



RHODES COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

From the Chair's Corner

Just a year ago, the political science department was operating out of a single, repurposed classroom while the west side of the 3rd floor of Buckman Hall was torn down to the studs. Today we are back in fresh offices with an expanded technology-enhanced conference room to host lectures and activities, a bright front office for assisting students, and a grand mock trial courtroom with a breathtaking stained-glass window as a backdrop for student trial advocacy. This new space has inspired us over the past year and we are excited to share highlights. Keith Gibson (Ph.D. – U Michigan), who serves as editor of this newsletter, joins recent hires Renée Johnson (Ph.D. – Stony Brook) and post-doctoral fellow Erin Dolgoy (Ph.D. – Michigan State) as the newest members of our faculty.



Rhodes alumna Anna Smith '02 (J.D. – Duke) joins the department in a full-time position as the internship coordinator, Director of Mock Trial, and the pre-law adviser for the college. As the college unveils its new website this fall, we are resurrecting

a departmental newsletter to serve multiple purposes – to feature efforts of our current students and faculty, to show prospective students and majors what political science at Rhodes is all about, and to reach out to our political science alumni. This inaugural newsletter is an initial effort to foster a stronger community through increased communication. We would love to include more news from our alumni, in particular, so please send us news that you would like us to share (bakerj@rhodes.edu), whether it is a personal update or information about an internship or job opening that could be a perfect fit for a Rhodes student! Also, if you received this newsletter in a hard copy format, please contact Jackie with your current email so we can add you to our email list. You may follow our activities in real-time on Facebook, Twitter (@RhodesPoliSci), and via the new website when it is unveiled in late fall 2015. And, if you find yourself on campus for Homecoming (Oct. 23-24), please come by and see us!

Amy Jasperson
Amy Jasperson, Chair
jaspersona@rhodes.edu



Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature Team Brings Back Nine Awards Including Best Delegation.



The Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) is a program where Tennessee college students are able to participate in a mock version of Tennessee state government. Students from participating colleges serve as legislators to the General Assembly, lobbyists, media or lawyers who debate cases in front of the TISL Supreme Court. The TISL competition takes place in the Tennessee capitol building. The Rhodes College TISL team won nine awards including Best Delegation at the 45th TISL General Assembly held Nov. 13-16 in Nashville. This is the third year in a row that the team has earned the Best Delegation title. In addition to receiving awards in media, legislature, lobbying, and the Appellate Moot Court Collegiate Challenge, the AMC3 team made it to finals.

The 2014-2015 Rhodes TISL team members: Emily Rose Mitchell, Sumner Magruder, Megan Singer, Akvile Zakarauskaite, Christian Baum, Paul Brandt, Tiana Winstead, Aislinn O'Leary, Hannah Strong, Bailey Kimmitt, Brendan Tyler, Jess Wilder, Elliot Young, Bryan Peterson, James Ekenstedt, Caroline Ponseti, Chandler Schneider, Alexis Moore, Jake Helt, Jolie Grace Wareham, Maddie McGrady, Andrew Mowrey, Eilidh Jenness, Roz KennyBirch, Lena Seiferling, Emily Hanson. Advisor: Steve Wirls. rhodes.edu/news/28685.asp



The Mock Trial courtroom. Story on Page 7.



The "smart" conference room in Buckman Hall.

2014-2015 Department Awards

Senior Seidman Award

Brendan M. Tyler '15

First-Year Seidman Award

Noah B. Rinehart '18

Mike Cody Award

Chandler B. Schneider '15

Abe Fortas Award

Corey M. Lipschutz '15

Elena R. Mosby '15

Charlie Cook Award for Excellence in Political Science

Caroline E. Ponseti '15

Honor Society Inductees

Alex Dileo '16 (Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha, Mortar Board,
Omicron Delta Kappa
Tom Koelbl '16 (Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha
Tony Hanna '16 (IS/Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha, Omicron Delta Kappa

Tiana Winstead '16 (IS/Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha, Mortar Board
Charlie Kelley '16 (Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha, Mortar Board
Bekah Barr '16 (Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha, Omicron Delta Kappa
Melissa Redmon '15 (IS/Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha

Hannah Selner '16 (Pols)
Pi Sigma Alpha
Paul Brandt '16 (IS/Pols & Music)
Mortar Board
Brendan Tyler '15 (His/Pols)
Omicron Delta Kappa
Nick Cavin '16 (Econ & Math)
Pi Sigma Alpha

