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Dear Rhodes Community,

As we close this academic year, I want to thank each of you for being part of this remarkable community. We are graduating an amazing group of seniors this Saturday and will be welcoming a wonderful new class of students this fall. I am so grateful for our faculty, staff, families, and alumni who have educated, mentored, supported, and cheered on our students in so many different ways.

There has been much to celebrate since my last newsletter. Spring is the season of awards, and we are so proud of the accomplishments of our students and faculty.

Six graduating seniors were selected for the [Rhodes College Hall of Fame](#). Congratulations to Jasmine Jeffries, Olivia Mack, Joshua Morris, Ariyana Muesse, Jude Shive, and KK Sowers. The Hall of Fame was established in 1931, and selection for it is considered one of the highest honors a student can receive.

Johnathan Burch is one of just 55 students nationwide named a [Truman Scholar](#). This scholarship provides generous financial support for graduate study for those planning to enter careers in government, public service, nonprofit work, or education. Johnathan is a junior so we are glad he will continue to have an impact at Rhodes for another year.

Five students have been selected to receive a Fulbright U.S. Student Award for the 2026-27 academic year. Congratulations to Sophia Cracraft, Lydia Gold, Melate Kebede, Erin McTigue, and Yasmine Pirlepsova. You can read about their accomplishments and how they plan to use their scholarship by clicking on these two links - <https://news.rhodes.edu/stories/rhodes-boasts-fifth-fulbright-student-award-grantee-yasmine-pirlepsova-26> and <https://news.rhodes.edu/stories/class-2026-members-selected-fulbright-student-awards>.

Extraordinary faculty members Evelyn Perry and John Kaltner were presented with the College's highest honors during our annual Awards Convocation. Dr. Perry, an associate professor of sociology, received the Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Teaching and Dr. Kaltner was honored with the

Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity. You can learn more about both of them [here](#).

Stephen Haynes, professor of religious studies, was recently honored by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission with its [Harold Love Outstanding Community Service Award](#) in recognition for his work with our Liberal Arts in Prison Program and the impact it has had on so many lives.

Our mock trial team finished fourth at the national championship tournament in April, and both Mitchell Leander and Zoe Haug were named All Americans. You can read more about their triumph here: [Rhodes Mock Trial Finishes Fourth at Nationals | Rhodes News](#).

This is just a sampling of the great work being done every day by our faculty, staff, and students. I hope you will visit www.rhodes.edu to learn more about John Creveling's win in our annual [Rhodes College Venture Challenge](#), our data analytics team taking home the [Best Data Visualization Award](#) at the American Statistical Association DataFest, and the many winners at our [Annual Campus Life Awards](#) ceremony, among others.

Rhodes also shined brightly on athletic fields over the last month. I'm happy to report that our baseball team earned an at-large berth into the NCAA DIII Baseball Tournament and begins play tomorrow at East Texas Baptist. Corben Martens '29 was SAA Rookie of the Year, and head coach Rob Schrier and assistant coaches Mikey Nantze, Malcolm Rohlfing, and Major McIlvain earned SAA Coaching Staff of the Year.

The Women's Lacrosse team won the SAA Regular Season and the SAA Tournament to earn a berth in the NCAA DIII Women's Lacrosse Tournament, where they lost in the round of 32 at Colorado College. The team won multiple awards - Daryn Raleigh '27, SAA Defensive Player of the Year, Annabelle Kinzel '29, SAA Goalkeeper of the Year, Sam Horowitz '26, SAA Midfielder of the Year, and Sadie McRae '29, SAA Rookie of the Year. Head coach Ellison Sherrill and assistant coaches Emma Wynne and Paige Tomek were named SAA Coaching Staff of the Year.

The Men's Lacrosse Team won the SAA Tournament title to earn a berth into the NCAA DIII Men's Lacrosse Tournament, where they won a first-round game before bowing out to defending national champion Tufts. Lucas Pagliarulo '26 was SAA Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, and Griffin Galloway '29 was SAA Rookie of the Year. Gavin Nagle '29 was SAA Tournament MVP, while John Mori '26, Jason Rubenstein '27, and Pagliarulo were tabbed All-Tournament Team.

Our Lynx softball team won the SAA Regular Season Title for the first time in SAA history. Harper Allie-Press '26 and Athena Gonzalez earned All-SAA First team placement. Head coach Rebecca Arbino and assistant coaches R.T. Cantillo and Ally Hunh earned the SAA Coaching Staff of the Year honors.

In Men's Golf, Sujay Mukatira '29 and Christian Iwai '29 were first-team All-SAA, and Lauren Schwing '27 earned All-SAA Women's Golf team, and Oliver Bonovich '26 and Gracie Rask '26 earned first-team ALL-SAA in Men's and Women's Tennis.

The SAA Men's and Women's Track Championships saw 13 All-Conference performances, including Liam Conroy '26 winning the javelin. During the meet, Livy Freeman '26 established a new school record in the 100-meter dash.

I am incredibly proud of all our student-athletes who work so hard in the classroom and through competitive athletics to bring conference-wide and national recognition to Rhodes.

We look forward to celebrating our 426 graduating seniors in the Class of 2026 with their family and friends at Friday's baccalaureate at 3:30 p.m. in the Bryan Campus Life Center and at Saturday's 8:30 a.m. graduation ceremony in Fisher Memorial Garden. We will be awarding an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree to [Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells '82](#) who embodies the Rhodes mission through her unwavering commitment to service.

Finally, in a further testament to the remarkable character of our students, this fall's entering class will sign an amended Honor Code Pledge. Laurel Phillips, this year's Honor Council President, took the lead in changing the code because, as she writes, "Rhodes students are and do so much more than not lying, cheating, and stealing. They are artists, leaders, advocates, investigators of truth, lovers of beauty, and doers of good—our honor code should reflect that." So, the Council added a pledge that students will strive to uphold the values embodied in our seal – truth, loyalty, and service. I urge you to take a moment to read her full reflection on this change [here](#).

We have so much to be proud of at Rhodes. I am honored to work alongside you each day, and I appreciate all the ways you support Rhodes and lift us up in the minds and hearts of so many. Thank you for being part of this wonderful community!

Jennifer Collins
President



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