

Rhodes

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Rhodes College
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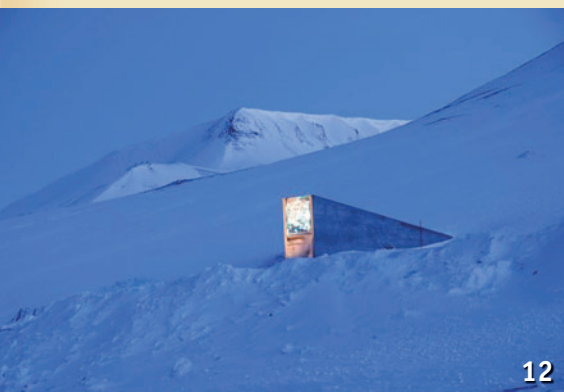
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Photography by Baxter Buck

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EDITOR

Martha Hunter Shepard '66

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Larry Ahokas

Robert Shatzer

RHODES ASSOCIATE

Rachel L. Stinson '08

CONTRIBUTORS

**Baxter Buck, Justin Fox Burks,
Daney Daniel Kepple**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Please address postal correspondence to:
Martha H. Shepard, Editor, Rhodes Magazine,
Rhodes College, 2000 N. Parkway,
Memphis, TN 38112-1690.

E-mail: magazine@rhodes.edu

Phone: (901) 843-3544

Fax: (901) 843-3553.

CLASS NOTES:

Please send all Class Notes including marriages, births and obituaries to:
Alumni Office, Rhodes College, 2000 N.
Parkway, Memphis, TN 38112-1690.

Phone: (901) 843-3845

Fax: (901) 843-3474.

E-mail: alumni@rhodes.edu

RHODES ALUMNI OFFICE:

1 (800) 264-LYNX

RHODES ADMISSIONS OFFICE:

1 (800) 844-LYNX

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:
RHODES, 2000 North Parkway,
Memphis, TN 38112-1690

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Please mail the completed form below and label from this issue of RHODES to:
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Talk Back

Look for the Talk Back feature at the end of online articles. Send us your comments and view other reader responses.

Spence AND Becky Webb Wilson

Memphis businessman Spence Wilson is a longtime member and chair of the Rhodes Board of Trustees. He is also chair of the national Campaign for Rhodes. It may surprise some people that he and his wife Becky are graduates of Vanderbilt University, where he majored in economics and business, and she majored in Spanish, minored in French and studied Russian and Portuguese.

Spence began his career in 1969 as assistant to his father Kemmons Wilson, founder of Holiday Inns. Since that time, Spence's primary focus has been in the areas of real estate development and private equity investments. As president of Memphis-based Kemmons Wilson Inc., he oversees the firm's diverse business interests.

Spence first joined the Rhodes Board of Trustees in 1971, and has served as chair for the last eight years. Becky, an attorney who served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Tennessee for several years, also founded Bridge Builders, a youth leadership program. She has served as president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and vice chair of the Vanderbilt Board of Trust, of which she is currently a member. In addition, the couple support the Spence and Rebecca Webb Wilson Fellowship in the Humanities at Vanderbilt.

So how did the Rhodes Lynx attract two devoted Commodores?

As a Rhodes trustee for a total of 37 years (with only a little time off between terms), Spence says, "Becky and I both read widely. During my last year at Vanderbilt, I became very interested in history and the humanities, and that's been the focus of most of my reading since then. You have to read about business to be in business, but reading in these other areas is where I get most of my pleasure.

"From the beginning I've always loved the Search course at Rhodes," he says. "It's a broad survey of faith, religion, philosophy and history. That just resonated with me. I thought, 'This is powerful and worth being involved in and supporting.' With courses like Search,



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Becky and Spence Wilson with President Troutt (left) at their induction into the Benefactors' Circle, fall 2007

as with many areas of life, the more you learn about something, the more you appreciate it, and the more excited you get. Finally it kind of turns into passion."

The Search course sparked their interest in Rhodes, but Memphis is what lights their fire.

"Spence and I both love Memphis so much. We both feel very strongly about improving life here as much as possible," says Becky. "Rhodes is such a jewel. It's a vital college that enlivens and refreshes this community and brings people to Memphis who often decide to stay here."

At Rhodes, as in the community, the Wilsons have a history of finding needs and providing resources to fill them. In addition to being longtime members of the Charles E. Diehl Society, they have created the Spence L. Wilson Service Scholarship Program and the Spence Wilson Faculty International Travel Fund. With their support, the Kemmons Wilson Family Foundation established a service scholarship as well. Currently, a faculty search committee is at work looking to fill the

Spence L. Wilson Distinguished Chair in Humanities.

Spence is clearly enthusiastic about the chair: “When I was thinking about what to do in the way of giving, I asked the college, ‘What are your real needs here that might intersect with my interests?’ We decided on the chair in humanities that will help the Search course and at the same time offer interdisciplinary and community-oriented initiatives.”

The idea for the faculty travel fund came to him at a board meeting a few years ago.

“I was really intrigued when some professors who had traveled to Italy spoke about how defining it was to them to have seen so many of the things they had read, thought and written about. That inspired me to figure out a way to provide some monies each year so that others could have similar experiences.”

Spence, a pilot, also greatly enjoys providing occasional side trips, like the two times he has taken physics students up in his plane to experience 0 gravity before they actually flew to perform experiments aboard NASA’s “Weightless Wonder.”

It’s the joy of learning and giving that inspires the Wilsons’ generosity.

“We’ve been very blessed, but blessings without gratitude are dead ends. We derive great satisfaction from passing them on,” says Becky.

“We are blessed,” Spence agrees. “Rhodes has had three capital campaigns since I’ve been on the board. And we feel really fortunate at this time in our lives that we’re able to do something of significance at Rhodes and Vanderbilt and are alive to see some of the fruits of our giving.” **R**

Your Annual Fund Dollars—A Living Endowment

The Annual Fund lies at the heart of the college and is vital to the Campaign for Rhodes. Serving as the college’s living endowment, it provides the necessary resources to maintain the quality of excellence our students, parents and alumni expect from Rhodes. Alumni, parents, trustees, faculty, staff, corporations, foundations and friends individually contribute between \$5 and \$100,000 each year to the Annual Fund.

These gifts provide nearly \$3 million annually to support all aspects of the college, including student scholarships and faculty support. Rhodes depends heavily on Annual Fund support; every gift, no matter the size, has a significant impact. It would take \$60 million in new endowment dollars to provide the same support the Annual Fund provides to Rhodes each year.

Fortunately, Rhodes benefits from a long history of Annual Fund support from our constituents. Since the beginning of the Campaign for Rhodes, the college has received \$ 17.5 million in gifts to the Annual Fund—more than 11 percent of the current Campaign for Rhodes total.

The success of the Rhodes Annual Fund is a result of consistent, consecutive giving. In fact, Rhodes alumni

participation (the percent of alumni who make gifts to the college) remains one of the highest in the country. Our alumni participation rate for the duration of the campaign is 71 percent, which means 8,722 alumni have made a gift at some point during the campaign.

Where We Are

(through May 15, 2008)

Cash Commitment	\$126,875,000
Deferred Commitments	\$26,900,000
Campaign Total	\$153,775,000

The Breakdown

Scholarships/ Fellowships	\$54,800,000
Academic & Faculty Support	\$77,500,000

Update: The Campaign for Rhodes

Now in full swing, the Campaign for Rhodes aims to raise \$250 million to provide funds to help attract—and retain—the very best faculty, students and staff.

For more on the exciting aspects of the campaign, please

visit “Giving to Rhodes” on the college Web site, rhodes.edu, or contact the Development Office at 901-843-3850 to learn how you can support these goals.

ARTS CENTER

By Daney Daniel Kepple



Steve Abrams, general manager of the Harris Theatre in Millennium Park, conducts tour for CODA fellows

GAIN STAGE



On an otherwise routine evening in 2004, two Texans attended a symphony concert in Dallas. As a result of their experience, the arts scene at Rhodes will never be the same.

The concert goers were Robert and Ruby Priddy whose foundation had

previously provided funding for the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies, the Rhodes St. Jude Summer Plus program and summer service fellowships. Bonner Scholarship recipients also received a generous stipend from the Priddy Foundation.

Mr. Priddy recalls that he looked around the concert hall that evening and noticed that everyone in the audience was approximately his age.

"I wondered what would become of the arts when our generation was gone," he says.

Not one to sit idly by, Priddy contacted the institutions that had responded well to his earlier generosity and asked for proposals for programs to inspire a new generation of arts leaders. A few months later, CODA (Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts) was born at Rhodes.

Now in its third year, the program is so vibrant, and has had such a profound impact on campus life, CODA

founding director Tim Sharp has a hard time forcing himself to recall the early days.

"There were no role models," says Sharp. "There was nothing like this anywhere else in the country. We had to make it up from scratch."

Sharp, who came to Rhodes in 2000, has served as the Elizabeth Gay Daughdrill Chair in the Fine Arts, dean of academic affairs for fine arts and conductor of the Rhodes Singers and MasterSingers Chorale. While he may have made CODA "up from scratch," the proof is in the pudding.

Sharp recruited John Weeden '97 as assistant director. The two immediately got the program off the ground by choosing six CODA fellows from several applicants. Leadership Memphis, a local nonprofit, was engaged to provide leadership training, and Weeden conducted a weekly two-hour practicum. Adjunct faculty members were retained in art, music and theater. The CODA



CODA students at the home of John and Neville Frierson Bryan, both '58, in Chicago, January 2008. First row, left to right—Natalija Kokoreva '10, Meghan Wilcox '11, Katharine Gentsch '11, Christine Zhu '09, Werner Viser '10, Charlotte Ashford '10, Elizabeth Tyson '02, Neville Frierson Bryan '58. Second row—John Bryan '58, Daniel Frankel '09, Andrew Whaley '08, Luke Banim '10, Lauren Kennedy '08, Crews Baggett '11, Tim Sharp, John Weeden '97

fellows traveled to New York City in January 2006 to meet with arts leaders, including Rhodes alumni/ae, and learn firsthand how things are done at the professional level in that major arts capital.

The next year the program began to grow legs. Sharp developed an interdisciplinary course, *Aesthetics and the Politics of Culture*, in collaboration with political science professor Dan Cullen and art historian David McCarthy, and the CODA staff issued a call for proposals to the entire faculty for ideas for new courses or enhanced current offerings. English painter George Shaw became the first CODA artist in residence. The *Accademia dell'Arte Summer Fine Arts Program* was established in the historic Tuscan city of Arezzo, Italy, where Rhodes students and others study art, theater, music and aesthetics. The leadership training was expanded to include listening and communication, time management, facilitation, meeting management and

conflict resolution.

An arts leadership symposium brought national arts figures to campus, and CODA presented its first Award for Outstanding Service to the Arts. The CODA fellows traveled to San Francisco, where they visited the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, American Conservatory Theater, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Magic Theatre, where they were joined by actor Bill Pullman. Artistic director Chris Smith inspired the students to think strategically about communicating their passion for the arts with the broader society. Each fellow researched one of the venues, performances or exhibitions and shared with the Rhodes student body his or her analysis of significant arts issues encountered during the trip.

This year CODA took another leap toward accomplishing its mission which, Sharp says, is “to develop students dedicated to promoting and sustaining the arts because they see the arts are vital to individuals and communities. Underlying all CODA activities is the goal of helping a broad spectrum of faculty, students and community partners discover their capacity as community advocates for the arts.”

Just before the spring semester began, Sharp and Weeden escorted the CODA fellows to Chicago where they were hosted and mentored by John '58 and Neville Frierson Bryan '58 who are major patrons of the arts. Neville is a musician and John, the former chairman of Sara Lee Corp., was a moving force behind the creation of downtown Chicago's 24.5-acre Millennium Park.

“Our previous two trips were focused on the production side and gave our students multiple opportunities to interact with working artists,” Weeden explains. “In Chicago we got an incredible behind-the-scenes look at public policy and patronage. Mr. Bryan opened many doors for us in addition to giving us the kind of access to his home and collection that nobody else gets. He and Mrs. Bryan could not have been more wonderful.”

Thanks to the Bryans' good offices, the Rhodes group got a tour of the Art Institute of Chicago by its curator of education, a behind-the-scenes tour of Millennium Park and a two-hour audience with the department heads of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.

“In Chicago there is a government mandate to provide free art to the citizens of the city because it is viewed as a public good,” Weeden continues. “We got to meet with the people who make that happen.”



Natalija Kokoreva '10, Lauren Kennedy '08 and Charlotte Ashford '10 on tour of the Art Institute of Chicago Museum with Bob Eskridge, museum curator of education



CODA fellows visit with two staffers of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs (foreground). Left to right: Charlotte Ashford '10, Natalija Kokoreva '10, Crews Baggett '11, Lauren Kennedy '08, Katharine Gentsch '11, Meghan Wilcox '11



Touring the Pritzker Pavilion in Chicago's Millennium Park



Christine Zhu '09 working with students at Springdale Elementary School. "CODA developed the model for the after-school art program which the Tri-Delta sorority now continues," says John Weeden. "That is the primary ambition of our projects—to facilitate partnerships, develop viable project models, then train others to lead the projects."

Weeden was not the only one who was impressed by the experience. For Charlotte Ashford '10, a Chicago native, it was an eye-opener.

"I always knew Chicago was cool, but I think I took it for granted," she says. "Seeing the behind-the-scenes picture and looking through the eyes of others, I was very impressed. I don't think I realized that the city wasn't always the way it is now. I definitely learned that it takes strong leaders and really committed people to create an asset like Millennium Park which, in the beginning, was envisioned as just a little park to cover up some railroad tracks. Thanks in part to Mr. Bryan, the city ended up with an internationally-acclaimed space, which is such a great thing for Chicago and its people. It all made me a little homesick even though I love being in Memphis."

Katherine Gentsch '11 terms the experience "Amazing. Entering Millennium Park was like walking into a dream. I can't even imagine pitching such an idea, but it made me raise my sights." Gentsch, whose ideal summer would include performing in a musical and traveling, pitched her own idea while on the trip.

"I talked to people at the Neo-Futurists theater group in Chicago about an internship and they were very receptive. I'm keeping my fingers crossed."

Luke Branim '10 became acutely aware of his passion for the arts during the trip. When his family moved from Memphis to Laredo, TX, his sophomore year in high school, he plunged into activities such as theater, debate and public speaking as a way to make new friends.

"I didn't think of myself as arty," he says. "In Chicago and during our conversations afterward it began to dawn on me how much I care about the arts and how much I want to do something to help. While we were there I began to narrow the focus on what the community needs—a farmer to plant a seed that grows and spreads. Before, I thought I could just work with local artists and small-scale projects to generate interest. Now I know you have to start at the top. So now I'm thinking about what I can do after college in the political realm."

On campus, CODA and its programs have become so entrenched, incoming students assume the program has always been part of Rhodes. And in Memphis, Weeden reports, "Rhodes is increasingly seen as a source for arts expertise. In fact, we now receive more requests for assistance than we can fill."

It's a nice problem to have and one that's expected to grow. For example, the ArtsMemphis organization has appointed CODA fellows to help develop student audiences. The students are working on infusing arts

into downtown Memphis storefronts and developing a major mural production on a downtown property owned by Rhodes trustee Chick Hill. They're also renovating a local church basement into an art studio and theatrical rehearsal space along with more than a dozen other projects, including arts programs at Springdale Elementary and Cypress Middle schools.

"Having developed the model for the program, we've been able to train members of Tri Delta sorority to take on the program as a primary philanthropy," Weeden says. "They have six times as many members as there are CODA fellows, which enables CODA students to move on to other efforts such as partnering with more organizations, build new project models and train other partners."

Coda is also becoming recognized for other efforts. Last fall's arts leadership symposium was another solid hit, and the Award for Outstanding Service to the Arts has become a coveted honor in the city's arts circles.

CODA fellows are also making connections internationally. They are working with the prestigious Van Abbemuseum in the Netherlands, developing an arts residency in Memphis that began earlier this year. Otto Berchem, a Dutch-American multimedia artist based in Amsterdam, was in town from mid-February to early April working with CODA and art department students to develop work for the "Heartland" exhibition which opens at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, Netherlands in October 2008. He also did a number of guest teaching sessions with Clough-Hanson Gallery director Hamlett Dobbins' Alternative Media and Methods art class.

Back on campus, the CODA Nights Out program, which began last year, provides \$5 tickets to a variety of performances by Ballet Memphis, Opera Memphis, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and dramatic works at professional and community theaters. It continues to grow in popularity.

"As wonderful as Rhodes is, we're in a bubble unless we go off campus. CODA is great at getting us out," says Stephanie Cassel '10.

JoBeth Campbell '08, a recipient of the Mrs. Billie J. Scharding Scholarship adds, "Memphis is a great place to be a music major because there's so much going on. I love CODA's cheap tickets and they're not just for arts majors. They affect everybody."

And everybody in the community—faculty, staff and students—takes advantage of the opportunities.



Charlotte Ashford '10 in San Francisco during the CODA fellows' field trip, January 2007

“The goal of our ticket campaign is to develop further the already rich culture of creativity at Rhodes,” Weeden says. “Attending these arts events in large groups enables students, faculty and staff to know one another through a series of common cultural experiences outside the classroom. It’s a great feeling to overhear people talking about the performances they saw together over the weekend. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.”



Lauren Kennedy '08, who spent her junior year in Paris, at the Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

Another innovation is an event billed as a campus arts walk. The evenings showcase an art exhibition in the Clough-Hanson Gallery, a music concert in Hardie Auditorium or Tuthill Performance Hall and a dramatic production in McCoy Theatre. Such occasions, along with continuing artist-in-residence visits and CODA fellows’ projects in nearby schools and downtown bode well for the arts at Rhodes. **R**



For more on CODA, visit
rhodes.edu/magazine

Nothing Succeeds Like Success

Tim Sharp and John Weeden '97 helped established CODA and put the program on a rock-solid footing. Each is now pursuing new opportunities.

In May, Sharp became executive director of the prestigious American Choral Directors Association headquartered in Oklahoma City, and Weeden was tapped to serve as executive director of the UrbanArt Commission, a nonprofit organization formed in 1997 that facilitates public art projects in Memphis and Shelby County. Weeden and the UrbanArt Commission will be a valuable partner for the CODA program.

CODA's Future

Fortunately, Rhodes is deep in talent and leadership in the fine arts. Beginning this summer, CODA will be guided by four outstanding faculty: longtime theater professor and 2008 Algernon Sidney Sullivan award winner Julia “Cookie” Ewing, fellow theater professor David Jilg '79 and art professors David McCarthy and Victor Coonin.

“Throughout their careers at Rhodes, each has adhered to the highest standards of work and creativity that will enhance the CODA program,” says Russ Wigginton '88, Rhodes vice president of College Relations.

Most recently, Ewing directed Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” at Memphis’ Hattiloo Theatre with a cast that included several Rhodes students and alumni as well as community actors. The performances played to standing-room-only audiences.

This summer, Jilg is working as a Curb faculty fellow with three Curb student fellows on the history of and costume design for ragtime composer Scott Joplin’s opera, “Treemonisha.” Their work is expected to contribute to the

Opera Memphis performance of “Treemonisha” in 2009.

McCarthy has played a key role in the Rhodes partnership with Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, particularly in the research and production of the soon-to-be published catalogue of photographs from the mid-20th-century newspaper, *Memphis World*. Last fall, McCarthy taught a class on the topic, for which students researched and wrote essays about several of the photographs.

Coonin, who will be on sabbatical during the spring 2009 semester, has served as chair of the art department since 2002. He has worked closely to guide CODA students, helping them think about their work across disciplines.

“The collective insights, experiences and expertise of these faculty will undoubtedly help take this already excellent program to new heights by providing students with deep understanding of and meaningful experiences in the arts,” says Wigginton.

CODA Fellows Continue To Build

At this year's commencement, the first two CODA fellows walked across the stage and through the gates—**Lauren Kennedy** to Sotheby's Institute of Art in New York for a M.A. in art business and **Andrew Whaley** to seminary to study theology. As members of the first class of CODA fellows, Kennedy and Whaley helped build the program to what it has become. Now they leave it in the good hands of a diverse and talented group of students with big plans of their own.

Life changed dramatically for **Natalija Kokoreva '10** when she was 12 years old. A native of Riga, Latvia, she grew up enjoying Europe's great art museums.

"My mom took me everywhere," she recalls. "Paris, every major city in Italy, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Amsterdam, Russia " Her voice takes on a dreamy tone. "I loved to hear the stories behind the paintings."

That all changed abruptly when her family moved to Memphis to join her mother's new husband. Fluent in two languages, neither of which was English, Kokoreva spent her middle and junior high school years translating her textbooks word for word. Life became easier in high school, and got downright great when she came to Rhodes.

"CODA is just perfect for me," she says. "I get to do service and make art matter for others."

Kokoreva is working to define her senior CODA project and trying to decide between medical and dental school.

"I'm leaning toward dentistry because it's more artistic," she reports. "I would get to work with my hands on very small, detailed work, particularly in the lab which sometimes requires shaping a particular form and choosing color."

Charlotte Ashford '10 also has a background in European art but she acquired it a very different way.

"I interned in a gallery in Geneva because I wanted to see how the arts function abroad," she explains. "I got to travel to arts festivals in Italy and Switzerland and practice my language skills. I love studying different cultures."

The Chicago native also loves being involved in the arts in Memphis.

"So much is still in the growing stage here so we can have an impact," she explains. "Chicago is so dense, everything is going to be great but it's harder to play a part in it."

At Rhodes Ashford started the after-school arts program at Springdale Elementary School and will manage the mural program sponsored by Rhodes trustee Chick Hill. Later she will tackle the task of expanding the program to other buildings to fight graffiti, beautify the city and give local artists an opportunity to showcase their talents.

Luke Branim '10 has been a generalist so far, working on the mural project, the spring Juxtap'art campus festival and arrangements for the Chicago trip. An internship at

Goner Records, a labor of love established by Zac Ives '97, exposed him to "a part of the musical scene—underground rock—I hadn't seen before." And that led to an involvement with the start-up project that is now Rhodes Radio.

Even as a sophomore, Branim understood that he was gaining maturity in his approach to the arts. "I've gone from performing—theater, debate, public speaking, etc., in high school—to being socially involved through CODA to preparing myself to be an advocate," he says.

Meghan Wilcox '11 has big ideas and is chafing to bring them to fruition.

"It's frustrating to be young and naïve!" she says, adding, "I think I'm making progress."

Her goal is no less than raising the consciousness of the people of Memphis.

"So many people just go to work, go home, eat and sleep," she laments. "They don't get to experience anything but TV. They don't even know about the Brooks and all the other cool arts facilities here. I think everyone can appreciate every type of art. It's just a matter of education and awareness."

Wilcox is forcing herself to learn from the ground up by tackling grant requests and proposals, talking with artists and voraciously attending lectures, shows and gallery openings while managing the transition of the Springdale arts program to the Tri Deltas in addition to managing a mural project downtown.