Amy Stout '15 (Greek & Roman St.)
Pi Sigma Alpha
McKenzie Drake '17 (Pols)
Delta Epsilon Iota

Highlights in Political Science

Relevant Events in 2014-2015



Sept. 5
Meet and Greet with Alison Lundergan Grimes '01
 Alison Lundergan Grimes, a Rhodes College alumna, visited on September 5th, 2014, to welcome Rhodes political science students, faculty, and staff back to campus. She was a great source of inspiration as she shared her experiences in politics and gave advice to our aspiring politicians. Grimes graduated with a degree in political science and went on to earn a law degree from American University. She was a candidate for U.S. Senate in 2014 and currently serves as Kentucky's secretary of state.

Sept. 8
Melvin I. Urofsky "Dissent and the Constitution" Constitution Day Event
 A noted historian of the Supreme Court and the Constitution, Prof. Urofsky explored some of the great dissents and dissenters in the history of the United States Supreme Court and discussed how dissenting opinions, which represent the "losing" side of a case, play an important role in the nation's ongoing constitutional conversation and sometimes end up shaping future decisions.

communities in CONVERSATION Rhodes College

DISSENT & THE CONSTITUTION

MELVIN I. UROFSKY

September 8 @ 5 p.m. | Blount Auditorium, Buckman Hall

In this year's Constitution Day Lecture, Professor Melvin I. Urofsky will explore some of the great dissents and dissenters in the history of the United States Supreme Court. Specifically, Urofsky will discuss how dissenting opinions, which represent the "losing" side of a case, play an important role in the nation's ongoing constitutional conversation and sometimes end up shaping future decisions.

www.facebook.com/communitiesinconversation
https://twitter.com/Rhodes_CJC

Co-Sponsors: Office of Academic Affairs, Department of History, Jack Miller Center for the Study of America's Founding Principles and History, Project for the Study of Liberal Democracy, Department of Political Science, Hon. Ted University of Memphis Law School, Spence L. Wilson Chair in the Humanities, and Rhodes Lecture Board

PARENT'S WEEKEND
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

Michael Gerson

GUEST SPEAKER
 MICHAEL GERSON

RECEPTION
 IN BUCKMAN LOBBY
 2:30-3:00 P.M.

TALK WITH Q&A
 IN BLOUNT AUDITORIUM
 BEGINS AT 3:00 P.M.

Nature Out to Kill Us:
 America's Response to Global Health Crisis

Michael J. Gerson joined ONE in August 2010 as Senior Advisor. He is a nationally syndicated columnist who appears twice weekly in the Washington Post. Mr. Gerson is the author of *From Conservatism to the World: The Initiative for Global Development Leadership Council*, and the boards of the U.S. Center for Global Leadership and *The New National Project*. He is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Values. He appears regularly on the PBS NewsHour, Face the Nation and other programs.

A representative from ONE will be on hand to discuss leadership opportunities or volunteer involvement in the greater community of organizations that are taking action to fight global poverty. Sign up "today!"

ONE CAMPAIGN

Rhodes College

his Rhodes visit. http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/michael-gerson-the-us-is-leading-from-behind-the-curve-on-ebola/2014/09/15/6876f208-3d17-11e4-b0ea-8141703bbf6f_story.html

Sept. 25-27
The Intersection of Religious and Secular Cores in Undergraduate Liberal Arts Education
 Rhodes hosted a humanities conference on the theme of sacred and secular approaches to liberal arts and "core" education. The *Project for the Study of Liberal Democracy* co-sponsored the conference with the Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC), Liberal Arts Institute, and Pepperdine University. More than 50 scholars from the U.S., Canada, UK and Asia presented papers and engaged in wide-ranging discussions centering on the relationship of faith and reason in a liberal arts education. PSLD Director: Dan Cullen. Assoc. Director: Steve Wirls. Conference papers are available here: <http://www.coretexts.org/conferences/research-university-and-liberal-arts-college-conference-june-9-11-2013/>

Oct. 6
Charlie Cook "The 2014 Political Environment"
 Charlie Cook, editor and publisher of *The Cook Political Report*, a frequent visitor to Rhodes, and a parent of a Rhodes alumna, spoke to Rhodes about the 2014 elections and looked ahead to 2016. He also emphasized the importance of a liberal arts education. In addition, he was a guest speaker in U.S. Politics and attended an informal lunch with students in the new conference room.
<http://cookpolitical.com/>

The Cook POLITICAL REPORT

THE 2014 POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT:
 WHAT'S NEXT IN POLITICS
 WITH CHARLIE COOK

Monday, October 6th
 Barret Library, Room 051

4:30 p.m. Reception
 5:00 p.m. Charlie Cook
 followed by Q&A session and dessert.

