



From the Office of the American Secretary

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American Rhodes Scholars-elect for 2014

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

DISTRICT 1

New Hampshire

Jessica Wamala, Milford, graduated from Villanova University in May with majors in political science, Arab and Islamic studies, and global interdisciplinary studies. She is a Truman Scholar, a Rangel Scholar, and a Gates Millennium Scholar. She is now pursuing an M.A. in political science at Villanova. Jessica has interned at the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade and at the State Department office of Near Eastern Affairs. A sophomore walk-on, Jessica is co-captain of Villanova's 2013-2014 Division I varsity basketball team. She has done extensive volunteer work with Philadelphia's homeless. At age 14, she was ranked fourth in the United States in chess for females under 21. She plans to do the M.Phil. in modern middle eastern studies at Oxford.

New Jersey

Alexander J. Diaz, North Bergen, is a senior at Harvard majoring in psychology. Alex has focused his studies and research on the cognitive mechanisms that underlie unconscious race, ethnic and gender bias, and has worked with leading law enforcement authorities to use psychological research to achieve less biased trials. He has also been active in the Harvard Kennedy School Latino Leadership Institute and in many programs in disadvantaged Latino communities, especially in his home town of Union City, New Jersey, but also in New York City's lower east side. He plays club basketball and managed Harvard's varsity basketball team. Alex intends to do the M.Phil. in comparative social policy at Oxford.

DISTRICT 2

Massachusetts

Elizabeth H. Byrne, Cambridge, is a Harvard senior majoring in human developmental and regenerative biology. She has done extensive research and clinical work at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, the Ragon Institute and the Broad Labs, as well as at the Center for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa. Elizabeth has published in *Science*, *Nature* and *Cell*, and been a leader at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter and on the *Harvard Science Review*. She is also an avid field hockey player and ran the Boston Marathon to raise money in support of pediatric oncology. She plans to do the M.Sc. in applied statistics at Oxford.

Massachusetts

Katherine E. Warren, Bainbridge Island, Washington, graduated from Harvard in May with a concentration in anthropology. She won the prize for the top female graduate as well as the prize for the top undergraduate thesis. Katherine also co-founded and co-directed the Akili Initiative, a global youth-for-youth-health project that serves 25 NGOs and that has won awards from the Clinton Global Initiative and Ashoka, and co-founded and co-directed the Athena Program mentoring underserved high school women in Boston. She is a Truman Scholar and is now an Albright Fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services doing work on women's and Native American health issues. She ran the Boston marathon to raise money for disability research. She intends to do the M.Sc. in global health science at Oxford.

DISTRICT 3

New York

Isabel E.E. Beshar, Rye, is a senior at Yale with a double major in molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and in history of science and medicine. Isabel has done extensive research and fieldwork relating to her interest in chronic disease in less developed countries. She has worked as a medical volunteer or research coordinator in Panama and Ecuador, and has award-winning and published research in diabetes. She is also president of the Yale Public Health Coalition and a frequent contributor of health-related editorials to the *Yale Daily News*. She plans to do the M.Phil. in medical anthropology at Oxford.

New York

Paolo P. Singer, Bronx, is a senior at Harvard where he concentrates in economics. Paolo is deeply committed to issues relating to poverty and economic opportunity, domestically and globally. He has done research or interned at the White House, poverty and business development programs in South Africa, and with a microfinance program in Indian urban slums. Paolo also chaired a civics education program for Boston public schools. A pianist and a freshman lightweight rower, he also trained as a competitive figure skater under the coach of the Chinese Olympic team. He intends to do the M.Sc. in economics for development at Oxford.

DISTRICT 4

Pennsylvania

Evan B. Behrle, Oxford, is a senior at the University of Virginia where he majors in government-foreign affairs. A Jefferson Scholar, he is chair of the Honor Committee of the University, the University's student-run organization that adjudicates cases on lying, stealing and cheating. He is also president of an all-male sexual assault peer advocacy group that helps assault survivors and attempts to prevent sexual assault from occurring. He also won the university prize considered the highest award for rising fourth-year students. His interests are to create social change through community-oriented social policy. He plans to do the M.Phil. in comparative social policy at Oxford.

