

# The Sou'wester

AN ALL-AMERICAN  
COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

## More than 140 Characters



"NEW PROFESSOR": Zandria Robinson in the Anthro and Soc dept.

Photo by Memphis Urban News

BY JOSEPH GROSS '17  
STAFF WRITER

"Oh, fuck, I'm not reading this."

That was sociologist Dr. Zandria Robinson's initial thought when she saw the headline "Another prof. blasts whites on social media" on a Campus-Reform.org article about her. More articles followed. Some falsely reported she had been fired from the University of Memphis over her Twitter activity. Others covered her employment at Rhodes College, which conservative blog the Daily Caller described as a "Fancypants College that's 77 PERCENT WHITE." Prominent conservatives from Rush Limbaugh to Rhodes's own Professor John Murray criticized her heavily publicized tweets concerning white terrorism following the Charleston church massacre. But when Dr. Robinson composed her tweets, she didn't anticipate that reac-

tion.

"I wasn't thinking they'd be taken that way," she said, "particularly I wasn't thinking of them being taken out of the broader context in which they were delivered. But I do expect people who are bent on not understanding not to understand - people for whom to understand what I'm saying would create some cognitive dissonance in their own lives, and their heads would explode." She likened such people to Dave Chappelle's "Clayton Bigsby" character, a blind klansman who doesn't know he's black, also referencing Will Smith's role in Independence Day to make her point.

The pop culture analogies reflect her scholarly interests, as Dr. Robinson explores the oft-ignored intersection of black identity and Southern identity, keeping media study a central feature of her work: "I try to figure out what messages are being put out about what

black Southern identity is. Of course Tyler Perry is a huge part of that. Outkast is a huge part of that. Recently, I've been thinking a lot about Big K.R.I.T.'s work... I'm thinking about how people are producing black Southern identity in the mediasphere, the public sphere, and also how it's being produced by everyday folks in their interactions with other people."

Bringing that research here to Rhodes, Dr. Robinson, a lifelong Memphian, reflected on how she's seen the institution evolve:

"In '99 or 2000 when I'm looking at colleges I came to tour the Rhodes campus... and I just was struck by how fucking white it was. Now you've got a more diverse student body that's more reflective of our country. Now you're getting more diverse programming that's thinking about these big questions, and I am just really proud of that. They've been at it for a long time... Of course there are some underlying things that need to be addressed as the Yik-Yak "scandal" last year indicated. There's still some stuff that needs to be worked on, but these are exactly the tensions that you would expect to happen as a place is changing, as people are trying to be better folk. It's like working out at the gym: it hurts when you first start back and you're building muscle, and you're going to make missteps, but it's gonna get better. I really do feel that, and as a person who doesn't typically feel that, that's a remarkable thing."

## Walmart Diaries

BY JACK PATTON '18  
STAFF WRITER

Melvin dropped the plums, turned and looked at me, and asked, "Why are we doing this? Why am I here? Why am I even alive?"

Over the summer I worked as a temporary associate at a neighborhood Walmart. Melvin worked with me. When our supervisor told us that we would have to re-organize the fresh produce section for the third time that week, Melvin experienced an existential crisis. We had done nothing wrong.

Our supervisors just could not figure out how they wanted the fruits arranged. Consequently, our countless hours spent picking up fruit and gently placing it down had accomplished nothing. This was the norm at Walmart. The work consisted almost entirely of redoing pointless, tedious tasks.

Often, we would have to work in the Walmart parking lot trailers holding the remodel materials. Of course, we senselessly rearranged the trailers, too.

One 97-degree day, Melvin was sent outside to wait on his supervisor to do this, but his supervisor did not come out until an hour later. When he finally did, Melvin asked him if he could have some water.

That night Melvin got a call notifying him of his dismissal. His supervisor told us that he was fired for "complaining too much."

As temporary workers, we were like human cogs that could be easily and efficiently swapped out of the corporate machine that is Walmart. If we were not willing or able to do the job, they could have our replacement there the next morning. The work would continue with or without us.

Before he got fired from Walmart, Melvin taught me the definition of a fish: it is "someone who pays \$350 for a fake Gucci belt that only cost \$20." According to Melvin, we were fish.

Eventually I left Walmart to come back to school. However, Melvin does not go to college. He is stuck as an hourly worker.

