Quiet Revolution cabinet of Jean Lesage from 1960 and a leading member of "L'équipe de tonnerre." Later in his career, he was President of the Canadian International Development Agency from 1970 to 1977.

In his constituency of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, as in other rural constituencies in the late fifties, for every five hundred students who started grade 8, only five lasted to graduate from secondary school. This despite hyperbolic claims by the ruling Union Nationale party that the Quebec educational system, as managed largely by the Catholic Church, was the "best educational system in the world." This exemplary system was controlled personally by the Premier Maurice Duplessis, who doled out government subsidies by diocese according to the support or otherwise of the bishop in question.

More alert members of the Catholic hierarchy understood that the Church was not in a position to shoulder the responsibility of educating the wave of baby boomers of the early sixties, but greater involvement by the state in education was a hugely sensitive subject. Premier Lesage sympathized with Gérin-Lajoie's goal of reforming the system, but he challenged his colleague to create a public demand for the project. In the summer of 1962, Gérin-Lajoie organized a barnstorming tour of Quebec, addressing every audience who would have him, and some who would have preferred not to. This tour, a campaign-style operation never before undertaken outside electoral periods, attracted an enormous media coverage, and soon Lesage had the public demand he had been seeking. Gérin-Lajoie astutely encouraged support from the growing Quebec student movement, from sympathetic members of the metropolitan press, and from those members of the Church hierarchy, including the most senior, who understood

his objectives. After a tortuous process of negotiation, the National Assembly of Quebec passed the legislation establishing the Ministry of Education, and in 1964 Gérin-Lajoie became the first Minister of Education of Quebec.

It difficult now to appreciate how complex and contentious a project this was. While the image of Quebec as an intellectual and technical backwater in the 1950s is somewhat of a stereotype, it remains the case that the province was slow to adapt its institutions and customs to the requirements of the postwar era. The reform of education was one major index of massive social and political change which the sixties brought to Quebec; others included a dramatic decline in vocations for the Catholic priesthood, an equally dramatic increase in divorce rates, the spread of birth control among Catholics, the beginnings of access to abortion services, the transfer of social services from the Church to the province, the dawning of an aptitude for business among francophone Quebecers, and a more sophisticated assertiveness on the part of Quebec within Canada.

The creation of the Ministry of Education was arguably the greatest single accomplishment of the Quiet Revolution and the sign of a Quebec no longer hesitant to see itself as competitor with other North American jurisdictions, and eager to modernize its culture and economy. It is to Gérin-Lajoie's eternal credit that he was the indispensable and indefatigable agent of this innovation.

CYRIL FOX

Newfoundland & Merton 1952 (26 July 1931 - 10 July 2018)



Coming of age in pre-Confederation St. John's, Cy Fox was a cosmopolitan man of letters and a citizen of the world, a global scholar and traveller. Even as he worked from New Jersey to New Delhi, his heart was in Newfoundland. And his obsession with the early-20th century writer, painter and critic Wyndham Lewis led him to compile the premiere collection dedicated to the rebellious modernist. Mr. Fox died July 10. He was 86.

Read more of The Globe and Mail's [description of his life here](#).

SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS

Yasmin Rafiei (Prairies & Pembroke 2017) wrote in The Globe and Mail about a recent Supreme Court decision [around Canadian expatriate voting rights](#).

Robert Ragotte (British Columbia & St. Edmund Hall 2016) reflected on [vaccine refusal and recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases](#) in The Globe and Mail.

Jonathan Wilkinson (Prairies & Exeter 1988) wrote about the [importance of oceans and the 'Blue Economy'](#) for Inter Press Service.

[A recent profile](#) of **Chrystia Freeland (Prairies & St Antony's 1991)** highlighted her 'passion for global institutions' [paraphrased from Bob Rae (Ontario & Balliol 1969)] and chronicled some of the many challenges encountered in the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement negotiations.

David Goldbloom (Nova Scotia and Exeter 1975) published *How Can I Help? A Week In My Life As A Psychiatrist* which aims to "reduce public fear of psychiatrists by showing what it is they really do, the conditions they treat, the resources they deploy and the setting in which they work."

David Naylor (Ontario & Hertford 1978) was appointed Interim President and CEO of the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto, and was awarded the [Henry Friesen International Prize in Health Research](#).

Mark Abley (Saskatchewan & St. John's 1975) has had two books published in the past year. "Watch Your Tongue: What Our Everyday Sayings and Idioms Figuratively Mean," appeared from Simon & Schuster in October 2018. A much more heartfelt and personal book, "The Organist: Fugues, Fatherhood, and a Fragile Mind," was published by University of Regina Press in January 2019.

John (Quebec & Wadham 1980) and **Marcy McCall MacBain** (Senior Research Fellow and Director of Online Education at the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford) donated \$200 million to McGill University to [support the McCall MacBain Scholarships](#).

