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Dear Rhodes Community,

The end of the semester is rapidly approaching, and we will soon be celebrating the largest graduating class in our history. I look forward to honoring our seniors in just a few short weeks. I hope you will mark your calendar for our Baccalaureate on May 16 at 3:30 p.m. in Bryan Campus Life Center and Commencement at 8:30 a.m. on May 17 in Fisher Memorial Garden.

In the meantime, we have so many things to celebrate. Sophomore Ada Collins, who is a physics and mathematics major from Greensboro, NC, has been selected as a **Goldwater Scholar** for the 2025-2026 academic year. The Goldwater Foundation provides scholarships to support college sophomores and juniors who show exceptional promise of becoming the nation's next generation of natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering research leaders. Rhodes has been home to 22 Goldwater Scholars since 1997. Congratulations, Ada!

I also want to recognize Anna Claire Tilley, a senior from Fort Smith, AR, who has been awarded **The Steve and Riea Lainoff Crop Trust Fellowship** in Honor of Cary Fowler '71. They are pursuing a major in urban studies and will support the impactful work being done by the Global Crop Diversity Trust in Bonn, Germany this fall.

I want to recognize our faculty who were recently promoted to full professor and those promoted to associate professor with tenure. New full professors are Rebecca Klatzkin, Charles McKinney, Larry Peterson, Roberto de la Salud Bea, Susan Satterfield, Ann Viano, and Caki Wilkinson. Those promoted to associate professor with tenure are Sarah Ifft Decker, Hadi Khoshnevis, Jared Millson, Samson Ndanyi, Jade Planchon '05, Qian Shen, and Greg Vieira. We appreciate all their outstanding work and the important role each of them has in our students' lives.

Also, we are proud to announce the hiring of our new **Spence Wilson Distinguished Professor, Gretchen Henderson**, who will join the Department of English as a tenured associate professor in August. She is a scholar-artist and professor of environmental and public humanities, arts, cultural histories, and integrative sciences. She is the author of five books, arts media, and opera libretti, with writing reviewed in *The New Yorker*, *Guardian*, *TLS*, and *Literary Review*.

Our mock trial team recently made it to the national competition for the 37th time. What a remarkable achievement! These talented students, led by Anna Eldridge '02, continue to enhance our national stature with their talent and their tremendous commitment to excel at the highest level. Their stellar accomplishments year after year make us so proud.

I also want to commend our men's lacrosse team for winning the SAA regular title last weekend. Rhodes will host the SAA men's lacrosse post-season tournament May 2-4. I also want to wish our nationally ranked women's golf team well as they head to the SAA Championship Tournament

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In case you haven't heard this exciting news, our students delivered a cube-shaped satellite named RHOK-SAT to NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston a few weeks ago. It will await liftoff this summer from Cape Canaveral where it will be taken to the International Space Station for deployment. Jose Pastrana '20, lead engineer of the **CubeSat Program** at Rhodes, along with current students Damian Nguyen '25 and Ryan McCrory '25, delivered it to NASA. The Rhodes team is led by physics professors Bentley Burnham, Brent Hoffmeister, and Ann Viano, and computer science professor Phil Kirlin. Students from various majors and class years have contributed to the design of RHOK-SAT over the last six years. Charles W. Robertson Jr. '65, a Rhodes trustee and co-founder of NanoDrop Technologies, encouraged Rhodes to submit a proposal to NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative and generously provided funding for the project. Once launched, RHOK-SAT is expected to be in orbit for approximately one year and transmit data to the satellite ground station installed in Rhodes Tower for the project.

A special thank you goes to everyone who participated in **Rhodes Giving Day** earlier this month. The campaign received 1,210 gifts and raised \$236,490 from alumni, parents, and grandparents of current students, trustees, faculty, staff, students, and friends from across the U.S., as well as Europe and Australia. Congratulations to the Class of 2010 that had the greatest number of donors with 27 gifts, just edging out the Class of 1980 which brought in 26. We appreciate all of you!

This is also the time of year when many prospective students and their families are visiting our campus. We had over 300 admitted students and parents on campus yesterday, and there is a Preview Day on Saturday, April 26. We look forward to welcoming a great Class of 2029 this fall!

Thank you so much for all you do for Rhodes.

Jennifer M. Collins
President
Rhodes College



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