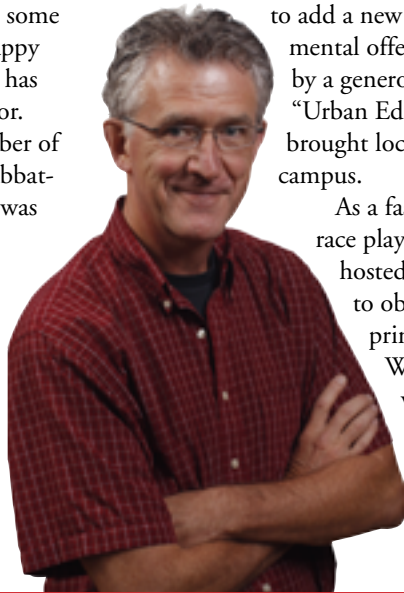


RHODES COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

From the Chair's Corner

Just because 2015-2016 was an unusual year did not mean it wasn't a memorable one. What follows are just some of the highlights. First, I'm happy to announce Professor Cullen has been promoted to full professor. Second, we had a record number of departmental colleagues on sabbatical. Professor Amy Jaspersen was gone all year, while Professors Wirls, Cullen and Johnson were each out for a semester. Fortunately, we were able to hire departmental alum, Professor Dane Wendell, to provide excellent teaching and collegiality in their absence. Dane offered a new course entitled "Biology and Politics" (crosslisted with



Neuroscience) and is on the cutting edge of the discipline these days. I, too, was able to add a new course to our departmental offerings made possible by a generous Hill grant entitled "Urban Education Policy" which brought local education experts to campus.

As a fascinating presidential race played out, the department hosted several "watch parties" to observe and discuss primary election results.

We also were graced with visits by former United States Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, nationally syndicated election analyst Charlie Cook,

media critic Paul Cantor, and homelessness expert and departmental alum, Pat Morgan.

In addition, Professors Erin Dolgoy and Renee Johnson worked with several students to initiate a highly successful Political Science "Film Club" (featured in this newsletter). Last but definitely not least, we welcomed one of most talented class of first-year students in recent memory. That class was so good that we broke precedent and actually awarded 5 First-Year Seidman Awards this year!

Looking forward to seeing you in the fall.

Mark Pohlmann, Acting Chair

Ask a Professor Q&A

Actual questions written by students and answered by Political Science Professors

1. What can I do with a political science degree? (i.e. possible career paths)

Professor Wirls: I can think of so many careers Political Science majors have pursued, initially or ultimately, that I could not list them all. Some have begun with an advanced degree in law or political science, but also in education, social work, public administration, public policy, public service, business, and other areas. Many have gone to Washington, D.C. with only a B.A. in hand and worked for Representatives, Senators, Congressional Committees, the Republican and Democratic party organizations, lobbying firms, non-profit organizations, and departments of the government such as State, Justice, CIA, and the FBI. Some have gone further afield, starting their own businesses or working their way up in existing businesses. We have graduates who have been very successful in marketing, publishing, radio, television, and real estate, to name a few.



2. What kinds of internship, research, or club/organization opportunities are available at Rhodes and in Memphis in regards to this major?

Professor Gibson: The political science department is actively engaged in serving the City of Memphis and connecting our students to opportunities to become more involved in shaping our city's future. Our majors routinely partner with professors on cutting-edge research on issues facing urban neighborhoods and communities.

We have extensive community partnerships in education (e.g., Shelby County Schools, private charter schools), economic and community development (e.g., grassroots community organizations, religious organizations), business and health (e.g., FedEx, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, St. Jude, the American Heart Association), politics and policy (e.g., the Mayor's Office, House



and Senate offices, private polling and research firms) to name a few. These partnerships often result in both presentations at national academic confer-

ences in political science, political economy, educational studies and urban studies and unique experiences that spark a passion and commitment to positive change.

Political Science Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Events 2015-2016

Fall 2015

Sept. 22 – Constitution Day – Justice Antonin Scalia

The late Justice Antonin Scalia spoke at Rhodes College and had lunch with political science students intent on pursuing a career in law.

Oct. 8, 9 & 10 – Symposium

“Conservatism Rightly Understood”

Renown British philosopher Roger Scruton delivered the keynote address for a symposium on the future of conservatism.