Pennsylvania

Alexander G. Wang, Doylestown, is a senior at New York University Abu Dhabi, where he is majoring in social research and public policy. He will graduate with NYUAD's inaugural class and is thus its first Rhodes Scholar. He has also studied at NYU-Shanghai. A Truman Scholar, he is at the top of his class academically, has co-authored a paper on politics, gender and religion in Turkey and the U.S., and has assisted in teaching and research at Princeton, Harvard, and Columbia, primarily in sociology and migration studies. Alex has devoted considerable work to improve the living conditions of immigrant workers in Abu Dhabi. He founded and is editor-in-chief of a social science journal, and founded and serves as president of an organization coordinating volunteer opportunities across Abu Dhabi. Alex plans to do the M.Sc. in migration studies at Oxford.

DISTRICT 5

North Carolina

Timothy M. McGinnis, Charlotte, graduated from Princeton in June summa cum laude in anthropology. He took a two-year leave from Princeton to attend Deep Springs College in Deep Springs Valley, California from 2009-2011, a college essentially run by the students while they run all aspects of a ranch. He is currently working for the Wellbody Alliance, which runs a healthcare clinic in Sierra Leone. He captained the Princeton club lacrosse team and worked while at Princeton a weekly 12-hour shift as an emergency medical technician in West Windsor, New Jersey. Tim also volunteered at a health clinic in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He intends to do the M.Sc. in history of science, medicine and technology at Oxford.

North Carolina

Charles S. Tyson, Chapel Hill, is a senior at the University of Virginia where he double majors in political and social thought and in English. A Beinecke Scholar and elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, he was managing editor and is now executive editor of *The Cavalier Daily*, where he writes the daily lead editorials and edits all opinion content. He was widely recognized for his coverage of the ouster and reinstatement of the University of

Virginia president Teresa Sullivan, has won many awards for excellence in English, and is advisory board member of the Institute of the Humanities & Global Cultures. Charlie plans to do the M.St. in English (1830-1914) at Oxford.

DISTRICT 6

Virginia

Brian W. McGrail, Arlington, is a senior at Williams College where he majors in political economy and history. A Truman Scholar and elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior, Brian is doing research on the effect of tax rates on income inequality, and on behavioral responses to taxation. Politically active, he is president of the Williams College Democrats, and interned on the Elizabeth Warren Senate campaign. He also serves on several college councils and committees. He has volunteered to help those with low income prepare their taxes, is a teaching assistant and peer tutor, and is a four-year member of the Williams varsity cross country team. At Oxford, he plans to do the M.Sc. in comparative social policy.

Virginia

Emma Pierson, Arlington, graduated from Stanford in June with a B.S. in physics and an M.S. in computer science. Her classroom work was augmented by research in cognitive psychology and biocomputation. Emma is now working for Coursera, which provides free online education. She was president of the Stanford Debate Society, and won 2nd place in the U.S. national debate championships. She also has done statistical analyses of sexism in sports and in responses to sexual assault trials, and has volunteered as a tutor. Emma intends to do a D.Phil. in computational biology at Oxford.

DISTRICT 7

Florida

James O'Connell, Tampa, graduated summa cum laude from Wake Forest University in May with a major in politics and international affairs. He is currently on a one-year assignment in the Wake Forest president's office. Jim was a student member of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees, and a chair of the Honor Council. He led the effort to create a LGBTQ center at the University, organized events surrounding the fiftieth anniversary of the desegregation of

Wake Forest, and wrote a senior thesis on Al-Qaeda after Bin Laden. He has written one feature length screenplay and three for short films, and has hosted a weekly radio show on film and culture. Jim plans to do the masters in public policy at Oxford.

