Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I would like to recommend Matthew Feldman as a candidate for the Rhodes scholarship, as I can attest to his strength of character both inside and outside of the research lab. He was a conscientious, dedicated, and responsible member of the lab.

Matthew’s enthusiasm and intrinsic drive is very easy to notice. When he was not actively doing research, he was probing the other graduate students and post-docs for information about what they were working on or seeking out resources to learn more about his own work and interests. He was always very careful to ensure that all of his work was thorough and complete, whether it was optimizing a chemical process or preparing a presentation, which is a result of his deep interest in STEM. He was very adept when it came to solving problems such as separating graphene from substrates, as he was capable of thinking outside of the box and knowing where to look to develop answers. He worked very cooperatively with the international community in the laboratory.

Matthew’s personal integrity and perseverence carried outside of the lab, however. While working at Rice University, he managed to find the time to not only train for and set a Guinness World Record, but also use it as a way to raise support for a tsunami-struck village in Japan. In the lab, he was fully dedicated to his work, while outside of the lab, he was 100% driven by this non-academic goal. He never once exhibited doubt about his ability to achieve, even when obstacles got in his way.

I highly recommend Matthew for this award, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.