Canadian Rhodes Scholar Class of 2019



Rahul Arora

Prairies, 2019

University: University of Calgary

Current/Recent Course: fourth-year student in the Bachelor of Health Sciences program, majoring in biomedical sciences

Other Information: Arora has a strong interest in cancer research, particularly data science and how it can change cancer care. Part of his research at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre brought to his attention that patients with inflammatory breast cancer (IBC) — an aggressive form of cancer — are routinely excluded from clinical trials for new breast cancer therapies. As a result, Arora put together the first database of IBC patients across the province and studied how to use clinical data to personalize radiation treatment. Arora has presented some of his research at several national and international conferences.

In Grade 12, he founded the first Calgary chapter of Operation Med School, a non-profit organization that hosts one-day conferences across Canada and the United States to provide information to high school students interested in a medical career. He has also been a mentor and delivered guest lectures at the university since September 2016.



Matthew Downer

Newfoundland, 2019

University: Memorial University

Current/Recent Course: completed an undergraduate degree in psychology, specializing in neuroscience, he is now currently completing his MD.

Other Information: Downer has won numerous awards including the MUN's Award for Outstanding Self-Directed Learning, The Captain Robert A. Bartlett Convocation Award for Science, and the Faculty of Science Dean's list for four consecutive years. He has published five peer-reviewed papers in clinical rehabilitation, been a clinical research Intern at American University Human Neuropsychology Laboratory in Washington, D.C, and a clinical research assistant at MUN's recovery and performance laboratory. Among his research awards are the Fulbright Canada Killam Fellow for MUN and the best research presentation Award from the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

Downer has been a coach for the provincial Special Olympics floor hockey and golf team since 2013 and coach of the Easter Seals' Newfoundland and Labrador wheelchair basketball team since 2014.



Liam Elbourne

Maritimes, 2019

University: Schwartz School of Business, St. Francis Xavier University

Current/Recent Course: joint honours in business and economics

Other Information: He garnered international attention for his research. In June, he presented his paper “Shocks to Military Support and Subsequent Assassinations in Ancient Rome,” co-authored with former StFX economics professor Cornelius Christian, at the 52nd annual conference of the Canadian Economics Association at McGill University. He was the only active undergraduate student to present in a regular session at this conference, which featured almost 1,000 presenters.

The paper was subsequently published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Economics Letters*, a highly-respected outlet that has published the work of many past Nobel Prize recipients. Full-length stories about this research appeared in some of the world’s leading outlets, including *The Smithsonian* magazine, *The Economist* and *The Telegraph*.

Mr. Elbourne is also captain of the X-Men soccer team, and volunteers extensively within the StFX and Antigonish communities.



Clarisse Émond-Larochelle

Quebec, 2019

University: Université du Québec à Montréal

Current/Recent Course: BA in International Relations and International Law

Other Information: She completed a six-month internship in Vietnam in 2014-2015, during which she piloted workshops on rape culture, sexual health and gender equality with high school students. The following year, she participated in the Youth Parliament of Wallonia-Brussels as head of the Quebec delegation. In 2017, she won an Outstanding Delegation Award from the Faculty of Political Science and Law Team at the United Nations Simulation in New York. She also completed an internship at the Research Center for Women's Studies in Mumbai, India, where she worked on a project on the place of women in municipal governance, as well as pursuing personal research on the legal treatment of sexual assault.

She worked on the Raoul-Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies and became involved with UQAM's International Human Rights Clinic, Quebec Association of Young Parliamentarians and within the Movement Against Rape and Incest.



Edil Ga'al

Ontario, 2019

University: University of Toronto

Current/Recent Course: African studies and political science

Other Information: After her first year in the global-issues-focused Munk One program, she interned at an NGO that promotes human rights in Uganda. She was part of a class that went to Rwanda to study the aftermath of the 1994 genocide, which killed more than 800,000 people according to some estimates, primarily of the minority Tutsi ethnic group. She returned to Rwanda, this time to Gisenyi, a lakeside town in the northwest. Funded through a Queen Elizabeth scholarship, her project centred on education and disability, community development and helping with curriculum development.



Arisha Khan

Quebec, 2019

University: McGill University

Current/Recent Course: Comparative Social Policy with a combination of courses on policy, public health, social work and economics.

Other Information: As a foster child herself, she was a driving force behind the creation of youth seats on the Board of Directors of the Children's Aid Society (CAS) which were her legal 'parent'. At the same time, she served as the youngest CAS Board member for the province. Over the next three years Khan reviewed every government program for youths, while also conducting community consultations – including visiting youth in detention facilities – to ensure that provincial policies reflected the realities of Ontario youth in care. Currently, Khan serves as Vice-President of Youth In Care Canada, a national charity that supports current and former foster youth and facilitates community-engaged policy advocacy. She is leading the review of Canada's national child welfare compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and organizing the 2020 International Foster Care Organization conference.



