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## Dear Rhodes Community,

It is hard to believe we only have six weeks of classes left this semester – the spring semester is truly flying by. It has been a busy and eventful few weeks on campus, with one highlight being the visit of Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett '94 to campus last week. She spent time with our prelaw and mock trial students and participated in a campus-wide conversation for our students, faculty, and staff. We were also honored to host the Harvard Glee Club for a beautiful joint performance with our Rhodes Singers. On Thursday, our beloved professor David McCarthy will share a last lecture with our community in advance of his retirement, and this weekend we will host our annual and much anticipated Rites of Spring event.

Congratulations to Caroline Johnson '26 for being awarded the prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, which provides a \$40,000 stipend for a 12-month journey to pursue an original project on a global scale. She is one of only 40 fellows chosen nationwide for 2026. Caroline's project is titled "The Economic Future of Craft" and includes proposed destinations of France, the Netherlands, Portugal, Kenya, and Colombia. A Nashville native, Caroline is an economics major with a minor in art history and was also awarded the Wasfy Iskander International Internship for 2025, which allowed her to work last summer in Spain.

I also want to congratulate Michael Morgan, our director of financial aid, who was recently awarded the 2026 Distinguished Service Award by the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SASFAA). SASFAA consists of financial aid professionals from nine Southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Thank you for all the great work you do to help us bring terrific students to Rhodes.

Finally, congratulations to our Mock Trial program, which has just qualified for the national championship for the 38th time in the 40 year history of our program!

Rhodes Giving Day is coming up April 8. Each year, members of our community come together to invest in the futures of our students. Last year's challenge raised \$236,490 through the generous gifts of 1,210 alumni, parents and grandparents of our students, trustees, faculty and staff, friends, and even students themselves. Please mark your calendar for this important day, and thank you in advance for your support!

On April 15, we will celebrate the completion of more than 50,000 hours of community service that we pledged as part of our 100th anniversary in Memphis. Indeed, thanks to the hard work of our

community, we have already surpassed 58,000 hours of service and are still going strong. I hope you will make plans to join us between 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the lawn of McNeill Hall as we celebrate this milestone at the Day of Celebration for Community Engagement party. Thank you to all of you who have performed community service during this academic year, and huge thanks to the wonderful staff in the Lynne & Henry Turley Memphis Center for Community Engagement for leading this important initiative.

There is a lot to share from Athletics this week. In the recent NCAA DIII Men's Swimming and Diving Championships, the Lynx team scored the most points in the NCAA Championships in the history of the program. The 400-medley relay team of Josh Denckhoff '28, Jack Whitten '26, Liam Ashton '28, and Will Wertenberger '27 earned All-American honors. This relay team broke the school and all-time conference records and made history by tying for the best relay finish record in SAA history. Additionally, Denckhoff broke the school record in the 100 backstroke, Wertenberger broke the school record in the 100 freestyle, and Whitten broke the school record in the 100 breaststroke and earned All-American honorable mention in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke.

In indoor track, Olivia Freeman '26 finished ninth in the nation in the 60m at the NCAA DIII Indoor Track and Field National Championship with a time of 7.60, breaking her own school record.

The outdoor track and field season opened with the Women's 3200m relay team breaking the school record at the Rhodes Invitational with a time of 9:26.49, surpassing the previous record of 9:26.55. The team consists of Ellie Spears '26, Kate Hinson-Hume '29, Caroline Wilder '28, and Anna Cantrell '27.

Our Lynx baseball team is nationally ranked and won four games against nationally ranked opponents in the past week, including a three-game SAA sweep of Centre. The Lynx currently sit atop the conference standings with Trinity.

Women's Lacrosse, Men's Lacrosse, Women's Tennis, and Men's Tennis all opened conference play with wins and are all currently atop the SAA standings. Softball is 2-1 in SAA, with both wins coming against Sewanee. Men's and Women's Golf are led this year by Christian Iwai '29 and Brooks Beach '28 on the men's side and Lauren Schwing '27 and Kaylie Hui '29 on the women's side, with Lauren and Kaylie recently finishing 2nd and 3rd overall at the Savannah Classic. Spring sports are off to a great start!

I hope you will come out to support our amazing Rhodes student-athletes as we continue conference play. Thank you so much for being part of the Rhodes community.

**Jennifer Collins**  
**President**



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