Katherine Gentsch '11 chose Rhodes because of CODA after a high school career that encompassed singing in a choir and starting an a cappella group, dancing, acting, directing and conducting. Her artistic life at Rhodes is just as frenetic. She is a member of the Rhodes Singers and Lipstick on Your Collar and is studying piano, music theory and conducting.

"I study when I'm not doing art," says this rising sophomore who is also a Rhodes Student Government senator.

At last fall's CODA-sponsored Arts Leadership Symposium, Gentsch met the head of the Student Advocates for the Arts chapter at Columbia University and spawned the idea of establishing a chapter in Memphis. She is now working with students at Memphis College of Art and the University of Memphis to try to form an intercollegiate organization.

"I have met so many incredible people through CODA," she marvels. "I've only been involved with the program for a few months and have had four years' worth of experiences. It's not hard to be a go-getter in this group. They just hand you the opportunities and say, 'Go!'"

See also: goner-records.com/ and rhodesradio.org/

Banking on

By Martha Hunter Shepard '66



Inside the seed vault's main tunnel

the Future



MARI TEFRE/GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault

Lying deep in a mountain in the far north of Norway are three icy chambers. Inside those rooms at the top of the world are seeds—hundreds of millions of them—that someday could be the world's dinner. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which opened in February 2008, has been called many things—The Doomsday Vault, Noah's Ark, The Fort Knox of Food.

Cary Fowler '71, executive director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust in Rome, Italy, who spearheaded the project, has been dubbed The World's Seed Banker.

The vault drew worldwide attention at its grand opening. On live television that day, shivering, parka-clad reporters brought the news into warm living rooms around the world that this fail-safe cold storage facility for seed samples is an unprecedented effort to protect the world's diminishing biodiversity.

According to Fowler, crop varieties are lost on a

daily basis through drought, lack of water supply, natural disaster, war, even seed deterioration in gene banks. But with the vault expected to remain naturally frozen for up to 200 years, stored seeds could withstand severe climate change or restart agricultural production in the wake of natural or human-caused disasters.

“There are many huge problems in the world,” Fowler says. “But I can actually look people in the eye and say, ‘We can solve this one.’ And if we solve this problem of maintaining global crop diversity, we’ll help solve many

other problems, like climate change. I don’t think it’s at all conceivable that human beings will adapt to climate change if agriculture doesn’t. And agriculture isn’t going to adapt if crops don’t. The mechanism for crop adaptation is diversity. We have the genetic resources, the technology, the people and the institutions to maintain crop diversity in current and changing climates, and the cost-benefit ratio is astronomical.”

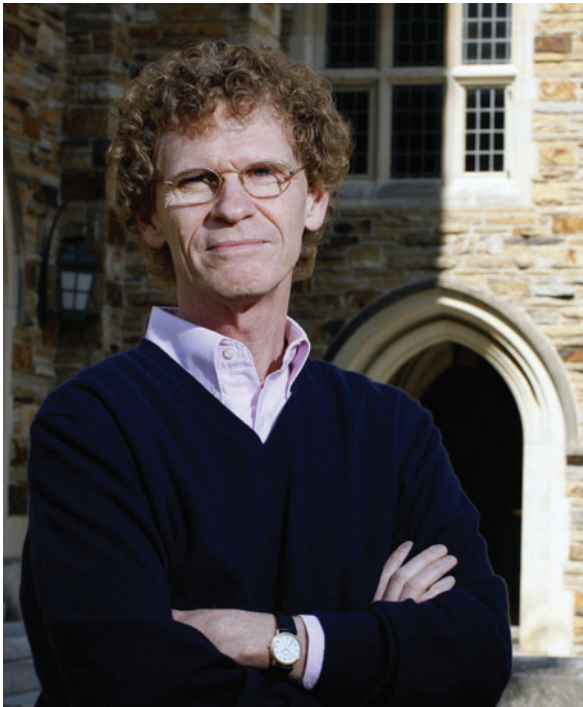
The seed vault, built by the Norwegian government and maintained by the Nordic Genetic Resource Center, currently contains 268,000 samples of seeds from the largest of more than 1,000 existing seed banks all over the world, and more samples are on the way.

“Each room can hold 1.5 million samples of seeds,” Fowler explains. We think about 1.5 million exist, so we planned for the future. It will take thousands of years to fill it up.”

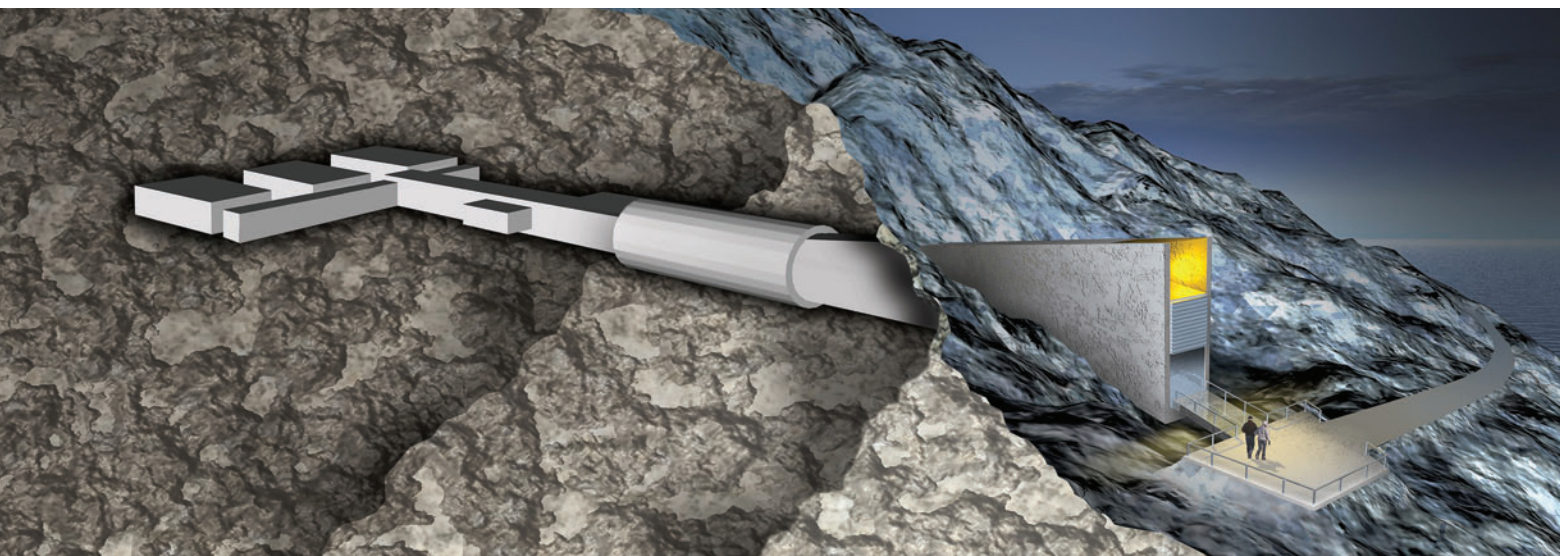
The seeds are stored in small metal-foil, heat-sealed packages placed in boxes that are shelved in the chambers.

“Each room is about 30 yards long, 10 yards wide and 5-6 yards high,” says Fowler. “The temperature is naturally about -4 C (24.8 F) and we’re making it -18 C to -20 C (-.04 F to -4 F). Even if the power should fail, the seeds would last for decades.

“The longest-lasting seed we know of is sorghum. We have some indication that in these conditions it could survive some 20,000 years. However, all seeds deteriorate eventually. So a seed bank from somewhere else in the world will deposit seed in the vault. When the seed starts to lose viability, the depositing bank



Cary Fowler during a campus visit, March 2008



Artist's rendering of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault



Seeds going into bags at CIMMYT, an international research and training center, Mexico

takes it out, grows new plants from it, gets new seeds from the plant and deposits fresh seeds in its own facility as well as in the vault. So we'll have a steady supply of fresh seed coming in."

How secure is the vault?

"Seed banks have never been the targets of any kind of terrorism or military action—but sometimes they get in the way because they're just buildings," says Fowler.

The vault is engineered to withstand severe hazards, including nuclear war and earthquakes. It passed the earthquake test a week before its grand opening, when a 6.2-magnitude temblor shook the surrounding region, but not the vault. In addition, security is plentiful, tight and high-tech at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

Plan B

The idea for the vault came about in 2003 when Fowler was professor and director of research at the Department for International Environment and Development Studies at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

"The five Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland) had a backup collection

of seeds in an abandoned coal mine, which is terribly unsafe. So the idea for a fail-safe seed vault had been kicking around a little bit, but put on the back burner.

"I was also working with a group of international agricultural research centers in 2003," Fowler says. "They were undergoing a process of upgrading their seed banks. At the end of the day, we took a look around and said, 'This is great. We now have the best seed banks in the world in terms of capacity, equipment, etc., but many of them are located in developing countries that often experience natural disasters or political unrest. How safe could this be? Do we have a Plan B?' We knew there was going to have to be a completely new plan involving new legal arrangements, new physical structure, new management—everything was going to have to be different."

"So we wrote a letter to the Norwegian government asking if it would consider looking into the feasibility of establishing a seed vault—though we didn't call it that at the time—as a backup safety net for existing seed bank collections."

Water

Water conservation goes hand-in-hand with developing drought- and heat-tolerant crops, Fowler says.

"Agriculture takes 70% of the world's fresh water supplies, and there's a lot of competition for water now. That's going to be the cause of many serious geopolitical conflicts in the future. There are 200 major river systems going through multiple countries—it's a setup for problems.

"The world's aquifers are on a timetable toward their own destruction. We're overdrawing water from them now. In China and India that overdraft is quite severe.

"So if we think that water is never going to run out or climate change isn't going to be a problem, well fine—which seems to be the way we're acting right now.

"We also have the lowest food reserves since the early 1970s. So we're actually positioned for that overused metaphor, 'a perfect storm.'

"Right now everything has to go right because we have no particular resilience in the system. That's what I think motivates the staff I work with because by occupation and inclination they are some of the most forward-thinking people on planet Earth. Most people look 5-10 years down the road. We quite seriously are looking 500 years down the road. It gets you to ask different questions."

A couple of weeks later, Fowler got a call from a government official. Norway, the caller said, intended to take that letter seriously. Soon after, the government established a committee, first to assess the feasibility of, and then develop a plan to build such a facility. Fowler was asked to chair the committee and work with architects and engineers to design it.

Once the plans were completed, the structure was built in short order—between March and December 2007.

Getting there

Fowler's career in conservation and use of crop diversity spans 30 years. He was program director for the National Sharecroppers Fund/Rural Advancement Fund, a U.S.-based nongovernment organization (NGO). In 1985 he received the Right Livelihood Award (often called the "alternative Nobel Prize") in a ceremony in the Swedish Parliament.

The Norwegian University of Life Sciences offered him a teaching position in 1990, but he was by no means confined to campus. During the '90s, he headed the International Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources at the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The conference produced the organization's first global assessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources.

He also drafted and supervised negotiations of FAO's Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources, adopted by 150 countries—including the United



Filling the shelves

MARI TEFER/GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

States—in 1996. That same year he served as special assistant to the secretary general of the World Food Summit. He is a past member of the National Plant Genetic Resources Board of the U.S. and the board of trustees of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico.

These days Fowler serves as full-time executive director—and chief fundraiser—for the Global Crop Diversity Trust in Rome. The trust, an independent, international organization based at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N., was established in 2004 to coordinate and maintain the more than 1,000 gene banks around the world. It aims to build a \$260 million endowment through donations from governments, foundations and corporations. The interest from the endowment, says Fowler, will guarantee effective conservation and ready availability of the seeds to those who need them.

Besides fundraising for the trust, he's the leader in trying to formulate a global conservation system.

"That sounds pretty logical on paper, but we're dealing with 180 or so countries and they all have their ideas," says Fowler. "What they want may make a lot of sense from their individual perspectives, but it may not add up to a globally rational, efficient, effective or sustainable system. We want good facilities with the highest standards. We want to match up the unique diversity with the right seed banks. There's a lot of diplomacy involved, a lot of working through the science of it to try to figure out what we need to be doing and how to do it."

In addition to banking seeds, the trust is funding the creation of a database and information system for plant breeders worldwide.

"In the past, a plant breeder who needed resistance to

A week with the king

Last year Fowler spent a week in Greenland with King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

"We were looking at how past civilizations coped with climate change—or didn't. He was interested in how the Norse had fared in Greenland. They didn't cope with climate change. They didn't learn how to make kayaks from the Inuits or how to fish from the ocean. They wanted to continue to raise their cattle and eat beef. They were entering into a small ice age and the climate was getting colder. There wasn't enough grass produced to overwinter the cattle.

"We visited the ruins of a stone church. The last wedding ceremony was performed there in 1408. We saw what happens to societies that think they're invulnerable, that they'll last forever. They think they can beat the climate, but it's a game of biological Russian roulette. You don't end up winning very often."



Cary Fowler greets seed vault construction crew

a particular disease probably went to a U.S. gene bank. If that bank didn't have it, the plant breeder was out of luck," Fowler says. "But maybe the variety with the resistance is in the Polish gene bank, but the problem there is the Polish gene bank doesn't run off an Excel spreadsheet; it runs off something that a Polish software developer made and nobody understands it because it's in Polish. So we're making a sort of Amazon.com for plant breeders that will be translated into five or six languages. Now they'll be able to search the entire diversity of agricultural crops to get what they need."

Preparation

Fowler grew up in Memphis, the son of now-retired General Sessions Court Judge Morgan Carrington Fowler '44. His aunt and uncle, Ed and Betsy Fowler French, both graduated in '39. Fowler spent summers at his grandmother's farm near Jackson, TN, where he says his love of agriculture took root.

Diversity

There's more to beans than meets the eye.

"There is diversity within species, not just between species. There are 200,000 kinds of rice, 30,000 kinds of beans," Fowler says.

"There are more than 1,000 seed banks worldwide. The Global Crop Diversity Trust is trying to create a global system, and in our minds that global system is composed not of 1,000 seed banks but of a rather small, discrete number of seed banks that are operating at full capacity.

"You have to match up the diversity with the proper seed bank and try to eliminate redundancies. You don't want to ensure the conservation of biodiversity 49 out of the next 50 years. That's not quite good enough. It really does have to be 50 out of 50. We make a distinction—we're not conserving seed banks; we're conserving diversity. So we're not interested in conserving 1,000 buildings and being called on to repair the roof every day."

At Rhodes, Fowler wanted to major in sociology, which wasn't offered as a major at the time (the closest discipline was anthropology) so he chose a bridge major—political science and psychology.

"It seemed to me at the time that political science had an 'institutional' focus, that is, it was concerned with institutions, structures, government, etc., and anthropology was mostly concerned with distinct cultures—groups, tribes, etc.," Fowler explains. "Of these two, I was definitely more interested in political science, yet I also wanted to study and understand

Breeding and screening

It's essential to make a match between crop and consumer, says Fowler.

"We have a huge number of crops in this world for which there is no scientific plant breeding going on. Then you ask, how are the farmers and people who live on those crops going to deal with a rapidly-changing climate? By screening the diversity of crops, we're prioritizing finding traits for drought- and heat-tolerance and that will provide better nutrition for the world's poor.

"Most projections are that we'll increase food production by 20% to 30% by 2030. But look at southern Africa where maize contributes 50% of the diet—we're predicting a 30% decrease in maize production there. And of course, the population is going to rise.

"In Ethiopia last year I saw a poor woman growing lathyrus, a drought-resistant legume. But it contains a neurotoxin and if she eats enough to save her life in a severe drought situation, she'll become paralyzed. So one of the things we're doing—I'm really committed to this crop because it does have a great potential—is to find a low-toxin variant of lathyrus and get it into the hands of the breeders who can produce a variety that is both drought-tolerant and low-toxin.

"We lose diversity in seed banks all the time—sometimes catastrophically like in Iraq and Afghanistan. Other times it's a steady drip, drip, drip of extinction inside a seed bank because of mismanagement or equipment failure. A typhoon took out the Philippine seed bank. A seed bank after being covered with four feet of water and mud is not a pretty sight.

"Down the road people will wake up to the fact that the seed vault will protect THE resource that is going to allow us to cope with climate change in the future. Without it, how would we explain to future generations, or even to ourselves a few years from now, that we just didn't think it was worth our time or trouble to conserve this resource?"

process, change, movement—not 'what' things were, but 'why' they were, how they got to be that way and why and how they changed. Sociology, I thought, offered the opportunity to range a bit more broadly. The borders were not as constraining."

It was the height of the Vietnam War, and though active in campus life, he attended Rhodes for only 2½ years before transferring to Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B.C.

"It's a regret of mine that I didn't finish at Rhodes," says Fowler. "Those were hard times. There was a lot of struggle going on within people on campus, and I was one of those people. I ended up getting a degree in sociology at Simon Fraser, but I think that if my life depended on it I couldn't tell you the name of a single person in my graduating class there. When I went to that university I just disappeared. I really studied."

He completed his degree 1½ years later and at the recommendation of a Canadian friend, enrolled at Sweden's Uppsala University for graduate work. The venerable university, founded in 1477, had a well-established and respected department of sociology. In the sciences, botanist Carl Linnaeus and astronomer Anders Celsius served on the faculty in the 18th century.

Fowler completed the course work for his doctorate, then left to work for NGOs and write. He even spent a year as a visiting professor in the Department of Agronomy at the University of California, Davis. Eventually, he returned to Uppsala to complete his doctorate.

In 1990 the Norwegian University of Life Sciences offered him a faculty position. He served as director of research in the Department for International Environment and Development there before accepting his current position at the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

At the university he met his wife, faculty member Mette Wik, a noted agricultural economist who, while currently on leave from the university, works as a consultant to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization as well as to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Their two sons, Martin (15) and Thomas (11) attend an American school in Rome. Norwegian is their first language; English, their second. Both are studying Italian, and Martin, French.

"If you know Norwegian, you also know Swedish and Danish—they're so interrelated," Fowler says. "In Norway, to graduate from high school, you have to be



The town of Longyearbyen, Norway, near the seed vault

fluent in a foreign language, and English doesn't count. Children study English from kindergarten all the way through. Everybody in the country speaks English."

Fowler says his time at Rhodes informed his entire career.

"I think being at Rhodes was really important to that process. It is a special place. When I was at Rhodes I was trying to cobble together a different kind of major because I was stubborn. But the reality was there was so much learning that went on in the residence halls, and the students didn't really see many borders between disciplines. We stayed up late talking about the lecture in this class or that class.

"There was a lot of struggle going on and I think the students were very keen, very smart, and challenged each other. There was an idea that you weren't necessarily preparing yourself for some job. You were trying to learn. People took seriously what it meant

to go to a liberal arts college. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Fowler believes the lessons learned at Rhodes have wider applications.

"In the U.S. we have the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the EPA—as if our problems in this world fit neatly in those packages. Most of the problems in this world *span* those institutions. How do you get those people to work together when they're all in their little pigeonholes? I think institutions like Rhodes and the Global Crop Diversity Trust teach us that we could possibly break down those barriers and work together to solve many problems." **R**



For more on Cary Fowler and his work, visit croptrust.org.



Sean Evins, left, and Rob Purple

THE PLACES YOU GO

By Rachel L. Stinson '08

In India, Emily Donelson saw families napping, bathing and cooking meals on the sidewalks of Kolkata. In the Big Apple, Merrill Lynch co-workers introduced Rob Kneip not as an intern but as their colleague. Rob Purple and Sean Evins learned about how Memphis FBI agents operate. And Emma O'Hagan discarded every theory she had about tackling poverty in Accra, Ghana. Through internships, five Rhodes seniors faced myriad realities last summer, absorbing all of them into their growing body of knowledge.

Rob Purple and Sean Evins

For Rob Purple and Sean Evins, the first day of a new internship elicited a mutual response: “Holy_____! We’re in the FBI!”

Purple, an international studies/economics major from Nashville, and Evins, a political science major and native of Greenville, SC, were the first two interns ever in the Memphis FBI branch.

The friends and fraternity brothers came across the internships through Rhodes Career Services. They applied in May 2006, neither knowing the other was applying. Once they passed the first step, they discovered the coincidence.

“After we were tentatively accepted through our essays and recommendations, we got background checks, drug tests and polygraphs in fall 2006,” Purple says.

For Purple and Evins, the 2½ -hour-long polygraph was a memorable experience. Purple recalls, “You think exams are tough, and then you take a polygraph.”

In January 2007, after learning they had passed, Purple and Evins waited for their background checks to clear. Finally, they both received their clearances.

Purple and Evins were assigned to different squads, each focusing on a specific aspect of FBI work.

“I was assigned to White Collar Crime, which deals with embezzlement and fraud,” Evins says. “Also, I worked with the Public Corruption task force, which included working with the Tennessee Waltz statewide public corruption case. I worked a little with Secret Service and the U.S. Attorney’s office, and I saw trials and some of the pretrial work for different fraud cases.”

Purple worked with “the uglier side of things” when he was assigned to the Violent Crime Squad, or Criminal Enterprise as it is also called.

“That’s the nice way to put it,” he says, laughing. “I was assigned under a specific special agent, and he had me examining cases, looking at evidence, building databases on seized evidence, tracing the original owner of the goods, and more or less following a couple of cases that dealt with drug rings.”

Purple says that work in the FBI differs considerably from the stereotypical police movie, with kicked-down doors and a small army of gun-wielding agents.

But for both seniors, the most memorable experience could have been plucked from an FBI movie.

“On Gun Day, we were able to participate in firearms training at the shooting range at Shelby Farms,” Purple explains.

Aside from Gun Day, Purple enjoyed learning about the many cases the bureau actually handles.

“Working with a lot of big cases got me to see how branches interrelate and work together in the government,” Evins says.

After working on those cases, he created a project on mortgage fraud that his leader took to schools and businesses.

In addition to a top-notch learning experience, the seniors enjoyed excellent office relations.

“There was a mutual respect because everyone had gone through, more or less, the same process and clearance to get where they were,” Purple says.

Now, Purple and Evins are looking toward Washington, DC. Purple will work at a government consulting firm, and Evins will pursue political strategy, with hopes of practicing law eventually.

“It’s interesting to compare what you first think of the FBI and then, after working there, what you really think of it,” Purple says.

Evins adds, “For me, it was very rewarding going to the courthouse and seeing the cases unfold, to see the fruits of your labor.”

Now, Purple and Evins are no longer the new interns at the FBI.

As Purple says, “The fact that they’ve hired seven more interns from Rhodes is a testament to the character of the college.”

Emma O’Hagan

Almost every night, after a day of interning for the Sovereign Global Mission (SGM) in the capital city of Accra, Ghana, Emma O’Hagan sat down with her 60-year-old host grandmother and watched MTV.

The international studies major and music minor spent May 20 to Aug. 1, 2007, across the world, providing first aid to children, teaching them English and finding foster parents for them, as well as working on grant proposals for SGM.

“SGM works with impoverished urban youth within the community, mostly in the worst slums in the city,” O’Hagan says.