While I aspire to be a lawyer, Melvin dreams of getting a \$12/hr job at a plant. Last time I talked to him, he was still searching for a new job.

## Summer Construction: Robertson

BY RACHEL NELSON '17  
STAFF WRITER

If you've been on campus longer than two minutes, you've probably noticed the eight-foot-tall wooden fence that now encases the Barret Lawn. As saddening as it is to return to campus and to discover that we've lost the space that so many students use for dog-walking and ultimate frisbee, it means that Rhodes is one step closer to building Robertson Hall. Construction of the new science building officially began this past June, starting with the erection of the wall (which could also serve as a great venue for public art from students.



Continued on page 2 "MASSIVE PIT": Construction began on Robertson Hall over the summer

Photo by Rachel Nelson



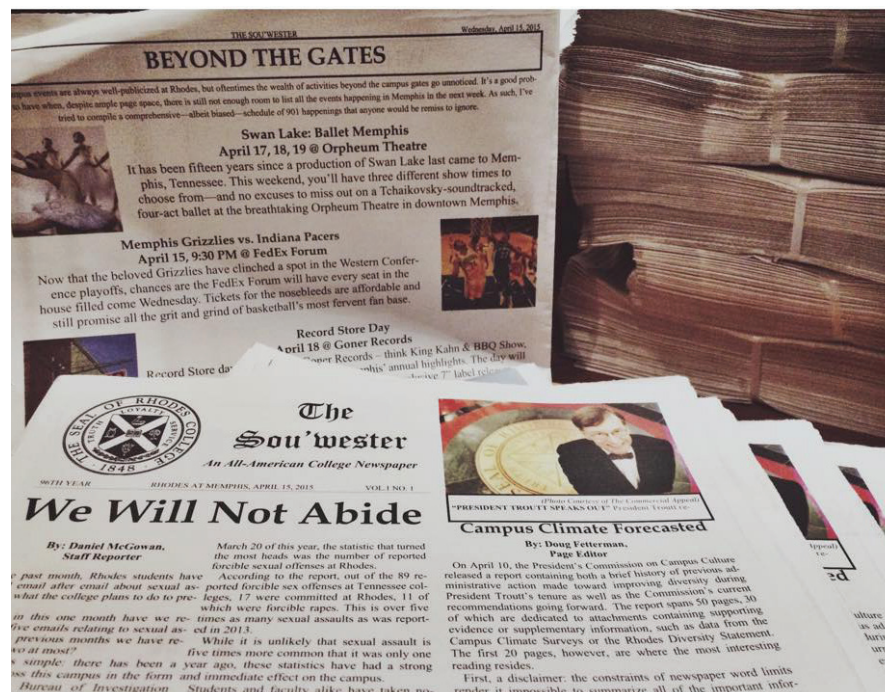
## NEWS

# Letter from the Editors

"The very best of evenings to you! [...] Now... to our new students, welcome, to our old students, welcome back! Another year full of magical education awaits you..."

-Dumbledore

Hold on, y'all. We know the buildings look similar, and the professors may be magical, but this paper you're reading does not have moving pictures. Rather, this paper has moving stories: we are *The Sou'Wester*, reborn just six short months ago. Last fall, the Rhodes community underwent some challenging events, events that necessitated above all else a newspaper to communicate their gravity to the administration, the faculty, the staff and the students. Without a weekly, reliable newspaper, this campus might find itself unable to empathize within the Rhodes community as well as within the Memphis community beyond. Empathy among students, faculty and staff breeds understanding and acceptance of individuals. When individuals feel connected to one another in a supportive manner,



there exists a community, and not just any community, a strong community. However, Rhodes College cannot create that strong community by ignoring its location, in the heart of Midtown, in the heart of Memphis. Memphis sup-

ports Rhodes students not only after graduation by providing jobs but also throughout each student's time here with greater community involvement opportunities, fantastic local food establishments and the rich character of

a uniquely "itself" city.

*The Sou'Wester* reformed last March to kickstart the pursuit of a stronger community. Our newspaper includes sections like "Within the Gates" as well as "Beyond the Gates" that bridge the College and the Memphis beyond, in the hope that they not be separate but rather collaborative entities, working together in pursuit of the betterment of all those within the city limits. So, yeah, maybe owls don't deliver this paper, but Rhodes students do, bringing to you the life of this campus — the hoo, what, when, where and how.

