

Rhodes

THE MAGAZINE OF RHODES COLLEGE • WINTER 2008



Where Study Abroad
Can Lead



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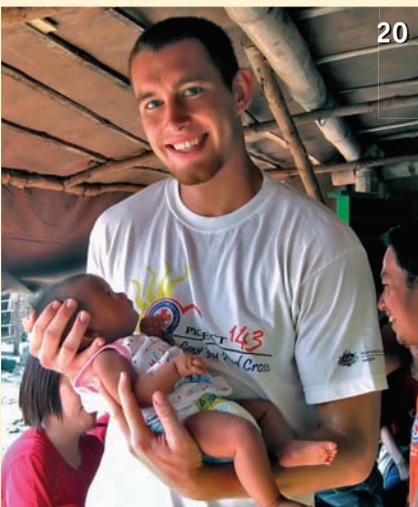
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On the Cover

John Jennison '07, who works for Apple in Beijing, at the Beijing National Theater (see story on page 16)



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Video

Annual Physics Department Pumpkin Drop

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Campus News

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- **Religious Studies Department chair Mark Muesse receives national teaching award**
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- **Student named to BACCHUS Network Board**
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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.

Profiles in Giving:

Mike Curb

Music is Mike Curb's passion—from classical to hip-hop, with Memphis in between.

"I started school in a racially-mixed public school in Compton, CA, adjacent to Watts," says Curb, a music industry icon who is founder and chair of Nashville-based Curb Records and The Mike Curb Family Foundation. "I enjoyed it, especially the music. I was exposed to a lot of African-American music, mainly early rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues."

While a student at California State University in the early '60s, he composed and recorded some of his earliest songs in the university's music building studios. He also formed his first record company, a predecessor to Curb Records.

It was Curb's passion for blues, rockabilly, then rock 'n' roll, "all of which synthesized in Memphis," he says, that drew him to purchase Elvis Presley's home on Audubon Drive in 2006, the house Elvis bought in 1956 with earnings from his early hit records.

With a new interest in Memphis, Curb looked up his old

friend, Rhodes president Bill Troutt. Their friendship began 15 years ago in Nashville, where Curb had just moved from California, and Troutt was president of Belmont University.

"There was a small music business program at Belmont then, and Bill asked me to get involved," Curb explains. "Today, the Mike Curb College of Entertainment & Music Business is the largest such entity in the country."

It's no surprise, then, that the Curb Institute at Rhodes wasn't Mike Curb's idea, either.

"Bill Troutt knew that I love the history of African-American music, and Memphis has always been all about that. The music breaks down barriers between people. The idea for the institute sparked during conversations we had about it, and I recognized that it was a good idea," Curb says. It went from there.

The institute fosters awareness and understanding of the distinct musical traditions of the South and the impact of music on its culture, history and economy. It aims to provide undergraduate research opportunities that



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Linda and Mike Curb with President Troutt before being inducted in the Benefactors' Circle at the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year

go beyond the gates of Rhodes. With faculty guidance, students assist Rhodes and other institutions in preserving archival materials as well as accumulating and developing primary resources—oral interviews, recordings, instruments, historical printed programs.

“We envision partnerships with Stax Museum, the National Civil Rights Museum, the Blues Foundation and Fisk, Belmont and Vanderbilt universities in Nashville where Curb Foundation initiatives are already under way,” says Troutt.

Figuring out how to relate Elvis’ former home to a liberal arts curriculum required a lot of discussion. Troutt brought in various Rhodes community members—music professors, administrators and students—to help define the issues. The discussion continues, though the initial picture that emerged was clear enough to entice the Nashville mogul to endow the

Mike Curb Institute for music at Rhodes.

“The home is part of the Curb Institute, and we’re working with Rhodes about how best it will fit with the college’s educational goals. It could be used for classes or research or study groups,” says Curb.

Characteristically thinking ahead, Troutt says, “Mike Curb’s gift celebrates his appreciation for the contributions of our region’s music to the world. The Curb Institute for Music is another major milestone on our road toward graduating students with the ability to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in their communities and the world.” 

 For more on Mike Curb, visit mikecurb.com

Update: The Campaign for Rhodes

Now in full swing, the Campaign for Rhodes aims to raise \$250 million for the endowment that will 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 staff at 901-843-3850 to learn how you can support these goals.

Challenges

Challenge grants enable donors and recipients of charitable gifts to strengthen their commitment to one another. The donor, in essence says, “I believe in your program and want to stimulate others to fund it. I also want to see it continue beyond the life of my gift.” The recipient not only benefits from the initial gift but can leverage it to persuade others to contribute to the cause.

Rhodes has been favored with two endowment challenge grants from the Robert and Ruby Priddy Charitable Trust during The Campaign for Rhodes. The first challenged the college to raise \$11 million to endow support for our Bonner Scholars in order to receive an additional \$1 million from the trust. The most recent Priddy Challenge created the CODA program (Center for the Outreach in the Development of the Arts) and offered \$1.5 million if Rhodes could raise \$1.5 million for CODA Fellowships. Thanks to the generosity of the Rhodes community both challenges were met early.

