



Dear Colleagues,

I want to extend a special thanks to all of you who attended last week's staff gathering. It was wonderful to talk with you and feel your energy. The large turnout was indicative of how exciting it is to be back in community with one another after two incredibly unusual years.

As we approach Fall Recess, I want to share several important updates with you, and I want to congratulate several faculty and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. They make us all proud to be part of the Rhodes community, and I am honored to share their significant achievements.

Faculty Promotions

Last month we celebrated our recently promoted faculty. The faculty who are now tenured are John Bass, Peter Hossler, Miriam Clinton, Elaine Frawley, Jaqueline Oliveira, Shana Stoddard, Bayly Wheeler, and Shaolu Yu. Faculty promoted to full professor are Lori Garner, David Kabelik, Chris Mouron, Betsy Sanders, ETTY Terem, and Steve Wirls.

National Teaching Award

[Dr. Shana Stoddard](#), associate professor of chemistry, received the 2022 Henry C. McBay Outstanding Teacher Award at the 49th annual meeting of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers late last month. The award recognized the dedication she has shown in research, her commitment to the educational development of others, and her passion for STEM.

Major Research Awards

[Dr. Elaine Frawley](#), associate professor of biology, has received a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Academic Research Enhancement Award of more than \$300,000. Her three-year grant began last month for her project titled "The Role of Manganese Homeostasis in the Nitric Oxide Stress Response of Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium."

[Dr. Larry Peterson and Dr. Will Eckenhoff](#), both associate professors of chemistry, have been awarded a National Science Foundation grant for nearly \$400,000 that will allow Rhodes to purchase a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. This important tool is used by many chemists to infer the structure of molecular compounds.

Rankings

Rhodes continues to be ranked among the top colleges in the country. In the U.S. News & World Report's recently released [2022-2023 Best Colleges rankings](#), Rhodes ranked No. 55— sharing that position with four other colleges—for National Liberal Arts Colleges. Rhodes landed at No. 23 for Most Innovative and No. 26 for Best Undergraduate Teaching among liberal arts colleges. Rhodes also made Forbes' List of [America's Top Colleges for 2022](#). Only 500 colleges made the list.

[Billboard magazine](#) announced yesterday that our Mike Curb Institute for Music has been named one of the "2022 Top Music Business Schools" in the nation. This is not the college's first appearance on this world stage, having also made the roster in 2020. *Billboard* did not release a list in 2021. Congratulations to Dr. John Bass, who directs the Institute, and all our Curb Institute students. You make us so proud!

Additionally, Rhodes has received another campus beauty designation, having been included on *Architectural Digest's* list of ["The 53 Prettiest College Campuses in America."](#)

Athletics Success

We have four athletic programs ranked nationally – men's swimming is #5, women's swimming is #6, women's golf is #17, men's golf is #37. Additionally, the men's soccer team leads the SAA with an undefeated conference record and is currently ranked ninth in the region. The field hockey team leads the conference with an undefeated conference record. Congratulations to these impressive student-athletes!

Postgraduate Fellowships

Two recent Rhodes graduates have been awarded impressive fellowships. [Maryam Taysir '22](#) began working last month with a cohort of 18 in the Emerson National Hunger Fellowship program, which is designed to help eliminate hunger and poverty in the United States. [Saylor Tettleton '22](#) will be studying in Germany for one year as a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Fellow. She is one of only 75 Americans awarded this competitive fellowship.

New Leaders

I am pleased to announce [Anne Beard](#) has now joined the Rhodes community as chief of staff for the president's office. Anne is a proud 1984 graduate of Rhodes. She has most recently served as director of development at Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law, where we worked together.

We continue to search for the college's next Vice President for Student Life. The search committee will soon begin interviewing qualified candidates, and we hope to have an announcement about this position by the end of the semester.

Upcoming Milestones

As we move into the year 2023, we will celebrate the college's 175th anniversary and Rhodes will host the [American Mock Trial Association \(AMTA\) National Championship](#), with the top 48 teams in the country, in April 2023. Look for more news about both events in the coming months.

I have just completed my first 100 days as your president, and what a fast 100 days it has been! I am delighted to work alongside you each day as we share Rhodes' amazing story and work to create a more inclusive community for everyone. I value transparency and welcome your input, so please reach out to me any time.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Collins

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