Oct. 13 – Pat Morgan The Concrete Killing Fields

A tireless advocate for the homeless, Pat Morgan – a veteran of the U.S. Inter-agency Council on Homelessness under President Clinton – shared her experiences advancing issues surrounding this vulnerable population.

Oct. 13 and Oct. 28 – Democrat and Republican Debate Watch Parties

Over 200 students, faculty, and alumni gathered in the lobby of Burrow Hall to watch the Democratic Debate and Republican Debates.

Spring 2016

March 1 – Super Tuesday Primary Watch Party

On Super Tuesday, political science students watched the primary races on large screen TVs over pizza, snacks and beverages.

March 22 – Pi Sigma Alpha Induction Event and Banquet

Pi Sigma Alpha hosted a reception and discussion on Michael Waldman’s book, “The Second Amendment: A Biography” at their annual induction event.

April 7 & 8 – Symposium “The Invisible Hand in Popular Culture”

In a keynote address, Paul Cantor – a professor and literary and media critic – argued pop culture provides a way for Americans to investigate and express our fears and frustrations about the perceived dysfunction of our political, social, cultural, and financial institutions.

April 11 – A Day with Charlie Cook

Charlie Cook, founder and editor of *The Cook Political Report* visited Rhodes to share his analysis on the 2016 political environment. During his visit, he also met with political science students over lunch.

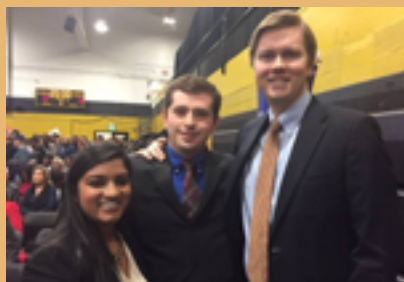
April 28 – Senior Party

To finish out the year, the department held their traditional Senior Party for Political Science, International Studies & Political Science and Political Economy majors.

Student Snapshots



Jolie-Grace Wareham '17 and Rachel Harris '16 attended the American Association of Political Consultants regional meeting in Nashville in February where they heard from and networked with campaign experts.



Megha Fernandes '15 (Hillary for America - Memphis), Brendan Tyler '15 (Rincon Strategy Firm, Director of Operations), and Robert Brooks '17 (Rincon Strategy Firm, Communications Director) at the rally in Memphis featuring former President Bill Clinton.

Rhodes TISL Delegation Reflects on 46th General Assembly

The Rhodes College Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) team had a phenomenal 46th TISL General Assembly, held Nov. 12-15 in Nashville. The team participated in legislation, media, lobbying, and the Appellate Moot Court Collegiate Challenge. In addition to receiving awards in legislature several students

ran for elected positions. This year's delegation had many first time 'TISLers' and continues to look forward to the personal and professional growth both of new and old members! Thank you to TISL's Advisor Professor Wirks and all those that supported, funded, and encouraged this year's delegation!"

“ It was inspiring to be in an environment where beliefs and norms were constantly questioned in order to create a better community within our state. ”



2015 Members:

<i>Madalyn Bryant</i>	<i>Alexis Moore</i>
<i>Bailey Choudbury</i>	<i>Emily Perry</i>
<i>Abby Ellingwood</i>	<i>Ben Rosenberg</i>
<i>Veronica Francis</i>	<i>Megan Singer</i>
<i>Emily Hanson</i>	<i>Harper Stiles</i>
<i>Anne Healy</i>	<i>Ben Tracy</i>
<i>Doria Jackson</i>	<i>Jolie-Grace Wareham</i>
<i>Hope Johnson</i>	<i>Tiana Winstead</i>
<i>Janina Luipers</i>	<i>Akvile Zakarauskaite</i>
<i>Emily Mitchell</i>	

Political Science Film Club

Exploring the Body Politic one film at a time.

by Sam Holder '17

The political science film club celebrated its one year anniversary and continues to grow in both popularity and size. Originally, the Film Club was born out of Professor Erin Dolgoy's class "Imaginary Commonwealths." For a class assignment, Professor Dolgoy required the class to watch films that would be a part of larger class discussion. In order to facilitate watching the movies, she hosted viewings of the films in the newly renovated Buckman conference and media room. With the promise of free food, an 80" LED HDTV and rich discussion afterwards, the word quickly spread. The club now has over 25 active members who regularly attend each showing.

