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Dear Rhodes Community,

Welcome back from spring break! I hope you were able to take advantage of the time away for some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Our beautiful campus is bursting into bloom, and it is hard to believe we are already halfway through the semester. We are looking forward to so many spring celebrations, including our Rites of Spring tradition, our celebration of student academic and creative work at our annual Rhodes symposium, and of course, honoring our remarkable seniors during Senior Week and graduation.

I hope you will mark your calendars for April 2: Rhodes Giving Day is just around the corner! This year, we celebrate the theme "*Many Paths. One Rhodes*," acknowledging the varied and joyous experiences and journeys that unite us all. Whether you are a student, alumni, faculty, or friend of the Rhodes community, your support helps pave the way for future success and growth. Every gift, big or small, contributes to the shared Rhodes experience and empowers the next generation of leaders. Let's come together to honor our many paths and our shared purpose. Save the date, and let's make a difference on April 2nd!

I am delighted to share some wonderful updates with you below.

We just learned Friday that Parth Sinojia '25 has received [the prestigious Watson Fellowship](#). A senior majoring in neuroscience, Parth is a Clarence Day Scholar from Cordova, TN. As Dr. Jason Haberman noted, Parth's hard work, talent, and commitment to making our world a better place is an inspiration to all of us. Parth is one of 37 recipients out of 155 finalists nationwide. Thank you for making all of us at Rhodes so proud, and thank you to the Fellowship committee for its guidance and support!

Our mock trial team's recent success has earned them a bid to the national competition. This will be our 37th trip to the nationals! We appreciate Anna Eldridge '02, director of mock trial, and these amazing students for continuing to represent Rhodes on the national stage: Cormac Maclae '25 and Christyn Sanders '25 (captains), Maya Bridgeman '25, Kate Buikema '25, Kevin Caltry '25, Mitchell Leander '27, Bell Tucci '25, Nina Kellner '25, Allie Parkinson '25, and Ashleigh Edwards '25.

A Rhodes sophomore and two alumni were recently named to the *Memphis Flyer's* "20 Under 30" list of those helping to shape our city's future. Congratulations to Hugh Ferguson '27 and alums Liv Cohen '23 and Raneem Imam '20 for making a difference in Memphis. I hope you will take a moment to read about their contributions [here](#). Of course, we will be celebrating 100 years in this great city this fall, and we look forward to sharing those plans with you.

I want to recognize Vice President for Student Life Nicole Johnson, who received the [Dr. V. Carole Smith Diversity Award](#), presented by the Black Faculty and Staff Organization of Arkansas Tech University. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to

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The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has recognized Rhodes as being one of the colleges and universities with the highest number of students selected for the [Fulbright U.S. Student Program](#). This is the fourth time Rhodes has received this designation. Five of our students were recognized for Fulbright awards for the academic year 2024-25. A special thank you goes to Drs. Alexandra Kostina and Jason Haberman, co-directors of postgraduate scholarships at Rhodes, for mentoring and supporting these talented students.

Our beautiful campus was recently featured as one of the "54 Most Beautiful College Campuses in the United States" by luxury and lifestyle travel magazine [Condé Nast Traveler](#). We appreciate all our staff who work so hard to keep our physical spaces both functional and beautiful. Rhodes is also certified as a Level IV Arboretum, the highest designation granted by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, and we recently added two more tree species to campus. Read a related article about the [arboretum buzz](#).

The NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships begin March 19 in Greensville, NC, and we have three Lynx athletes competing. Paxton Smythe '26 will compete in the 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard breaststroke, and 100-yard freestyle. Jack Witten '26 will compete in the 200-yard breaststroke, 100-yard breaststroke, and 50-yard freestyle. John Beuerlein '26 will take center stage in the one-meter and three-meter diving competitions. We wish all of them well as they represent Rhodes at the highest level of competition!

There is much news coming from our track and field teams. Olivia Freeman '26 finished 13th at the NCAA National Championships in the 60m dash, and Elena Gentry '28 was named SAA Women's Indoor Track Newcomer of the Year. Also, during the recent SAA Men's and Women's Indoor Track Championships, several of our student-athletes had standout performances. Hugh Stokes '25 defended his SAA title in the 60m hurdles, winning in 8.33 seconds. Finishing second in their events were the men's 4x400m relay team (Mark Hanson '27, Stokes, Bryce Tuchner '26, and Sumay Frueh '28), Olivia Freeman '26 in the 60m dash, the distance medley relay team (Sienna Collier '27, Grace Ebenhoh '27, Ellie Spears '27, and Riley Imbornone '27), and Elena Gentry '28, who also finished third in the mile. Other third place finishers were Chyco Williams '28 in the 60m dash, Daniel Blaich '26 in the 3000m event, the distance medley relay team (Blaich, Stokes, Jack Sullivan '26, and Austin Rhea '25), Shannen Alack '27 in the high jump, and the 4x400m relay team (Megan Weilmuenster '25, Lizzy Randall '28, Esther Lamb '27, and Alack). Congratulations to all of you! The SAA Spring sports schedule will begin soon, and we hope to see you on campus for these events.

Please share your great stories with us. We love to tell the Rhodes story on our website, through social media channels, in our magazine, and through distribution to the media outlets. You can share your stories by emailing News@Rhodes.edu.

I appreciate all you do for Rhodes!

Jennifer M. Collins
President
Rhodes College



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