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**Dear Rhodes Community,**

We were honored to have Memphis Mayor Paul Young on our campus last night for his first forum at Rhodes. Thank you to all of you who attended and helped us welcome Mayor Young and his team. It was wonderful to hear his vision for our beloved city as we work to strengthen our partnership further. He was very complimentary of our students and their thoughtful questions, and I was so proud of how Rhodes was represented.

We were delighted to learn recently that our Mike Curb Institute for Music has once again been named to *Billboard* magazine's annual list of the Top Music Business Schools for the fourth consecutive time. Please join me in congratulating its director, John Bass, and all the faculty and students who work so hard to make this program a gold standard nationally. Also, if you haven't seen it yet, our communications team created a web landing page to showcase all the college's rankings. You can find them [here](#).

I am happy to report that our IDEAS work has been moving forward thanks to the hard work and input of so many in our community. As you know, Vice President Sherry Turner '84 led this important initiative prior to her departure in September, and we are so grateful to her for her leadership. We are certainly keeping this effort at the forefront of our priorities and wanted to share our new report with you on the progress we have made during the initial three-year framework of the plan. You can read that report [here](#).

A special thank you goes to all of you who participated in our 6th Annual Athletic Day of Giving event last week. I am pleased to report that we raised an amazing \$427,413, all of which will go to support the needs of our talented student-athletes. Alumni and parents led the way, with alumni providing 21% and parents contributing 38%. Your contributions ensure that our student-athletes continue to thrive both in the classroom and in their competitive pursuits.

I also want to congratulate our field hockey, women's soccer, and men's soccer teams for concluding their incredible seasons by making the conference tournament finals. Additionally, these individuals have been recognized with the following honors: Yzi Dsamou '27, SAA Volleyball First Team All-Conference; Eli Pilcher '25, Men's Soccer All-Tournament team; Mary Gale Godwin '25 and Sophia Rall '26, Women's Soccer All-Tournament team; Grace Utz '25, RC Kugler '25, and Virginia Shuff '27, Field Hockey All-Tournament team; Adeline Carroll '25, SAA Women's Swimmer of the Week; Daniel Snyder '25, SAA Men's Swimmer of the Week; Matt Lamb, SAA Men's Soccer Coach of the Year; Matthew Sucato '28, SAA Men's Soccer Newcomer of the Year; Elena Gentry '28, SAA Women's Cross Country Newcomer of the Year; RC Kugler '25, Collegiate Field Hockey Conference Defensive Player of the Year; and Cat Gluodenis '25, Collegiate Field Hockey Conference Goalkeeper of the Year.

Yesterday we learned that our mock trial teams had huge successes over the weekend. Rhodes A won the inaugural Texas Showdown hosted by the University of Texas! Rhodes A faced off against teams

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Attorney and Maya Bridgeman '25 was named an Outstanding Witness. While Rhodes A was battling at UT in Austin, Rhodes Red was taking on opponents at UT Knoxville where they finished with an impressive 5-3 record. Amelia Rursch '27 was named an Outstanding Attorney and Quincy Griffone '25 was named an Outstanding Witness. Please congratulate these students on their incredible success!

I want to end by giving all of you something to look forward to. Starting in November 2025, Rhodes will be closed the entirety of Thanksgiving week so that all of you and our students may enjoy a more extended break during this holiday season.

As I reflect on all that I am thankful for this holiday season, I want to express my gratitude to all of you. Every day you help make Rhodes an even more phenomenal place for our students to learn and grow, and help Rhodes serve our wonderful city in meaningful ways. I hope you have a restful and restorative holiday next week.

Happy Thanksgiving!

**Jennifer M. Collins**  
President  
Rhodes College



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