The Political Science Film Club serves

as a space for students – many of whom are also actively involved in Rhodes Democrats, Rhodes Republicans, Mock Trial and TISL – to bond over movies and talk about politics and the body politic. The movie watching experience – and the discussion afterwards – continues to be compelling and enjoyable. One of the best received movies was *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. It led to a serious look at the power of political machines and if there is still optimism in the American political system and institutions. The hope is that movies will continue to open a dialog that helps broaden our understanding of politics, institutions and

the American electorate. We look forward to seeing you at our next movie night. See you there!



Political Science Film Club members

Reflections Upon Meeting a Supreme Court Justice

A handful of Rhodes students met and had lunch with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia shortly before his passing. We asked three political science majors to reflect upon the experience of meeting a Supreme Court Justice, his legacy and the future of the Supreme Court.



INTRO BY HENRY SMITH '17

A rabid advocate of the judicial philosophy of originalism, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia served as the conservative rock and one of America's foremost legal thinkers within the Supreme Court from 1986 until his death on February 13th, 2016. Son of Italian immigrants from Queens, Scalia began his path to the Supreme Court at Georgetown University then Harvard Law School. After briefly working for American Enterprise Institute and a teaching post at the University of Chicago Law School, Scalia accepted an offer from President Ronald Reagan in 1982 for a seat on the Court of Appeals for District of Columbia. After only four years of service, he gained national attention for his strong conservative wit and was placed on the short list for the Supreme Court Nomination upon the retirement of Chief Justice Warren Burger.

During his career as a Supreme Court Justice Scalia gained notoriety as well as adoration for his often times scathing dissents, one of the most famous being his dissent of the Affordable Care Act. Often recognized as one of the greatest conservative legal thinkers

of our time, he ardently defended the constitution as permanent document meant to be interpreted solely through authorial intent.

On September 22, 2015, Justice Scalia spoke to the Rhodes community and gave a scholarly yet impassioned defense of originalism, recognizing the founders not just as geniuses during their specific time but also as timeless leaders of the United States whose guidance can be found through the constitutional text. On February 13th 2016 – suffering from heart troubles and high blood pressure – Justice Scalia passed away under natural circumstances at a resort in Texas. He had served as a Supreme Court Justice for 30 years leaving behind a legacy both adored and scorned.

REFLECTIONS BY SAM HOLDER '17

I was fortunate to see Justice Scalia three times when he visited Rhodes College, first when he spoke in a class I was taking, then again at a lunch where students were invited and finally at his lecture that evening. Justice Scalia was known for his insistence on original intent and strict textualism, and understandably he

URCAS Participants

Allison Bowen (IS/POLS & Urban) – presented for Urban Studies

#10 Examining the Process of Collaboration Across Sectors Through the Shelby County Healthy Homes Partnership (Faculty Sponsor: Peter Hossler)

Hannah Selner (POLS) – presented for Art Experimental Drawing (Faculty Sponsor: Joel Parsons)

Tiana Winstead (POLS) – presented for Political Science
#43 The Double Standard of Ethnic Minorities in the PRC: Tibet and Xinjiang (Faculty Sponsor: Renee Johnson)

Sarahanne Vaughan (POLS) – presented for Political Science

#44 Parental Politics: Different for Liberals and Conservatives?

Leighton Younger (POLS) – presented for Political Science

#45 Gender Effects on Candidate Competency

Kirkwood Vangeli (POLS) – presented for Modern Languages and Literatures

#3 "Memphis Cartonera with Cazateatro: Setting the Scene One Libro at a Time." (Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Pettinaroli)



Ellery Ammons (Urban & POLS) – presented for Urban Studies

#10 Privatized Place: How the Public Spaces of Downtown Memphis are Responding to Trends of Privatization (Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Thomas)

argued for them vigorously during all three of his talks. Beneath his eloquence, it was clear that he spoke with some level of desperation. Although Justice Scalia brought original intent into the forefront of legal debate, his stance is a minority stance. Scalia was trying to win people over to make sure that original intent lasts beyond him. Multiple times Justice Scalia was asked about his friendship with Justice Ginsberg, and how could he be friends with someone who he so ideologically disagreed with. Scalia's response was – and I'm paraphrasing here – “if I cannot be friends with people who misinterpreted the law, I wouldn't have any friends!”