Peace,

Zoe Laulederkind '18

Doug Fetterman '16

Ally Limmer '16

*Editors-in-Chief*

## Robertson Renovation: Cont.

*Continued from Page 1*

Several sidewalks around the area near Rhodes Tower and Briggs Student Center have also been closed off due to the construction, making the trek from the east side of campus to the library just that much harder. To address pedestrian detours, Clough Lane, located in front of Robinson Hall, was reopened as a temporary road that will remain until Robertson is finished in the summer of 2017.

In other news, the mailroom has been permanently moved to the lower level of Burrow Hall. Unlike

the temporary inconvenience of Robertson Hall, this brings a more efficient mail center to campus. Students will be notified exclusively by email when mail or a package is waiting for them, eliminating the all-too-familiar awkwardness of staring into an empty mailbox. While some of these changes may seem jarring, it's important that those of us who have seen campus in its Geodome glory days to remember that all of these changes will make Rhodes more exceptional than it is already. All transition periods - and that the blindingly white fence - are only temporary.



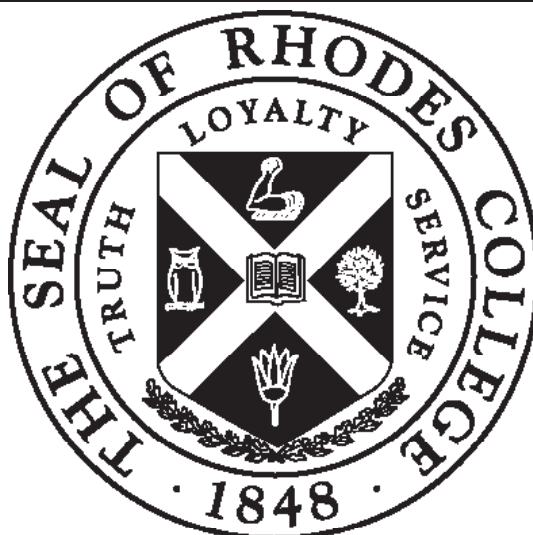
### Staff of *The Sou'Wester*

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*Interested in joining The Sou'Wester? Have any stories you think need a voice? Comments/concerns?*

*Contact either Doug Fettermann (fetda-16) or Zoe Laulederkind (lauzk-18)*

*Find us on Instagram @souwesternnews and Facebook at*

*<https://www.facebook.com/souwesternnewspaper>*



## WITHIN THE GATES

### From the Commissioner...

With a name like the “Allocations Board,” many Rhodes students find themselves needing a dictionary if they are even to begin to understand what our organization does.

Honestly, most seniors graduate still not understanding how we function or what our role is on campus. So then, what exactly do we, the Allocations Board, do?

The Allocations Board is one of the four governing bodies at Rhodes College, alongside the Rhodes Student Government, Honor Council and Social Regulations Council.

Run by students and for students, this Board is entrusted with a small portion of each student's tuition (known as the Student Activity Fee) to be allocated specifically to student organizations, an amount totaling over \$400,000.

This system creates a campus on which students have the ability to sponsor events that they see as appropriate and fun. Additionally, it gives students the opportunity to develop the college campus that they envision. For instance, if you are walking around at the SACK Fair on Thursday and feel that something is missing from our school that would make your college experience more enjoyable, create it!

Through RSG any student at Rhodes can start a unique student organization, and through the Allocations Board that student organization can begin to make a difference.

As we begin this academic year, the Allocations Board will be looking for two freshman representatives. If you are interested, please watch for emails regarding Fall General Elections!

These two freshmen will have the opportunity to become a part of a Board that one senior cited as having “the most positive impact on [her] Rhodes career.”

Sincerely,  
Ally Limmer  
Allocations Board Commissioner

### Intro to Rhodes Student Government

Howdy, First Years! Do you enjoy staying informed about happenings on campus? Do you like being the person that people turn to when they have questions? If so, then RSG may just be the organization for you!

We meet weekly to discuss issues relevant to student life and strive to improve your Rhodes experience. Senators engage in discussions and create action plans ranging from things like the meal plan all the way to major issues with campus culture.

Some of the things RSG is entrusted with include homecoming, new student organizations, improvement of dining services, campus life awards, facilitating officer elections, viewing and voting on Allocations Board budgets, serving as a space for students to freely express their opinions, co-sponsoring events with Career Services such as the Major & Minor Fair, helping control library usage during finals and countless other activities!

