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Dear Rhodes Community,

Welcome back to campus! I want to extend a very special welcome to our 512 new students and their families.

We are so excited to start this academic year, one that will see us celebrate our 100th anniversary in our beloved Memphis this fall. You will have many opportunities to join in the celebration through attendance at commemorative events and participation in community service. Please take a moment to view our **100th anniversary website** for an overview of the celebration. Our first events are the 20th anniversary of the Paul Barret, Jr. Library this Friday at 10 a.m.; a celebration of 901 Day from 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, in the Rat; and a conversation with Andy Silvermail, CEO of International Paper, at 10 a.m. on Friday, September 26, in Blount Auditorium. The campus community will be invited. More information about other events will be forthcoming.

In recognition of our century-long commitment to the city of Memphis and building on the legacy of the Laurence F. Kinney program, the Rhodes community is pledging 50,000 hours of service to local community partners during this academic year. The official launch date is September 2 during the campus-wide celebration of 901 Day. All members of the Rhodes community, including alumni and friends of the college, are encouraged to visit the **Rhodes into Memphis** website and create a profile using the links provided. The Lynne and Henry Turley Memphis Center for Community Engagement will update service opportunities throughout the academic year.

Over the summer, Rhodes continued to receive some prestigious rankings. The Princeton Review recognized the college among its **"Best Value Colleges for 2025"** and the Top 20 Best Schools for Internships (private schools). They also ranked us #6 for **"Most Beautiful Campus"** and among the South's "2026 Best Colleges: Region by Region." Additionally, Money magazine placed Rhodes on its annual **"Best Colleges in America"** list for the fourth consecutive year. Each of you plays a part in the accolades we receive, and I am so grateful for the work you do.

I want to congratulate **Dr. Susan Satterfield**, professor of Ancient Mediterranean Studies, who received the 2025 Jameson M. Jones Award for Outstanding Faculty Service at last week's Opening Convocation. This award recognizes a member of the faculty who exemplifies a deep sense of service to the college's mission.

For those who were not able to attend Opening Convocation, I want to share with you this **inspiring speech** given by Dr. Courtney Collins '05, associate professor and chair of economics, and the recipient of the Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Teaching in May. It truly encapsulates what makes Rhodes College, and our extraordinary faculty, so very special, and I urge you to take a few moments to watch it.

Congratulations also to Dr. Larryn Peterson, professor of chemistry and chemistry department chair, for being awarded a \$180,000 research grant from the National Science Foundation. You can read more about her grant **here**.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to the newest member of our senior leadership team, John Johnson, who is serving as our Vice President for Belonging and Compliance. John joined us in July from Whitman College. I know he is making the rounds to meet everyone, and we are so excited to have him here.

We welcomed 561 student-athletes to campus, one of the most significant number of athletes in school history. Fall sports begin the weekend of August 30. We also welcomed Mike Clary '77 back to campus as Interim Head Women's Golf Coach for the 2025-2026 season. His return brings back the most accomplished coach in Lynx history. Under his leadership, the Rhodes women's golf team captured three NCAA Division III National Championships in 2014, 2016, and 2017.

You may have noticed that we lost a few trees over the summer. We do everything we can to protect and keep our precious trees, but this has been a challenging year, and several had to come down for safety reasons. Fortunately, we plant three new trees for every one tree we lose to preserve and enhance our beautiful campus.

This Saturday, we will be hosting high school seniors and their parents for Discover Rhodes Day. We have turned our attention to recruiting the Class of 2030, and this is a pivotal event in that process. If you see students and their parents here Saturday or throughout the year, please greet them with a warm smile and a welcome. We know how important on-campus experiences are to their college decision. And, if you know of students from your community, please encourage them to consider Rhodes.

Once again, I am inviting students to meet with me during my student office hours, either individually or in small groups of up to five people. It's a great time for me to meet students and to learn about their ideas and suggestions. I would also be delighted to talk to students about law school and any dreams they have for their future after Rhodes. You may schedule a time **here**.

Thank you so much for everything you do for Rhodes, and best wishes for a wonderful semester!

Jennifer M. Collins
President
Rhodes College