"There are political junkies, and then there's Charlie Cook—the man who knows more about everything political than anyone else."
 —The Washington Post

Charlie Cook is Editor and Publisher of the *Cook Political Report* and a political analyst for *National Journal* magazine, where he writes a twice weekly column. Charlie is considered one of the nation's leading authorities on American politics and U.S. elections.

Co-sponsored by the Departments of Political Science and History

Rhodes College



Oct. 10
Alumni Panel Event
 Five political science alumni talked to students about their careers, how they got to where they are today, and what they felt were the most helpful factors in driving their success. Panelists included Peyton Bell '09 (press secretary for Congressman John Barrow; UGA Law), Jake Cook '01 (radio talk show host, *The Nation of Jake*), Stephenie Johnson '09 (Fellow at Third Way), Cori (Smith) Kramer '99 (executive director of Center Forward), and Jay Sulzmann '04 (legislative director for Senator Johnny Isakson, GA). Moderator: Steve Wirls.

**Oct. 28
Panel Discussion on
TN Amendment One**

Invited panelists from both sides presented information to better inform voters about the November 2014 Tennessee ballot measure on abortion and privacy rights. Panelists included Cathy Waterbury, Shelby County Coordinator for "Yes on One", Rep. Mark White for "Yes on One", Ashley Coffield, President and CEO at Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region for "Vote No on One", and Rev. Stephen Montgomery for "Vote No on One." Moderator: Steve Wiris.



**Nov. 7
Pumpkins, S'Mores and Politics/Election Night
Viewing Party**

Faculty, interested students, and majors gathered to carve pumpkins, eat s'mores, and watch the election night returns come in.



**Nov. 14
10th Anniversary
of the Clinton
Presidential
Center in Little
Rock, Arkansas**

Michael Nelson moderated an academic panel on the presidency the day before the celebration. Students Winn Decker '15 (Political Science minor), Megha Fernandes '16 (Political Science), Sam Brobeck '15 (Political Economy/Urban Studies) attended.

**Nov. 18
Student Research
Talk: Akvile
Zakarauskaite '16
"Politics After War:
Democratic Development
in Post-War
Bosnia"**

Akvile Zakarauskaite, a junior international studies/political science bridge major, presented her semester abroad research on peace and conflict in the Balkans and the development of multi-ethnic political parties in Bosnia to students and faculty.



Michael Nelson

Monday, January 26th | 5:00 pm
Blount Auditorium, Buckman Hall
Reception and book signing immediately following



To look at the partisan polarization that paralyzes Washington today is to see what first took shape with the presidential election of 1968. Michael Nelson explains why. Urban riots and the Tet Offensive, the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, the politics of outrage and race—all pointed to a reordering of party coalitions, of groups and regions, a hardening and widening of an ideological divide—and to the historical importance of the 1968 election as a watershed event.



Michael Nelson is the Fulmer Professor of Political Science at Rhodes College, a Senior Fellow at the University of Virginia Miller Center, and a Fellow at the American Historical Association Center for Presidential History. He has published more than twenty-five books, including the award-winning *Channeling Dissent: The Presidency and the Political System, 1968 to 2014* and *From the Streets to the Campaign Trail: The Politics of State Policy Innovation*, with John L. Mann, winner of the 2009 U.S. Top Award for Outstanding Book on American Politics from the American Political Science Association.

Sponsored by the departments of Political Science and History
Rhodes College

**Jan. 26
Book Talk by
Michael Nelson on
Resilient America:
Electing Nixon in 1968,
Channeling Dissent, and
Dividing Government**
Speaking about his new award-winning book, *Resilient America*, Prof. Nelson explored how the atmosphere of the late sixties defined the 1968 election as a watershed event in the ideological divide in American politics.