Tennessee

Lindsay E. Lee, Oak Ridge, is a senior at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she majors in mathematics and Spanish. She has done research at the National Institute of Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, at Vanderbilt Medical Center and at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She has also served as the president of the Dean's Student Advisory Council, as opinion columnist at the student newspaper, as a volunteer for the homeless, and in a children's hospital. She has studied in Barcelona and Tokyo. Diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at age three, Lindsay is a passionate and highly successful advocate for disability issues locally, nationally and globally. She plans to use her mathematical modeling expertise for analysis of successful health policy grounded in healthcare equality for all. Lindsay plans to do the M.Phil. in comparative social policy at Oxford.

DISTRICT 8

Texas

Melissa L. McCoy, Dallas, graduated summa cum laude from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2012 with a major in chemical engineering. She then studied entrepreneurship and technology at Singularity University at NASA Ames Research Park in California. At Georgia Tech she founded an organization focused on social entrepreneurial technology and co-founded an organization to solve the problem of post-disaster water scarcity, which was piloted in partnership with the Red Cross in a Chilean town decimated by earthquake. Melissa was also co-founder and COO of another tech company for which she co-invented and patented a digital manufacturing authentication technique. She intends to do the M.Sc. by research in environmental chemical engineering at Oxford.

Texas

John Mikhael, Dallas, is a 2013 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he majored in mathematics, and where he is continuing his research in cognitive neuroscience. Of Lebanese as well as U.S. citizenship, his research focuses on the algorithms

that underlie our ability to perform functions such as language and social perception. John has also worked as a tutor and lecturer in math, physics and biology in summers in Syria and Lebanon, and has been active as a peer health advocate and in interfaith relations. At Oxford, he plans to continue his research on the brain with a D.Phil. in neuroscience.

DISTRICT 9

Ohio

Adam Mastroianni, Monroeville, is a senior at Princeton where he majors in psychology. He has done extensive independent work in the psychology of humor, and done research in the Gilbert lab at Harvard related to uniqueness, fairness and storytelling. He co-founded and co-hosted Princeton's first late-night talk show and is a senior member of Princeton's oldest improvised comedy group. He is also a senior cartoonist for the *Daily Princetonian* and a frequent actor in campus theater productions. Adam also co-founded a free college preparation service for his small, rural Ohio high school. His career interests are to apply psychological knowledge to achieve social impact, especially to equip underperforming people to realize their potential. He intends to do the M.Phil. in evidence-based social intervention at Oxford.

Ohio

Courtney T. Wittekind, Mason, graduated from Carnegie Mellon in May with majors in sociocultural anthropology and art. Her work in art, activism and anthropology has been focused on behalf of displaced persons and refugees. She is currently working at the Brookings Institution, following work with the U.N. High Commission for Refugees field office in Myanmar. During her time at Carnegie Mellon she was a news editor on the school newspaper and served on its editorial board. She also created arts initiatives in an impoverished neighborhood in Pittsburgh, as well as one in Nicaragua, leading to young people in each sharing their art with each other. She also studied in Thailand on a Boren Scholarship. She plans to do a D.Phil. in anthropology at Oxford.

DISTRICT 10

Illinois

Vinay Nayak, Oak Brook, is a senior at Yale where he majors in political science. His academic work has focused on how the internet can be used to enhance citizen engagement in elections, government and policymaking. He has also applied these interests to political campaigns, including the Obama 2012 re-election campaign where he managed many national digital programs and social media accounts. Vinay also interned for the White House Office on Digital Strategy and managed the social media presence for Sandy Hook Elementary School parents whose children lost their lives. He has won many Yale prizes, and in forensics and debate was chosen as National Oratory Champion. Vinay plans to do the master of public policy at Oxford.

Michigan

Calla Glavin, Birmingham, is a senior at the United States Military Academy where she majors in mathematical sciences. Calla is Cadet Brigade Headquarters Company Commander, founding editor and editor-in-chief of the *Past in Review* student newspaper, and president of the society of women engineers. She is also goalkeeper for the Army women's lacrosse team, and a Big Brother Big Sister mentor. As a student researcher at the disease biophysics group at Harvard University she has developed a mathematical model for a novel method of nanofiber formation for use in wound healing, and at the Los Alamos National Laboratories she worked on algal biofuels. She intends to do the M.Sc. in applied statistics at Oxford.