Michael Liu

Ontario, 2019

University: Harvard University

Current/Recent Course: BA Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology

Other Information: Michael Liu, Ontario, is a senior studying Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology at Harvard University. A John Harvard Scholar, Michael conducts neurodevelopment research, oversaw the preclinical development of novel cancer therapeutics at a biotech start-up and led a study launched to the International Space Station. Michael directs at the Y2Y youth homeless shelter, serves as an advisor to first-year students and is president of Harvard Global Brigades. An advocate for the transformative power of education, he has taught hundreds of students through four different courses

at Harvard. Michael was named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20 for developing novel HIV diagnostics and for national mental health advocacy. In the future, he hopes to spearhead interdisciplinary approaches to address health challenges of vulnerable youth populations.



Katherine Reiss

Maritimes, 2019

University: Mount Allison University

Current/ Recent Course: fourth-year honours chemistry student with minors in biochemistry and computer science.

Other Information: Reiss is currently doing research into the properties of gold nano particles with self-assembling monolayers. She said it's a new field of research with a lot of potential for discoveries that could improve medical devices or drug delivery. Reiss serves as President of the Rotaract Club at Mount Allison, a branch of the Rotary Club. She helped initiate the organization's after-school program at Dorchester School, which runs once a week, and volunteers with Marshview Middle School's breakfast program. Reiss is also past president of the Mount Allison Fencing Club and president of the University's Unicycle Society.



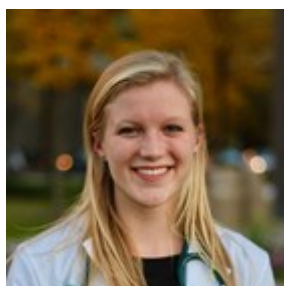
Annette Riziki

Prairies, 2019

University: University of Manitoba

Current/ Recent Course: BA(hons) in psychology

Other Information: Born in 1996 during what she describes as “Africa’s ‘first world war,’” Riziki traveled with her family in search of safety and freedom, stopping in Uganda where she began her education, completing it in Canada at Fort Richmond Collegiate following her family’s immigration in 2011. Riziki volunteers for many organizations including a Girls’ Group that focuses on the challenges females face globally, Youth in Philanthropy, and the Winnipeg Foundation, fostering youth engagement in local communities. Riziki traveled back to Congo recently, finding it a challenging experience. She faced difficult conversations regarding limited opportunities for youth, insecurity, low support for sexual/domestic violence victims, and no access to suitable mental health services that are cognizant of cultural and historical backgrounds. She wishes to pursue her masters in Refugees and Forced Migration Studies.



Julia Sawatzky

Prairies, 2019

University: University of Alberta

Current/Recent Course: MD Medicine

Other Information: Julia Sawatzky is a current second-year medical student at the University of Alberta whose interests lie in international health equity and the global determinants of health. Following an undergraduate degree at the University of St Andrews as a McEuen Scholar, Julia’s experiences abroad on an R&A International Scholarship inspired a passion for understanding infectious diseases and their complex relationships with socioeconomic influences, human cultures and the natural environment. Most recently, this has led Julia to pursue clinical research work in Uganda, volunteer in youth health programs in Rwanda and harm reduction initiatives in Edmonton’s inner city, and advocate through the Canadian Federation of Medical Students for strengthened Global Health Education at Canadian medical schools. In her spare time, Julia trains and performs in contemporary dance.



Linda Worden

British Columbia, 2019

University: Williams College

Current/Recent Course: BA Political Economy

Other Information: Linda is a senior at Williams College majoring in Political Economy. She grew up in Penticton, BC, and later attended Lester B. Pearson UWC in Victoria, BC. Her passion for social justice followed her to Williams College, where she became excited by housing and citizen participation as areas of social policy. During her undergraduate career, Linda has conducted research and work at the intersections of marginal identities, tenant empowerment and housing insecurity in places like Vancouver, BC, Brooklyn NY, and London, UK. She spent her third year abroad at the University of Oxford, where she helped launch a petition to repeal the 1824 Vagrancy Act. Her aim is to help build a world where everyday people are more involved in the development of social policy.

CARS EXECUTIVE

President

Steve Aylward (Newfoundland & St. Hilda's 2009)

Vice-Presidents

Jean-Christophe Martel (Québec & Lincoln 2003)

Sumit Sen (India & University 1995)

Secretary

Kai Anderson (Ontario & Wadham 2003)

Treasurer

Tara Paterson (BC & Trinity 2013)

Newsletter Editor

Braden O'Neill (Alberta & University 2011)

Sailing Dinner Coordinator

Stephen Brosha (Nova Scotia & Merton 2007)

Members-At-Large

Brydie Bethell (Saskatchewan & Balliol 2000)

Jason Stanley (Newfoundland & Hertford 2000)

Jaspreet Khangura (Prairies & Balliol 2010)

Yaa-Hemaa Obiri-Yeboah (BC & St. John's 2003)

**Contributions, tributes, letters, comments,
suggestions and complaints can be sent to the
Editor at**

canadianrhodesnewsletter@gmail.com

Editor

Braden O'Neill

Alberta & University 2011