**April 23
Pi Sigma Alpha
(Political Science Honor Society)
Panel Discussion on
"Politics, Religion, and
Freedom: The Supreme
Court Case of Burwell v.
Hobby Lobby"**

Renée Johnson, faculty adviser for PSA, won a grant from the national PSA organization to sponsor this year's timely panel of political science professors and dinner to recognize student members.

THE DELTA TAU CHAPTER OF PI SIGMA ALPHA PRESENTS

Politics, Religion, & Freedom

The Supreme Court Case of
Burwell v. Hobby Lobby

A PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING
Daniel Cullen | Marcus Pohlmann | Stephen Wiris

The Delta Tau chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honor society, is hosting a public reception and panel discussion of the recent *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* Supreme Court decision. Featured panelists include Professors Dan Cullen, Mark Pohlmann, and Steve Wiris of the Political Science Department at Rhodes College. The Supreme Court decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* engages every aspect of politics, freedom, and religion including the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and the practice of the separation of church and state, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, the Affordable Care Act, and the legal treatment of corporations in the U.S.

Thursday, April 23rd

Opening Reception 4:30 p.m.
Panel Discussion 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Hardie Auditorium, Palmer Hall

Sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, the Department of Political Science, and the Project for the Study of Civic Democracy.
Rhodes College



**May 8
Army Commissioning of
Tommy Harless '15**
rhodes.edu/news/29170.asp

**May 16
Congratulations to the
2015 graduates!**



Student in Focus

Caroline Ponseti is the 2015 winner of the Charlie Cook Award for Excellence in Political Science and 2014 inductee of Pi Sigma Alpha—the national honor society for scholarship and intellectual excellence in political science and government. Also, she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and the Rhodes Hall of Fame 2015.

What ideals and values did you learn at Rhodes?

In my college search, I was wary of schools in rural areas. I didn't want to be isolated from social issues; I wanted to be thrown right into them. Memphis provided the perfect setting for such a college experience. My sophomore year at Rhodes James Ekenstedt and Evan Katz, two of my fellow classmates, and I founded *The Bridge*. This is a nonprofit street paper that provides meaningful employment to people with experiences of homelessness through sales of a paper written by the homeless themselves.

Having grown up in a city plagued by urban problems, I was exposed to the plight of the homeless at an early age, yet I didn't know how to address the issue besides my occasional trip to the soup kitchen or the dollar I gave to the men on street corners. After my co-founder James learned of Nashville's street paper, *The Contributor*, he suggested that Evan and I get involved in Memphis' version. We soon learned that Memphis didn't have a street paper—only a serious problem of 1,800 men and women living on the street. Since we founded *The Bridge* in March 2013, our vendors have sold over 57,000 papers, with our top vendors making \$380-\$540 per month. Several of them are no longer homeless.

Being at Rhodes has brought to life one of my favorite quotes: "I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." The students here never hesitate to try to make a difference in the Memphis community. They never stop to think that college students can't change the world. Being around such incredible student activists inspires me to be more intentional every day.

Tell us about your college experience.

As a political science major and history minor, I've nurtured a love of political history and have always been fascinated by the relationship between media and government, which has led me to pursue a career in political communications. The most memorable moments of my college experience have been supplementing my classroom learning with experiences in the field.

In the months before I came to Rhodes, I was able to learn about the legal process firsthand by interning for the Honorable Martin L.C. Feldman, a federal judge. The summer after my freshman year, I interned with Senator David Vitter on Capitol Hill and was captivated by the process through which the Senator's press office interacted with different media outlets. After I studied abroad, I had several months before classes started. During that time, I interned in the Office of Mary Matalin. It was an incredible honor to shadow Mary, and I learned so much from her insight on the political process.

This past summer, I learned about a new angle of the political process: campaigns. I served as an assistant media buyer for Sutton Reid, a local political advertising firm in downtown Memphis. It was an amazing opportunity to learn about campaign finance and political advertising firsthand. I was able to work on several local



campaigns, including Amy Weirich for district attorney and a U.S. Senate race. I've been lucky enough to intern in two of the three federal branches of government. Maybe one day I will get to cross executive off the list!

What are you involved in now?

I've been a member of the Rhodes delegation of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature for all four years. In our first year, we were awarded Best New Delegation and have taken home the honor of Best Delegation every year since. For the past two TISL General Assemblies, I have served as Editor in Chief of the *TISL Times* as well as Vice President and President of our delegation.

