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## Dear Rhodes Community,

I hope you are having a wonderful February. I want to express my immense gratitude to those on our staff who took care of our campus and our students during the recent winter storm. A special thanks goes to our facilities and grounds staff, campus safety officers, residence life staff, and food services team. We also appreciate the patience and understanding of everyone who had to learn or work remotely until we could reopen. These weather events present challenges for all of us, but I am so thankful for the thoughtful and dedicated way our community responded.

We received some wonderful news from Fulbright earlier this month. For the fifth time, we have been designated one of the Top Producing Institutions of accepted applicants into the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. This prestigious designation speaks to our commitment to foster global connections for our students. I want to thank Professors Alexandra Kostina and Jason Haberman for their impactful work in assisting our students who apply and co-directing our program for postgraduate scholarships. You can read more [here](#).

We were delighted to induct 11 individuals and couples into our Benefactors' Society last month. The names of these generous and distinguished friends are now engraved in the floor of the Cloister in Southwestern. We truly appreciate their deep love for our wonderful college. New inductees are Carol P. and James H. Barton, Paul (Scooter) Brothers, Joan D. and Chauncey W. Butler III, the Crain Foundation, Kelty and Rogers I. Crain, Oran B. Dent, Amy P. Goldman Foundation, Robin R. and Daniel B. Hatzenbuehler, Amy C. and R. Davis Howe, Betty Lou Storrs, and Lynne J. and Henry M. Turley. Their generosity has had an enormous impact on Rhodes.

We also want to thank Morris Reagan for his generous donations. Members of the Reagan family have attended Rhodes since its inception in Clarksville, TN to now. Dr. Reagan ultimately dedicated his career to medicine, but he credits the liberal arts experience for fostering his passion for Shakespeare, American literature, and classical music. To honor his mother and grandmother and his deep love of music, he recently endowed The Louise Taylor and Annie Trawick Chamber Music series. This endowed music series allows students to work firsthand with trailblazing musicians and culminates with a performance for the entire Rhodes community. Recognizing the importance of providing multiple music opportunities to students, he has also been an avid supporter of the Music Department Equipment Fund.

I wanted to share with you [this article](#) about one of our inspiring young alumni, Dr. Salar Rafieetary '12, who recently performed a first-of-its-kind surgery in Tennessee. It is a strong testament to the

amazing work our graduates are doing in the medical field not only in Memphis, but nationwide.

Next Monday, February 23, we will have many admitted students and their parents on campus for a preview day called See Yourself at Rhodes. Activities begin at 8:30 a.m. I wanted to make you aware of this so you can welcome guests you might encounter. As you know, these events are very important to us bringing in this fall's entering class.

Congratulations to our Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams which finished third in the SAA Championships. Six swimmers and one relay team were crowned conference champions: Jack Whitten '26 (200 individual medley), Jonas Hostetler '26 (100 butterfly), Gracie Shapard '26 (100 and 200 backstroke), Paxton Smythe '26 (100 breaststroke), and Charlotte Hill '29 (200 butterfly). The Men's 400 relay team, consisting of Will Wertenberger '27, Hostetler, Jeb Brownell '26, and Nick Kunst '26, set the SAA Conference Record. The meet also saw the Lynx set 11 school records, and 17 members of the team were named first-team all-conference. Charlotte Hill '29 was named the SAA Freshman of the Year. SAA All-Conference team members include Liam Ashton '28, Brownell, Autumn Bruns '27, Josh Deckenhoff '28, Hill, Madolyn Holmes '27, Hostetler, Emma Knoesel '28, Nick Kuntz '26, Taylor McNerney '27, Kendall Mitzel '29, Makenna Mitzel '29, Philip Mu '28, Shapard, Smythe, Wertenberger, and Whitten.

The Lynx Men's Basketball team is 19-4 overall and leads the SAA with a 10-2 record. The team has 2 remaining regular season games this week and then will play in the SAA Tournament at Berry the weekend of February 27.

I want to conclude by thanking the Rhodes Student Government and the Rhodes Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for their launch of a new "[Kindness Campaign](#)," which is taking place on campus all February long. You can read more about the campaign on Instagram by following [@lynxleadership](#). What a wonderful testament to the extraordinary character of our Rhodes students that they have chosen to spend a month celebrating kindness, compassion, and teamwork!

Thank you all so much for being part of the Rhodes community.

**Jennifer Collins**  
President



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