

Rhodes Scholar sets sights on global issues

Sarah Lagan

Tackling the world's most urgent challenges is no small feat but that is the ambition of Peter Merritt who was recently selected as Bermuda's Rhodes Scholar.

Peter, 25, aims to use his expertise in politics and economics to help navigate a way to improve life for all.

A Saltus Grammar School alumnus, Peter graduated from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, in 2016 with



a double major in Political Science and Economics, earning a distinction and Magna Cum Laude Latin honours. He has been contributing to the *Yale Journal of Medicine and Law* evaluating the impact of laws on various medical issues. He is currently working at JP Morgan and Davis

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Schools, we salute you

News Staff

As far as Bermuda's schools are concerned, it's one of the most interesting history lessons of all.

Today and tomorrow, through our Bermuda National School Salute supplement, *The Royal Gazette* tells the tale behind every school on the island, from St George's to Dockyard.

The island can boast some 12 schools founded in the 19th century or earlier which are still running today, including Warwick Academy, which dates back to 1662 and is one of the oldest continuously run schools in the western hemisphere.

You can read about the histories of all those proud schools

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Miles of smiles: Sheree Hendrickson, Kamel Dickinson and Te...

MUSTREADS

Thyme to change

Paget restaurant Thyme's new managers aim to introduce some changes, are already offering a new lunch menu and expect the revamped eatery to be open for dinner within two weeks.

BUSINESS 11-14

Cross-cultural dating

Relationship expert Dr Nekia responds to a black woman considering dating white men even though she's not attracted to them, because of financial security and emotional benefits.

LIFESTYLE 19-22

Bascome beats Rangel

Aside from battling a relentless, teak-tough Mexican, Nikki Bascome has revealed he also fought through sickness to claim a unanimous points win at North Field on Saturday.

SPORT 29-36

Macr...

Ripping French centrist the court yesterday



BCB would like to wish "Fair winds and following seas" to all the teams and sailors in the upcoming events.

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ed in dementia care



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an extensive high-care facility with properly qualified staff," she said.

She added that only Lefroy House Care Community, Sylvia Richardson Care Facility and Westmeath Residential and Nursing Care Home are qualified to provide high care.

"The Bermuda Legion has a big ask — it is our hope to be able to acquire funding from an outside source that will aid in the creation of a high-care facility."

She added: "Hopefully the skills developed in the course will delay the need for people to go into residential care."

The course will focus on a range of topics and the training

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Polk and Wardwell LLP in New York City. Peter was driven to learn about politics and economics when, just before attending high school, he experienced the Great Recession of 2008.

He told *The Royal Gazette*: "Although I hadn't yet begun high school, I was amazed by how poorly economic experts had understood the health of American markets and moved by how these errors could so tangibly affect even the Bermudian economy and people. And as governments and politicians then attempted to restore economic growth, I realised just how vital these disciplines were to improving people's lives and decided that I had to study them in university."

He hopes to now broaden his horizons and use his academic experience to help to solve global issues.

"I want to work in an international organisation like the UN or IMF after Oxford, using economics and politics to address first-hand some of the world's most pressing challenges — alleviating poverty, increasing political access or improving educational opportunities. And eventually, I hope to take this experience and return home to focus on these issues in Bermuda as well, whether that be through the private or public sector."

Outside of his studies, Peter enjoys running competitively which he says has helped him in his pursuit for success academically: "It helps clear my mind, keeps me fit, and gives me another pursuit in which to set goals and challenge myself. Regardless of the endeavour, though, I've personally found that having a passion for something — anything — outside of academics has been crucial to reducing the stress and monotony that can often accompany rigorous studying."

Asked about his other secrets to success, he said: "Academically, I believe that the best thing a student can do is to ask questions, whether it be to clarify a confusing point, further an engaging dia-

logue, or challenge a preconceived notion. Being inquisitive goes beyond hard work and dedication and ensures that I am always learning new things and engaging with the people and material before me. Personally, I think that having a support system to rely on is crucial to success. I am so fortunate to have an amazing family that inspires me and that supports me wholeheartedly, and I am forever grateful for them and for the teachers, friends, and peers that have helped me to succeed.

"I am immensely grateful to have been selected as a Rhodes

I was amazed by how poorly economic experts had understood the health of American markets and moved by how these errors could so tangibly affect even the Bermudian economy and people

— Peter Merritt

Scholar and very humbled by the company that I now keep. I love my home, and to represent Bermuda on such a stage is an honour and a privilege. I only hope that in the future I can do justice to the Rhodes Trust's goal for its scholars, to "fight the world's fight."

While at Yale he helped to fight that fight first hand by heading up a programme for the needy.

"Yale is an amazing school, but it can often make students feel quite isolated from the city in which it's located. Soon after arriving in New Haven, I was excited to join and quickly take over a community service project that brought leftover Yale dining hall food to halfway houses in the city, helping to reintegrate former inmates into society.

"The project was a great yet simple way to break beyond the 'Yale bubble' and to meet and help feed individuals with little money that were trying to get their lives back on track."