One of my most rewarding college experiences has been serving as a student trustee on the Rhodes Board of Trustees. I have relished every moment of learning how the college functions and have loved every opportunity where I have been able to represent the student voice. I've also had the honor to serve as the first ever student editor of the *Rhodes* magazine as a Rhodes Student Associate in the communications office. My time in the Communications Office has enabled me to develop my writing and editing skills, which will be invaluable for my future career.

What are your future plans and goals?

After graduation, I will be moving back home to New Orleans to do communications work for Senator David Vitter's gubernatorial campaign. I could not be more thrilled to rejoin the Senator's staff and am so excited to dive into the fast-paced world of political campaigns—this time as a staffer. After the election at the end of 2015, I hope to either jump onto a presidential campaign or move to D.C. to work in a press office on the Hill. Down the line, I hope to figure out what my dream job is and get the graduate degree that will get me there. In the meantime, I will keep pursuing my love of political communications.

Faculty Profile

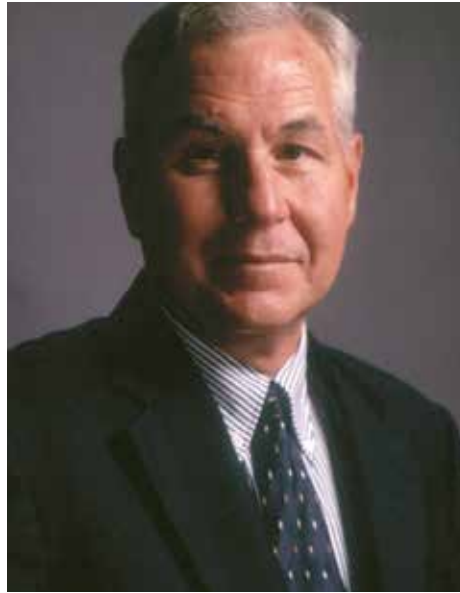
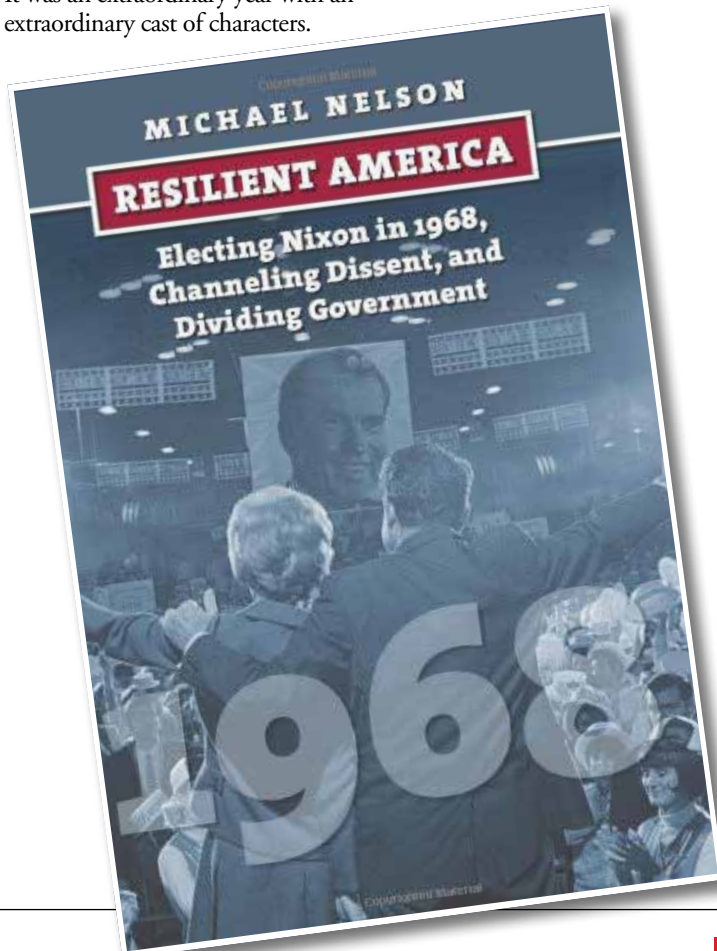
Michael Nelson is the Fulmer Professor of Political Science at Rhodes College, a Senior Fellow at the University of Virginia's Miller Center, and a Fellow at Southern Methodist University's Center for Presidential History.