This year we hope to build on the great work we did last year. Some of the goals we have outlined include improving the transparency of the decision making process of the College, creating a safer campus climate through working with the President's Commission on Sexual Assault and upholding our commitment to diversity through partnerships with multicultural organizations.

The structure of RSG consists of the Student Senate, which consists of five representatives elected from each class in addition to other elected and appointed officials. If you still have questions, feel free to contact a Senator or read our inRhodes page. If you're interested in running for office, check us out at SACK Fair, or email our Elections Commissioner, Rachel Harris! Also, be sure to look for our weekly articles right here in The Sou'Wester.

Best,  
Adil Khan, RSG Preseident



"THE GYM": The Bryan Campus Life Center

Photo Courtesy of D-Lynx

## Rhodes Tour Guide Gives Extensive Information on Gym That You Will Visit Only Once

BY MEAGHAN PICKLES '19  
SATIRE WRITER

As part of a comprehensive effort to expose prospective students to Rhodes College's thriving campus life, tour guides at the institution were specifically instructed to give a detailed outline of the Bryan Campus Life Center, a facility you will visit only once, if at all, during your time at the school.

"And here we come upon our newly renovated gymnasium, complete with an indoor track, racquetball courts, and a multisport forum," said Monica Alvarez,

a sprightly tour guide who believes she is getting paid for this. "There's no better place to socialize and interact with fellow students, except one of our many dining halls, food courts, or snack bars."

Despite the College's best efforts to lay bare the potential of their 7,000 square-foot fitness room for your health and wellbeing, you will, in fact, systematically remove yourself from "get in shape" group messages with new friends within a relatively short time at Rhodes and gradually distance yourself from the roughly 25% of students involved in extracurricular sports at the school.

The tour reached its pinnacle when the guide unveiled the ultimate revelation that the BCLC was in fact adjacent to Rhodes's outdoor athletic facilities. This gleaned an appropriately awed reaction from the high school students in attendance, most of whom will never step foot in the gym unless their secret crush is into athletic types or they get a disturbing lecture from their doctor.

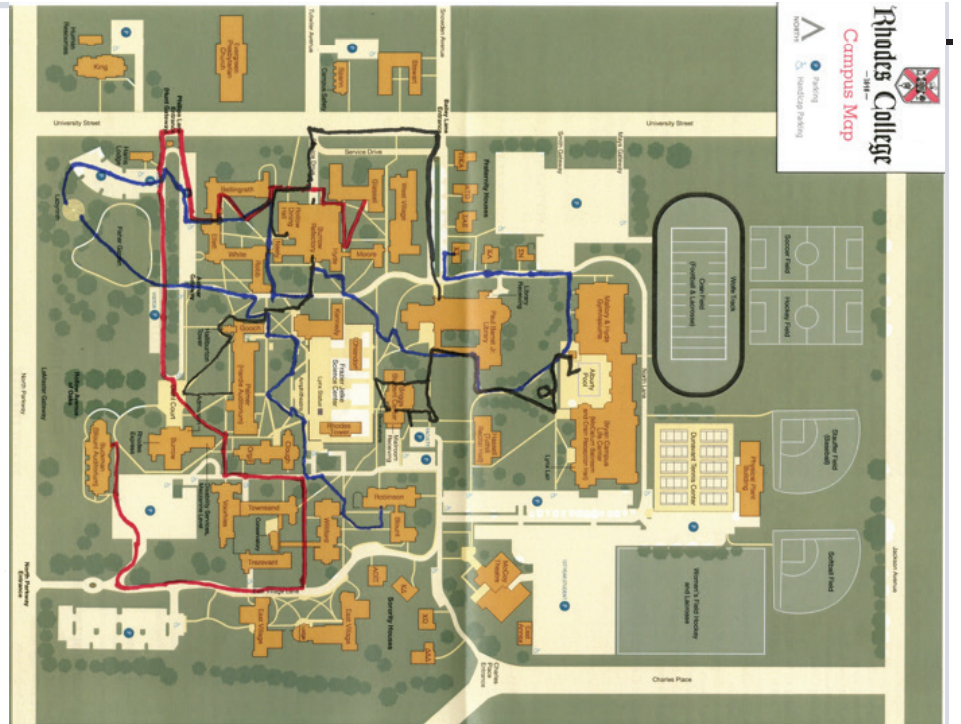
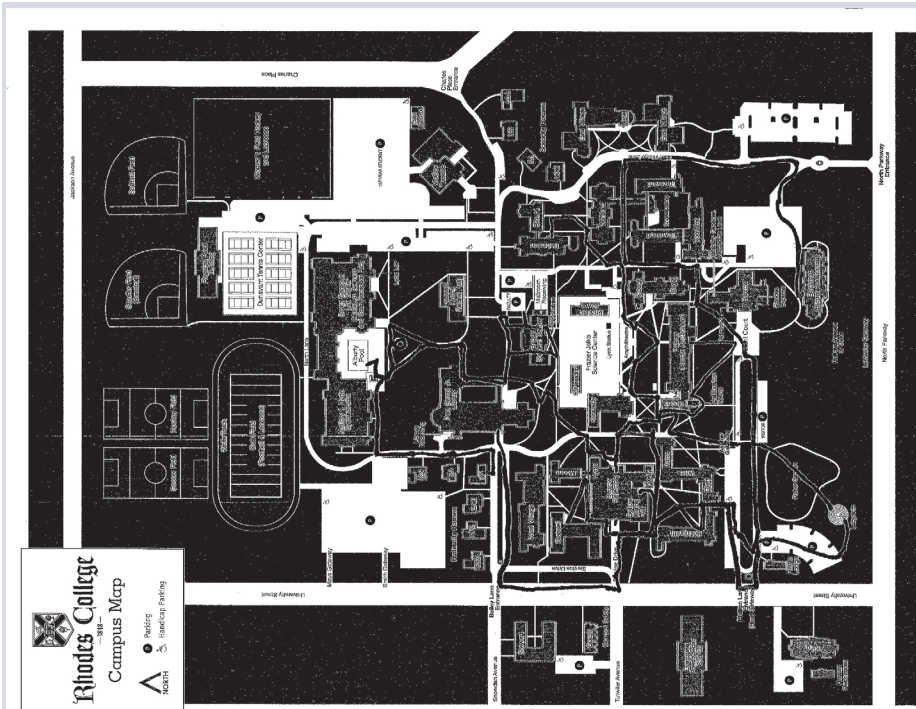
The tour only wrapped up after it had explored every available crevice of the BCLC, stubbornly dismissing the blatant fact that if you ever go there, it will only be in one of your earliest and most naive moments