Founded in 1992, SGM is a nondenominational, nongovernmental organization that ministers to children with a variety of needs. Some, for instance, can’t afford to go to school, or if they can, many become bored with it and leave. Others are orphaned because of AIDS.



Emma O'Hagan in Accra, Ghana

Outside Accra, O'Hagan spent three weeks in a rural Ghana community teaching English and math to the equivalent of a fifth-grade class.

"They hadn't had a teacher in two weeks because the teacher was sick and there aren't substitute teachers in rural Ghana," O'Hagan explains. "There were about 30 students of varying levels. Some of the older kids barely knew the alphabet."

O'Hagan, a Birmingham, AL, native, applied for the internship through the Mertie W. Buckman International Internship Program in Rhodes' International Studies Department. Then Peacework, an international volunteer organization headquartered in Blacksburg, VA, found an internship for her with SGM.

Going into Accra, O'Hagan says, "I wanted to learn about the problems and the ways people were trying to fix them."

She soon realized that the problems there "are so multifaceted that I had to throw most of my

preconceived ideas out the window."

Throughout her stay, O'Hagan lived with a family that included a grandmother, an aunt and three children. She fondly remembers time spent with her host grandmother. Similarly, O'Hagan embraced Ghanaian culture, including local food. She explains that most of the food there contains an abundance of oil because the country suffers from a water crisis; the people use palm oil instead.

"Everything is run by hydroelectric dams, so there's also an energy crisis," O'Hagan says. "You get electricity for 24 or 48 hours, and then it's off for 12."

When O'Hagan left Ghana, her host family hadn't had running water in nine months. Instead, a water truck came to the house every couple of weeks.

Despite the lack of modern conveniences, O'Hagan meshed into the laid-back Ghanaian way of life. She says, "My favorite thing is that when you visit people, you just show up at their house. They may have never

met you before. They'll sit down and talk to you for hours. Also, Ghanaians accept that if a person is tardy, he or she simply has been giving time to someone else. People call it 'African Time.'"

During O'Hagan's stay, Leigh Bonner '07 lived in Ghana, interning for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The friends traveled for a week in the northern part of the country, staying in a small village in a guest house, sleeping on a roof.

Bonner took drumming lessons from musicians at The Arts Centre in Accra, and O'Hagan occasionally accompanied her. O'Hagan recalls, "There were people playing soccer, and the Gulf of Guinea was right there as we learned how to play Ghanaian-style drumming. I remember one time it started to rain, and the drummers were listening to Celine Dion."

O'Hagan says she hopes to teach at a similar school in India this fall.

Rob Kneip

The day after Rob Kneip returned from a 2007 international business Maymester in Belgium, he hopped another plane—this time to his home city of New York, where he would be introduced not as an intern but as a colleague.

An international business major with a Chinese studies minor, Kneip had also studied in China for a semester. But from June to mid-August 2007, he left academics behind to enter the world of finance at Merrill Lynch.

Rhodes helped him find the internship.

"I had talked with Matt Semko '98 (Rhodes assistant director of Alumni Relations), and he made contact with Merrill Lynch," Kneip says.

When Kneip arrived at Merrill Lynch, he worked in the wealth management department, mainly in the Reserve Share Program.

He brought with him a solid base in finance from Rhodes: "Prof. Pittman's finance class and Prof. Planchon's marketing class helped a lot and gave me confidence going into the internship."

When he began, Merrill Lynch was busy opening more than 500 accounts for the Reserve Share Program. After conquering that mountain of documents, "It was all research and choosing mutual funds portfolios," Kneip says. "I had to choose whether they would be stock-based or bond-based. Then, I had to



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Rob Kneip, who worked in New York, at the Memphis Merrill Lynch office



Emily Donelson at the Loreto School, Kolkata, India

defend my choices to the team. As I grew, so did my responsibilities—they gave me a lot more authority than I expected.”

Looking back to his first meeting with the portfolio managers, Kneip recalls that he didn’t say a single word. But when supervisors encouraged him to ask questions, he spoke up, and eventually “found myself in a position of power.”

Kneip also grew to know his co-workers outside of the office.

“The line between colleague and intern blurred when we started hanging out,” he says. “I got to know the people even better outside of the office.”

Kneip’s internship ended at the summer’s close, but he keeps up to date with his Merrill Lynch colleagues.

“I go to see them all the time when I’m in the city,” he says.

Though he enjoyed the personal aspect of his internship, Kneip says he wants to pursue more business-to-business interactions in his future career.

Emily Donelson

On her taxi ride from the Kolkata airport to the city, Emily Donelson spotted 12 people in an autorickshaw driven by one man. Bicycles, small scooters, people on foot, cows and chickens were all part of the traffic.

The international studies major and religious studies minor arrived in India in June 2007. For the next eight weeks, she interned at the Loreto School in Kolkata, one of six such schools in the city. (Kolkata, known as Calcutta for 300 years, was officially renamed in 2001 to reflect the Bengali pronunciation.)

Like Emma O’Hagan, Donelson landed the internship through Rhodes’ Buckman International Internship Program. Peacewok made arrangements with the Loreto School.

“The first time I heard that was an option, I knew that was definitely where I wanted to go,” Donelson says. “Kolkata is a very different India from what you’d find in Delhi or other cities with higher economic growth.”

The Loreto School aims to address socioeconomic and educational problems, most of which begin with poverty. The school has grown tremendously since it was established in 1842 by the Loreto Sisters, a religious order founded in 1609 by Englishwoman Mary Ward.

“Half the students pay tuition, and the other half come from families that can’t afford to send their children to a private school,” Donelson says.

Through its Rainbow Homes project, Loreto houses and ministers to more than 100 girls who used to live on the streets. Additionally, Loreto trains teachers for rural schools and gives aid to other children and the elderly. There are 1,000 students enrolled in the school.

The principal is Sister Cybil, a nun from Ireland who has led Loreto for more than 40 years. She assigned Donelson the task of organizing the school library. In addition, Donelson taught English to a group of 15-20 Rainbow children, aged two to four.

Donelson lived at the school, wore traditional clothing, craved Indian food and adapted to local ways. Electricity and running water were accessible only two hours a day, so she bathed in a bucket. In a country where temperatures reach 115 degrees, there was no air conditioning. At night, Donelson slept one room away from the Rainbow children.

The children, with their scarred backgrounds, touched Donelson profoundly.

“I probably learned as much from them as they learned from me, and the lessons I learned were incredibly humbling,” she says.

Donelson describes the children as “amazingly happy with what they have.” Once, she was helping a young girl write an essay about three things she liked and three things she didn’t like.

“She said she liked her friend, and she liked a book, she liked the sunshine,” Donelson recalls. “She went on and on and on, and she couldn’t think of a single thing she didn’t like. This girl is an orphan who lived on the streets for the first four years of her life, and she couldn’t think of anything bad.”

Now, Donelson is preparing to expand her international knowledge. This fall, she’ll pursue a master’s degree in international relations at the University of Chicago. Her time in Kolkata will, no doubt, remain with her.

“We hear of people living on one or two dollars a day,” Donelson says, “but we don’t necessarily know about people who raise their families on the street in front of you.”

The internship, she says, “put a face to every figure.”

At the Loreto School, each face was that of a girl with a past—but also a girl with a future. **R**

A Focus on Important Things

By Daney Daniel Kepple

"I've always thought that retiring in the area where you have lived and worked would be a real luxury," says Carol Ekstrom. But after 34 years at Rhodes, it turns out she won't be doing that at all. Her husband Peter, former chair of the Anthropology/Sociology Department who retired last year, has a low tolerance for hot weather, so the couple decided long ago that they would end up in Michigan. It's where they've spent many summers and have several good friends. Still, she says, "It will be hard to let go."

There's a great deal to let go of, for Carol Ekstrom has spent her career building bridges, programs and relationships at Rhodes. Not surprisingly, she has witnessed many changes.

One that gratifies her is the college's recent embrace of experiential learning, a pedagogy in which she has always been involved. In the days of the three-term academic calendar, for 10 years she and Peter took students to study "rocks and ruins" in the Southwest. She then taught coral reef ecology in Honduras for another 10 years.

And, of course, technology has changed, bringing a major impact on "the ease with which we do things. We can make our own maps with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and get anything else we need online."

The first woman to teach science at the college, Ekstrom admits her entrance wasn't a traditional one. Her husband began his tenure in 1974. Students on the search committee that recruited him noticed his undergraduate degree in geology and inquired whether he could teach classes in that discipline as well. He responded, "No, but I know someone who can." His wife did just that, beginning in January 1975.

Ekstrom says that her career at Rhodes divides rather neatly into three phases.

Her early years on campus were spent building a geology program. In the beginning she taught only one course and gradually increased the offerings. Ekstrom has been the lone instructor in the geology program that is housed within the Department of Physics.



Carol Ekstrom

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Today, its offerings include four courses and supporting labs—Earth Systems Science, Evolution of the Earth, Global Environmental Change and Environmental Geology—plus a semester-long research opportunity and an internship. And that's been just part of her job.

In 1986, she began to think about creating a minor in Earth Systems Science, a program that launched three years later.

"Ours was one of the early programs although it's the approach most colleges take today," she says.

She has been heavily involved in trying to develop an Environmental Studies program to augment the Rhodes curriculum. That was phase two.

Phase three might be termed the outreach era, which began when she heard something at a meeting of

the neighboring Vollintine Evergreen Community Association in 2000.

"The county was applying for an EPA grant to study water quality in Cypress Creek, which runs just north of the Rhodes campus," she recalls. "It was to be a cooperative program including three higher-ed institutions and three city schools. They included the University of Memphis, LeMoyne-Owen and Christian Brothers, but not Rhodes. I thought, 'Cypress Creek is in our area!' and called the grant writer. She wrote us in. I fought hard to get to work with Cypress Middle School."

Ekstrom went on to form close relationships with the science teachers at Cypress. When the EPA funding for the Cypress Creek project lapsed, she wasted no time securing a grant from the Associated Colleges of the South to fund SWEEP (Storm Water Environmental Education Project). When the college established the Rhodes Learning Corridor with funding from the U.S. Department of Education and, later, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, SWEEP was incorporated into it.

Ekstrom was named coordinator for the Learning Corridor, a Rhodes partnership with nearby neighborhoods, public schools and other community and educational organizations that provides learning opportunities for Rhodes students as well as for those in the immediate community.

In that position she has developed 20 programs that provide opportunities for Rhodes students to work in the community.

Ekstrom is proud of two more involvements at Rhodes, both of which began about 10 years ago. The GIS program was initiated by a small group of faculty including Steve Ceccoli, the P.K. Seidman Distinguished Professor of Political Economy; both Ekstroms; David Kesler, Biology; and Mike Kirby, the Plough Professor of Urban Studies. These pioneers climbed the steep learning curve to implement the complex software, trained any other faculty who were willing and gradually convinced others of its wide utility as a teaching and demonstration tool.

"It was made for analyzing and displaying data," Ekstrom says. "That was such a great collaborative effort. It was very satisfying to be involved in it."

Another such effort arose when Ekstrom and Kesler accompanied two students and comptroller Mac McWhirter to an Associated Colleges of the South

(ACS) conference at Davidson College.


"At the Sustainable Campus Development Clinic we realized that we worked very well as a team, so we decided to establish a committee to continue cross-campus communication about sustainable practices," Ekstrom recalls. "In the van on the way back from the meeting we decided to call ourselves the Rhodes Planning Cooperative, the RPC, making sure not to mention the word 'green' so we wouldn't be labeled 'tree huggers.'"

Ekstrom then became the Rhodes ACS Environmental Fellow for three years. She led the drive to institutionalize the committee. In 2001, the Environmental Planning Cooperative (EPC), as it is now known, was made an official administrative committee with a budget and a mission statement. The EPC was the catalyst for such popular campus fixtures as the recycling project and the bike program that provides students free two-wheeled, cross-campus transportation.

Late last year Rhodes joined forces with more than 500 other institutions of higher education in an effort to reduce the carbon footprints of campuses all over the country. The effort is known as the Presidents' Climate Commitment, and today, says Ekstrom, "Under the able leadership of Tracy Adkisson (associate director of Physical Plant), the EPC has stepped forward to oversee this effort." Rhodes has made significant progress in this area in a short time, thanks in large measure to data gathered by the students in Ekstrom's Geology 214 class.

Ekstrom's Learning Corridor contract runs through July, and in May she still had big plans: "I want to start a larger solar energy project before I leave," she said, referring to the one her students accomplished during spring semester.

That interest isn't likely to lapse when she departs Rhodes. After an extended trip to Argentina she plans to get involved as a volunteer in environmental education in the local Michigan schools.

"In Michigan there is so much snow (an average 270 inches a year) that I will try wind generation on Lake Superior instead of solar energy," she says. "I think of retirement as time off from multitasking, an opportunity to focus on a few important things." 



For more on the Rhodes Learning Corridor, visit rhodes.edu/academics/1120.asp

Summer Reading

Photography by Justin Fox Burks

Deseree Meyer Brittingham Assistant Professor of Physics

Confession #1: I didn't always know I wanted to be a nuclear physicist, and I began my undergraduate years as an English major.

Confession #2: I *love* to read. Not in that "of course all academics love to read" way, but in the passionately seeking, desperately needing, head-over-heels way.

Confession #3: Science is neat (I really enjoy being a physicist), but in my free time only about one quarter of the books I read are nonfiction and the rest are novels. As for summer reading recommendations, I've selected three novels and two popular physics books.

Though I don't normally read science fiction, *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger intrigued me. It describes the exhilaration of time travel and exploration while also pointing out how those achievements can affect important family relationships. At times, the main character just starts to evaporate. He reappears in the midst of his ordinary life, fresh from a new adventure with stories and trinkets that can't possibly compensate for the time away from home. It put the idea of time travel into a new light for me, and it's not your typical futuristic sci-fi book.

I highly recommend *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri. In this book, Gogol is often pulled in many different

directions as he tries to decide what path his life should take. The conflicts between what he wants to do, what he thinks he should do, what he was brought up to do, what his family thinks he should do and what he ultimately winds up doing make for a very heartfelt account of being a part of—and between—two very different cultures.



Deseree Meyer Brittingham

When I moved to Memphis, I began reading books featuring the South. I came across *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. I enjoy the colorful characters and lush settings in this murder mystery set in Savannah, GA. The intertwined mysteries come together in captivating ways, and I couldn't put it down.

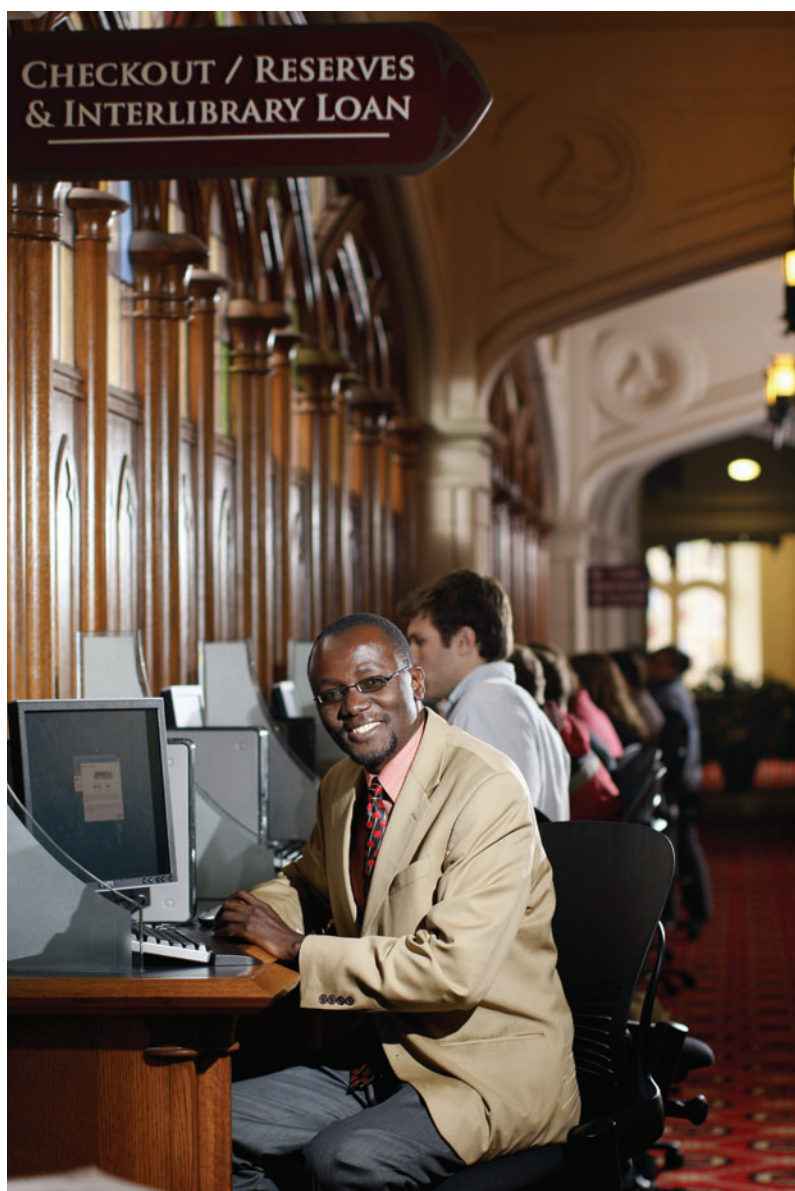
The thing I love most about physics is its elegance. Physics is such a beautiful field that explores the intricacies and complexities of our world. At the end of the day, physicists work to explain these complexities in simple, concise ways. I firmly believe that scientific literacy is just as important as any other in defining what it means to be an educated person. Science and technology impact so much of our everyday life that it's really a shame not to be at least a little curious about how things work. My last two recommendations are physics recommendations, specifically books that are easy to understand and aren't scary. (Keep an open mind—physics doesn't have to be difficult.)

Since nuclear physics is near and dear to my heart, I recommend *Nucleus: A Trip into the Heart of Matter* by Ray Mackintosh, et al. This book is beautifully illustrated and is a great introduction to the atomic nucleus. It talks about the structure of the nucleus and applications of nuclear physics, including power, medicine and fusion in the sun. It's my favorite popular physics book.

For those of you looking for something a little more whimsical, I recommend *The Dancing Wu Li Masters: An Overview of the New Physics* by Gary Zukav. The lofty goal of the author is to explain modern physics and quantum mechanics without using any math. In the process, the author draws parallels between modern physics and eastern religions. I read it in high school and plan to reread it this summer. It's a fun book, and it will give you a flavor of the kinds of problems that modern day physicists try to tackle.

Shadrack Nasong'o Assistant Professor of International Studies

For me, the joy of summer reading is the freedom to shift from perusing academic tomes to fiction, especially the thriller variety. One such thriller I have thoroughly enjoyed is Jeffrey Archer's *Honor Among Thieves*, set in spring 1994. As Bill Clinton settles into the White House and focuses on his domestic policy agenda, Saddam Hussein hatches an improbable plot to steal America's most treasured historical document, the Declaration of Independence, and destroy it before the world's news



Shadrack Nasong'o

media on July 4 to avenge his ouster from Kuwait. Using tens of millions of dollars, Saddam weaves an intricate web of treachery, deceit, corruption and terror and manages to steal the historical document. As the clock ticks decisively toward July 4, two unlikely agents are detailed to stop Saddam's diabolical plot and retrieve the historical document—Scott Bradley, a Yale law professor working undercover for the CIA, and Hannah Kopec, a Mossad operative who has lost so much in her life, she no longer trusts anyone nor fears anything. This action-packed, suspense-filled saga spans four continents and climaxes in a dramatic multiple twist that is bound to leave the reader breathless.

For readers looking for a “serious” read in this era of the global war on terror, I recommend Mahmood Mamdani's provocative and lucidly written *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim*. The book focuses on political Islam, tracing the rise and emergence of its terrorist strategy to Cold War dynamics—from Indochina through Afghanistan to Iraq. Although penned by an academic, the book is written for readers who are ready to have their conventional wisdom challenged and, in the process, gain a deeper understanding of one of the most contentious issues of our time.

Speaking of serious reading, why have the most diabolical dictators strutted the world stage with abandon for so long and hobnobbed with the mighty and powerful in the most liberal and democratic societies? The answer is provided by Michela Wrong in her book, *In The Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz*. Set in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), the book focuses on Zaire's President Mobutu. The author weaves a narrative that details a network of bilateral and multilateral actors that abetted and benefited from Mobutu's 32-year reign and plunder of the country. Her name may be Wrong, but the author is right on the money.

For lovers of biographies, two recommendations are in order. First

is George Lamming's *In the Castle of My Skin*, a Caribbean classic novel that is partly autobiographical. Oscillating between allegory and realism, and employing both first- and third-person narratives, the author credibly shows how Boy G, the main character, comes of age and discovers how his political, economic and sociocultural environment has shaped his personality. Implicit in the author's deliberate choice not to give the main character a name is the message that the character is culturally universal, or at least



Bill Short

emblematic of the entire Caribbean. Indeed, people interested in knowing who they are and how they came to be what they are will find something of value in this novel.

My second recommendation in this genre is *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela, one of the foremost political leaders and moral icons of the last century. For those interested in understanding the stuff that legends are made of, let Nelson Mandela take your hand and walk you through the momentous journey of his life, which, as the *Washington Post* avers, is “one of the most remarkable lives of the 20th century.”

Bill Short '71 Coordinator of Public Services The Paul Barret Jr. Library

To me, summer reading is something that is playful, entertaining and lighthearted. I work with academia, so I look forward to having something fun to read. Among the books I'm suggesting, some are some current titles, others look back to a time when reading for pleasure and wit were highly regarded matters.


The Star Machine by Jeanine Basinger, professor of film studies at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, deals with the phenomenon of the motion picture industry's studio system from the 1920s through the 1950s. I'm a fairly frequent viewer of the Turner Classic Movies TV channel and I think I know the film canon of these years pretty well. Yet, authors continually find some lost or minor film that intrigues me and makes me want to know a little bit more about a performer. Basinger writes about people like Tyrone Power, Ann Sheridan, Deanna Durbin, Irene Dunne, Lana Turner—“normal” people who were plucked from obscurity, in some cases. Basinger goes through the process of how studios knew only too well how to transform someone into a product, a commodity. The book also discusses people who defected, who threw over the traces and left the business, saying, “I'm glad you like me, but I don't want any more of it.”

A similar book, and certainly not an academic one, is *Girls Like Us* by Sheila Weller, senior contributing editor at *Glamour*, contributor to *Vanity Fair* and a

former contributing editor at *New York*. It's about three singers/songwriters from the 1960s and 1970s—Carole King, Joni Mitchell and Carly Simon. Half the book is a collective biography, the other half is gossip (after all, summer reading should be fun). It covers breakups to breakdowns, all of which may or may not have informed their work. Maybe it's one of those books you should read at the hair salon, but it helped me sort out Joni Mitchell. All three encapsulate a lot of memories for people my age. The book may inspire you to get out your CDs and start listening again, especially if you're not familiar with some of the music mentioned in the book.