He has published more than 25 books on the presidency, elections, the bureaucracy, public policy, southern politics, and liberal education. Prof. Nelson's latest book, *Resilient America: Electing Nixon in 1968, Channeling Dissent, and Dividing Government* (University Press of Kansas, 2014), was selected as a winner of the Richard E. Neustadt Book Award, which is awarded by the Presidents and Executive Politics section of the American Political Science Association for the best book on the U.S. presidency published during the previous year. Henry Smith '17 spoke with Prof. Nelson about his latest book.

<http://www.apsanet.org/content.asp?contentid=444>

What made you choose to write about the 1968 election?

It was an extraordinary year with an extraordinary cast of characters.



While others often focus on the drastic partitioning of political ideologies in the 60s, you also note how the traditional political processes of the government proved successful in running a divided government. Why do you think this is important to recognize?

Starting with the 1968 election, divided government became the norm in Washington. Most of the time, this is not conducive to good governance. But in the aftermath of that election, the fact that Democrats controlled some parts of the government and Republicans controlled others gave voters who were verging on alienation a sense that, no matter their own political views, they were represented somewhere in official Washington.

Your writing style is very detailed and colorful when describing the political icons of the 60s. What was your research process that enabled you to give such detail?

I read everything I could find by—and about—the candidates, as well as watching old news programs on which they appeared. I did not write about them until I felt that I knew them.

How long did it take you to compile your research, and then write this book?

I spent six years researching and writing the book, in the midst of doing lots of other things.

What makes the 1968 election so important in understanding the political world of America today?

1968 was a year in which it seemed that America was coming apart. But the political system proved to be flexible and open enough that dissenting voices were able to find an outlet within the system—hence the book's theme and title: *Resilient America*.

Which political figure of this time period did you find most interesting or compelling?

In a year dominated by Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey, Ronald Reagan, George Wallace, Nelson Rockefeller, Eugene McCarthy, and Martin Luther King, that's a tough one. But if I have to choose, it would be LBJ for sheer fascination—even though he officially dropped out of the election in March.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqUAqrsmg8>

Alumna in Focus

Interviewed by Prof. Keith Gibson, editor

Alison Lundergan Grimes '01

majored in political science (with a history minor) at Rhodes. After graduation, she attended the Washington College of Law at American University and graduated cum laude. She served as an attorney for seven years before running for public office. Grimes is currently the Secretary of State of Kentucky.

What ideals and values did you learn at Rhodes College?

My family instilled in my sisters and me the value of service from an early age, but it was at Rhodes that I truly found how deeply passionate I am about helping and serving others.

What was your most memorable college experience?

Rhodes College has an amazing faculty. I loved meeting and taking courses from Prof. Dan Cullen, Prof. Stephen Wirls, and Prof. Mike Nelson in the political science department, and Dr. Russ Wigginton, who taught my history class. I also took a tremendous course on Martin Luther King, Jr., from Prof. Luther Ivory. All are fabulous professors and mentors.

I valued my time in student leadership at Rhodes, and enjoyed very much serving as a student trustee on the Board of Trustees. Greek life was also a big part of my time there. I served as president of Chi Omega. And, I taught kickboxing classes in the rest of my free time.



What are you involved in now that you are most proud of?

I love serving the people of my home state of Kentucky as Secretary of State, and I'm proud of the work we've done. More than 100,000 new businesses have opened during my first term; a new portal we established for military and overseas voters allows them to register to vote online and receive their ballots electronically; and we have implemented an address confidentiality program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. I wake up every day thinking of what more we can do for Kentuckians.

If you could give advice to the graduating class as they transition from Rhodes into the "real world," what would that advice be?

Don't be afraid to take a road you never saw on the map. When I left Rhodes, I never envisioned that I would one day run for public office, let alone secretary of state. I headed for law school and wanted to be the best attorney I could be. Several years later, after representing a female victim of domestic violence in court, I knew there was more I could do. I looked around state government and saw that there were few women, then decided to run for secretary of state and won my first election. You never know where your passions may take you, so be sure to follow some paths that you didn't see in your future.



Political Science students.



Student and Keith Gibson greet Alison.



Alison with her professors.