as a college student. Noting that you can "step out of your comfort zone" and "try sports that divert from your normal workout routine," Alvarez succeeded in ignoring the reality that you will be a thrillingly rare visitor to the gym and, furthermore, will be entirely sustained by a diet of pizza and stale beer in a perpetual state of diabetes-themed "Jenga".

Alvarez went on to stress the variety of activities accommodated in Rhodes's state-of-the-art facilities, ranging from basketball and volleyball to golf and tennis, before adding, "But, seriously, who are we kidding?"



# WITHIN THE GATES



"I'M THE MAP": From left, Rhodes by Night, Rhodes by Day

Photo By Christian Wiggs

## Fresh Routes

By TAYLOR WIGGS '18

Satire Writer

A droning of power-tools echoes from the newly dug pit, warning drowsy passers-by that they'll have to forge a new path to that 8 a.m. The naked earth is no place for Chaco-ed feet.

For now, the construction of Robertson Hall and renovations around Ohlendorf mean headaches for students who'd normally use paths here in the heart of campus. We've drawn up a little map highlighting some alternative routes to guide wandering readers.

- 1.) Robinson to Kappa Sig - Residents of Robinson Hall will be among the most inconvenienced by sprouting sciences at Rhodes. Fledgling freshman venturing to the KD house, the blue route's just for you.
- 2.) Glassell to Buckman - Freshman of The Castle excited to attend Search plenaries will find their most direct route to Buckman obstructed by metal fences around Ohlendorf. The new red route avoids the trouble spots and gets you there right on time.
- 3.) Palmer to the pool - After an early morning exploring the breadth of foreign language, you might find yourself wanting for a dip in the Alburty Pool. With your swimsuit itching under your classroom clothes, schlepp yourself along the black route to find cool waters.

## DIY: Summer Fellowships

By KIM MACHARIA '18

STAFF WRITER

A fellowship offers students an exciting chance formally to extend their academic experience beyond the walls of a traditional classroom. Most RRhodonts are aware of the opportunities available to apply for established fellowships like the St. Jude Summer Plus Program, the Summer Service Fellowship, and CODA Fellowships, yet strangely enough, many remain ignorant of the option to create your own fellowship.