A little farther back in history, fun came in heavy doses in the 1920s with the Algonquin Round Table, the group of New York writers, critics and actors who met every day for lunch at the Algonquin Hotel. *The Algonquin Wits*, edited by Robert E. Drennan, is a light read based on the group's individual memoirs. There's a wonderful 55-minute documentary about the Round Table called “The Ten-Year Lunch.”

Working as I do around people who should read books, but don't read the ones they should be reading, I recommend *How To Talk About Books You Haven't Read* by Pierre Bayard, a psychoanalyst and professor of French literature at the University of Paris. The author is playful about this: When you meet an author and it's presumed that you've read his/her work, but you haven't, you can talk in generalities—and always remember to praise the work. Saving face, keeping your job—these are little tactics he recommends. The real purpose of the book is to get you interested in reading and more important, thinking about what you're reading and how you can respond to it, and how you may have different responses to a work every time you read it.

In that vein, British novelist and essayist Nick Hornby usually writes about men in situations that challenge them and how they respond to those challenges. His novels made into film include “Fever Pitch,” “High Fidelity,” “About a Boy.” But his book *Housekeeping vs. the Dirt* is actually an accumulation of book reviews he's written for *Believer* magazine in San Francisco. It's interesting to see how he looks at making reading choices. He really talks to you. 



See and hear Bill Short recommend other books for summer reading at rhodes.edu/magazine

From the Alumni Relations Office

Dear Alumnus/a,

Greetings from the Alumni Relations Office!

This column provides a couple of announcements, makes one request and showcases opportunities through which alumni/ae may become involved in remarkable learning experiences.

Educational Program Opportunities

Through the Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning, we are building a first-class travel program. For 2009, the lineup includes trips to Antarctica, India, Peru and Scotland, with another possibility under development. Remaining trips for this calendar year include Quebec in September and Vienna for New Year's Eve.

Alumni/ae and parents of students are welcome to join Rhodes to Travel programs. For further information, please call the Meeman Center, 901-843-3965, or visit the Web site at rhodes.edu/academics/1278.asp and click on the "Rhodes to Travel" link.

Many Memphis alumni are aware of the fine classes offered through the Meeman Center. A routine check of the course offerings on this same Web site is worth your time.

Over the course of the 2008-09 academic year, Dan Cullen, associate professor of political science, will conduct seminars for alumni/ae in locations where Rhodes Chapters exist. The seminar, "Understanding Justice, Equality and Liberty, or, Why Is the Supreme Court Interpreting the Rules of Professional Golf?" is a two-hour program that will be offered in 15-17 communities.

Announcements

In the "Save the Date" category, mark your calendars for the following:

- Homecoming/Reunion Weekend '08 will be held Oct. 3-5, 2008.

- The 40th anniversary of the Black Student Association's founding will be celebrated with an alumni/ae weekend April 17-19, 2009.

Requests

- Recruit students—Summer is a period of high activity for campus visits by rising high school seniors and their families. Anything you can do to speak about your Rhodes experience to friends or family members who are making college decisions will be helpful.

- Donate frequent flier miles—You can help students take advantage of opportunities to travel to academic conferences, conduct research or study abroad by donating frequent flier miles. Contact the Alumni Relations Office alumni@rhodes.edu, 901-843-3845, to learn how to help.

By the time you receive this issue of *Rhodes* magazine, I will have served five years on the staff. Within that span of time, I have now seen an entire cycle of classes returning to campus for their reunions.



Bud Richey

You have been so good in embracing me as the college's alumni director. Beyond thanking you for all that you do to help Rhodes advance, I thank you for your support and friendship.

I look forward to beginning the cycle again.

Best regards,

Bud Richey
Associate Vice President and
Director of Alumni Relations

Class Notes

By Rachel L. Stinson '08

**Rhodes College
Alumni Association
President
Marcus Kimbrough '90
Memphis**

1940

In March 2007, **Priscilla Shumaker Heard** was named a Music Teachers National Association Foundation fellow at the MTNA convention in Toronto. She was also recently inducted into the Gilewitz Hall of Fame by the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, TX. Priscilla has taught piano privately for 60 years in the Belton area and was a professor of music at Temple College for 25 years.

1953

55th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Mary Nell Wendt Hardin writes, "Estes Park is a destination for thousands each year to Rocky Mountain National Park. I would be pleased to hear from alums when they visit. I am involved with various charitable/nonprofits, our library and, of course, my five teenage grandchildren."

René Lemarchand is retired but still active in professional organizations (African Studies Association, Middle Eastern Studies). His next book, *Conflict in Central Africa*, is coming out in February (University of Pennsylvania Press). He is also working on an edited volume titled *Forgotten Genocides* while living part of the year in Tunisia and learning Arabic.

Helen Swartzfager Ridley is professor emerita of political science and dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Kennesaw State University. She has four sons, eight grandchildren (seven boys and one girl) and one great-grandchild. Helen spends time on her 80-ft. houseboat at Lake Allatoona and at her condo on Okaloosa Island, FL.

Betty Sue Wilcox Shaw is a committed community volunteer: She is an AARP tax-aide training specialist for Michigan; serves on the AARP tax-aide National Tax Training Committee; is state treasurer for the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel; and is secretary for the local Michigan Education Association-Retired. She also serves on the IRS Test Development Team for National Volunteer Tax Preparer Certification and the audit committee for Flint Presbyterian Church. In her free time, Betty plays bridge.

1958

50th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Reporter: Lorraine Rayburn Abernathy
30 Willway Ave.
Richmond, VA 23226
804-353-4202
labernathy04@comcast.net

In October this sterling class of 1958 will celebrate our golden anniversary, with many of us heading back to the campus to enjoy being together.

Marion Forsythe Miebaum in Ripley, TN, has added some serious physical activity to her busy schedule. She "pumps iron" three times



The Charitable Annuity: The Gift That Keeps Giving

The charitable gift annuity is an increasingly popular way to make a planned gift to Rhodes while enjoying fixed income for life and possible tax benefits. In exchange for a contribution of \$10,000 or more, in cash or appreciated stock, Rhodes can offer you a fixed annual payment for life, based on your contribution, your age and the current annuity rates established by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

Annuity rates are subject to change, but the amount of your lifetime annual payment is determined at the time the charitable gift annuity is funded. Your annual payment will never change and will continue regardless of how long you live.

Age	Annuity Rate
70	6.1%
75	6.7%
80	7.6%
85	8.9%
90 & over	10.5%

You may establish a charitable gift annuity for you and your spouse or any other loved one, but the annuity rates will be slightly lower for two people. For additional information, please contact:

Roberta Bartow Matthews
Director of Planned Giving
901-843-3919 or 800-264-5969
rhodes.edu/plannedgiving



Rhodes College
—1848—

Class Notes

a week, walks 5Ks and is training for a half marathon this summer. She said that she gets lots of trophies due to there being few in her age group!

Jettie Bowen and wife Glenda enjoy family and some traveling. He had heard from **Jimmy Breazeale**, who with wife Peggy has retired from the real estate business in California to Sardis, MS. He is enjoying golf now.

Also enjoying golf, including local tournaments, is **Betty Russell** in Piggott, AR. Her father, who lives with her, will turn 100 this fall.

Nancy Carter Burnidge sent along a great catch-up letter. A longtime resident of Elgin, IL, Nancy raised a family (son and daughter), taught school, did volunteer work and 10 years ago took a course for certification in massage therapy, which she still does part time. She enjoys traveling (and shares my enthusiasm for Elderhostels), and visits her daughter and twin toddlers in Buffalo, NY, as well as her son in Denver. She keeps up with old Rhodes friends like **Barbara McClaren Matthaehi**, **Mary Jane Smalley Roberts**, **Jane Barr Stump-Green** and **Anne Underwood '59**.

This is by way of old, but happy, news: **Denton McLellan** and **Mary Allie Baldwin '61** married July 28, 2007, at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, where Denton serves part time as parish associate, and Mary Allie is on the session and sings in the chancel choir. Congratulations!

Mike Ivy, a possible candidate for a knee replacement, and wife Jane

had already scheduled a Hawaiian cruise in October during our reunion, but they send their best wishes to old friends.

Karen and **Robert Templeton** in Virginia Beach, VA, have been doing some kitchen remodeling and are starting a new business. They joined the Bowens on a cruise not too long ago.

Tom Reed writes from Richmond, KY, that he completed his 37th year as professor of criminal justice and police studies at Eastern Kentucky University this spring. He plans to retire: 1. when he is either physically or mentally unable to continue working, or 2. has a better career alternative.

From chilly Rochester, MN, comes word from **Arnold** and **Linda Hardesty Schroeter** that Arnold retired as a dermatologist at Mayo Clinic Jan. 31 and began working half time Feb. 6. He was chair of the Dermatology Department at Wright State University School of Medicine for eight years, but the rest of his career has been spent at Mayo. Linda enjoys gardening but finds Minnesota's season a bit short. Their travels, with family or to medical meetings, have included trips to China, Egypt and Israel. They have four children, three in the Midwest and one in California. Arnold, who enjoys woodworking and photography, worked on their cabin on a lake in northern Minnesota.

Mary Ann Breese Brendel wrote from Britain that they were there for an April wedding and would then travel with friends for three weeks.

Modesty prevents him,

says **Richard Dortch** in Jackson, from considering being my fictional poet laureate for state of Mississippi. Instead he says, "I'm now retired after 42 years in the lawyering trade. Friends occasionally ask what I'm doing to stay busy. The answer, I'm proud to say, is nothing. I have discovered that there is no requirement to be busy. To the contrary, my goal in retirement is to give new meaning to the concept of worthless. In pursuit of this goal, there are books to be read, music to be enjoyed, grandchildren seeking a playmate, trips to be taken, fish to be caught, civic duties to be performed, church tasks to be undertaken and friends to enjoy. I like to tell lies about how successful I've been." I like his attitude, don't you?

Another member of the Southwestern track team with Richard was **Bob Booth**, who will retire from banking in 2009 after 50 years, with some of his experience in Baton Rouge, Nashville and NYC, but most in Memphis. He is co-authoring, with Dr. Ed Morler, a book called *Good People/Bad Credit*. "I hope to race Mike Cody in a 100-foot race at the reunion. If he is mending from a broken hip, I might just beat him for the first time in my life. That will give me a lifetime won/loss record against him of 1/123, therefore qualifying me for the Rhodes Athletic Hall of Fame!"

Might as well round out the track folks with news from **Mike Cody**. He walks several times a week in Overton Park with "our friend Jameson Jones, still known to all of us as Dean

Jones," who at age 92 is still on top of his game and looking forward to our reunion. Mike was recognized in April, the 40th anniversary of Martin Luther King's death in Memphis, as one of Memphis' 10 Civil Rights Pioneers in an article in *Memphis* magazine. Mike and his law firm represented Dr. King in court the day King was assassinated.

Once again **Kip** and **Louis Zbinden** flew off to Zambia from January till March, where Louis taught theological students at Justo Mwale Theological College and Kip taught "remedial English with a Southern accent." The median age there is 38, so Lou's turning 72 while there was cause for consternation, as well as celebration. Their son and his family joined them, and they went on safari. They are looking forward to the 50th reunion. Says Kip: "I remember the big crowd we had at the 45th because everyone was afraid they might not make it to 50!"

Jane Dean Sohm checked in with the interesting history that Dr. Tuthill put her (a music student of Lois Maer) on the preparatory faculty at the School of Music after graduation and she taught there for 30 years. She is the widow of Dr. J.J. Sohm, who was a young Memphis doctor when she was a student at Cumberland College in Lebanon, TN, so they were married and she transferred to Southwestern. She enjoyed other music students such as **Neville Frierson Bryan** and **Marion Forsythe Miebbaum**. She is affiliated with Evergreen Presbyterian Church.

Having moved to Vero

Beach, FL, three years ago and loving condo living are **Jack and Jane Alexander Biedenharn '59**. Jack is still working full time as a tennis pro at the Orchid Island Tennis Club and their son, Joe, is head tennis pro at another club in Vero. Last November, Jack and Joe played in a national father-son super senior doubles tournament. Jack had both knees replaced in May 2007 and obviously made a remarkable recovery. Jane reports that he still paints and draws fairly often, plays golf as much as he can, and most of all enjoys spending time with their two granddaughters who live in Vero. The Biedenharns were thrilled last October to see the changes to the Rhodes campus when they were there for Jack's induction into the Rhodes Athletic Hall of Fame.

Paul Thompson writes from Massachusetts that he continues ministerial duties as part-time associate at St. Peter's in Osterville and as priest at St. Andrew's by the Sea summer chapel in Hyannis Port. Paul has a deep interest in Scottish clans (his is Clan MacTavish/Thompson) and was honored to be asked by the chief of his clan to serve as clan chaplain. In July 2009 he will go to Scotland for "The Gathering," a homecoming of sorts. He and wife Bunny have another commitment so won't be with us for the 50th, but he wrote, "I am grateful to Rhodes for the education I received and the friends made. I had no idea when I graduated where my life's journey would take me. Looking back on it now, I am grateful for the adventures

and challenges I've had and the contributions I've been able to make. Our class has certainly lived through a transformative period in our nation's history."

Celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year, **Billy '57** and **Sue Robinson McLean** have planned a Grand Circle river cruise from Amsterdam to Vienna. Sue is still enjoying more than 25 years in real estate and will stick with it as long as it's fun. Billy owns a company, Dauphin Environmental Equipment, where son **Nolan '89** works full time. They were on campus last fall for Billy's 50th reunion, where he received the award for Volunteer of the Year.

Martha Sigler Guthrie, back at home in Metairie, LA, after the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, has been doing some traveling: China, Caribbean, Palm Beach, New York and elsewhere. The New Orleans Academy of Fine Art is back in session, and she is teaching an advanced watercolor class, as well as an oil painting class. She plans to join us for the 50th.

Lew Murray, along with wife of 40 years, Giorgina, divides time between Chevy Chase, MD, and Italy (home for Giorgina.). Lew's career in the foreign service took him to Italy, Mexico, Dominican Republic, France, Tunisia, Venezuela, Jamaica and finally, Australia. The Murrays have three children and five "unusually bright, advanced, lovely grandchildren." At the reunion you *must* ask Lew how he parlayed half a dozen words of Italian, Spanish and French into a U. of Bologna, Italy, scholarship from Johns

Hopkins Foreign Service Graduate School.

From Lubbock, TX, we hear from **Dolly Cooke Green**, where she and her husband retired to be near one of their three daughters ("as we age"). They, like the Templetons, are dealing with kitchen remodeling and its mess. Dolly is retired from teaching special education, and her husband is a retired Episcopal priest.

I have no horn to toot. I retired from teaching kindergarten in Midlothian, a Richmond suburb, after 35 years. My husband, Jack Abernathy, was a publicist and writer with an advertising agency here. He died in 1998. We have three daughters spread over creation (Charlotte, Jacksonville, Hoboken), who thankfully got their dad's brains and writing skills. I retired six years ago and thoroughly enjoy taking classes at the Virginia Museum (lecture, not studio), the Virginia Historical Society, at a seniors program called The Shepherd's Center, and going on Elderhostel trips, visiting children, grandchildren (two of them), family and old friends. I also enjoy hearing from you folks and gratefully appreciate receiving your news to pass on. Would I make up stuff if you didn't send news along? Guess!

1959

Reporter: Sara Jean (Shiney) Jackson
sji1022@earthlink.net

Marguerite Livingston Stone and husband Scott live in Decatur, AL, and are among others of our class celebrating 50-year wedding

anniversaries this year.

Danny and Karen Boyce Logan '60 encourage folks to contact them about their work with their Synod's water purification project, Living Waters for the World. They recently returned from a week in Haiti and plan to continue this mission involvement.

San Andrews Robertson loves the travel afforded by her flight attendant job, and enjoys life with husband Bill.

And, kudos to **Bates "Calendar Girl" Peacock Toone** (ask her!) for many art achievements, including a watercolor/photography show with son Edwin and for winning the poster contest for the annual Wilmington Art Show. Bates also reports recent contact with **Joan Waggoner Bacchus**.

1961

Reporter: Sam Drash
4541 Solomon Seal Tr.
Chattanooga, TN 37415
423-875-3580
sldrash@comcast.net

Bob Barret retired from a 30-year teaching career at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He continues to be active in his practice of clinical psychology. His essay "I Believe in Integrity" can be heard on NPR's Web site, npr.org. Once you reach the site, click on "This I Believe." Then go to the bottom of that page and click on "More Essays." On the new page, scroll down to "Living with Integrity." You will see a picture of Bob to the left of his article. Click the title that reads "Listen: Bob Barret Reads His Essay." You will find it is a very interesting and honest article. You can also click on "Print" to get a copy.

Class Notes

Cynthia and Edwina

Bringle are helping as auctioneer and spotter for two fundraising auctions in Asheville, NC, in June. Edwina attended a Sheep and Wool Festival in May, and in July will teach at the Penland School of Crafts. Cynthia's DVD, produced by the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, is out and has been well received. She will teach in North Carolina in September, and in October will do a workshop for The Clayworkers Guild of Illinois. Cynthia now has a Web site: cynthiabringlepotttery.com

John Curlin retired as an OB/GYN about 2½ years ago. Since then, he and his wife Leeba sold their home in Jackson, built a new one in Humboldt and purchased a second home in Panama City, Panama, where they spend six months of the year. Their daughter, son-in-law and five grandchildren live in Panama. They have a total of two daughters and five sons, plus 23 grandchildren. John is involved in a prayer ministry that involves sites in Panama, Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico. One of their sons is in Iraq at the present time and two others are in the Army, both having served tours in Iraq. John had a radical prostatectomy in April and is learning to deal with the postoperative complications of that procedure. Once they receive the results of a PSA test by June, John and Leeba will know more about his prognosis. I would ask that all of us keep them in our prayers.

Sam and Ginny Taylor

Drash '66 had two interesting trips this spring. We drove to Atlanta for Grandparents Day at our granddaughter's school. Emma (7) is in the second grade. Her brother Billy is four years old. Their parents are Genny and Wayne Drash. Wayne is the coordinator of CNN Internet. We celebrated Ginny's birthday while we were there. Two weeks later, we flew to see our son, **Mike Drash '91**, for his 39th birthday. He is the wine maker for Luna Winery. He and his wife Tracy have a darling daughter, Tallulah, who will turn two in July. Speaking of birthdays, on April 4, 1968, Ginny's birthday, we went out to eat at a nonintegrated restaurant in Montgomery, AL. While there, we heard the news that Dr. Martin Luke King had been killed in Memphis. Needless to say, that was a very tense time as I am sure all of us remember.

Shortly after Christmas, **Jerry Duncan** and his wife Martha took Mary Johnson, the president of the Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, to Italy for the wedding of a medical colleague. Jerry said it was a great trip, but he told me that you had better be ready for a big difference in American money and the Euro if you travel to Europe.

Ed Henderson is still working, teaching at LSU and finishing his 43rd year there. He says that he is having more fun than ever. He has shed all of his administrative responsibilities and is free to concentrate on his teaching. His most recent course, "C.S. Lewis and the Oxford

Christians," focused on the fiction of Lewis and several of his Christian friends: J.R.R. Tolkien, Dorothy L. Sayers and Charles Williams. Ed says it is powerful stuff, and the students seemed to enjoy it. However, Ed says the real pleasure is his. After all, the purpose of the university is to educate the faculty, right? Last September, Ed and Tricia traveled to a conference on science and religion in Oxford, England. Ed presented a paper on "The Personal Matrix," which dealt with ideas about how God acts in the world as understood by science. Their son, Harris, and his wife Casey had their first child in February. He is Edward Owen Henderson, and they are calling him Owen. Harris is finishing his second year of law school at the University of Georgia. Before law school, Harris tried to break into the movie business and was involved with two films shown last year at the Sundance Film Festival: "Low and Behold," about post-Katrina New Orleans, and "The Great World of Sound," about the music industry.

Kathleen O'Leary says, "As you might know, I am active in Democratic politics. I have been on the Platform Committee several times and have gone to all the conventions, including the national convention in 1996 at Chicago. This year, at our district convention, I was honored when they elected me the Iowa elector from the district. So, I will gather with six other electors at the Iowa State Capitol in December to cast the final Iowa vote for U.S. president

and vice president."

Bill Reed has asked if any of our classmates recall civil rights activities on campus when we were students. Since it was 40 years ago this year that Dr. Martin Luther King was killed, Bill is trying to assemble recollections for his children and grandchildren dealing with how things were when we were growing up.

Bob Taylor and his wife Barbara are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, a beautiful little girl. Boy, are they going to have fun spoiling her! Their son Ryan and his wife Allison are the proud parents. They live in Atlanta, where Ryan was recently designated as a director with the accounting firm Alveraz and Marseau. Bob and Barbara live in Corbin, KY. I imagine they may have to purchase some new tires this year since I am sure they will start visiting Atlanta quite often. On a visit in April, they took a few things Ryan had as a baby. I wonder how they thought of doing that. I'm sure none of us ever has!

In January of this year, **Jack Thompson** underwent two operations. One was to remove a nodule on his lung, a pseudo tumor, and a mass in his thyroid gland. In both cases, neither was malignant. Jack's thyroid had to be removed because of the size of the growth on it. He is doing well now and is still practicing law in Nashville. Starting in September, Jack and his wife **Emma Young Thompson** will become home-school teachers for five of their grandchildren in Nashville. Emma will teach home enrichment to the children, including

such things as cooking, sewing, etc. Jack is to teach geography and history.

Judi Vestal appreciates **Bill Reed's** suggestion for us to try to remember how different times were for blacks and whites when we were younger. She said that in April 1968, she was living in London and had been there for a little over a year. I quote Judi: "The Memphis riots and then the assassination of Dr. King were all over the news. I was at once embarrassed, angry and frightened for those who were closer to the action. My British friends were incredulous that I could be from a place like that. I found myself in a position of wanting to support Memphis and its culture to people who had no concept of the history and evolution of such issues. There was not a clear explanation of what was happening and it was futile to try to make sense of it. My British contemporaries had nothing with which to compare the situation and were unable to relate to what was happening in Memphis. Consequently, they were also unable to relate to my own feelings. This became one of very few times I have felt totally isolated and much like a 'stranger in a foreign land.' Back to the 21st century: Tom and I are continuing to remodel a condo in Memphis. As a result, we have developed a great respect for contractors, the complexity of the problems they solve and the diplomacy with which they do their jobs! Remodeling a kitchen and two bathrooms has been one 'challenge' after another. We have to remind ourselves

frequently that each adversity is an opportunity in disguise!"

Sandy Winter writes that she's "learned how much fun spring breaks can be for retired grandmothers." During the latest spring break, she spent four days at the Atlantis Resort in the Bahamas with her son, Ricky, and grandsons, Richard and William. After one day at home, she accompanied 10-year-old grandson William on a trip to visit his Uncle David in Washington, DC. Sandy is currently enjoying working part time as a resource person for the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is assisting the interim campus minister and board during a time of major transition. She writes, "In a way, this seems like coming full circle, as I was director of Presbyterian Campus Ministry at UTC from 1968-77 before attending seminary. My heart is with the ministry and I'm glad for the opportunity to be of help to them at this time."