DISTRICT 11

Wisconsin

Drew A. Birrenkott, McFarland, is a senior at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he majors in biomedical engineering, biochemistry and political science. A Goldwater Scholar, he is working to design a rugged, inexpensive, battery-powered infant cardio-respiratory monitor for use in developing countries, and is writing a thesis on comparative U.S.-European healthcare policy. With Engineers Without Borders, he has worked in Kenya on an irrigation project and is now developing a water project for Tanzania. He has also done

research on ventricular hypertrophy in Madison, and on bacteria-induced diarrhea in India. He is also an active volunteer with dementia patients and a peer mentor. Drew plans to do the M.Phil. in development studies at Oxford.

Wisconsin

Samuel M. Greene, Spring Green, is a senior at the University of Chicago who will graduate with a B.Sc. in chemistry and an M.Sc. in physical chemistry. A Goldwater Scholar and junior member of Phi Beta Kappa, he has conducted research demonstrating the feasibility of a new material able to catalyze a chemical reaction to convert organic material to biofuel. He has also done research relating to ice-encapsulated methane, and for the U.S. Department of Energy relating to uncertainties in quantities of radioactive materials. Sam is deeply interested in developing innovative renewal energy technology as well as inspiring others to reduce emissions. He has lifelong interest in Zen Buddhism and leads Zen training. Sam plans to do a D.Phil. in materials at Oxford.

DISTRICT 12

Mississippi

Donald Mayfield Brown, Vicksburg, is a senior at Mississippi State University where he majors in English and philosophy. He also has studied English literature at Christ Church College, Oxford. His senior thesis focuses on Ralph Ellison and argues how politically radical novelists were forced to mute their political ideas to become visible and respected. Field is the founder of MSU's creative arts journal and vice president of its philosophy and religion club. He has been elected to six national honor societies and participated on a Mellon fellowship at Stanford. He has also served as a youth counselor and tutor and has been a community activist in Mississippi and Iowa, and has spoken at many national and state conferences on topics in English, philosophy, religion and race. Field plans to do the M.St. in English (1900-present) at Oxford.

Missouri

Joshua A. Aiken, Eugene, Oregon, is a senior at Washington University in St. Louis where he majors in American culture studies and political science. His senior thesis is on critical race theory analysis of post-racial mythologies. His passion is to help marginalized people through

human rights advocacy. He served as speaker of the student senate and as undergraduate representative of the University Board of Trustees. He did work on ethnic conflict at Queen's University in Belfast, and in Berlin. Joshua is also very active in the arts, writing and performing in plays that lead audiences through issues of race, class and identify. Some of his poetry has been published, and he has also been active in political campaigns. At Oxford, he plans to do the M.Phil. in sociology.

DISTRICT 13

Colorado

Meredith L. Wheeler, Fort Collins, is a senior at Stanford majoring in history and political science. Elected as a junior to Phi Beta Kappa, her academic work has focused on the middle east. A Truman Scholar, Meredith has researched comparative democratization, post-coup repression, and Islamic party politics in Egypt and Islamist political organizations in Morocco. She has worked as a research assistant for Condoleeza Rice at the Hoover Institution and as an intern in the office of Senator Mark Udall. She is chair of Stanford in Government, serves on Stanford's Board of Trustees, is on the editorial board of Stanford's undergraduate history journal and was a member of the editorial board of the *The Stanford Daily*. She is also a member of Stanford's alpine ski team. Meredith intends to do the M.Phil. in modern middle eastern studies at Oxford.

New Mexico

Erin A. T. Mauldin, Albuquerque, is a senior at the United States Military Academy, where she majors in international history. A Truman Scholar, she ranks first academically in her class and second in academics, military leadership and athletics combined. She serves as regimental commander, competes on the Sandhurst (military skills) team, is co-captain of the Academy crossfit club and is the only non-French woman ever to graduate from the French Commando School. Erin also volunteers to provide support to local students near West Point. As a result of her efforts and environmental interests, the Corps of Cadets implemented a new waste management system. She also helped to develop a biogas digester project in Uganda. Erin plans to do the M.Sc. in nature, science and environmental policy at Oxford.

