

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rhodes College



Rhodes Community,

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful recess and were able to reconnect with family and friends. It's hard to believe the semester is more than halfway complete.

I'm happy to report that, while you were away, we have been busy refreshing the social spaces in our residence halls. Furniture has been refreshed in 19 social rooms in 12 halls, including Bellingrath, Blount, East Village A/B, Ellett, Glassell, Robb, Robinson, Stewart, Trezevant, Voorhies, and White. These rooms were taken offline March 8 to 17 to allow for this work. We appreciate your patience while the old furniture was removed just prior to the break, but we are thrilled with the new look.

East Village Construction Update

Construction is expected to be complete by early April, with furniture to be installed in spaces currently unfurnished during the week of April 3. All common spaces – kitchen, social rooms, and laundry – are expected to be available for use by April 10. Landscaping and tree planting are underway and should be completed by the end of March.

Additionally, East Village Lane is now open for traffic. A fence has been moved to separate construction parking from general parking in the East Village parking lot, which has created 100 additional general parking spaces.

Oak Alley Tree

It is with great regret that I let you know one of our beautiful oak trees in Oak Alley has died and is posing a safety hazard. The southwesternmost oak tree in Oak Alley is scheduled to be removed during the week of March 27. We have been treating the tree for the last few years as it has been in distress for an extended period of time. Unfortunately, it did not survive the extreme cold snap over the winter, and it has become a hazard. We do everything possible to maintain the integrity and beauty of our trees, and we are so sorry this one has to be taken down.

Congratulations

Dr. Nikolaos Zahariadis, Mertie Buckman Chair and professor of international students, has received his third Fulbright award. He will travel to the University of Macedonia in Greece in May to lecture and conduct research on COVID-19 public health measures in Europe.

Rhodes senior Benjamin Oelkers has been named a Thomas J. Watson Fellow, which recognizes and develops the potential of remarkable young leaders. A Watson Year provides fellows with the opportunity to test their aspirations and abilities through a personal project experienced on an international scale. It provides \$40,000 in funding for 12 months of travel and college loan assistance. This year's class comes from 20 states and four countries. We are so proud of Benjamin and look forward to following his progress.

Athletic Accomplishments

Congratulations to the women's basketball team, which recently won its third consecutive conference tournament, earning another berth in the national tournament. Alexys Mathangani was named SAA Player of the Year and SAA Tournament Most Valuable Player. Taylor Dupree was named SAA Defensive Player of the Year.

Other post-season accolades are rolling in for Lynx athletes participating in winter sports. During the indoor track season, Ace Cole earned All-American distinction in the Pole Vault, finishing 8th in the nation at the National Indoor track meet. Rachel Sullivan also qualified for nationals in the high jump competition. John Beuerlein was named an All-American in three-meter diving. Alexys Mathangani was named first-team All-Region in women's basketball. Taylor Dupree was third-team All-Region in women's basketball.

Marcus Harris, assistant track and field coach, was named the Southeast Region Indoor Track and Field Assistant Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to all these student-athletes and coaches!

A Special Thanks

A special thank you goes to all of you who recently completed our campus safety survey that was circulated to all students, faculty, and staff. Additional campus safety task force recommendations, along with the results of the survey, will be shared as soon as possible. We appreciate everyone's participation.

Coming in April

The last few weeks of the semester are always action-packed, but none will be busier than April 13 to 16. Rhodes will host the national championship of the American Mock Trial Association on April 14 to 16. The top 48 teams in the nation will be here competing with our own terrific team, which is celebrating its 35th year. Rhodes has been in nine national championship rounds, and won four national titles, in those 35 years. We look forward to hosting these teams in our city and on our campus and watching this fantastic competition.

Spring Fest, which is a wonderful time for parents and families to come to campus, will be held April 13 to 16. This includes many lectures, programs, and activities, including a Curb Institute Block Party at 4 p.m. on April 14, featuring an outdoor concert in Fisher Garden. Food trucks will be on hand for this event and throughout the weekend.

We'll be hosting several hundred prospective students and their families on campus Saturday, April 15, for our Admission Preview Day.

It will also be a very busy weekend for our Lynx student-athletes, with baseball, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's tennis, softball, and men's and women's track and field teams will all be hosting competitions. We are excited to dedicate the Mike and Nancy Clary Golf Training Facility at 5 p.m. on April 15.

Additionally, we will be hosting our Board of Trustees for their Spring meeting April 13 to 14.

With all of these major events taking place on the same weekend, we will need to make some parking adjustments. More information will follow as the weekend gets closer.

Thank you for all you do to advance Rhodes and enhance this great community!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Collins

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