Some of the things he said were quite compelling. Justice Scalia argued against the Supreme Court, or any unelected body, being able to essentially legislate. If society wants something changed, it should come through the legislature, and the Courts should only be there to judge and make sure the application of the law does not violate the Constitution. You do not have to agree with his stance to see the merits in it. We were fortunate to have been able to get Justice Scalia to come to Rhodes, especially before his sudden and untimely passing.

REFLECTIONS BY TALLYN OWENS '16

To those of with marginalized identities, or at least those of us to whom that marginalization is meaningful, Justice Scalia's death means that we no longer have to live in great fear that some of our basic civil rights may be eroded by the end of the Court's current term. His jurisprudential tendency towards the idea that marginalized groups should wait for the legislative branch to grant them basic civil rights would have a great many of these groups waiting centuries for their full humanity to be recognized under the Constitution. His legacy will not hold up over time, because as the world evolves, the truly reductive nature of his views will be seen for what they are.

REFLECTIONS BY ZACHARY KARLAN '16

Justice Scalia described himself as a textualist when it came to his judicial philosophy. In his renowned book, *A Matter of Interpretation*, Justice Scalia explains that to be a textualist is to interpret the text of the law by its original meaning in a reasonable fashion. He



states, “But while the good textualist is not a literalist, neither is he a nihilist. Words do have a limited range of meaning, and no interpretation that goes beyond that range is permissible.” He argues that what is happening in the American judicial system is that judges are starting to make decisions with the belief in what he calls “The Living Constitution” – a constitution that breathes and changes to the preferences of each new generation's majority. He argues that if we adopt the idea of a living constitution, the meaning of the original text gets lost and it is a detriment to society. According to Justice Scalia, Judges should not view the law as a way of showing legislative intent. He goes as far as to say that by governing by unexpressed intent is not only wrong but tyrannical.

Perhaps the most thought-provoking part of his visit was his argument for who our rulers should be. He asked us to consider whether we want nine unelected lawyers from Harvard and Yale deciding what the standards of the country are regardless of whether or not the ruling is good for you. He warned us of how this precedent can swing both ways. He argued that decisions carried out in this way are not democratic and are truly are tyrannical. Whether or not you agree with his decisions in court, there is no doubt that he was truly one of the greatest legal thinkers in our nation's history. Listening to him speak in an intimate setting was a great honor and one that I will cherish forever.

Editor's note: Zach will be attending Tulane Law School this fall.

Rhodes College Democrats



Rhodes College Democrats selfie with President Bill Clinton.



Rhodes College Democrats with Hillary Clinton.



Some of the College Democrats of Tennessee elected officials and TN Young Democrats President London Lamar (Brandon Johnson from Rhodes is on the far left.)

Mock Trial: 30 Years of Trial Excellence

By Daniel Elliott '19

Rhodes College Mock Trial left their impression on the American Mock Trial Association's National Championship Tournament, hosted this year by Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Rhodes team "A" entered the season ranked 7th in the nation, while team "B" began ranked 20th in the nation. Together, the teams had one goal in mind: to compete in the National Championship for the 30th consecutive year, the longest running streak by any program in the history of American Mock Trial competition. I am happy to report we made history and successfully competed in our 30th consecutive national tournament.

In the fall semester, Rhodes competed in several invitational competitions including the Great American Mock Trial Invitational in Washington, D.C., where the "A" team placed 5th, and the Mid-South Invitational, held in Murfreesboro, TN, where Rhodes teams placed in the top five. Attorneys and witnesses alike won Outstanding Individual awards from these invitational competitions.

In the spring semester, Rhodes attended three different Regional competitions, sending five teams out to compete. "A" team captain Ian Hunley '16, Sam Holder '17, Christopher Meadows '18, Daniel Elliott '19, Jamarr McCain '19 each received an All Region Attorney award and Keri Roberson '16, Alec Pollard '17 and Anna Baker-Olsen '19 secured an All Region Witness award from these competitions.

Next, Rhodes hosted its own competition, part of the Open Round Championship Series. While competing at the Shelby County Courthouse, "A" team captain Ian Hunley '16, Erin Bailey '17, and Jennifer Bitterly '18 all received an Outstanding Attorney award. "A" team witness Fisher Smith '19 secured his first Outstanding Witness award, alongside "B" team captain Sean Mattheisen '18.