Where We Are

(Through January 10, 2008)

Cash Commitments	\$ 123,750,000
Deferred Commitments	\$ 23,650,000
Campaign Total	\$ 147,400,000

The Breakdown

Scholarships/Fellowships	\$ 51,500,000
Academic & Faculty support	\$ 76,000,000

The Art of Learning

By Daney Daniel Kepple



Andrew Whaley '08 in McCoy Theatre production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest"

Andrew Whaley '08 vividly recalls his audition for a fine arts fellowship at Rhodes. "I was all by myself on the stage of McCoy Theatre. In the audience were all four of the Theatre Department faculty. I went through my presentation and Cookie (professor Julia Ewing) said, 'Do it again. This time, don't try to force us to feel what you are feeling. Just let it flow naturally.'

"I left there feeling that there was someone at Rhodes who thought I could be taught."

Whaley isn't the typical arts student at Rhodes. He was a member of the initial class of CODA (Center for the Outreach in the Development of the Arts) fellows which provides him with a \$12,500 scholarship and training in arts leadership. (The CODA program is underwritten by the Robert and Ruby Priddy Charitable Trust.) Whaley is a double major in religious studies and theater who participates in the Rhodes Singers and takes private voice and piano lessons. None of that explains why he is atypical.

The reason is that there is no typical arts student at Rhodes. There's not even a typical theater or music or art major. Part of the reason is the broad liberal arts environment in which the fine arts thrive here. The rest has to do with the structure of the three departments, the new Mike Curb Institute for Music and CODA's emphasis on bringing the arts to life for every member of the campus community.

Art

"We believe that art making and art history are related, so our majors must do both," says department chair Victor Coonin. The studio arts include painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, digital arts and new media. Art history includes "studying everything from cave painting to the modern era."

Coonin points out that the Clough-Hanson Gallery and the Moss and Ruffin Lecture series provide unusual bonuses to the department and its students. The lecture series and visiting artist talks bring distinguished experts to campus while the gallery mounts four professional and two student shows a year, specializing, in the words of director Hamlett Dobbins, in "controversial shows that other galleries couldn't afford to display."

Dobbins teaches a popular gallery management course in which students are responsible for recruiting an artist who will allow them to organize an exhibition somewhere in Memphis. Locations have included tractor trailer trucks, pet food stores, vacant buildings, churches, private homes and traditional exhibition spaces.

"We are very fortunate to have our lecture series and the gallery, which provides a small, intimate space to mount challenging and innovative shows within a modest budget,"

Coonin says. "We are also fortunate to have our partnership with the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and various galleries around town where our students gain valuable hands-on experience through internships and special projects. These outside opportunities are crucial since our physical space is unfortunate. We have limited studio space, no critique space and we can't teach with media such as oil paint because we don't have proper ventilation. Those are hurdles but we do amazing things with the resources at hand thanks to our talented faculty and students."

Douglas Degges '09, an art major on the studio track, is also interested in art history, philosophy and theology and is seeking a way to unify those interests. The Shreveport, LA, native is considering graduate school in architecture, art or religious studies, but meanwhile he's grateful for both the aesthetic and practical knowledge he's gaining.

"Trevor Nicholas (assistant professor of art) requires everyone in his classes to write an artist's statement to develop a vocabulary for talking about our work and why we're doing it," Degges says. "We learn to document our work with a camera and develop artist résumés to help us approach galleries and juried competitions. I dropped off a gallery packet with my high school teacher the last time I was home and he took it to a local restaurant that displays art work.

"The department is teaching us to be professional artists outside of Rhodes."

Kathleen Perniciaro '09 is a varsity soccer player who is passionate about her sport and her art. She is a business minor who "was always interested in color and how things are made," But she ignored her passion for art until she studied painting with assistant professor Erin Harmon. After declaring a studio art major, last summer she traveled to Italy with Harmon and six other students. It solidified her choice. That's when she realized that "majoring in art is not impractical to me. It wouldn't be practical to do something I'm not this passionate about. When I'm working on a piece or discussing art, I feel invincible.

"My options aren't narrowed to working in a gallery, owning a studio or teaching. Those are promising routes that may be in my future, but every day I spend embracing art as my passion, my options seem endless. And luckily, the faculty in the art department encourage me to tackle what seems impossible—that is, as long as I get it done in time for the scheduled critique."

"I like to be involved in the things I care about," says **Rachel Thompson '08** with characteristic understatement. "Rhodes has allowed me to be a quiet leader without an extroverted personality. I didn't go through rush and wasn't on an athletic team so I had no network beyond my residence hall and the organizations I chose to be involved in." So she set out to build her own.

Thompson served as a work-study student in Career



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Rachel Thompson '08

Services her first year at Rhodes, spent the next year assisting in the Chaplain's Office, then landed an early student associate position working with Professor Michael Leslie, the Corinne Abston Chair in Literature, on a Web site for the British Studies at Oxford program. She now leverages those experiences in the Communications Office where she is the student associate assigned to rhodes.edu.