Designing your own fellowship allows you to pursue a personal interest by creating a project with a concrete goal. For example, my newly funded fellowship entitled "A Cultural Critique On American Values Through Comedy" lets me use ethnographic research to write a comedic screenplay each semester for two years. To apply for my fellowship, I first had to find a faculty or staff member to serve as my advisor whose knowledge complemented the focus

of the fellowship. The fellowship staff are also available to assist in this first and crucial step.

We then collaborated in order to create a competitive application with a reasonable funding request. After submitting my application for a summer fellowship, we patiently waited until we received an email from Dr. Garner, Director of Fellowships, detailing the committee's decision. Unfortunately due to a major increase in competition for funding, my fellowship was not approved. However, I made adjustments to application based according to the committee's recommendations and received funding for a fall fellowship.

Whether or not you choose to participate in a fellowship during your academic career, you can still embody the department's motto: "Plant. Reflect. Grow." in any and all aspects of your undergraduate journey. More information on the Fellowships Program can be found on the department's page on InRhodes.



Meet the editors at the S.A.C.K. Fair!



## RHODES: THEN & NOW

# Rhodes: An Introduction

BY DOUG FETTERMAN '16

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A new year has arrived and 500 first-years are milling around aimlessly, holding out their hands and asking the obligatory polite questions: "What's your name?" "Where are you from?" "Where'd you get your Lexus?" From such deep questions are everlasting friendships made...for the duration of the first month of class. But many students forget they are

also entering into a relationship with our school, one based on mutual respect and shared interest. Rhodes chose you, you chose Rhodes and you gave them a pile of money so that they will love you long time. I fear, however, that you have not been properly introduced. And so this is you, sitting atop the giant bronze lynx and letting it take you on a wild, info-packed mosey through history.

Like many new acquaintances, Rhodes's backstory is more fascinating than it appears. Our venerable institution has not always been named "Rhodes College," and it has not always been located in Memphis. It traces its roots back to the Rural Academy founded in 1806 in the town of Clarksville, Tenn. Later renamed Clarksville Male Academy (CMA), the first glimmer of higher education in Clarksville came with the establishment of the Masonic University of Tennessee in conjunction with CMA in 1848 (the date on our seal). The university was housed in a castle-like building named, in keeping with our love for creativity, "The Castle Building." The Masons proved to be poor financial stewards of the college, which forced President Stewart to negotiate a deal with the Presbyterian Synod of Nashville for the purchase of the school. The college was then named Stewart College and added the equally creatively named Stewart Hall to its list of buildings.

For six years the college grew, until a "civil" squabble between northern and southern states forced all but two of the students to join the military. The college buildings were used as barracks and a hospital for both the Union and Confederate armies during the conflict. This service left Stewart College a bit worse for the wear, so it did not reopen until 1869. Yet again in 1875, following the decision by the Presbyterian Synods of Nashville, Memphis, Alabama and Mississippi to consolidate their school funding into just one university, the school was again reborn as Southwestern Presbyterian University. The college prospered through the turn of the century, admitting women on the same terms as men in 1916.

In 1919, it was proposed that the university be moved to Memphis, and by 1923 construction begins in Memphis on what will become Palmer Hall. The move was precipitated under the guiding vision of university president Dr. Charles Diehl, who was largely responsible for creating Rhodes as we know it today. Once established in Memphis in 1925, our college was called Southwestern, the College of the Mississippi Valley (hence Sou'wester, the newspaper). Using stone from the same quarry in Arkansas, the buildings were constructed in a uniform Collegiate-Gothic style. Dr. Diehl retired in 1949 after renaming the college Southwestern at Memphis, and was replaced by Peyton Nalle Rhodes. Not to make light of the 20th century, but a list of building dedications and organizational changes is mind-numbing after a while, and you are riding on the back of a bronze lynx, which refuses to bore you. One last fact: the most recent name change occurred in 1984, when Southwestern at Memphis became Rhodes College. I leave you with this list of first-year regulations from 1954 – be grateful our college likes to change. (SEE PHOTO TO LEFT)

will not be worn during chapel, in classrooms, in laboratories or when engaged in athletics.

2. Large legible signs, at least eight inches by twelve inches in size, must be worn, bearing the student's name and that of his home town.