Finally, two Rhodes teams advanced to the National Championship Tournament competing against 24 other teams from top schools across the nation. Team "A" faced the University of Michigan, Howard University, Columbia University and Yale University and placed 7th in their division by the end of the tournament. Team "B" team faced the University of Chicago, Duke University, Boston University and Cornell University and placed 21st in their division. While in Greenville, Jennifer Bitterly '18 was also recognized as an "All-American" Attorney as a sophomore, joining the top mock trial attorneys in the nation!

After many years of dedicated leadership and talent, Rhodes Mock Trial wishes a warm thank you and farewell to its seniors, attorney Ian Hunley and witness Keri Roberson. The mock trial team would also like to extend their gratitude and sincere appreciation to Professors Anna Smith (Director of Mock Trial), and Dr. Mark Pohlmann, along with multiple different team coaches and program alumni, whose continued dedication, passion and service to us is unparalleled.



Rhodes A: Ian Hunley (captain), Meredith Clement, Daniel Elliott, Sam Holder, Hannah Hornsey, Connor Hurley, Keri Roberson, and Fisher Smith. Alternates were Kelsey McClain, Anna Olsen, and Ried Roshong. Rhodes A is coached by Anna Smith and Mark Pohlmann.



Rhodes B: Sean Mattheisen (captain), Erin Bailey, Jennifer Bitterly, Turner Booth, Ethan Fox, Chris Meadows, Jamarr McCain, Zach Monroe, Ashley Plunk, Lillie Stephens. Alternate was Corbin Eilmers. Rhodes B is coached by Mathew Jehl.

Alumni News

Megha Fernandes '15

This past year, Megha began work at Ricon Strategies.

Mary Frances Dunlap '12

Currently pursuing an MLitt in Theology, Imagination and the Arts, at St Andrews University.

Stephanie Shackelford '98

After a career in domestic politics (campaigns, US Senate, TN legislature), Stephanie recently transitioned into the international arena of democracy and governance development. Currently working in Ukraine, she was previously posted in South Sudan, Somaliland and Uganda.

Evan Cope '98

Evan was elected chair of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission in 2015.

Gordon Conaway '08

Gordon started a new job in Nashville with DTZ, an international property management and brokerage company, in June.

Timothy Pruitt '07

Timothy is an assistant principal at KIPP Memphis Collegiate Schools.

Carrie A. Russell '97

Carrie was named Director of Undergraduate Studies in Fall 2014 for the Department of Political Science and currently serves as the Director of Pre-Law Advising at Vanderbilt University.

Please send us any information about your own events and accomplishments as we would love to share those with your fellow departmental alums! Those can be emailed to Jackie Baker (bakerj@rhodes.edu). If you are ever on campus please drop by to see us!



Traveling Abroad with Maymester

Rhodes College offered students the opportunity to broaden their horizons in the class "Healthy Cities: The Political Economy of Urban Policymaking." This course introduced students to the political and economic forces that shape urban policy through a study abroad experience from May 19th to June 9th of 2015 in London, England and Glasgow, Scotland led by Professor Peter Hossler (Urban Studies) and Professor Renée J. Johnson (Political Economy).



Student News Class of 2016

Following graduation, **Keri Roberson** will be teaching at an international school in Bangkok, Thailand starting in August, 2016.

Ali Swee worked as the media secretary of the Rhodes Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) team and spent a summer in Washington, DC interning for a media watchdog group. This led to pursuing a career in Washington. Ali is now working as coordinator of fundraising at Targeted Victory, a political consulting firm. In the fall, Ali will be attending law school at the Catholic University of America.

Tony Hanna spent the summer after his sophomore year in Durban, South Africa, where he observed de facto segregation, particularly in education. Following graduation, in the fall, he will be attending the Harvard Graduate School of Education to study international education policy.

Akville Zakarauskaite spent two semesters and summers abroad. During her semesters in the Balkans and Rwanda, Akville studied conflict and post-conflict transformation and conducted field research on the development of minority political parties in Bosnia and Rwanda. After interning at the Rincon Strategy Firm this spring, Akville has accepted a position to continue working there after graduation.

