

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Top law graduate wins Rhodes Scholarship and Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship**

The prestigious 2008 Rhodes Scholarship was today awarded to talented UTAS law graduate, **Lionel Thomas Nichols**, who has also been named as the 2007 recipient of the Tim Hawkins Memorial Scholarship.

The Rhodes Scholarship is awarded to a gifted student who has completed their degree and achieved First Class Honours in their chosen field of study. The scholarship recipient will study at the famed Oxford University, UK.

Lionel, 24, will also spend part of next year studying at International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at The Hague under the Tim Hawkins scholarship, named for UTAS graduate Tim Hawkins, a skilled international oarsman who graduated with Honours in Commerce/Law, and who was tragically killed in the 2002 Bali bombings.

Lionel was admitted to the combined degree of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours in Law on 21 December 2006. This followed his being admitted Master of International Politics in August 2006.

Lionel, who now lives in Victoria, will complete his articulated clerkship with Blake Dawson Waldron in March next year and expects then to be admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Victoria.

In the future, he plans to work as an international criminal lawyer, prosecuting persons accused of the most serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Lionel's voluntary experience includes working as a human rights lawyer, providing pro bono legal advice to asylum seekers at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne, and providing pro bono legal advice at the Homeless Persons Legal Clinic.

His community involvement has included many years as a volunteer for the Tasmanian Debating Union, supporting, encouraging and coaching young debaters of all abilities, and he served two years with St Vincent de Paul Society helping underprivileged members of the community.

Lionel's sporting interests include soccer, touch football, indoor cricket, squash and chess.

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