



Dear Rhodes Community,

Our Homecoming celebration was absolutely delightful! It was wonderful to see so many alumni and friends on campus reconnecting with one another and reminding us of what makes Rhodes so special.

Congratulations to our **Alumni Award recipients** – Joy Richmond Bowen '97 - BSA Distinguished Alumni Award, Brooks Lamb '17 - Distinguished Young Alumni of the Year, and Dr. Charles W. Robertson Jr. '65 - Distinguished Alumni of the Year. We are all so proud of their outstanding accomplishments. You can read more about each of them [here](#).

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend started with a lovely evening at the Overton Park Shell where the Memphis community was invited to share in our 100 Years in Memphis celebration. I want to thank the Rhodes Jazz Ensemble and the Rhodes Faculty Jazz Players for their spectacular performances. It was a beautiful night, made even more special by having so many friends from the community there. We were able to shine a spotlight on Rhodes for everyone to see! I want to thank everyone who made Homecoming/Reunion Weekend and our 100th anniversary concert so successful. [You can watch a quick highlights video of the weekend here.](#)

I am happy to announce that we have collectively performed more than 34,500 hours of community service for **Rhodes Into Memphis** as part of our anniversary celebration. You may recall that we pledged 50,000 hours of service for this academic year, so we are well on our way. If you have not already signed up, you can do so [here](#). Alumni and parents are also invited to participate.

Please join us Tuesday, November 11 for **Lynx to the Past: A Conversation About Rhodes' Connections to Memphis**. Dr. Steve Haynes will moderate a discussion with two of our outstanding alumni, Sally Jones Heinz '81 and Dr. Russell Wigginton '88, who will discuss their experiences during a tumultuous time in our city's history, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, and how that impacted their life experiences and career trajectories. The event is free and open to the public, but attendees are encouraged to [register here](#) to ensure they have a seat. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. in Blount Auditorium in Buckman Hall with a reception immediately following.

The college has received some more terrific rankings since last month. Just this weekend we learned our Mike Curb Institute for Music has again been named a **Top Music Business School** by *Billboard* magazine for the fifth consecutive time. Congratulations to Dr. John Bass who leads this acclaimed program. Rhodes rose four spots in *U.S. News & World Report's* recently released **2026 Best Colleges** rankings, to No. 55 for National Liberal Arts Colleges, and attained top 35 recognition in several other important categories. Specifically, we ranked No. 15 for Service Learning, No. 28 for Most Innovative Schools, and No. 33 for Best Undergraduate Teaching. Rhodes was also recently recognized in *The Wall Street Journal's* **“2026 Best Colleges in the U.S.”**, ranking second in Tennessee with only Vanderbilt ranked more highly. *Forbes*, *The Princeton Review*, and *Money* have also included Rhodes in their lists of best colleges for 2026 in the last few months.

I hope you will make plans to join us for this year's **CajunFest** on Saturday, November 8. We also have an open house for high school seniors that day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and many of them will be joining our festivities, so let's be sure to give them a warm Rhodes welcome.

Our annual Athletics Day of Giving will be November 12. We would love to surpass last year's historic total of \$427,413, all of which goes to support the needs of our talented student-athletes. Alumni and parents contributed 59% of last year's total. Your contributions will ensure that our student-athletes continue to thrive both in the classroom and in their competitive pursuits.

As a reminder, we will be closed during Thanksgiving week so you can enjoy time with your families and friends.

Thank you so much for all you do for Rhodes and have a happy and safe Halloween.

Jennifer M. Collins
President



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