Mock Trial

Teams Make History Again

By Thomas Mitchell '18

<http://www.rhodes.edu/mocktrial/>

This year the Rhodes Mock Trial Team made history again. The "A" and "B" teams entered the season ranked 2nd and 8th nationally, which gave Rhodes the distinction of having two teams ranked in the Top Ten Power Rankings at one time. This season also saw Rhodes begin its quest for a record 29th straight National Championship appearance. The teams didn't disappoint.

In the fall semester, the teams left every tournament with their heads held high, placing in the top five or 10 teams at Tobacco Road, The Great American, Mid-South, and Downtown. Throughout the season, Rhodes students consistently won top honors as both witnesses and attorneys.

The spring semester saw the beginning of the regional tournaments, which started with Rhodes "B" and "C" teams competing in Dallas in early February. The "B" nearly swept the field, placing 2nd and receiving Rhodes' first bid to the Opening Round Championships (ORCs). The "C," which is composed almost entirely of first-year students came very close to receiving a bid as well. Ian Hunley '16 and Natey Kinzounza '17 received All-Region Attorney honors, while first-year Dulcie Trottier was recognized as an All-Region Witness. Two weeks later, the "A" and "D" teams competed in Jackson, Mississippi, for the chance to earn Rhodes' 2nd bid to ORCs. In Jackson, Rhodes' was nearly unbeatable. The "A" team finished 7-1 and earned a bid to ORCs, while the "D" team, made up of almost all first year students, finished 6-2, also earning a bid to ORCs. Amelia



Yeomelakis '15 was recognized as an All-Region Attorney, while "A" team captain, Henry Morris '15, was not only recognized as an All-Region Attorney, but also as the highest ranking competitor in the entire competition. From the "D" team, first-year Hannah Hornsey received her first All-Region Witness Award and Meredith Clement, also a first-year, was recognized as



Mark Pohlmann, founder and director of Mock Trial program 1986-2014; current coach, team "A".



both an All-Region Attorney and the 2nd-highest ranking attorney in the tournament.

The American Mock Trial Association only allows a school to send two teams to the Opening Round Championships, so Rhodes consolidated its teams and was ready to defend their rankings in the Shelby County Courthouse. The "A" team placed 4th, receiving its 29th straight bid to the National Championship. Several students, including Jay Campbell '16, Henry Morris '15, and Amelia Yeomelakis '15, were named Outstanding Witness and Attorneys. The "B" team placed 5th and also received a bid to Nationals. Jacob Hill '17 was recognized as an Outstanding Witness.

The National Championship Round, hosted in Cincinnati, added a new challenge for the top 48 teams from around the country. They introduced an entirely new case. Teams across the country had spent seven months strengthening their arguments in Park v. Duran, a civil suit concerning the death of Sydney Park. The teams were given less than one month to prepare their best arguments in Ginger v. Heisman, a civil suit involving election fraud. The "A" team, competing in the Katherine E. Pridemore Division against the University of Cincinnati, UT- Knoxville, and eventual runner-ups Yale, placed 8th in their division with a final record of 6-2-1. Taylor Jackson '15 was bestowed the All-American Witness Award, the highest individual honor in mock trial. The "B" team, competing in the William H. Taft Division against Bellarmine, Duke, Hamilton, and Macalester, finished with a record of 4-8. Rhodes is both happy and sad to see its seniors, more than half of whom are All-Americans, graduate. We wish Taylor Jackson, Corey Lipschutz, Henry Morris, Elena Mosby, Elizabeth Ross, Lauren Tesler, and Amelia Yeomelakis the best! The returning mockers are already getting prepared for next year's criminal case involving bribery and a state gambling commissioner.



Anna R. Smith, director of the Mock Trial program since 2014



Rhodes A Team

Back row: Henry Morris '15 (captain), Charlie Welsh '17, Elena Mosby '15, Lauren Tesler '15 (captain), Jay Campbell '16. Front row: Meredith Clement '18, Taylor Jackson '15, Amelia Yeomelakis '15, Keri Roberson '16



Rhodes B Team

Back row: Jared Blanton '14 (coach), Sean Matthieson '18, Ian Hunley '16 (captain), Jacob Hill '17, Jennifer Bitterly '18, John Dewar '18, Mathew Jehl '13 (coach), Corey Lipschutz '15. Front row: Natey Kinzounza '17, Erin Bailey '17, Elizabeth Ross '15 (captain), Christopher Meadows '18.