Gerry Knight White spent last winter taking care of her granddaughter, Karis Patton, while Karis' father, Gerry's son, was deployed to Columbia, South America. He returned to the U.S. May 27. Karis' mother is in the Air Force Reserve and has been on active duty at various bases in the states since Jan. 21. Karis turned two years and six months on July 9. This is a fun time to get to know your grandchildren!

1962

Residing in Traverse City, MI, **Diane Clark** is director of The Grand Traverse Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, a 32-member women's barbershop ensemble and the fifth highest-scoring small chorus in the world in 2007. The Rhodes associate professor emerita of music also teaches private voice lessons and is a certified adjudicator for the Michigan School Vocal Music Association.

New Orleans coffee shop owner **Bob Patience** writes, "Marigny Perks now has a sister shop, Magazine Perks, at 4332 Magazine St. at the corner of Napoleon. Magazine Perks has the same menu, plus panini sandwiches. Come say hello to the friendly staff there!"

1963

45th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Kaye McKnight Beavers reports, "I am finally at a time of my life where I can indulge myself in my favorite pastimes: reading, bridge and Mah Jongg. This has been a long time coming and may not last, so I'm taking advantage of it to the fullest."

Brenda Blackshear Smith and husband Edward are retired and live in Decatur, AL. They have three married sons and seven grandchildren and divide their time between Decatur and Gulf Shores.

Carolyn and **Dan Gilchrist** have been married 44 years. "I am the proud father of three outstanding children and grandfather of four exceptional grandchildren,"

Dan says. "I am honorably retired after 23 years as senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Carthage, MS. I'm also retired from service as a member of the board of directors of the Carthage Bank, The First Carthage Corp. and the Heritage Banking Group." He is currently vice president of ENVISION, a Mississippi limited liability company, and is still involved in farming and management of timberlands in Alabama and Mississippi.

1964

Nancy Wasell Work writes, "**Liz Currie Williams** and I spent Memorial Day weekend at her Estes Park, CO, mountain home. It was a great comfort to me following the recent death of my husband, Henry H. Work, a child psychiatrist who was active in the Episcopal Church. His funeral was held at the Washington National Cathedral."

1965

Reporter: Virginia Lowry Ives
virginiaives65@bellsouth.net

Ted Morris has been named a professor at Illinois Wesleyan University. He joined IWU in 2000 as an associate professor of philosophy.

Jim Collier writes, "I retired as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Wooster, OH, at the end of 2007. My wife Janelle also retired in 2007. We spent the winter in Santa Fe, NM, enjoying the abundant

Class Notes

sunshine and a minimum of snow. We returned to Ohio this spring and have no definite plans for the immediate future. We may relocate but are uncertain about our destination. The agenda for now is to enjoy retirement, travel a bit and do as little as possible for awhile. After 40 years of responsibility as a 24/7 pastor, the leisure feels really good."

Ann Dow Lee says, "Both Bayliss and I are happy and content working on Prince Edward Island in Canada. I invest—or try to—and keep house, paint paintings (and rooms if necessary), etc. Hope to get a show together soon. My six sons and seven grandchildren all live away, in Canada and the U.S.. They visit as much as they can."

Carter Osterbind taught at Jacksonville State University in Alabama for 28 years and currently is interim head of the art department. He plans to retire in December. His wife Kelly is registrar at JSU. They have six children, ages 13 to 27, and a granddaughter, Charlotte (almost 2).

Teri Tate Hornberger is the artist in residence for her new community and is teaching the entire Juliaetta Elementary School in an art program she designed. There are 166 students, a big stretch from where she left off in Watertown, SD, where she taught a total of 30 students in one week. Three weeks of classes culminated on "Academic Day" May 1, when parents came to the school and the kids proudly displayed their projects and showed what they had learned about art. The

children drew pictures of trees in honor of Arbor Day, April 21, and their written poetry was incorporated into their pictures.

Charles Robertson received the Distinguished Service Medal at Commencement for dedication and service to Rhodes.

1966

Reporter: Sammy Primm Marshall
samamarshall@comcast.net

Bob Frank has a new album out on the Memphis International label, titled "Red Neck, Blue Collar, or What Happens to You When You Major in English." *The Commercial Appeal* gave it a good review in the April 4, 2008, edition.

Ray Bye reports that his son Phillip married Easter weekend. Phillip and his bride completed their law degrees at Suffolk University in Boston in May. His daughter, Eleanor, married **Barrett Haga '01**, last April. Eleanor and Barrett live and work in the Washington, DC, area. Ray travels often to DC for Florida State University, seeking funds for the research faculty. He also does consulting work with a DC firm and with Hill & Knowlton in its Florida office. He and Kathy travel as much as possible and try to work in golf games together.

Becky Smith Kissel's son married in April. She is spending more time painting in her studio and is looking forward to traveling out west this summer with her husband and their three rescued dogs in their RV.

In May, **Susan Fisher Cheairs** and husband Tommy met **Walter and Nancy Cox Howell '67** and Bill and **Nancy Jackson Williamson** in North Carolina for a little hiking.

Dixie De Merville Johnson is an active member of Germantown Presbyterian Church, where she currently serves as an elder. She and Bob have been doing some garden renovation and with the help of a friend have built a potting shed. She thinks she might be able to help Larrie Del with Habitat houses now.

Tim Greaves and wife Georgea live in Greenville, SC, where he is still practicing law. He is now with the Ogletree, Deakins firm. Tim still paints, and his work is on exhibit in several galleries. His Web site is timgreaves.com. He reports that one daughter is teaching in Charlotte; another is teaching in Greenville; and their third daughter works in Arlington, VA.

1967

Reporter: Jeanne Hope Jacobs Buckner
Box 345
Winter Harbor, ME 04693
jhbuckner@aol.com

Bill Breytspraak recently received his chair for 30 years of service as a faculty member and administrator at Ottawa University. He teaches adult classes at Village Presbyterian Church and started piano lessons one year ago.

George Abraham's book *The Seven Deadly Work Sins* was recently named the best business book of 2007 by booksandauthors.net.

George writes, "I hope my colleagues will take a peek at it on Amazon and let me know what they think about it." George also reports that he "recently had coffee with **John Boswell**, and he looks terrific and is amazingly successful. We caught up on old times. He lives right up the street from me in Manhattan."

Arnie Pittman has been spending more and more time in Hollywood as his daughter Joelle continues to pursue acting opportunities.

Noni and Bill Buchanan enjoyed a one-week "Sea-E-Cruise" (continuing education cruise) with the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry, where Bill is the associate dean for academic affairs. They report, "We were to visit Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico, but someone on board developed a 'serious medical emergency', so we had to go back near New Orleans to allow a Coast Guard helicopter to medevac the person to N.O. We had a great trip visiting with friends and snorkeling in Grand Cayman and Cozumel. We need to do something like this with our class!"

Kris Pruitt writes that she is finally a grandmother by her son and his wife. Additionally, she will serve as president of the Milton Society of America in San Francisco at the Modern Language Association, which marks the 400th anniversary of Milton's birth and the 60th anniversary of the society. Kris says, "Thank you, John Quincy Wolf. All goes well here in middle Tennessee, and

Charley says 'Hi' to his new friends."

Elizabeth Hewgley reports, "My husband, **Mike Hewgley**, and I attended the reunion this year and had a great time. I am not sure if you remember that Mike was married to **Canon Thomas Hall**, and during this time they had three terrific sons. Two of these sons and our daughter are the kids you mentioned in your article. I agree Canon did a fabulous job preparing the dinner. I just thought that it was amusing that Mike and my 15-year-old daughter brought to our attention that Canon and Clay were her parents and that Clay was the father of her brothers. I thought you might find this slight faux pas as amusing as we did." Oops!

Ketti Tyree's Christmas letter contained another great story about her granddaughter Brynn: "Daughter Kristin gave a baby shower in which one of the games was to complete missing words from nursery rhymes. When presented with "Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard to fetch _____," Brynn responded with, "to fetch some chardonnay?" Like grandmother, like granddaughter! Ketti went on to say that she enjoyed the class reunion in October and found her classmates by looking for anyone with grey or white hair. Luckily, she's a natural blonde!

Susan and Pat Osoinach did a terrific job making a DVD from the pictures and videos of our reunion. To help us all out, they included pictures from yearbooks along with pictures from the present so we could

recognize each other. If you are interested in ordering one for old times' sake, e-mail Susan. They are really fun!

I recently received a copy of Brother **Timothy Jolley's** book, *Of Silence and Reflection*, which includes an introduction by **Jim Cole**. It is a beautiful collection of columns written for the monastery newsletter during Timothy's 11-year tenure as prior. If you would like a copy, please contact me, and I will give you the information to order one. Timothy is in Grahamstown, South Africa, where he is the prior of Mariya uMama weThemba Monastery.

This spring, a business associate of my husband came to visit with his wife. I took an immediate liking to her and should have guessed she had gone to Southwestern because she is so cool. **Carol Millwee Rudolph** was class of '73. She transferred to Arkansas her junior year and now lives in DC, where she is a professional capitol city guide. Small world!

1968

40th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4
Reporters: **Bob Morris**
bmorris68@comcast.net
Drue Thom White
drueboo@aol.com

Suzanne Troth Donaldson completed the course work and exam required to be designated as a certified financial planner and is continuing her career at Wachovia Securities in Johnson City, TN. She is president of the Johnson City Morning Rotary Club and a member of

the board of directors of the Girl Scouts of the Appalachian Council. She and her husband Bruce live in Jonesborough, TN, in a golf course community where they play as often as their schedules permit. They also have the blessing of a beautiful grandson, Finn (3 ½). She hopes to come to the reunion unless her golf team wins the regional competition in Tunica and goes to the finals in Oregon.

Carey Bryan got hitched in April. His bride is Qilan Meng Bryan of Shanghai. She is a career journalist, following six years on a horse farm during the cultural revolution. After graduation and Vietnam, Carey started work for Boys & Girls Clubs of America and now lives in Ennis, TX, where for the past five years he has been the organization's chief professional officer. Civic and church activities include prez-elect of Ennis Rotary, chairman of the trustees of First United Methodist Church of Ennis and co-chair of the world mission committee. "Loving married life—people say I am always smiling. Hello to all."

Steve Cole wrote: "**Bill Hubbard, Jim Stewart, David Lehmann** and I stay in touch. In the past few years we have attempted to get together once a year. This past March, we and our spouses met in Savannah, GA, where Jim grew up. We had a great time reliving memories of our years at Rhodes and catching up on our lives. In recent years we have met in New York City and Atlanta. We have found that the experiences we had at Rhodes helped shape our

lives and form friendships that have continued to grow over the years. I am in the Atlanta area (Peachtree City) and retired from teaching. Bill in Nashville, Jim in Richmond and David in NYC are continuing their careers. My wife Beverly and I definitely plan on being at the reunion."

From **Mary Currey Zseltvay**: "I'm a 'late bloomer' as far as career goes. I received my M.Ed. in human development counseling from Vandy in 1994, but didn't decide to pursue the LPC (licensed professional counselor) until 2006. So I went back to school to get the last 12 hours I needed, and finished them while continuing to work as a school-based counselor for Centerstone. I pursued the LPC-MHSP (mental health service provider) and received my license in November '07. Yea! I'm now the project director for a grant, Project SELF in Columbia, TN. I live in Franklin outside Nashville so I have a long drive to Columbia. Project SELF is an evidence-based program for adolescents, 12-18 years old with drug/alcohol problems. Probably won't retire any time soon. Counselors just don't seem to give up! No grandchildren yet. My daughter Catie is married and ran the Boston Marathon April 21! My son Rob is still searching for the 'perfect woman' (good luck-right?) and has his own lawn service business. Both live in Franklin, too. My husband is retired and maintaining the house—the joys of home ownership! Hope to attend the reunion with **Ellen Brown Rust**."

Class Notes

Lindley Darden was the Clark-Way-Harrison Visiting Professor at Washington University in St. Louis, where she taught philosophy of biology during the 2008 spring semester. She returned to the University of Maryland in June. She writes that the April earthquake that was felt in St. Louis was the second she has ever experienced; the first was a very mild one while she was a student at Rhodes.

Jane Mando Meeks writes: “Ken (brother of **Pat Meeks ’67**) and I live in Watkinsville, GA (Athens), where he is the general presbyter for Northeast Georgia Presbytery and I am an elementary school counselor in Barrow County. Our two sons remain Tarheels—Josh lives in Charlotte, teaches classical guitar, works with a production company that plans festivals, plays whenever he can (solo and with friends) and does whatever work it takes to continue the lifestyle of a starving artist. Ian lives nearby in Conover, is a high school counselor and the soccer coach—his boys won the conference championship this year and made it to the state quarterfinals. The girls are on the same path. Recently we spent time at Ft. Meyers, FL, a little too close to spring breakers who took us back quite a few years, and Sanibel Island where we enjoyed a more peaceful, relaxing time. Retirement is still a few years away for us, but we are beginning to check out the NC mountains for the next exciting phase of

life. Maybe we will actually get to the 40th reunion, although I just don’t think it’s possible that we are at that milestone—certainly I am far too young!”

Barbara Lesh Borleske writes: “I retired from teaching high school chemistry last June, and I have decided that retirement is the *best* part of life. I didn’t just rest and eat bonbons, because on retirement I took the job (volunteer and no pay!) as director of Delaware Science Olympiad. I am also a member of the board of directors of the Delaware Nature Society and I belong to a garden club and the Delaware African Violet Society. Steve and I have four grandchildren who live nearby and we see them frequently. It is a joy to take them to the Philadelphia Zoo or on a nature walk in the back yard! A few years ago we built a house in eastern North Carolina on a creek that feeds into the Albemarle Sound. Steve and I celebrate 39 years of marriage in August. I hope I can talk him into a trip to the reunion in October. My parents still live in Jackson, and I am sure they would love to host us if we decide to go.”

From **Luther Nussbaum**: “After 33 years accumulating 4 million American Advantage miles and more than 1 million on other airlines, at the end of ’05 I decided to stay home and look at the view. Semiretirement has two sides: 1. a wonderful ability to dabble in investments and projects, to learn new things, to travel and to live and 2. a lack of a defining identity

which bugs me about once a quarter. I generally want to talk about the future more than the past. Ginger and I have been married almost 39 years. We’ve embraced and conquered her cancer and our oldest daughter’s near death. We have two daughters, two sons-in-law, three grandchildren. Life is calm.”

Jon Jackson was the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Counseling Association; Honors of the Board from the Southeastern Association of Colleges and Universities; and Counselor of the Year from the West Tennessee Counseling Association.

Mike Hettinger is the recipient of the R. Townley Paton Award from the Eye Bank Association of America—the highest award given to a physician from the EBAA. In Kansas City, he is chairman of the advisory board of Midwest Transplant Network, an organ procurement organization. Mike has served on the board of directors of the EBAA for 22 years.

In February 2008, The Peacemaking Committee of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognized **Nibs Stroupe** and his wife Caroline Leach with the Peacemaking Award. Nibs and Caroline became pastors at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA, in 1983. They celebrated their 25th anniversary at Oakhurst in February.

Ellen Plants Massey wrote: “I retired from a career in education in 1998—was a teacher, school principal,

assistant superintendent and finally ran a division at the education service center in San Antonio. When I retired, I started doing what I really love to do—garden, write, quilt, paint, make music and act. The latter has become a true passion and I’m in plays and films whenever they need a ‘character.’ My husband Jim and I retired to our dream home in the woods in the Texas hill country, overlooking Canyon Lake. Life treated us well until last year, but Jim is now in the final stages of Alzheimer’s. I am managing on my own for the first time in my life, with the help of an aged blind dog and an aged female cat who has adopted me. I enjoy hearing news of our class members.”

Dottie Johnson Pounders, with the Memphis law firm of Pounders Coleman, has been selected as one of the 2008 Best Lawyers in America, a distinction she has received for the last 10 years. She was also named to the Super Lawyers Top 100 Lawyers in Tennessee and to the Top 101 Lawyers in TN by *Business TN Magazine*. In 2005, she received the Lawyer’s Lawyer Award, the highest honor presented by the Memphis Bar Association. She practices in the area of family law, domestic litigation and mediation.

Carol Colclough Strickland writes: “**Sid** and I hope to make the reunion this fall. As for what we’ve been up to, we both had books published last fall. My two were a second edition of my art history book, *The Annotated Mona Lisa*, and *The Illustrated Timeline*

of *Western Literature*. Sid and our daughter co-wrote *The Illustrated Timeline of Science*. Both timelines are part of a series (dreamed up by **John Boswell '67** and sold to Barnes & Noble's press) providing an overview of individual subjects through text and images. (I did *The Illustrated Timeline of Art History* for the series.) Now I'm working on a historical novel about the lives of Empress Theodora and Emperor Justinian of the Byzantine Empire, set in sixth-century Constantinople. Sid's still dean of graduate students at Rockefeller University in Manhattan and runs a neuroscience lab. He's hot on the trail of what causes Alzheimer's."

1969

"My wife Linh and I have been doing some traveling again recently," writes **John Walters**. "I look forward to more as I retire. In November, we'll visit my father in Pennsylvania for his 88th birthday. My best to all of you at Rhodes. We will make my class reunion in October 2009!"

Sam Morgan and **Marion Birge** married Feb. 17, 2007. Marion has retired from teaching English and Latin and is serving as a college adviser with the Shelby County Schools. Sam is a professor in the Psychology Department at the University of Memphis.

In February 2008, **Rich Raspet** gave a lecture at Rhodes titled "Wind Noise and Atmospheric Turbulence." Rich is a physics professor and a principal scientist at the

National Center for Physical Acoustics at the University of Mississippi.

1970

Reporter: **Hud Andrews**
andrewsh@rhodes.edu

Beth Marr Lee was voted one of "Greenville's 25 Most Beautiful Women" in the October 2007 *Talk Magazine*, a publication of the *Greenville News*. "The full-page photo was a work of art by the photographer (he took out all the wrinkles!), but I think (hope) the nomination and selection were made based on community involvement and volunteer effectiveness," she says. You can find it online via *greenville news*, *talk magazine*.

Betty Foley Wentworth says, "When I am not selling real estate in Nashville, I am painting in Seaside, FL. I have a new grandson, born last July. My daughter and her husband are Presbyterian ministers living in Manhattan. I recently returned from San Francisco, visiting with my son and family (three granddaughters). This followed a two-week painting workshop in Tuscany. My paintings are in several galleries in the south. Some of our alumni in Florence, AL, can check them out at Artifacts."

One of **Wallace Mayton's** daughters passed her bar exam on first take. "To realize one's investment is a good thing. All we do is live through our children!" he says. "I'm serving a second term as president of the board for Big Brothers Big Sisters in the Heart of Michigan and a second

term as vice president of the board for the Affordable Housing Alliance of Midland County. And, I have been appointed to the Council of Ambassadors for Eagle Village of Michigan, a residential treatment facility for children and youth."

Joyce McConnell Underwood has a new grandson, Jonathan Daniel Underwood, who was born March 13, 2008. "He is the fourth child of our son Mark and his wife Alanna, who also have Alecia, Katrina (named just before the storm arrived) and Julia. We're planning a trip to Ft. Campbell to visit our daughter Anna and their two children Wesley and Marianne. Her husband Mark is currently in Iraq."

Ron Eades is retiring after 31 years of teaching at the Law School at the University of Louisville, and moving to Charleston, SC. He and his wife **Lillian Aivazian Eades '71** are looking forward to being closer to their children and grandchildren. Their son Matthew lives in Columbia, SC, with his wife Mary and two children. Daughter Emily lives in Charleston with her husband Brian and one child.

Hud Andrews was presented the Juror Emeritus Award upon his retirement from active service as a jury chairman for the Professional Photographers of America. He had served in that capacity since 1993. His daughter Amy is graduating this May from naturopathic medical school in Toronto, where she will be living and practicing with her husband Chris Murphy. His son Trey and daughter-in-law Rachel have returned

from three years of teaching in Seoul, Korea, and live in Chicago.

1971

Reporter: **Betha Hubbard Gill**
1365 Yorkshire Dr.
Memphis, TN 38119
901-685-6712
yorkforest@aol.com

Jim Cogswell and **Sarah Stitt '72** live in Ann Arbor, MI, where Sarah is general counsel for Washtenaw Community College and Jim is a professor at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design. Their son, David (17) will attend Oberlin College in September, and daughter Katherine will be a junior in high school. Jim was recently designated an Arthur F. Thurnau professor by the regents of the University of Michigan in recognition of his outstanding contributions to undergraduate education. Information on Jim's recent artwork can be found at umich.edu/~jcogs.

1973

35th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Reporter: **Margaret Lawson Headrick**
mheadrick@utm.edu

Meriwether Montgomery and **Judy Brooks Tygard** are co-chairs of our 35th reunion, Oct. 3-4. Look for more information to come. You won't want to miss this one!!

Pam Pulliam Cleveland is still teaching Spanish and French and looking forward to spending time with her daughter and grandchildren in Connecticut this

Class Notes

summer. She and her husband Howard have six grandchildren.

Frannie Taylor currently manages the Global Goods Fair Trade Store at First Congregational Church in Memphis' Cooper-Young neighborhood. The weekend store manager's position is spiritually rewarding, but she hopes that ever-evasive weekday job is just around the corner. (She worked for two Fortune 500 companies before being "right-sized.") She has the good fortune of getting to see and hear Rhodes psychology professor Marsha Walton at First Congregational Church and is frequently reminded of our alma mater and what a special place it is.

Levi Frazier is still the managing director of the Blues City Cultural Center and assistant professor of theater and communications at Southwest Tennessee Community College, where he directed "A Star Ain't Nothin' But a Hole in Heaven." His living history museum production at the National Civil Rights Museum closed April 25 after a three-month run. He was commissioned by the museum to write and direct the show, which played to visitors both young and old.

Jane Howze has written a chapter for the recently-published book titled *Inside the Mind—Best Practices for Executive Search Firms* (Aspatore Books), an authoritative, insiders' perspective on key strategies for both filling executive positions and growing a profitable search firm.

After making a reservation 18 months ago, **Meriwether Montgomery** will ride the

North Rim of the Grand Canyon on the back of a mule in mid-September.

Amy Bailey Evans' oil painting "High Country Hike" was selected as the artwork for the 2008 Breckenridge Annual Music Festival poster.

Russell and Margaret Lawson Headrick have moved to Knoxville, TN, to be closer to family and the mountains. Russell will continue to practice law with Baker Donelson in the Knoxville office, and Margaret has taken a job with the State of Tennessee, Division of Special Education.

David Francis has released a new CD, titled "Be Still, My Soul—American Hymns Revisited (Volume Two)." David recorded the CD in the historic Studio A at Capitol Records in Hollywood, where legends such as Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole and many others have recorded.