DISTRICT 14

Washington

Suzanna M. Fritzberg, Lake Forest Park, is a Yale senior majoring in women's, gender and sexuality studies. She has designed her coursework to develop multi-disciplinary academic understanding of social justice, and is writing her senior thesis on the normative role of the state in citizen welfare. Suzanna has worked as a poverty policy research intern at the Roosevelt Institute and as an intern for the public defender's office in New Orleans. She has also been active with the Yale Women's Center organizing events to increase the awareness of domestic violence, as a stage manager and producer for the Yale Dramatic Association, as a writing tutor, and in grassroots politics. She intends to do the M.Phil. in comparative social policy at Oxford.

Washington

Andrew S. Lea, Richland, is a senior at Harvard concentrating in history and science. Elected as a junior to Phi Beta Kappa and with a perfect academic record across natural science, social science and the humanities, he focuses on the social and ethical implications of science and medicine. He is editor-in-chief of the only undergraduate journal of the history of science in the country. Andrew has volunteered for two years at a homeless shelter and works as a patient advocate for the indigent. His senior thesis is on sex reassignment and gender policing. He competes in triathlon and has published essays and commentaries in a wide variety of journals. Andrew plans to do the M.Phil. in the history of science, medicine and technology at Oxford.

DISTRICT 15

California - North

Miles W. Unterreiner, Santa Barbara, received his B.A. and M.A. in history at Stanford in 2012 and 2013, respectively. He was a writer, columnist, and managing editor for opinions for *The Stanford Daily*, and won the Robert Novak Collegiate Journalism Award which is given to one college journalist in the U.S. Miles was also two-time NCAA Division I athletic All-American as a member of Stanford's varsity track and field and cross country teams, and won

the award for Stanford's graduating varsity athlete with the highest grade point average. He also served as president of the Stanford American Civil Liberties Union executive board and on the editorial board of Stanford's undergraduate history journal. His interests are in international human rights. Miles plans to do the M.Phil. in international relations at Oxford.

Nevada

Clarke Knight, Henderson, is a senior at Smith College where she majors in chemistry. Her interests relate to the application of science to environmental challenges, ranging from food security to the management of soil and water resources. Her interest in the effect of crop losses on world hunger led her to do research on potato diseases in Tasmania. She is now tracking the consequences of climate change on the hydrology and chemistry of a major watershed. Clarke is a member of Smith's varsity crew and cross country teams. She has also written a book on women's contribution to architecture. Her career interests are in global environmental policy. Clarke is Smith College's first Rhodes Scholar. At Oxford, she intends to do the M.Phil. in geography and environment.

DISTRICT 16

California - South

Aurora C. Griffin, Westlake Village, is a senior at Harvard where she majors in classics. She combines interests in western ethical thought, Christian theology and bioethics with her desire to build a society more conscious about the way it develops and uses biotechnologies. She is president of the Harvard Catholic Student Association, founded and led a group for female Catholic fellowship, and founded a fellowship for Christian pre-medical students to volunteer for cancer hospital ministry work. She has spent a term at Oxford studying philosophy and a summer studying bioethics at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University in Rome. Before college, she was an internationally competitive show jumper, winning individual and team gold medals. Aurora plans to do the M.Phil. in theology and Christian ethics at Oxford.

California - South

Zarko Perovic, San Diego, is a 2012 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley where he majored in political science and classical civilizations, and graduated in the top five in his class. Since graduation, he has worked in the Office of Global Criminal Justice at the State Department and at the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, where he is designing a system that allows individuals to document atrocities occurring in conflict zones. As a boy growing up in Serbia he learned what war crimes were directly and before he learned their definition. At Berkeley he was a research assistant with the War Crimes Studies Center relating to the Cambodian genocide. He also founded and edited a lifestyle magazine and plays the classical guitar. He did an independent senior project to raise public awareness of Roma issues in Paris. He speaks Serbo-Croatian, French, Spanish, German and Romanian and reads Latin. He plans to do the M.Phil. in international relations at Oxford.