Majors Alex Dileo and Samuel Holder Won Project Pericles Debating for Democracy (D4D) Competition on March 18 in New York City



Alex Dileo '16 and Sam Holder '17, the first Rhodes students to participate in the Legislative Hearing at D4D, won the final national competition. The team submitted "A Letter in Support of Net Neutrality by Reclassifying Internet Service as a Public Utility under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934" to Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA). They wrote: "This letter urges Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) to ensure net neutrality by supporting the reclassification of internet service as a public utility under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. Proposed legislation by Senator John Thune (R-SD) fails to create the robust protections necessary to ensure a free and open internet. Title II reclassification will enable the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to protect consumers from all forms of discriminatory practices by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and will ensure that consumers receive consistent and reliable internet service."

New Courses Political Science

Our new faculty members have made some recent additions to our course offerings. Please see the latest catalog and course schedule for complete information.

208. Media & Politics.

This course investigates the power of media in American society and the interaction between media, institutions, political actors, and the public.

209. Evil, Benevolent, or Benign?

The Role of Bureaucracy in a Democracy.

Why do bureaucracies exist and how should they function? This course explores theories of bureaucratic behavior and critically evaluates these theories.

280. Topics in American Politics, Government, and Policy: Public Opinion in America.

How do Americans view topics such as abortion, gun control, and police brutality? This course examines the changing nature of public opinion in contemporary American politics. Offered in fall by visiting scholar Dane Wendell.

286. Topics in Political Thought and Philosophy: Imaginary Commonwealths

In this course, we study some of the great utopias and dystopias in political theory, literature, and film and examine the tradeoffs that go into political decision making as well as the complexities of political life.

305. Public Policy Analysis.

This course provides students with an introduction to the tools used to analyze policies and a discussion of the political elements that affect this analysis.

308. Political Advertising.

This course gives students the chance to explore research, debates, and timely cases from the academic study of political advertising.

318. Poverty and Public Policy.

Why are some people poor in America despite decades of increased growth in the U.S. economy? This course explores the conditions and causes of poverty in the United States and the economic, social, and political responses to it.

319. Race, Housing and Urban Revitalization.

Why are some urban areas thriving while others continue to struggle? This course will explore the history—and legacy—of our efforts to revitalize our urban centers.

320. Health Care Policy.

This course examines the politics of health care policymaking in the U.S.

321. Political Psychology.

This course investigates psychological theories in understanding political attitudes, judgment, and behavior at the levels of the individual, group, and nation-state.

2015 URCAS Presentations

The Road to Victory: An in-depth analysis of contemporary congressional campaigning through the 2014 Tom Cotton for Senate Campaign.

Student Presenter: **Rachel E. Harris '16** (Political Science)

Sponsor: **Amy Jasperson**

Celebrity Politicians as a Unique Yet Effective Tool in the Political Process

Student Presenter: **Jolie-Grace Wareham '17** (Political Science)

Sponsor: **Renée Johnson**

This research was also presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting in Chicago, April 2015.

State of Arkansas vs. Terry Hobbs

Student Presenter: **Micah Cohen '17** (Economics)

Sponsor: **Anna Smith**

370. Government Regulation of Business.

This course is designed to expose students to the history and practice of government regulation of business in the U.S.

380. Intermediate Topics in Political Thought and Philosophy: Technology and Politics.

Many technological innovations are accompanied by potential benefits, possible dangers, and policy implications. In this course, we examine some of the theoretical accounts of technology and the relationship between technology and politics in the contemporary American context.

RESEARCH:

451-452. Research Practicum.

This course allows qualified students to become active participants in on-going faculty research projects.

TRIAL ADVOCACY:

264. Rights of the Accused.

An academic assessment of rights of criminal defendants under the Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments.

MAYMESTER 2015:

470. Healthy Cities: The Political Economy of Urban Policymaking.

How do cities address urban problems given the economic and political constraints they face? This course introduces students to the political and economic forces that shape urban economic redevelopment and health care policy through a three-week summer study abroad experience in London, England, and Glasgow, Scotland. Led by Prof. Renée Johnson (Political Science) and Prof. Peter Hossler (Urban Studies). **F-11 CREDIT**