Natalie Honan Vernon writes, "Minor '71 still practices pediatrics. Our youngest child attends the University of Georgia, so we are 'empty nesters' now. We're enjoying our first grandchild, who was born in April 2007."

James and **Jennifer Worsham Newman** are dividing their time between homes in Jacksonville, FL, and Brevard, NC. James retired from PricewaterhouseCoopers in June, and they are looking forward to spending a lot of time in the mountains and doing some traveling.

1974

Allen Shelton writes,

"Recently, my son, Uriah, has been seen on TV in episodes of "The Ghost Whisperer" and "Without a Trace," and has an upcoming made-for-TV movie called *Death Match*. The movie will be his first lead role since he has been in L.A. Uriah was picked up by a Hollywood agent when he was 8 and has done numerous national TV ad campaigns.

1975

On Jan. 3, WKNO Memphis broadcast a segment about the restoration of a 19th-century carousel organ on its "Southern Routes" program. **Vincent Astor** was interviewed. He also wrote parts of the segment and arranged for the shoot.

1977

The American College of Bankruptcy inducted **Mike Coury** as a fellow at its annual meeting in March. Mike, a member of the Memphis law firm Farris Bobango & Branan, was one of 29 nominees from the U.S. and abroad to be inducted. He is also the first practicing attorney in Memphis to receive the honor and the only inductee this year from the Sixth Circuit federal judicial district (Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Michigan).

1978

30th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

In 1980, **Niko Lyras**, who received a M.A. in economics from the University of Memphis,

opened a recording studio, which he still owns and operates. He has been writing and performing music for 30 years and has received numerous awards, including Juno, Felix and Critics Choice awards. Additionally, Niko has written a few hit songs and, most recently, founded the instrumental group Voodoo Village.

Financial adviser **Paul Renfro** is enjoying certified senior advisor designation. He is the host of RetireRadio.com, G.P. of Sure Thing Builders, a licensed residential contractor in Tennessee and a licensed mortgage broker. Paul has been married to Diane for 28 years and is the father of actor/model Will Taylor.

The Zimmerman, Kiser & Sutcliffe law firm in Orlando, FL, recently named **Steve Hatcher** as president.

1980

Jane Dawson and Luke Coley Jr. married July 7, 2007.

Liz McGeachy writes, "I recently released my fourth recording with my husband Tim Marema. We have been performing Americana, folk and traditional Appalachian music as Liz&Tim for 20 years. The new CD, "Here We Go," features some traditional songs done in a new way, along with more contemporary songs. Samples can be heard on our Web site, lizandtim.org."

1981

Nancye Schmucker McCowan has been named director of the Division of

Dermatology and associate professor of otolaryngology and communicative sciences at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Her interests include general and cosmetic dermatology.

Paul Ward and Laura Lamps married April 4, 2008, in Little Rock, where they currently reside.

1982

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Southwestern/Rhodes Singers tour of Western Europe in 1982, a Power Point slide show of the tour was shown at last fall's Homecoming. Anyone wanting a CD of the slide show (at no cost) should contact Mike Lupfer at mslupfer@bellsouth.net or 901-276-0818.

1983

25th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Brian Russell created the altar, ambo (pulpit) and baptismal font for the new St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown, TN.

Nancy Graham Barker is the mother of "two wonderful 9-year-old sons, who are academically thriving." Living in Atlanta, Nancy continues to enjoy a career in health care.

1985

Reporter: Jim Golden
jjmatphi@hotmail.com

Greetings from Connecticut.

Karen Larson writes: "In May 2007, my husband and I bought Eastport Marina at Pickwick Lake on the

Tennessee River. We hope to make the transition to living in Iuka, MS, within a couple of years. In the meantime, I am still working more than full time at Perkins and Dean and managing our rental properties in Memphis. Check out our Web site at eastportonpickwick.com."

I received a nice e-mail from **Ann Webb Betty** who reports that she's "retired" from the YMCA of Middle Tennessee and currently between careers. "After 10 years doing IT at the Y, it became apparent that that had run its course and there is another chapter to open. So I am taking a break."

Brigid Elsen Galloway reports, "My husband Drew and I moved to Birmingham four years ago with our son, Jack, who is now six. Thanks to the help of fellow class of '85er **Richard Banks**, I was hired last year by Time Inc. Content Solutions to help start its southern office in the Southern Progress Headquarters here in Birmingham. I am now deputy editor, over six custom publications. Giving up the freelance life was difficult at first, but since Jack is now in kindergarten, the timing seemed right. The old gang (**Blair Gatewood Norman**, **Margaret Bryan French**, **Kelley Ashby Paul**, **Kathleen Albritton Fittro**, **Meg Waters Lambert** and **Sevgi Curtis**) are planning another get-together this summer."

I was delighted to get a note from **Sevgi Curtis**, who took time from her exciting and intercontinental life to catch me up on the last two decades. She says "So much has happened in the last 23

years! The best thing was meeting my husband, Janos Libor, six years ago in New York. We married three years later in San Francisco and lived there until he got a job offer that moved us to Gibraltar, of all places! I like being in Europe, and we travel every chance we get. I used to have my own import business, but after 15 years, put an end to it due to our move. Now I work part time in his office, finally taking the advice of Prof. Sue Legge and doing accounting!"

I got a chance to catch up with **Ed Scott** recently. We're having a great conversation on how many guitars a middle-aged guy should own. By way of background, he tells me he worked for nearly 20 years in the safety business at 3M, including designing systems for homeland defense and leading 3M's global avian influenza activities. Ed says, "I recently moved to Austin and a job in the utility market. My plan is to get traction on writing and music—it is a great town for it. Me, and 10,000 others, right?"

In March, I reconnected with **Karen Howland**, who found me through LinkedIn. We've exchanged a number of great e-mails since then. Karen says, "I ended up getting a Ph.D. in industrial organizational psychology. Then I went to work for Bell Atlantic (now Verizon). Climbed the ladder there then bailed on the executive lifestyle a year ago. I've been working for a small consulting firm. Most of my career has been focused on employee performance—how to get the most from your workforce. My current

role is consulting in the same area, mostly around developing employee skills/capabilities."

Frank Baker sends greetings to the class and says, "I am working on my third college degree this year at Auburn University. At Rhodes, I learned the value of learning and have the lifelong passion for it that is part of its vision. My passion is early modern European history with emphasis on the Renaissance through the French Revolution. I taught high school science for about 20 years and now have returned to school at this tender young age to pursue a doctorate in another subject I love very well. I plan to get my doctorate in about seven years and teach and research in European history at the college/ university level. My thoughts of Professors Hatfield, Apperson and Wright have come to mind a lot this year as I remember the courses in history I had from them during those magical four years at Rhodes. I have a long way to go, but am loving every step of the way. I hope all is well with everyone. I see **Virgil Starks** some. He's in administration in the Auburn Athletic Program. Always good to see a fellow classmate here at Auburn."

1986

Reporter: Colleen Grady
gradyc@lls.org

Justin Lennon reports, "I have been working as the base metals analyst for Mitsui Bussan Commodities in New York. I research and report on aluminium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc."

Tim Bullard started a new year with a new career as

Class Notes

a technical writer for the ThyssenKrupp elevator company that, he reports, has its “ups and downs.” Plans to spend Easter in Paris had him dredging up 20-year-old textbooks from Prof. Vest and Madame Lewine, as well as joining the Alliance Française de Memphis. Life in Midtown allows Tim to run into other 1980s alumni in Schnuck’s.

In June, Lt. Col. **Scott Sweetser** concluded duty as Eurasia Branch Chief, Strategy, Plans, and Policy Directorate (J5) at Headquarters, United States European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. He now serves as the Security Cooperation Branch Chief at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Fort Belvoir, VA. On April 1, his wife Becky gave birth to their fifth child. They reside in Springfield, VA.

Terri Wilhite Johnson was appointed last year to the Madison City (AL) Schools Board of Education. She and her husband Greg have three sons attending Madison City Schools.

Lilla Magee and family were featured in a home improvement show, “Greenovate,” documenting “green” upgrades on their 1940 bungalow in northern California. “Greenovate” can be seen on Discovery Home and TLC. The name of their episode is called, fittingly, “Lilla & Ilisa.”

Amy Donaho Howell reports that she bought out her partner and that her company is now called Howell Marketing Strategies. Her kids are now 12 and 8 and they are her other full-time job!

Susan Stribling reports

that she is in her 17th year with Coke. She writes, “My job is pretty much all sports and entertainment, all the time. I just finished working on a Diet Coke project with Heidi Klum. And yes, she is great.”

1988

20th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Reporter: Mandy Bond

Judd

amanda_judd@adp.com

Jane Vahlkamp Andrus lives in Lexington, KY, with her husband and three sons. (Her husband grew up in the Parkway House, right next to Rhodes, and all his friends went to Rhodes.) They have twins who are 13, and a 3-year-old. Jane has two master’s degrees in art from the University of Kentucky and has worked in the arts for many years, teaching and at the art museum.

Anne Kaiser Apple writes: “In 2008, **Jim ’89** and I and our three children Betsy (16), James (13) and Abigail (5) celebrated five years in Memphis after our move from Mobile, where we had lived for 10 years. In September we’ll mark 19 years of marriage. I am a minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and currently serve as a parish associate at Idlewild Presbyterian Church. I mostly am a mom full time, but write curriculum, lead retreats, teach Sunday school and lead as needed at Idlewild. We welcomed in the new year with **Joanna** and **Brad Priester ’86** and their daughter, Halle. **Evelyn Edwards Graham** headed to Memphis to stay with

us for a worship and music conference at Idlewild. Last October, Jim and I ran the Chicago Marathon, my first time, his second. It was the first year ever they canceled the race because of course conditions and the heat. Jim and I finished, fortunately without incident, and hope to do it again this year under different circumstances.”

Allan and Kitty Riley

Bacon ’87 have three daughters, Erin (13), Meg (10) and Kate (10). “We’ve lived in Charlotte, NC, for the last 12 years and are involved in church and community activities. All three girls are thinking about Rhodes!” Allan wrote from Tokyo, where he was on business. “Our big family plan for 2008 is a summer living in Paris. Currently, I’m VP of business development and sales at Tessera in San Jose, CA, working on developing the business for new technology to make cell phone cameras.” Allan is also doing photography and will have a show of portraits from a study of Japanese culture this fall in Charlotte. He has also taken up bass guitar in the last year.

Jim Chase writes: “Meg and I are living in Little Rock and will celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary in June. Wow! Time flies, huh? Life is good and we’re having fun raising our family: Jake (16), Meredith (13) and John (8).”

From **Marty Story Blow**:

“Right after graduation, I went to work for Virginia Stage Company in Norfolk, where I stayed, off and on, for 10 years, working my way up to be an equity stage manager (and no one thinks

you can use your liberal arts degree!). In 1996 I married Ken Blow, who is the director of risk management for Old Dominion University in Norfolk. We live in Portsmouth. I got a second degree at Old Dominion, a B.S. in interdisciplinary studies with an emphasis in elementary education (that’s hard to rattle off at cocktail parties). Just as I was considering getting my master’s and actually becoming a teacher, I got a job as a technical writer for AMERIGROUP Corp. in Virginia Beach. Three and a half years later, I’m now a supervisor of instructional design in the training department. I have never been happier and more excited with a job.”

Ahad Mahootchi wrote when I inquired about an interesting story: “I proposed to my wife while visiting some friends in London. We had left a party at the aquarium. Earlier, I had suggested that we try to see the sunset from the top of the London Eye, which was a short walk away. So I checked the paper and found out when sunset was going to be. Everything went perfectly, the line wasn’t too long and we got into the giant Ferris wheel’s pods, which are about the size of a small school bus. The thing turns pretty slowly and there were 20 or so other people with us. When we got to the top, I proposed to her. We’re still happily married and living in Tampa. She’s a pharmacist at Moffitt Cancer Center and I practice ophthalmology at The Eye Clinic of Florida.”

Jon Cox says, “I look forward to seeing everyone

at our upcoming 20th reunion. I live in Franklin, TN, and am a commercial real estate appraiser. After years of bachelorhood, I married a Kentucky gal in 2005 and have a 14-month-old son, John Jr. My wife Martha is a medical sales rep, so between work and trying to manage John Jr., we're pretty busy, but having a great time."

Steve Beckham works as a senior financial manager for information technology with a global insurance company. Steve, wife Madera and their two boys Jack (10) and Wesley (7) live in the Green Hills area of Nashville. "The boys love skateboarding, basketball, soccer, baseball, video games, music, swimming and diving. They won first and second in the City Dive Meet last summer," says Steve. "In my spare time, I enjoy leading a pack of 90 Cub Scouts, coaching soccer and baseball and being active in West End United Methodist Church."

Coleman and **Kate Gilliland Connell** married in 2006, and they have three great kids: Gil Humphreys (10), Alex Humphreys (8) and Kate Connell (1). Kate stays busy with the family, is a certified financial planner and works as an investment manager at Gilliland Investments while the kids are in school.

Wright '87 and **Kim Collins Bates** recently moved to Birmingham with their two children, Joshua and Rachel. Wright reports, "I have returned to my med school alma mater (UAB) as an associate professor in the division of reproductive endocrinology. In addition, I was recently

honored with the Clinical Research/Endocrinologist Scientist Training fellowship sponsored by the NIH and the American Society of Reproductive Medicine."

John '86 and **Tammy Golden Schmidt** have relocated to Jackson, MS. They renovated a house in the Belhaven Heights area near downtown. Tammy continues her work as a sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics. John now spends much of his time traveling around the world in sales for his new employer, Metaris Hydraulics. Their daughter Lee is 11.

Andi Williams and **Charlie Landreth '87** live in the mountains, 30 minutes outside Asheville, NC. They are learning to rock climb, canoe and kayak. For the first time since Noah (12) and Celia (10) were born, Andi is working full time as a clinical nurse specialist at Transylvania Community Hospital. Charlie has started his own company, Landreth Landscapes, in Brevard.

1989

Larry Hayes was recently honored as the fourth lawyer from Nashville and the 12th lawyer from Tennessee to be named a fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

John and **Amy Sherrod** welcomed a daughter, Molly Elizabeth, Sept. 17, 2007, in Atlanta.

Kim Ross and **Bill Strang** married June 30, 2007, and live in Arlington, VA. Kim continues to work at the University of Maryland as executive director of the Center for Integrative Environmental Research,

which she helped start in 2006.

Paul and **Leslie Rea Quirion** had their second son, Caden James, Dec. 18, 2007, in Centreville, MD. John Paul (9) is a very proud brother.

William Holden was recently selected to serve on the board of examiners for the Delaware State Quality Award. As an examiner, he promotes the development of high-performance organizations aligned with the National Institutes of Standards Malcolm Baldrige Award. He currently serves as the national editor of the *American Society for Quality Biomedical Division* newsletter while working at Agilent Technologies Inc. In addition, he gained certification in regulatory affairs from the UCSD, allowing him to promote the development of gene regulation identification tools into medication devices.

1990

Reporter: Rod White
rodw@white-associates.net

Allen '91 and **Laura Brown McHan's** twin daughters, Faith Evelyn and Sarah Elizabeth, born Nov. 20, 2001, in Atlanta, are now in kindergarten.

Chris and **Kirsten Williams Schwehm** welcomed a son, Lukas Charles, Oct. 12, 2007, in Baton Rouge, LA. Sister Olivia (3 ½) is loving her brother.

Will Mitchell and **Lori Olcott** had a daughter, Trianna Danger Mitchell, Feb. 9, 2007, in Boulder, CO.

David Lewis has joined the Nashville office of the Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs law firm as a partner in its corporate and real estate practice areas. Previously, David was a partner in the Corbett Crockett & Lewis firm.

Susan Badelt Rocco reports, "Since our days at Rhodes, **Rich** and I have been living in Collierville, TN, with our children Andrew (12), and Isabelle (8). That's all about to change! After 20 years of corporate life, Rich is about to finish his Ph.D. and begin a second career as a professor of sales and marketing at DePaul University in Chicago. We're so excited about all of the opportunities that Chicago and DePaul have to offer our family—what an adventure we have ahead! Best wishes to everyone!"

Ben and **Stacy Gerard Miller** of Salt Lake City have adopted a son, Lincoln Gerard, who was born Jan. 8, 2008.

1991

Veronica Lawson Gunn has been named chief medical officer for the State of Tennessee Department of Health. Veronica comes to the Department of Health from the Tennessee Governor's Office of Children's Care Coordination, where she has served as medical director since 2005. She also currently serves as an assistant professor of pediatrics at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, a position she has held since 2002.

1993

15th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Reporters: Chandlee

Bryan

chandlee_b@yahoo.com

Kelley Slagle Funk

Robert and Katherine

McCaa Baldwin welcomed a daughter, Sophie Louise, April 10, 2007, at the University of Colorado Hospital. Henry (10) and Richard (3) are being very sweet to their sister.

Lynn Crabb and Tammy Seltzer had a daughter, Dana Elizabeth Seltzer-Crabb, Dec. 12, 2007, in Washington, DC.

Wade and **Britt Rodgers Bugby** married Nov. 24, 2007, at Pine Ridge Ranch in Valdosta, GA. They currently reside in Valdosta.

Nancy Braam and **John Little** married Nov. 18, 2006, in Chattanooga, TN, and currently reside in Atlanta. **Lelia Hood Savory '94** served as a bridesmaid. Other Rhodes alumni in attendance were **Tom '91** and **Sara Blankenship Dilworth**, **Lisa Mancini Harden**, **Ben Hillhouse '92**, **Jennie Beth Harris Johnston**, **Caroline Knight**, **David Rice** and **Rebecca Miller-Rice** and **Lee Wilkes**.

CPA **Ronald Weiss** is now a member of the Memphis firm of Thompson Dunavant. He joined Thompson Dunavant in fall 2000 as a senior tax associate and was promoted to tax manager soon after.

Greg and **Kelly Ritter** announce the birth of a son, Ryan Carlton, April 11, 2008. Baby and mother are doing well; sister Katlyn (10) and brother Garrett (2) think he's very handsome.

1994

Reporter: **Judy Brown**

judy.brown@borax.com

After working at TV stations in Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis, **Andy Likes** made the jump to public relations in 2006. He accepted a job with The Vandiver Group Inc. in St. Louis. He now heads up the PR firm's media practice group and does much of the media training and crisis communications training. In November 2007, Andy was promoted to senior team leader. He was also recently appointed to the board of directors for the Mid-America chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Tanya Gant Ward recently transferred from Frankfurt, Germany, to Mbabane, Swaziland, where she is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Embassy.

Horacio and Marlene Cardoze Mendoza had a son, Nicolas Alberto, May 31, 2007, in Panama City, Panama. Nicolas joins Diego Alonso (6) and Victoria Isabel (4).

Scott and Caroline Lenac Lord welcomed a son, Bennett Patton, Aug. 24, 2007, in Atlanta. Charlotte (2) loves helping out with her brother and enjoys having a new playmate.

Mike Rushin writes, "I am on track to be elected the potentate of Scimitar Shriners for Arkansas in December 2008 for the 2009 calendar year."

Susan Baird has joined the Salt Lake City office of Parsons Behle & Latimer. She is a member of the litigation department, where

she concentrates her practice on general civil litigation, with a focus on employment law and complex business litigation.

Bartley and Tonya

Vaughn Pickron welcomed a daughter, Lindsay Warren, Dec. 10, 2007, in Houston. Brother Noah turned 2 Dec. 13.

Jeff Carlton recently accepted a position as a market analyst at SynXis, a division of Sabre Holdings, in Southlake, TX. He was previously employed at First Horizon.

Battle Ground Academy has named **Anne Locke** as director of major gifts and planned giving. Most recently, Anne served as the Southeast finance director for Sen. Fred Thompson's presidential campaign.

1995

Reporter: **Sarah Sears-**

Egeli

703-971-9417

sarahsears@live.com

It's a girl for **Richard '96** and **Caroline Cater Reynolds**. Mary Bains was born Feb. 15, 2008. She joins older sister Anne (1).

The St. Louis Charitable Foundation presented **Natasha Westrich Wood** a Crown Award for her work as an art therapist with pediatric oncology patients. Also, Natasha was one of four St. Louis artists accepted to the Foundry Art Centre's National Photography exhibit this past spring. The photo featured the legs of **Jennifer Jenkins**. Natasha and her husband Brendan celebrate 10 years of marriage this year. They have two children, Ethan (6) and Sarena (4).

Jamie and Kati Randolph Rouse are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Allison Hayes, Jan. 12, 2008, in Memphis.

Mary and **Tim Ballard** welcomed their son William Clyde Nov. 15, 2007, in Memphis.

Zack and Angela Kreuter Rogers had a daughter, Laurel Finley, July 10, 2007, in Virginia. Big brother Jacob is teaching little sister the ropes.

1996

Reporter: **Jennifer Larson**
larsonj96@rhodes-alumni.net

David Overend recently accepted a position as development officer (annual giving) at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. He and wife Willson keep busy with their 22-month-old son John.

Scott and Kelley Brown announce the birth of a son, Samuel Carter, Jan. 29, 2008.

Jeb and Katherine Hoge had a son, Matthew Russell, Nov. 28, 2007, in Midlothian, VA. Andrew loves his big-brother status, and the two siblings are separated by just over three years.

The Studio 804 design/build program in which **Josh Somes** is enrolled at the University of Kansas School of Architecture is building a sustainable community arts center in Greensburg, KS, site of a devastating F-5 tornado in 2007. The entire town of Greensburg is rebuilding green. The CBS "Early Show" chronicled it this spring, and the Discovery Channel's Planet Green plans to air a series on the rebuild in mid-June.

Phuong-Linh Nguyen Fay, husband Eric and daughter Isabel welcomed daughter Amelia Nguyen Fay, July 26, 2007. They live in Jackson, TN.

Alejandra Briseno and husband Helge Alsleben celebrated the birth of their daughter Amelia Isabel Jan. 29, 2007. They live in Ft. Worth, TX, where Alejandra has a contract position with the Parenting Center, a nonprofit agency.

Matt and Marcé Moreno Bettridge celebrated the birth of their second child, a daughter, Lydia Madison, Sept. 4, 2007. Marcé writes, "Lydia and her big brother Jonah love making each other laugh."

Allen Brown graduated from the Nashville School of Law in May 2007. He is with the Workers' Compensation Appeals Division of the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Chip and **Elizabeth Goings Harrell** married Feb. 2, 2008, in Birmingham, AL. **Ginna Maxwell Rauls** was the matron of honor. **Julie Johnston Lowder, Allison Lindsey Foster, Mary Kent Harrison Bowen, Carter Patton Price and Heather Green Talbot** were all in the wedding as well. Elizabeth and Chip live in Atlanta, where Elizabeth is still employed in Human Resources with The Southern Co., and Chip is an attorney at Carlton Fields, practicing mergers and acquisition law.

Emily Kurzeka Burns and husband Jerrod welcomed a daughter, Charlotte Anne, Dec. 27, 2007. They live in St. Petersburg, FL.