3. The west and north doors of Palmer Hall may not be used by all new students during the hazing period.

4. A test will be given to freshmen concerning material in this handbook during the orientation period.

5. No emblems, marks, letters, or pins of high schools may be worn at Southwestern.

6. Freshmen will at all times attempt to grow up.

7. At no time will freshmen be allowed to walk on the grass anywhere on the campus during the hazing period.

8. ALL NEW STUDENTS WILL SPEAK TO EVERYONE ON THE CAMPUS and learn the names of all the seniors.

9. All new students are required to be able to sing the Alma Mater and Fight Song by Sept. 22.

10. All new students will be held responsible for any questions pertaining to this handbook.

11. Freshmen men are to answer the telephone in the men's dormitories at all times.

12. Freshmen are required to remain seated until upperclassmen have left the auditorium after all chapel services.

13. Freshmen should expect to be hazed by upperclassmen. This will include such things as entertainment in chapel, after dinner singing, carrying of books, etc.

14. Transfers will adhere to rules 2, 4, 8, and 10.

15. All new students are to get the signatures of 50 seniors, 50 juniors, and 50 sophomores.

16. All new students will be required to attend all football games. THE ROLL WILL BE TAKEN.

Upon failure to live up to these regulations and requirements, a girl will be brought before the Women's Undergraduate Board.

Boys will be brought before a committee composed of the Vice President of the Student Body and members of the Sanhedrin.

Written reports of violations should give the violator's name and the offense.

KEEP THIS BOOK WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!



RHODES: THEN & NOW





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**SPORTS**

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# *First Home Games of the Fall Season*



*SEPTEMBER 1 - 7 P.M.*  
*Women's Volleyball*  
*vs.*  
*Bellhaven University*



*SEPTEMBER 5 - 11 A.M.*  
*Field Hockey*  
*vs.*  
*The Catholic University*  
*of America*