Alex Dileo currently serves on the board of Memphis Area Women's Council. At Rhodes, she co-founded Culture of Consent, served on Rhodes Student Government and V-Day, was an RSA in Career Services, and was the 2014 coordinator for the Summer Service

Fellowship Program. Alex plans to pursue graduate work in public policy with a focus on gender-based violence and queer rights.

During her time at Rhodes, **Megan Singer** has acted as PanHellenic Council Vice President of Administration, Peer Advocate Center Director, Rhodes College Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature Vice President, and President of the Social Regulations Council.

After graduation, **Brooke Kuminski** will be working at a government affairs firm known as "The Cyber, Space and Intelligence Association" in Washington, D.C.. Brooke will also be attending graduate school on scholarship at the Institute of World Politics.

Eric Adamcik will be attending Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York to study Interreligious Engagement and work towards a Master of Divinity and ordination as a university chaplain in the

Presbyterian Church (USA).

Tiana Winstead is going to the University of Hawaii's Law School at Mano's William S. Richardson School of Law for International Law, specializing in Asian/Pacific Law.

Laura Oxford will be working as Business Development Associate with Decision Sciences outside of D.C. and will be volunteering for George Washington University's Kappa Delta chapter in D.C..

This year, **Brooks Lamb** was recognized as a Truman Scholar, one of 52 in the nation.

Charlie Kelly will be attending the University of Alabama Law School.

Caroline Ponseti will be working as a press assistant for the House Committee on Veteran Affairs.

Zach Karlan will be attending the Tulane Law School.

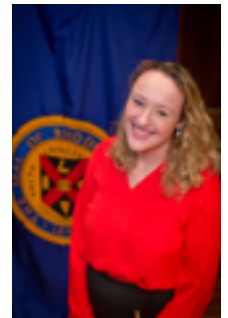
Annelise Blair will be working at Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C..



Political Science award winners (2016)
Left to right: Molly Mugford, Daniel Elliott, Connor Hurley, Lillie Stephens, Rebekah Birch, Ann Baker-Olsen, Alex Dileo.



Senior Seidman Award winner, Alexandra Dileo



Abe Fortas Award winner, Molly Mugford

2015-2016 Department Awards

SENIOR SEIDMAN AWARD

Alexandra C. Dileo (Alex)

MIKE CODY AWARD

Paul R. Brandt

FIRST-YEAR SEIDMAN AWARD

Anna D. Baker-Olsen
Rebekah D. Birch
Joshua D. Elliott (Daniel)
Connor N. Hurley
Lillie J. Stephens

ABE FORTAS AWARD

Molly A. Mugford

CHARLIE COOK AWARD

Charles J. Kelley (Charlie)
Tiana L. Winstead

Honor Society Inductees

Paul R. Brandt '16 (Mus & IS/POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha
Ian R. Hunley '16 (His) – Pi Sigma Alpha
Keri A. Roberson '16 (IS/POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha
Sydney N. Sepulveda '16 (URB) – Pi Sigma Alpha
Molly A. Mugford '16 (POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha
Carly E. Jonakin '16 (IS/POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha
Christopher A. Dunbar '16 (POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha
Kirkwood M. Vangeli '17 (POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha, Mortar Board, Phi Beta Kappa

Kristen G. Shackelford '17 (POLS) – Pi sigma Alpha
Samuel J. Holder '17 (POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha, Mortar Board
Jolie-Grace Wareham '17 (POLS) – Pi Sigma Alpha, ODK, Mortar Board
Breanna R. Sommers '17 (EDUS, POLS Minor) – Pi Sigma Alpha, Mortar Board
Thomas Koelbl '16 (POLS) – Omicrom Delta Kappa
McKenzie Drake '17 (POLS) – Mortar Board
Akville Zakarauskaite '16 (IS/POLS) – Dobro Slovo

Other Awards

Akville Zakarauskaite '16 (IS/POLS) – Anne Rorie Memorial Award
Tiana L. Winstead '16 (IS/POLS) – Thakker-Free-man Chinese Studies Award
Paul R. Brandt '16 (MUS & IS/POLS) – Louis Nicholas Award in Vocal Music
Alex Dileo '16 (POLS) – Susan Tidball Means Award
Caroline Reed '16 (POLECON) – Thomas M. Garrott Award

Rhodes College Hall of Fame Members

Alex Dileo '16
Catherine Miller '16
Megan Singer '16