Joy Al-Jazrawi reports that

she is now board certified in immigration and nationality law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

1997

Reporter: **Leslie Beck Norman**
321 S. Watkins
Memphis, TN 38104
901-276-7529
lesliebnorman@yahoo.com

Frank and Aubrey Farmer had a daughter, Layla Claire, Sept. 28, 2007, in Jackson, MS. "Layla is doing great, and we are adjusting nicely to parenthood," Frank writes. "What a joy!"

Robert and Emily Wiggins Little had a daughter, Meghan Grace, Aug. 16, 2007, in Columbia, MO.

Ricky Stephenson writes, "We've moved up the road a bit to be closer to Julie's parents. I've left the shoe discount behind at Genesco and joined Symbion in a similar role as senior auditor."

Sean and Anne Hardwick Hudson announce the birth of a daughter, Mollie Anne, Dec. 28, 2007, in Boulder, CO. Parents and sister Sadie are exhausted, happy and looking forward to new adventures as a family of four.

Rob and Jenn Robinson had a son, Baylor David, March 26, 2008. Rob reports, "Mother and baby are doing well, while big brother is trying to figure out what to think about all this. Baylor is alert and healthy and has had a very un-Robinson shock of brown hair from the start."

Chris Palazzolo received a Ph.D. in political science from Emory University in August 2007.

1998

10th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4
Reporter: **Amanda Grebe Tamburrino**
1805 Central Ave.
Memphis, TN 38104
901-278-1093
tamburrino@rhodes.edu

Creswell and Marcia

Planchon Gardner had a daughter, Mary Ruth, Oct. 9, 2007, in New Orleans. Sister Eleanor also welcomed Mary.

With eight years of banking experience, **Marc Knight** has been promoted to branch executive of the Southcoast Community Bank at the Goose Creek, SC, office. Previously, he was vice president/commercial loan officer.

Chip Lane reports, "I recently changed law firms and now work for Johnson, Spalding, Doyle, West & Trent in Houston. I defend several different tire manufacturers in product liability cases around the country."

Jennifer Williams and **Robert Beckley** married Dec. 15, 2007, on the Rhodes campus. Jennifer writes, "I am so thankful to everybody at Rhodes for helping make our wedding weekend absolutely perfect! It was so memorable and fun!"

Laura Hoskins and **Paul Hasty** married July 21, 2007, in Cumberland Island, GA, and currently reside in Hanover, NH, and New York City. Laura writes, "We were blessed to have close friends and family join us for our ceremony, including **Jennie Vee Keith** (maid of honor), **Leah Daniels '97** (matron of honor), **Michelle Hall, Elise Schudy '99, Chuck**

Witkowski, Mitchell Klink and Marc Knight. Laura is a postdoctoral fellow in clinical neuropsychology and neuroimaging at Dartmouth Medical School. Paul is continuing his graduate studies in architecture at Parsons School of Design in New York City.

1999

Reporter: **Leigh Powell**
powl99@gmail.com

Charles and Cobbie Phillips Llewellyn '01 welcomed a daughter, Katie, Dec. 8, 2007. The Llewellyns call Austin, TX, home. Charles is assistant vice president area leader for Mid-America Apartment Communities, and Cobbie is assistant controller at Cypress Real Estate Advisors.

Kelly Ensor and Emily Waller '00 married April 12, 2008. Members of the wedding party included **Holly Kroll Smith '00, Sheila Jacobson '01, Elizabeth Smith Ritter '00, Matt Semko '98, Eric Swindle '02 and Alok Madan**.

Other Rhodes alumni in attendance included **Michael Faber '98, Harrison Willis '97, Marc Lissauer '04, Peden Harris '00, Matt Dekar '00, Andrew Robertson '00, Roy Meyeringh '01, Jordi Cuervo '03, Mike Davis '01, Peter '00 and Laura Odom Matthews, Nicole Gibson Davis and Lee Spitzer**. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica before returning home to Germantown, TN.

Laura Simpson is a librarian at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

Matt Beck has accepted a sales representative position with Power Equipment

Class Notes

Specialists Inc. in Denver.

Matt Breaux and **Katharine Farmer** also live in Denver. Matt works for Dividend Capital, and Katherine works for New Hope Natural Media. She is in the process of launching a new tradeshow, Healthy Foods International, that aims to get healthier products on mainstream grocery shelves.

An active-duty captain in the U.S. Air Force, **Kate O'Leary** is completing her OB/GYN residency at the San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Consortium. She begins her three-year fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Stanford in July.

Margaret Yerger Elliott and her husband Michael welcomed a son, Paul Hite, Oct. 28, 2007. He joins his brother James Rucks. The family lives in Memphis.

Kevin Willoughby works as a full-time photographer and promoter for Azimuth Artz Multimedia's DJ and promotion crew, the 12InchPimps. Kevin also teaches fashion marketing at El Centro College and does corporate event photography and copywriting on a freelance basis.

Eric and **Sally Mercer Johnson** welcomed a son, Ethan Clark, Jan. 15, 2008. The family lives in Memphis.

William and **Alina Raines Bjerke** had a daughter, Lucy Gene, Nov. 15, 2007, in Ridgewood, NJ. Siblings Luke and Brooke are enjoying their baby sister.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky medical school in 2005, **Julie Atkinson** and Jeremy Smith married June 11, 2005, in Lexington. Julie is

currently in residency at the University of Kentucky; she will complete her training in adult psychiatry and begin training in child and adolescent psychiatry in July. Jeremy is vice president of a mechanical and electrical engineering firm. The couple had their first child, a son, Evan William, Nov. 14, 2007.

2000

Kevin Brick planned to run with Atlanta Team in Training in the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon June 1 to raise awareness for leukemia and lymphoma.

Stu '99 and **Susan Brombacher Fallen** announce the birth of a daughter, Sydney Charlotte, April 19, 2008. Everyone is excited and doing well.

2001

Reporter: **Amanda Flaim**
amandaflaim@gmail.com

Scott and **Shelley Stenshol Thompson** had a daughter, Emma Kate, Sept. 19, 2007, in Thousand Oaks, CA.

Marty and **Tiffany Jo Padgitt McDonald** married May 19, 2007, at First United Methodist Church in Jackson, TN. They currently reside in Saint Francis, MN. **Mary Allison Cates '99** and **Neely Kristin Draughon** were bridesmaids. Other alumni in attendance were **Andy Cates '98**, **Jeff Crader** and **Laura Simpson '99**. Tiffany writes, "I was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church June 10, 2007, in Jackson, MS. Bishop Hope Morgan Ward presided. I am now serving as pastor of Saint Francis United Methodist Church in

Saint Francis."

Robert '99 and **Erin Mann Markel** welcomed a daughter, Lillie Elizabeth, Oct. 21, 2006, in Greenville, SC.

Cameron and **Amy Dundas Matheson** had a daughter, Hailee Evelyn Mackenzie, Dec. 19, 2007. Mom and baby are doing well.

In December 2007, **Tanner Jackson** received a Ph.D. in cognitive science from the University of Memphis. He now works as a research scientist for Sandia National Labs and as adjunct faculty at the U of M.

Rob and **Emily Cassidy Sustar** welcomed a son, Zachary John, March 6, 2008, in Lexington, SC.

Catherine Neely has been named one of three Lilly Endowment pastoral residents at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. She begins her residency in July.

In March 2008, **Meredith Davis** was appointed assistant administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, DC. She is responsible for policy formation and initiatives important to small businesses, namely health care, international trade and export opportunities, energy costs and economic development in underserved communities.

I married Daniel Ahlquist June 17, 2007, in Ithaca, NY, where we are both Ph.D. students at Cornell University. **Christie Brewer Boyd '01** presided as officiate. Also in attendance were **Patrick** and **Elisabeth Meyers Yoder '01**, **Jeremy Boyd '01** and **Laura Henderson Bodwell '01**. We live in Ithaca but will be moving

to Asia for two or so years, where I will do field work on highland ethnic minorities and access to citizenship in Thailand. Daniel will work on the environmental and social impacts of market-based tourism in Laos.

2002

Reporter: **John Ramsey**
jtramsey@rhodes-alumni.net

Jackie Ehrentraut Dion has accepted a position with the U.S. Secret Service and will be stationed as special agent in Baton Rouge, LA, upon graduation from the federal academy.

John and **Leslie Redington Roberts** welcomed a daughter, Juliette Olivia, Feb. 19, 2008, in Huntsville, AL.

2003

5th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4
Reporter: **Kim Kirkpatrick**
kirkpatrick_k@yahoo.com

Matt and **Kate Christrup Bleacher** are moving to Rome, Italy this summer, where they plan to teach at an international school for two years.

Anne Schaberg Summerour teaches first grade at the Louise S. McGehee School for girls in New Orleans. Last June, she and William Summerour married in New Orleans. Many Rhodes alumni attended, including: **Pat Browne**, **Jodie McEnery '04**, **Lawton Fabacher '02**, **Lindsay Bond**, **Rachel Luck**, **Elizabeth Cooper**, **Carol Durham Meyer '02**, **Kelly Ransom** and **Elizabeth Townsend '04**. **Kate Dietzen** and **Lauren Deen** were bridesmaids. Other alumni

in the wedding were groomsmen **Parke McEnergy** and **Neal Meyer '02** and usher **Mike Mann '01**.

In December 2007, **Margaret Love** was promoted to the position of acquisitions editor for the children's book department at Publications International Ltd. in Lincolnwood, IL. She is enjoying singing with the DePaul Community Chorus and living by the lake in Chicago.

Hunter and Lisa Doody Hasen married Aug. 18, 2007. Several Rhodes alums were involved in the ceremony, including **Sarah Clark, Lauren Copper DeMoss, Dave Miller, Jonathan Large** and **Jordan DeMoss**.

Jon Zarandona recently completed his master of education at Ole Miss. He and **Lauren Glas Zarandona** will celebrate four years of marriage this summer.

Jordan Badgett Barré writes, "For the last year and a half, I have been working in the development department at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art. Also on the job front, Kevin and I made Kevin Barré Photography an official LLC in December 2007. You can visit us on the Web at kevinbarrephotography.com. I spend my free time volunteering for the Humane Society of Memphis/Shelby County. My sister, **Eden Badgett '07**, and I walk dogs every Monday night and volunteer at off-site events on weekends. I'm also currently working as marketing director for Chatterbox Audio Theater. **Bob Arnold '02, Kyle Hatley '02** and **Andrew Sullivan '01** are among an amazing

collaboration of alumni/ae and community folks who have come together as writers, directors, actors and sound crew to create audio plays available for free on chatterboxtheater.org."

Elizabeth Heller is pursuing her second bachelor's degree in fine arts at Columbia College in Chicago.

Joey and Katherine Norman Sherrard had a son, Joseph Holmes, March 26, 2008, in Starkville, MS. Katherine writes, "We are so excited to welcome this little boy to our family!"

Joel and Cayce Yates Harris '04 have moved to San Antonio, TX, where Joel will open a new KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) high school as founding principal in 2009. In preparation for his new position, Joel has been awarded a Fisher Fellowship, a year-long leadership development program that begins at New York University, then sends fellows to do residencies at top-notch college preparatory schools all over the nation. Cayce and the boys are very excited to be in Mom's hometown, where she will continue building her photography business.

Shawn McCarthy spent 2007 as a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) instructor in Italy, splitting her time between Naples, Sicily and Grottaglie (in the Apulia region), and primarily teaching employees of Alenia Aeronautica, which manufactures pieces of the fuselage for Boeing's new 787 Dreamliner. Shawn has changed scenery for 2008 and now teaches TEFL to

kindergarten and elementary school students in Seoul, South Korea, where she's enjoying kimchi but misses Neapolitan pizza and espresso.

2004

Reporter: **Kyle Russ**
ckylerruss@yahoo.com

Summer greetings to all. The themes for this update are graduations, residencies and weddings.

Graduations: High honors go to **Sezen Oygur**, who graduated with a MBA and a law degree—all in less than four years. Sezen passed the Florida bar in March and moved to San Diego, where she is currently studying for the California bar. Congratulations! Sezen's best friend **Emily Costarides** also graduated from law school (Emory) and has accepted a position with Woble Carlyle. **Matt and Dorothy Crimi Laymon** just bought a home in Birmingham. Matt graduated from Cumberland law school, and Dorothy is working as a publisher's representative for Pearson Education.

Farther north, **Sam New** graduated from George Washington's MBA program, accepted a position with Raytheon and is moving to Boston this summer. Farther east, much farther east, **Veena Rangaswami** completed a month-long TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) certification course in Kolkata, India, and is working for a NGO based in Bangalore with which she previously volunteered (peacechildindia.org). Veena will be in India through January '09

("longer if I can work it out!").

Residencies: **Aditya**

Bagrodia will graduate from medical school in May 2009. Also, **Austin Lutz** is starting a residency in urology at LSU/Ochsner in New Orleans. **Shaunna Torrance Mason** is beginning an OB/GYN residency at UT-Houston. **Peter Igoe** and wife Alyson and are living in New Orleans, where Peter attends dental school. Their daughter turned one May 13. Oddly enough, in February, Peter lost the three smallest toes on his left foot in a boating accident. Peter says that it looks pretty weird but he has no trouble walking.

Weddings: Susan Ratcliff and Kevin Corbyn married at her childhood home in Alexandria, LA. The wedding party included numerous Rhodents. In case you didn't know, **Richard Frost** and **Alice Turner '06** married. The couple lives in Mobile, AL, where Richard attends med school. And last but not least, **Catherine Ogle** and Andrew Egenes married. Catherine reports that they spent their honeymoon in Spain. They plan to stay in the Atlanta area, where Catherine works for KC Public Relations.

Also in Atlanta, **Matt Hoffburg** is "still producing Atlanta's Country Morning Show on KICKS 101.5." Matt reports that the early hours can be dreadful, but that "it's all worth it," as he's able to spend the daylight hours with his two-year-old Hershel.

Marcus Cox is still living the dream out in Austin, TX. Cus recently began work at a real estate investment firm, Seraphim Investment

Class Notes

Group. Seraphim invests in raw land and residential and commercial developments in and around Texas. Cus and his wife Karrie are about to celebrate “the big two-year anniversary.” For all who know Cus, celebrating is something he does well. Congratulations!

Palmer Snodgrass is mastering flying Hueys in North Cackalacky, NC. In August, Palmer will deploy overseas for about seven months with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Also abroad, **Daniel Head** is training for the Cancun Half-Ironman. He and **Jessie Flanders** will be traveling to Mexico for it in September.

In the Bluegrass State, **Maggie Goodman** is currently teaching AP literature, journalism and senior English at Fulton County High in Hickman, KY. She was named the 2006-07 teacher of the year for FCHS and is currently directing the publication of the school's first newspaper. She serves as vice chair of the High School Leadership Team, yearbook sponsor and Model UN adviser. Well done Maggie!

In DC, **Anders Reynolds** reports that “I’m busy contributing to Congress’ 18% approval rating, handling education, labor, housing and defense as a legislative assistant for Congressman Marion Berry.” Anders tutors weekly, runs daily and attends every Nats baseball game he can.

Rhett Butler writes, “Since I graduated, I worked for about two years in sales and then started working at a public accounting firm in June 2007. I have passed

a couple parts of the CPA exam and am awaiting scores on a couple of other sections. I hope to have passed the entire exam by this summer.”

Jody Mitchell and **Sarah Hall** married Dec. 29, 2007, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Houston. **Lindsay Moody** was maid of honor, and bridesmaids included **Jamie Eubanks**, **Tricia Hughes**, **Leslie Isaacman** and **Jen Richelson**. Following a honeymoon in Los Cabos, Mexico, John and Sarah reside in Houston.

Natalie DuMont received her M.D. from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio in May. She begins her pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital in Dallas (University of Texas/Southwestern) in June.

Emily Hoermann recently bought a house in Alamo Heights, San Antonio, TX.

Katie Walsh, who has finished her second year of law school at University of Memphis, is working this summer in law enforcement and special prosecution for the attorney general’s office in Nashville, where she is living with **Leslie Isaacman**.

Reading over all your reports I feel, well, under-accomplished: I do not have any secondary degrees, I will not be getting married anytime soon and I have no hopes of buying a house in DC. Where have I gone wrong?! That said, things are just fine on my end; I went to Belize over Easter and needless to say, it was un-Belize-able. Next trip, New Zealand.

As always, please send me your funny, interesting, mundane and life-changing

news. We love to hear it. Best, ckye

2005

Reporters: Brandon Couillard
brandon.couillard@gmail.com
Molly Fitzpatrick
mhfitz11@hotmail.com

Laura Grey Teekell has been working as special projects coordinator for the Soulsville Foundation in Memphis for almost two years. This summer she will be heading to Australia with 16 high school students from the Stax Music Academy as the tour manager of the Summer Soul Tour program funded by FedEx.

Lindsey Spellings and Joseph Barzizza married Oct. 27, 2007. Lindsay is currently working at Youth Villages, where she was recently promoted to a clinical consultant. She graduated in May with a master’s in community agency counseling and has been accepted to the counseling psychology doctorate program at Tennessee State University.

In August, **Brad Romig** will move to Athens, GA, to pursue a M.Ed. degree in college student affairs administration at UGA.

Currently doing her graduate work in historic preservation at Georgia State, **Lillie Ward** has only one semester to go! Lillie is also still working in the adoption unit at Families First, a nonprofit in Atlanta.

Coming up on her third-year anniversary at Lenny’s Franchisor, **Molly Fitzpatrick** is now in the training department, training

franchisees on how to run their businesses.

Kevin Davidson will attend Texas Tech University for his MBA in the fall.

Thayer Hutcheson teaches high school biology in Houston. She also spends time as a grief group facilitator for high school students who have lost family members. Thayer also applied for an internship at the Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, TN, for the summer.

Meg Brodman is an account executive at archer>malmo advertising in Memphis.

Lauren Woods has “tossed to the wind everything she learned in school” and taken a turn for the artistic side of life. Lauren manages and orchestrates special events for an upscale boutique. In her spare time, she is also a freelance wardrobe stylist for the music video, TV and film production industry.

Susie Weller works as a research assistant for the Research and Analysis Department at the U.S. Humane Society in Washington, DC.

Nat Wyeth lives in Washington, DC, where he works as the deputy director of south finance for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Katie Jameson joined the San Francisco chapter of Team in Training, an offshoot of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which teaches people how to run a marathon and raise money for cancer research. Katie trained for the June 1 San Diego Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon.

Craig Cooper graduated from the University of

Missouri School of Law in May and will sit for the bar in July.

Carrie Wieners accepted the position of curator at The Durham Museum in Omaha, NE. She will move there later this summer.

Tripp Hullender recently started his new job in private banking at Regions Bank in Memphis.

Hailey Hopper David graduated from the University of Memphis Law School May 4. She and her husband Matthew are moving back to their hometown of Jackson, TN, where Hailey has a job with Waldrop & Hall.

Jason Cheek recently quit his job at Ernst & Young in Atlanta and has moved to Florida, where he has launched an ice vending franchise; he places freestanding ice machines on beaches and in small rural fishing communities. Business appears to be robust; he expects to have 20 different locations in 10 different Florida cities by the end of this year.

Kelly Forehand, who graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law in May, will take the Alabama Bar Examination in July. She looks forward to practicing law in Montgomery.

Jane Anne Miller graduated in December from Trinity University with a M.S. in health care administration. She now works as associate administrator for Southwest General Hospital in San Antonio, TX.

Joanna Young recently left Bank of America Corporate Debt Underwriting to pursue a career in the field of

continuing care retirement communities. In November 2007, she joined Greystone Communities as a senior associate in the Planning and Finance Department. In January, she completed the Big D Texas Half Marathon, and is happy to rest her legs until training begins for the Dallas White Rock Half this November.

2006

Reporter: Nicole Vasquez
nicolev@rhodes-alumni.net

Caroline Ferrari is currently living in downtown Memphis and working at ABC24, writing and selling local commercials. She shares an apartment with my one-year-old gray tabby kitten, Delilah.

Emily Davis has signed on for a third year with The Langley School in McLean, VA. In February, she was promoted to the position of assistant director of Advancement. She also continues to run road races on a monthly basis in the DC-Metro area, most recently the Cherry Blossom 10 Miler, and will compete in the Aflac Iron Girl Triathlon (her very first!) June 29 in Atlanta.

After graduation, **Emily Chlum** spent the summer in New Orleans assisting the Coast Guard with Hurricane Katrina relief before heading to Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. She graduated from OCS, became an ensign in February 2007 and reported to the USCGC Mackinaw, home ported in Cheboygan, MI. Mackinaw is the largest cutter in the Great Lakes

and serves as an icebreaker and buoy tender. Since reporting to the Mackinaw, Emily has enjoyed driving the ship and navigating the Great Lakes.

Laura Dallas recently finished her Teach for America commitment and master's in Washington, DC. She plans to remain in early childhood education.

Susannah Morse will complete her graduate degree in speech language pathology in August from the University of Memphis.

Rob and **Claire Singleton Williams** married Jan. 19, 2008, in Memphis. **Jenny Rogers, Callie Brooks** and **Tess Waechter '07** were bridesmaids. **Tiane Leonard '07, Rene Orth '07, Addie Peyronnin** and **Bethany Lindamin '07** were also involved in the ceremony. Claire is loving married life and enjoying their new home in Boone, NC. She recently began working as a shelter case manager for OASIS Inc., a nonprofit serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Alice Turner and **Richard Frost '04** married June 9, 2007.

Jenny Rogers has been accepted into the journalism graduate program at the University of Missouri this fall.

Tim Robinson currently lives in Bentonville, AR, where he works at the Wal-Mart. Merchandising Finance Division as a strategy finance manager. In his spare time, Tim and friends have been actively involved in building bike trails (slaughterpen.com) and developing the cycling community in Northwest Arkansas. Last July, Tim and

one of his friends opened their own small business in Bentonville, Phat Tire Bike Shop (phattirebicycles.com).

Brian Steinert and Ashley Honeycutt of Hoover, AL, married in July 2006. He recently completed a M.S. in materials engineering at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and in June, began a career with NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.

Marie Francis lives in Washington, DC, where she is a press assistant for Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana. She recently ran the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run.

Laura Caroline Johnson is currently living in Memphis and working as the project coordinator for the UrbanArt Commission, a nonprofit public art organization.

Daniel Jones and **Andrea Moore '08** married May 24, 2008.

Adam Keckler is a project engineer and survey manager for DART CMGC-1 in Dallas.

Nicole Vazquez completed her role as the Fortune Teller in the musical "Side Show" with Arneson Productions during the premier performance last fall. Soon after, she took on the role of Mary Boleyn during the Texas Renaissance Festival where she not only acted and sang, but also directed, choreographed and participated in armed and unarmed stage combat throughout the Faire. Nicole recently accepted a position as a brand ambassador with De Beers Diamond Jewellers in Houston, where she is enjoying selling luxury high-end diamond jewelry.

Class Notes

According to **Alice King**, "I'm teaching Texas history and United States history at Burnet Middle School, a Title I school in Austin, TX."