*SEPTEMBER 5 - 12 P.M.*  
*Women's Soccer*  
*vs.*  
*University of the Ozarks*



*SEPTEMBER 5 - 4 P.M.*  
*Men's Soccer*  
*vs.*  
*Austin College*

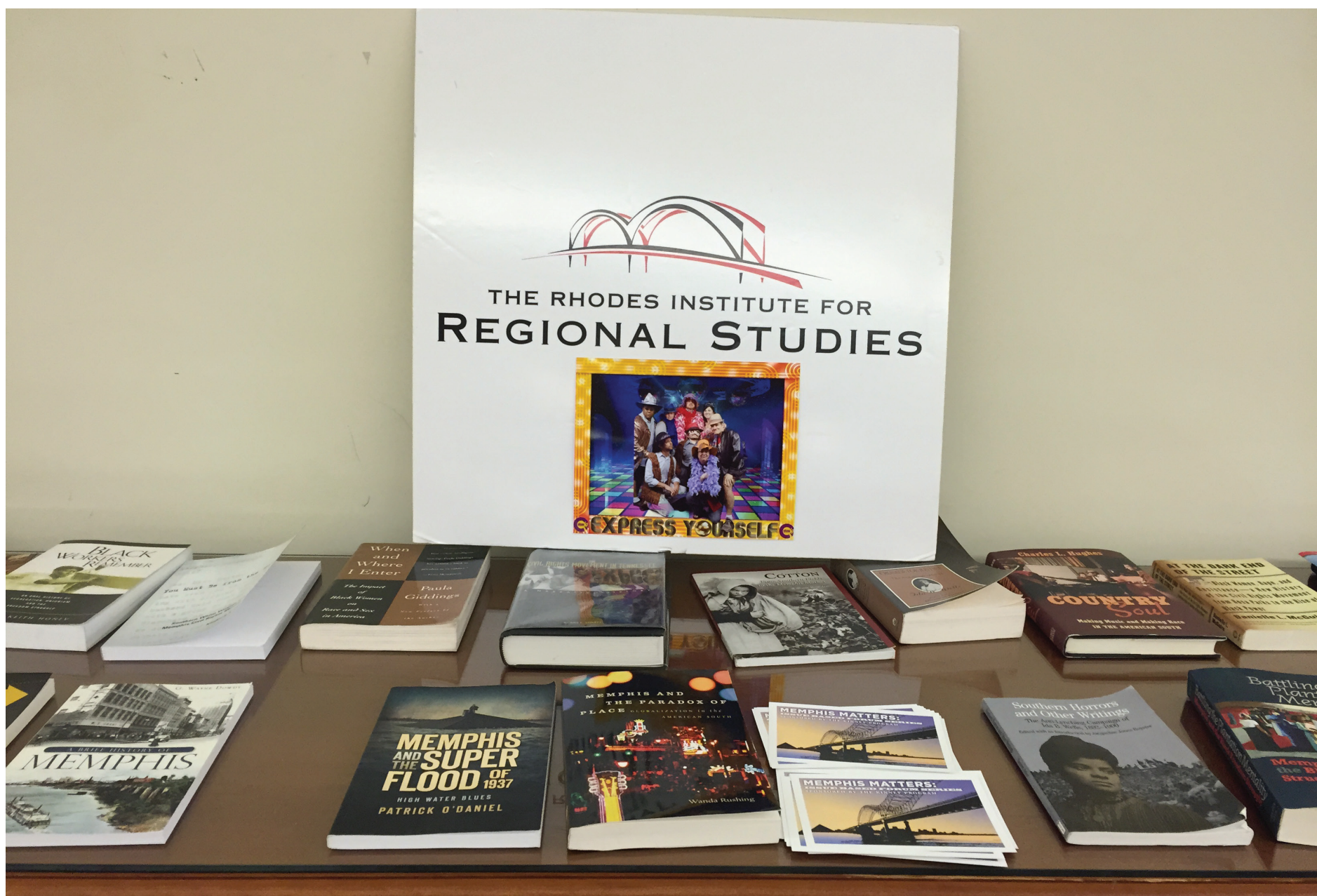


*SEPTEMBER 5 - 1 P.M.*  
*Football*  
*vs.*  
*Southern Virginia*  
*University*





## BEYOND THE GATES



"HIDDEN GEM": Rhodes Institute Display in the Memphis Center

Photo By Zoe Laudederkind

# Rhodents Research Memphis

By JULIAN ROBY '16

STAFF WRITER

The Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies is perhaps one of the most prestigious yet unintentionally hidden gems within the Rhodes College Community. For eight weeks students are paired with a faculty advisor who guides them in a research project that is both original and ground-breaking. As a scholar, the student consistently grapples with questions like "what does this mean for the school, city, region?" The twenty students chosen each year for the Institute combine an array of different interests and insights, challenging and assisting one another.

Whether a student-scholar researches folk music origins of the Ozark Mountains, police brutality in Memphis, the segregation patterns of churches or punk rock in Memphis, all of these projects prove necessary as the students work tirelessly

to produce anything from a paper to a documentary, a website or even a live performance.

The process of joining the Institute begins in the Fall by attending one of the informational sessions, where alumni and faculty advisors can share their experience participating in the program. I was particularly struck by a project focused on infant mortality rate in Memphis. After attending the informational meeting and developing an idea for a project, I spoke with an advisor aligned with my interest. The conversation precipitated my thesis, which was due in February.

Around the middle of March, students are notified of their acceptance to or rejection from the program. Although preference is given to rising juniors and seniors, it is not unusual to have a rising sophomore selected. Upon acceptance, the real journey begins in one form or another. For me it was finding as much research on

health in Memphis as I could, consulting with faculty in the Urban Studies and Anthropology and Sociology Departments as to where to find legitimate sources.

The official program begins the second week of July, though during the first week of the program, almost no formal research is done. Rather this week is vital to gaining an understanding of Memphis and the Mid-South. While exploring Beale Street, a Memphis City School or the Mississippi Delta, the orientation week of the program allows the students to explore where they want to take their project.

Additionally, students spend some time with their fellow researchers, as they share ideas and interests. After that initial week, participants are swept into their individual projects as well as weekly collaborative meetings and dinner panels from professionals in Memphis on labor, education, housing and religion. The final week of the program, the scholars present their

projects.

As a result of participation in the Institute, I have learned a lot about independent research and some of its challenges and rewards. I can confidently say that I have produced a 40-page research paper, which is a great selling point for graduate school applications. My research is also being assigned to a History of Memphis course this Fall. This program has helped shape my research interests and has allowed me to gain an intimate experience in research.

I have also had the opportunity to make connections in Memphis both with grassroots and local government organizations. I would highly suggest the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies to any student who is passionate about something that they want to explore - this is a great opportunity to do so.