

ELIZABETH MAYNE

NIH-Oxford and Rhodes Scholar 2006

Degrees: Stanford University, B.S., Biology, 2005

Research Interests: Neuroscience, Systems Biology, and Science Policy



Elizabeth graduated with Honors from Stanford University with a B.S. in Biology and a specialization in biochemistry and biophysics. She began her college career as a physics major, building instrumentation for the measurement of cosmic microwave background radiation – a relic of the Big Bang believed to harbor information about the beginnings of the universe. In recognition of her work, she was awarded a Stanford University summer research fellowship in the Physics department. This experience solidified her interest in research, but a biophysics course inspired her to switch majors to biology at the end of her sophomore year. She excelled in biology despite the task of compressing a four-year curriculum into two years. She earned distinction on the National Dean's List in 2005 and was the recipient of a Howard Hughes Summer Research Fellowship in 2004, the Micron Science and Technology Scholarship and a United States Presidential Scholar award. As a biology major, she carried out research for her Honors Thesis in Professor Bill Burkholder's lab, studying a protein, Sda, that blocks asymmetric cell division in a bacterium in response to certain types of DNA damage. In her senior year, she achieved a perfect 800 for both verbal and quantitative scores on the graduate record exam and was named a Rhodes Scholar to pursue a D.Phil at Oxford. Outside of the laboratory, Elizabeth's interests include Shakespeare's plays, which she believes provide valuable insight into the essential foundations of human experience. She participated in the Stanford Shakespeare Society, playing Amelia in *Othello* as well as appearing in *Romeo and Juliet* and acting as assistant set designer for *As You Like It*. She applied her experience from the Stanford Shakespeare Society as the assistant director of the TRANSFORM (Teaching and Representing a New Shakespeare Form) project, a student-initiated class in which she helped Stanford students develop and present a workshop on Shakespeare in local at-risk high schools during the spring of 2004. She also competed athletically as a member of the Stanford Triathlon Club and the Stanford Women's Ultimate Frisbee team. Elizabeth and her mother recently raised nearly \$15,000 in connection with a Team in Training Sprint Triathlon for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She will pursue a D.Phil. in physiology at Oxford followed by medical training at Harvard Medical School to earn a combined M.D. /Ph.D. degree in the NIH National Medical Scientist Training Program. In her work, she hopes that an interdisciplinary approach to understanding biological systems will provide nuance and dimension to her research.