2007

Korey Betts writes, "I have recently accepted a role on the Wal-Mart Account Management Team for Sara Lee. My responsibility is to manage all aspects of the Wal-Mart distribution centers in the Western United States.

I am accountable for five percent of all of Sara Lee's business (or \$105 million). So how did a 22-year-old less-than-stellar history major from Rhodes College obtain such a demanding role? Simple. The history professors challenged my mind and spirit daily. They found qualities in me that I did not know I had. More important, they developed my mind to think critically and analyze and interpret. Without these skills I would not have been able to land

the career that I have."

Josh Tesreau and **Rachel Ozbun** married Aug. 4, 2007, in their hometown of Doniphan, MO. They currently reside in Westville, IN, about an hour outside of Chicago. The couple honeymooned at a private beach resort in Negril, Jamaica, before returning to Indiana, where Rachel is a graduate student and Josh is a United States Steel manager.

Courtney Ambrosia is an account executive for

Germantown's *Shelby Sun Times* newspaper. She is also a member and soon-to-be ambassador for the Germantown Chamber of Commerce.

2008

Commencement honors went to: **Joan Campbell**, the Peyton Nalle Rhodes Phi Beta Kappa Award, and **Francesca Davis** and **Brian Darrith**, Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards.

In Memoriam

'35 **Rosalie Keenan Watkins** of Memphis, Sept. 24, 2007. She taught school for many years, primarily second grade at East Elementary. She was an active member of Second Presbyterian Church, where she took part in the Mary and Martha Circle, volunteered in the church library and was a member of the A.B. Curry Sunday school class. She was a member of the Lelia Heuer Kings Daughters Circle, Listeners Book Club and DAR. The widow of Lt. Harry Beaumont Watkins Jr., who died in World War II, she leaves a daughter, three grandsons, a great-grandson, a sister, numerous nieces and nephews and five caretakers.

'36 **Lewis Adolphus Graeber Jr.** of Marks, MS, March 22, 2008. A lifelong resident of Marks, he served in the Navy in World War II, was stationed at Pearl Harbor and was dispatched a lieutenant commander. He, his brother and their father founded Graeber Brothers Inc. in 1937

and Dixie Gas Inc., and they farmed Caledonia Plantation. He was an elder in the Marks Presbyterian Church, a past moderator of Covenant Presbytery (PCA) and a past president of the Marks Rotary Club, in which he was named a Paul Harris fellow. He was also a member of the Chancellor's Trust at the University of Mississippi, the University of Mississippi Loyalty Foundation and a board member of several professional and civic organizations. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Frances Clark Graeber; a sister; a brother; a daughter, Geri Graeber Pitts '68; three sons; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

'37 **Ann Sledge Crain** of Dallas, Jan. 21, 2008. She was a dedicated longtime volunteer at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. She also worked with the flower guild at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, where she was a member for many years. She leaves a grandson and several nieces and

nephews.

'38 **Cornelia Battle Crinkley** of Memphis, March 7, 2008. She taught in the Memphis City Schools for more than 40 years, mainly at Central and White Station High schools. An avid bridge player, she was a longtime member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where she belonged to the Hannah Circle. She leaves a great-niece and five caretakers.

'39 **John Wilson Spence** of Memphis, March 11, 2008. He served as a navigator of a B17 crew that was part of the first U.S. bomber group to cross the Atlantic to England during World War II. He was shot down in combat over France and escaped with the help of French Underground. He was a reporter for *The Press Scimitar*, for which he wrote crusading articles against boss politics and segregated schools, and served as assistant commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights during the 1960s. He leaves his of 62

years Mary Ann Simonton Spence '43; a daughter; a son, John Wilson Spence III '74; and two grandchildren.

'40 **William Dearing Jemison Jr.** of Waycross, GA, formerly of Memphis, March 12, 2008. He was active in real estate, home building and Holiday Inns. A World War II Army veteran, he was president of W.D. Jemison and Sons as well as the Home Builders Association of Memphis, and vice president of the Memphis Board of Realtors. A member of several civic organizations, he was a member and life elder of Lindenwood Christian Church, where he taught Sunday school to both teenagers and adults for 50 years, served as board chairman and sang in the choir. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Eva Lee Williams; three sons; seven grandsons; one granddaughter; and three great-grandchildren.

'41 **Catherine Ramsey Broadfoot** of Williamsburg, VA, March 7, 2008. She lived in Memphis, as

well as Ohio, Iowa and North Carolina during her husband's career with Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. She was involved in charities, church and education. The widow of H. Lynn Broadfoot, she leaves two daughters, a son, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

'42 James Jones Jackson Jr. of Memphis, Dec. 3, 2007. Retired from Fulmer Hardware, he was a member of Gideon International and a charter member of the Dixie Rose Club. He belonged to St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where he was a member of the Men's Prayer Breakfast Club and Loyalty Fellowship Class. He leaves his twin sister, Marie Jackson Tribble.

'42 Josephine Gilfillan Seabrook of Memphis, Nov. 12, 2007. She was a former member of the TNT Investment Club, Eastwood Garden Club, Thalia Circle of the King's Daughters and Sons and The Woman's Exchange. She was an active member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where she was among the founding members of the LeMaster Sunday school class. She leaves her husband of 66 years, Conrad Seabrook; two daughters, Gail Ganier '68 and Lee Duncan '73; and three grandchildren.

'43 William Southall Wills of Memphis, June 24, 2007. He was a retired salesman for Three States Supply Co. A member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, he leaves his wife of 28 years, Mary Wills; a granddaughter; a grandson; and a great-grandson.

'46 Hubert (Hugh) Carey Hodgson of Fort Walton

Beach, FL, Feb. 21, 2008. He was retired from Baptist Memorial Hospital's administrative staff, where he had served as a vice president. He was a member of several professional associations and the recipient of many awards. He also played the piano and sang in the Memphis Dixie Cotton Boll Barbershop Chorus for 25 years. An active member of First Presbyterian Church of Destin and an elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he leaves his wife of 55 years, the Rev. Kathleen Hardison Hodgson '55; three children; and four grandchildren.

'46 Clyde Austin McLeod of Jackson, MS, Dec. 9, 2007. A World War II Navy veteran, he began his career as an apprentice with the Frisco Railroad and ended his tenure as western division superintendent in Ft. Worth, TX. In 1960, the family moved to Jackson, MS, where he worked with the Mississippi Research and Development Center, served as lobbyist for the Mississippi Economics Council and as director of public affairs for the Mississippi Manufacturers Association before retiring in 1987. He was an active member of Broadmoor Baptist Church for 40 years and later belonged to Northminster Baptist Church. After retirement, he volunteered as a mediator for Christian Conciliation Services and served as a docent for the Alsace to America exhibit hosted by the Institute of Southern Jewish Life. He leaves his wife of 55 years, Ruby Langley McLeod; five children; and 16

grandchildren.

'46 Stephen Allen Pridgen of Memphis, February 2, 2008. An Air Force surgeon during the Korean War, he also served as county health officer in Washington County, MS, for one year. Afterward, he returned to Memphis, where he was resident surgeon at John Gaston Hospital. He began private practice in 1955 and was on staff at Baptist Memorial Hospital for 41 years. He was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Memphis and Shelby County Medical Society and the Southern Surgical Society. He was a founding member of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance. He attended First Evangelical Church for more than 50 years. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Sally Lundy Pridgen; three daughters; a son; a sister; five grandchildren; and three great-granddaughters.

'47 Mary Gideon Schillig of Davidson, TN, Nov. 10, 2007. She was a member of Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville and for many years served on the Altar Guild and was a volunteer at St. Luke's This-n-That Thrift Shop. The widow of Dr. Stephen Schillig, she was active in several organizations, including the Medical Auxiliary, Windemere Garden Club, Wednesday Study Club, Southern Writers Book Group and the Wednesday Emmaus Group.

'47 Mary Rhea Spengler of Sun City, AZ, formerly of Park Forest, IL, Dec. 1, 2007. She was active in various organizations, including the Park Forest

Women's Club, the Sauk Trail Chapter of the DAR, Friends of the Park Forest Library and Girl Scouts. The widow of Arthur Frank Spengler Jr., she leaves a sister, two daughters, a grandson and many nieces and nephews.

'48 Tremon (Ted) O. Baucum Jr. of Memphis, March 25, 2008. He served in the Navy during World War II and later, managed Sterick Garage. He was president of SERTOMA from 1973-1974 and treasurer of Boy Scout Troop 75 at Mullins United Methodist Church. He also taught children's Sunday school at First Evangelical Church. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Marjorie Allen Baucum '50, two sons and a brother.

'48 Gene Ruffner Page of Memphis, Jan. 25, 2007. A World War II Navy veteran, he was a surgical oncologist. From 1962 he practiced at the Page Surgical Oncology Clinic and the Memphis Cancer Center. He was on staff at Baptist Memorial Hospital, where he held a teaching appointment in the Intern Residency Program. He was also on staff at the University of Tennessee Medical School. A member of several professional organizations, he was an elder at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church. He leaves his wife of 53 years, Ella Howard Pickens Page '52; three daughters; and a brother, Roy C. Page '52.

'48 Maclyn (Mac) Neil Turnage of Atlanta, March 19, 2008. A retired Presbyterian minister, he served pastorates in Mississippi, Texas, Tokyo and North Carolina. He

In Memoriam

served on the faculty at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA, and spent retirement in Texas, South Carolina and Georgia. He leaves his wife, Anne Shaw Turnage; a daughter; two sons; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

'50 William Edward Leland of Tarboro, NC, Oct. 14, 2007. A World War II Navy veteran, he retired as senior vice president of CIT Financial. He leaves his wife of 59 years, Joanne Hall Leland '50; three children; and 10 grandchildren.

'51 Gus Kaiser Bell of Nashville, TN, Jan. 19, 2008. One of the first psychologists at the Nashville Mental Health Center (later named DeDe Wallace Center), he taught at several local colleges and universities. He served as president of Tennessee Psychological Association and later as the organization's historian. In 2006, he received the Outstanding Contribution in Psychology by a Psychologist award from the association. A charter member of Brookmeade Congregational Church, he leaves his wife of 55 years, Norma Jean Maddox Bell '51; a daughter; a son; a brother; and his parents.

'52 Bristol Sherman Baggett Jr. of Memphis, Feb. 12, 2008. For 14 years, he was a senior management analyst at the Pentagon. Subsequently, he taught at the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. He leaves his wife of 35 years, Claudia Sawyer Baggett; a daughter; two sons; a sister and four grandchildren.

'52 Robert Tilman Rylee

II of Sarasota, FL, and Memphis, Dec. 25, 2007. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army from 1950-53, and his professional career spanned four decades, with 16 years spent at Dow Corning. In 1977, when Dow acquired Wright Manufacturing Company, his family business, he became president of the resulting entity, Dow Corning Wright. In the following decade, he was appointed vice president and general manager and later chairman of Dow Corning's Health Care Business. He leaves his wife, Kay Bolin Rylee; a son; two stepsons; and four grandchildren.

'52 Camilla Van Dyke Thomas of El Dorado, AR, Feb. 29, 2008. A volunteer grammar school tutor for many years, she also was a Camp Fire leader and Cub Scout den leader. She was a member of the El Dorado Service League and an acolyte master at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. She leaves her husband of 57 years, Charles E. Thomas II; a daughter; a son; four grandchildren; and a brother.

'53 Rose Link Mosby of Memphis, March 27, 2008. Beginning in 1966, she was a professor of Spanish at Rhodes, and continued as an adjunct instructor from 1987-92. She also taught at Miss Lee's School of Childhood for 20 years. She was the widow of Charles L. Mosby '51, a longtime member of the Rhodes music faculty who also chaired the department for many years. She leaves a daughter and two sons, Kathleen '88, Michael '86 and Charles '85; six grandchildren; and a brother,

Frederick Link '52.

'54 Bettie Worthington Shenk of Kingston, TN, Dec. 20, 2007. She and her husband, a Presbyterian minister, lived in Alabama and Tennessee, where he held pastorates. An avid church worker, she also served as a VISTA worker and hospice volunteer. She leaves her husband of 52 years, the Rev. William E. Shenk '55; a daughter; a son; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

'58 Lewis Langley Wilkins of Lubbock, TX, Jan. 31, 2008. A Presbyterian minister, he served in a variety of positions, ranging from the local church to denominational and interdenominational organizations in the U.S. and abroad. In later years, he worked in partnership with his wife in the Plains Institute for Organizational Consulting and Coaching. He was an honorably retired member of Sierra Blanca Presbytery and an associate member of Shepherd King Lutheran Church in Lubbock. He leaves his wife, Judy McDonald Wilkins; two sons; two daughters; two grandchildren; and a brother.

'61 David Ramsey of Memphis, Jan. 17, 2008. Distinguished Service Professor at Rhodes, he also served as director of music and organist at First Presbyterian Church, as well as organist for the Memphis Redbirds Baseball team. He began his teaching career at Rhodes in 1965, where he was accompanist for the Rhodes Singers and later the MasterSingers Chorale. He received the Charles E. Diehl Society Faculty

Award for service in 1990. A member of the American Guild of Organists for 50 years, he led the local chapter as dean many times, and served as a board member of the Sewanee Church Music Conference. He leaves a sister and an aunt.

'63 Paul Thomas Hicks of Memphis, April 18, 2008. He was the author of four books pertaining to the history of Methodist churches in Memphis, as well as an author and publisher of Christian music. He was a member of the West Tennessee Historical Society; examination organizer of the American Guild of Organists, Memphis Chapter; member of the Beethoven Club; and organist for Memphis Theological Seminary. He served as organist and/or choir director for Underwood, St. Luke's, Trinity and First United Methodist churches, and was interim organist and carillonneur at Idlewild Presbyterian Church. He leaves two sisters and a brother.

'63 Robert Clinton Threlkeld of Greer, SC, Dec. 30, 2007. He served as a U.S. Army medic and had a long career in banking and real estate. He was active in the Presbyterian Church and served on the New Church Development Committee. He leaves two sons, a sister, two brothers and several nieces and nephews.

'65 Harvey Goldner of Seattle, July 4, 2007. A Tennessee native, he spent more than half his life in Seattle. He wrote several volumes of poetry, including *The Resurrection of Bert*

Ringold, which recently was published posthumously. He previously edited his own quarterly poetry magazine, *Roar Shock*. In earlier years, he worked in hospitals, mainly as an X-ray technician. Later in life, he drove a taxi part time. He read his poetry at Frye Art Museum and Poets West and for the Seattle City Council's poetry program, Word's Worth; he also frequented open-mic nights. He leaves two daughters, two sons and eight grandchildren.

'72 William Hunter Atkinson of Clarksville, TN, Feb. 25, 2008. A professor of biology at Hopkinsville Community College's Fort Campbell branch, he was an Army veteran, a Kentucky Colonel and member of First Presbyterian Church. He leaves his mother; a brother, Edward R. Atkinson Jr. '67; a sister, Betty Gibson '68; and two nieces.

'72 Joseph Standridge (Stan) Hamilton of Cookeville, TN, April 15, 2008. A retired educator, he taught for a number of years at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School in Memphis. He later held various positions as an education administrator. He leaves a brother, a nephew, a niece, a great-niece and great-nephew.

'72 Daniel E. Hieber of Gatlinburg, TN, Oct. 22, 2007. He leaves a daughter, a granddaughter, his father, two brothers and sister.

'73 Margarita Rey Munden of Memphis, Dec. 9, 2007. A resident of Germantown, TN, for 40 years, she loved to travel and often visited her native country, Spain. She taught at Immaculate

Conception High School and Rhodes. She leaves a son, John M. Munden '73, a daughter and a brother.

'76 Kathleen Stevenson of Davidson, NC, Nov. 27, 2007. She was the senior associate dean of admission and financial aid at Davidson College. She served on the College Scholarship Service's Financial Aid Standards and Services Advisory Committee, as vice president for the North Carolina Association of Financial Aid Administrators and as a faculty member for organizations that supported new collegiate financial aid officer workshops. She leaves her parents, a sister, a brother and two nephews.

'78 Cynthia (Cindy) Elam Hall of Jackson, TN, March 19, 2008. She was employed by Madison County Juvenile Court Services until she became a stay-at-home mom. She was active in United Way, Regional Inter-Faith Association Soup Kitchen and the Children's Ministry at First Baptist Church. She leaves her husband, Tom Hall; two children; a sister, Susan Flexner '80; and her mother.

'85 Scott Douglas Patterson of Memphis, April 17, 2008. After graduating from Rhodes, he joined Merrill Lynch, where he was named to the Executive Club. In 1993, he joined American Express Financial Advisors and achieved his certified financial planner designation. During his 12-year career as financial advisor, he was awarded the Quality of Advice Award for Excellence and the President's Recognition Award. He also coached

children's basketball teams, despite being legally blind. He leaves his wife, Tracy Vezina Patterson '84; three children; his mother; a brother; a nephew; two aunts; and two uncles.

'88 Kellie Elizabeth Lartigue-Ndiaye of Mali, West Africa, Dec. 21, 2007. She served in the Peace Corps in Senegal, where she met her husband. She worked with AIDS prevention, testing and counseling projects in Rwanda, Zambia and Mali. She joined the Center for Disease Control in 1997 and served for five years as a training specialist and a public health analyst. Most recently, she was recognized for her role in the formation of the CDC Avian Influenza Group. Additionally, she and her husband established a nonprofit organization, Jef Jel ("Give and Take") that brings help to the remote village of Ndangane, Senegal. She leaves her husband, Karim Ndiaye; three sons; her parents; a brother; and two sisters.

'96 Timothy Paul Rhodes of Clarksville, TN, formerly of Atoka, TN, Oct. 26, 2007. The owner of Balique World Spa, he was an active member of Hilldale Baptist Church, a Gideon and a world traveler. He leaves his wife of five years, Dr. Lisa M. Rhodes; his parents; and a sister.

'01 Adah Laura Coultas of Cheyenne, WY, formerly of Jacksonville, IL, Feb. 17, 2008. She began her teaching career at Central High School in Memphis, where she also coached the girls' cross-country, track and soccer teams. She moved to Wyoming and planned

to complete a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in spring 2008. She was in her third year of teaching world history at Cheyenne East High School, where she was the step team sponsor. She also served as an instructor at the Community Based Occupation Education center in Cheyenne. She maintained her membership with the First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville. She leaves her parents, a grandmother, two brothers and a niece.

'02 Frank Winter Hardie of Houston, formerly of Mobile, AL, Dec. 26, 2007. He was a counselor at Camp Mac near Talladega, AL, for many years and a former editor of the *Civil War Book Review* at LSU. A member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mobile, he leaves his wife, Elaine de la Houssaye Hardie; his parents; two brothers; a sister; and a nephew.

'06 Matthew David McLain of Huntsville, AL, April 4, 2008. A first-year student at Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, he leaves his father and mother, two sisters, four stepsisters, a stepbrother, his grandmothers and a grandfather, two aunts and three uncles.

Enduring Strengths

By President William E. Troutt

With our Campaign for Rhodes now in full swing, I have the privilege every week of talking with alumni/ae, parents and other faithful friends of our college about what matters most at Rhodes. Our conversations always focus on the student experience here and what makes it so distinctive and life-changing. In talking with alumni/ae, the conversation quickly turns to their experiences and what continues to matter most to them from their student days here.

What I inevitably hear early in our conversation is how the personal attention they received from a faculty mentor changed their lives. While they pay tribute to professors such as A.P. Kelso, Laurence Kinney, Mark McMahon, Cynthia Marshall and a host of others, the basic story remains unchanged: A dedicated professor took the interest and the time to provide direction, encouragement and sometimes, an extra dose of tough love, to be sure students discovered their gifts and found their way.

These are the stories I began to hear nine years ago when I arrived at Rhodes—how students connect with faculty here in life-changing ways. It is one of the college's enduring strengths that underlies our Vision for Rhodes and now our Campaign for Rhodes.

This is our first campaign that focuses almost exclusively on supporting and connecting students, faculty and staff. It proposes that we build on our historic strengths in new and exciting ways. A chief component of the campaign is to increase our endowment to provide financial aid for more students. That financial aid will take the form of fellowships rather than traditional scholarships.

A fellowship at Rhodes is an opportunity for a student to receive extraordinary faculty mentoring through classroom learning combined with research, internships,



At President and Mrs. Troutt's reception for Rhodes Student Associates, Rachel Stinson '08 and Hai-Ching Chang '09 admire Boomer, the Troutts' Old English sheepdog, while Laura Sellers '08 (top left), Elizabeth Welch '09, Margie Smith '09 and President Troutt look on

study abroad, community service and creative activity. Fellowship opportunities for students will further enrich the distinctive academic experience we provide at Rhodes.

I am very encouraged by how alumni/ae, parents and friends are responding to this opportunity to invest in Rhodes and ensure we continue to have this interchange between the very best students and the very best faculty. You read earlier, on page 2, how our chair Spence Wilson has set an inspiring example in his support of faculty and students here. I continue to be encouraged by everyone's response so that their stories of Rhodes' enduring strengths can be told for generations to come. **R**



Anna Olswanger, first-year student

Rhodes Empowered Anna Olswanger to be Creative

Now she's saying Thanks

Considering her career as an award-winning playwright, creator of children's books and literary agent, it's hard to imagine that Anna Olswanger '75 ever marched to the beat of anyone else's drum. Yet she says that when she came to Rhodes she had never been encouraged to think creatively.

"I attended a private girls' school where the teacher told you the one right answer," Anna says. "At Rhodes, where I was a communications arts major and Ray Hill was head of the department, he urged me to think for myself and explore many options. He started me on the career path I am still following today."

Anna graduated Phi Beta Kappa, then earned a master's degree in creative writing. Currently, she is a literary agent for a New York publisher while continuing her own writing career.

Anna's father was popular Memphis musician Berl Olswanger, her mother was an artist and her aunt was an opera singer. People tell her that creativity is in her genes.

"But you need an environment that values creativity to bring out your talent fully," she says. "That's the kind of environment I found at Rhodes."

In 2003, Anna made Rhodes the beneficiary of one of her financial accounts. The deferred gift will one day establish the Anna Olswanger Endowed Fund at Rhodes which may enable Jewish students to study in Israel and bring Jewish speakers or faculty to campus.

Now living in New Jersey, Anna admires the college's growing reputation. She says, "It's still a place where students are encouraged to find their own right answers."

Anna named Rhodes the beneficiary of one of her accounts. You may also designate Rhodes the beneficiary of all or any portion of your IRA, other qualified retirement plans or U.S. Savings Bonds. For information, contact:



Anna Olswanger

Roberta Bartow Matthews

Director of Planned Giving

901-843-3919 or 800-264-5969

matthews@rhodes.edu

**Additional information is available
at rhodes.edu/plannedgiving**



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Family Portrait

Katherine Diehl '68 with her sons Rob Purple '08 (left) and Chad Purple '03 gathered at Commencement for a family photo session with the college's portraits of Dean Charles I. Diehl '31, father and grandfather, and President Charles E. Diehl, grandfather and great-grandfather.

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