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Rhodes Community,

Happy Valentine's Day! Whether you are celebrating with a spouse or partner you met at Rhodes, or with your favorite group of Galentines, I hope your day is full of love, meaningful connections, and happiness.

I am delighted to share some good news with you. On January 29, Rhodes held its first Rhodes Arts Day of Giving, to support art, music, and student performances. We exceeded our goal of 250 donors with 313 donors and raised \$31,480, which will provide opportunities for students to explore and create in the studio, in concert, and on the stage. We are delighted by every gift received, and especially excited that 41 donors gave to Rhodes for the first time! Gifts were received from alumni (50%), parents of current students and graduates (20%), grandparents (1%), faculty and staff (11%), friends (2%), and even students (2%)! 36 individuals helped lead the charge, serving as advocates who helped by sharing the campaign with their personal networks. We appreciate all those who chose to support the arts at Rhodes.

Also in development news, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Leland Smith Endowment for Athletics. A small group of alumni led this effort and raised over \$300k. Many of you may remember Leland Smith, who served on our Athletics staff from 1984 until his death in 1993. The new endowment will provide roughly \$15,000 per year to support football program staffing and to fund mental-health programming for our student athletes.

On the athletic front, the SAA Swimming and Diving Championships are this week at Centre College; the championships wrap up Saturday. We wish these student-athletes all the best and know they will represent Rhodes well. It's also Senior night for our Men's and Women's Basketball teams tonight as we play Sewanee. The women's game tips off at 6 p.m., and the men's game starts at 8 p.m. I hope you will join me in cheering them on and honoring our amazing seniors. Beat Sewanee!

The ROOTS Gardening Club is planting three pawpaw trees by East Village and two persimmon trees behind the baseball fields at North Garden. The trees are a lifetime commitment to student food access, engagement, and inspiration. The event will be at 1 p.m. on February 22 behind the East Village parking lot. The trees were sourced from Memphis Native Tree Works (MNTW) through a Turley Fellowship project. MNTW is emerging as a partner with the gardening club, the Urban Studies and Environmental Studies and Sciences departments, and the Turley Memphis Center. All five trees are native, which are critical for pollinators to thrive. Rhodes is a Class IV Arboretum with roughly 120 tree species, and we are excited that the gardening club is continuing to make our campus a place like no other.

There are several specific ways you can plug into campus activities this month. Our Lunar New Year celebration takes place tonight at 6 p.m. in the Bryan Campus Life Center McCallum Ballroom. This

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Our Career Closet is requesting donations of clothing and other items for our students who have job interviews and other professional activities. They are planning a grand re-opening soon and need to restock their closet. They welcome all sizes of professional clothing items and shoes, but their greatest need right now is women's sizes 0-6 and men's pants sizes 30-34. They also have an [Amazon wish list](#) where you can donate items. If you are dropping items off, the Career Services office in Burrow will be happy to take your items during regular office hours.

We will be celebrating our 100th anniversary in Memphis this fall, and we invite you to nominate outstanding alumni who are doing great things in Memphis. You can do so easily by clicking on [this link](#) to provide us with their name. We know many Rhodes alumni are making lasting contributions to our great city, and we want to be sure we recognize them. We will be sharing more information about our plans for this important anniversary over the next several months.

Thank you for all you do for Rhodes! I am grateful to work with you every day as we advance this wonderful college.

Jennifer M. Collins

President
Rhodes College



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