One favorite Rhodes memory is a trip to New York with the Kinney Program to study global homelessness at the United Nations. She learned about the life of a new immigrant from a Chinese newcomer she met working in a food pantry. She and another art major toured the gallery district and compared notes.

Thompson didn't come to Rhodes to be an art major, but her first year, she took photography and was hooked.

"It tapped into my creative side," she says.

And she has gloried in being a studio art major.

"I love using the creative side of my brain, the constant interaction and feedback from the faculty, the sense of connectedness with the other majors and the faculty."

Thompson is considering a career as an art director in an advertising agency or perhaps continuing her work as an information architect for a Web design firm.

"I like organizing things, seeing how they work together," she says. "That feels creative to me."

Faisal Shaikh '10 is a history major headed for medical school who took assistant professor Trever Nicholas' drawing class his first semester at Rhodes.

"He taught us about contour and perspective and pencil techniques, but the class was more about how to apply your personal thoughts to the paper. That class changed everything for me."

Shaikh was born in Pennsylvania, spent six years in Saudi Arabia ("my mom wanted an Islamic-driven culture"), three in Pakistan ("for family,") and several more in a small town in Virginia before the family settled in Germantown, a Memphis suburb.

"My big move was from Germantown to midtown Memphis," he says with a smile. "I love being within striking distance of concerts, eating at cool restaurants and hanging out on the river."

The cosmopolitan sophomore found his art class to be a nice change from the rules of science and the formality of history.

"Drawing gives me a new means of conversing, of putting ideas on the table in a different way," he explains. "It's often what I do when I need to relax and think because it does not



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Trever Nicholas and Faisal Shaikh '10

have as many limitations as language does. It's liberating."

Music

The Rhodes Music Department has about 30 majors and minors and 300-350 students who participate in its various offerings.

"We certainly have students who come to Rhodes to major in music. They are serious musicians, but they come here for a well-rounded education before entering a conservatory," explains department chair Tim Sharp. "They want to learn about other things as well as music."

"The others are drawn to Rhodes by another major, but music is still important to them—sometimes more important than they initially thought. A good number of them end up majoring or minoring in music. The thing about many of our majors is, we didn't see them coming."

Both groups know that Rhodes has a good music department, and it's getting better all the time.

Building on a strong choral and vocal tradition, the department in recent years is "coming on strong in instrumental, composition and the technology of music," Sharp says. "We don't emphasize performance over theory or musicology even though voice and piano remain our highest demand areas, followed by guitar."

"Our goal is to showcase today's reality," he concludes. "The arts are much more center stage at Rhodes than at any time in the past and music is carrying its share of the weight. There are more performances, more performing organizations, more ways to get involved. Music has penetrated the liberal arts at Rhodes."

If Sharp sounds satisfied with the status quo, nothing could be farther from the truth.

"We are always striving to expand our offerings and go to the next level," he says. "Anyway, I'll never be satisfied until we have a performing arts center at Rhodes so our musicians can host their performances here where they belong."

Erik DeVore '10 headed south from Dayton, OH, to look at Vanderbilt but was surprised to learn that he liked Rhodes better. The varsity soccer player is able to balance his sport with participation in the Rhodes Singers because conductor Sharp meets with him individually once a week during the season.

"I basically have to take a two-month leave from rehearsals but Professor Sharp goes over all the music with me," he says. "I plug back in just in time for the holiday concerts."

DeVore knows exactly what he wants to do with his music major.

"I'm an incredibly big fan of movie soundtracks," he explains. "I think they add a whole different dimension to the story on the screen."

So he plans to line up an internship in Los Angeles, attend



Daniel Frankel '09

graduate school at USC and take Hollywood by storm. As part of his preparation he's working on a symphony with Professor Sharp.

"I want to be the next John Williams," he concludes.

JoBeth Campbell '08, recipient of the Mrs. Billie J. Scharding Scholarship, like many Rhodes students, arrived on campus with plans to prepare for law school but found that her heart led in another direction. Pursuing the French that she had studied since ninth grade led to a Buckman Scholarship to study at the Sorbonne in Paris.

On a lark, she signed up for music theory at Rhodes, which she had hated in high school, and fell in love with it. That led her back to piano, which she had played since third grade, and to the Rhodes Women's Chorus. She hasn't looked back since she decided to double major in music and French.

"As music majors we get to do what we love all day every day, which is make people happy," she explains. "I'm in love with being a music major. I love the professors, I love going to classes, I love the other students."

As for French, "You have to understand the culture to understand the music."

Daniel Frankel '09 began his college search by looking for liberal arts colleges with strong academics and a good golf team. He found both at Rhodes and a whole lot more.

In addition to playing on the nationally-ranked golf team, which carves five to six hours out of his day, he is president of the Jewish Students Association and is taking an academic overload to accommodate his desire to double major in music and religious studies. He takes voice lessons and participates in both the Rhodes Singers and the MasterSingers. And he is an avid CODA fellow.

Through CODA he teaches visual arts twice a week at Springdale Elementary School and as part of his senior project he has started a music program at Cypress Middle School that will be continued by CODA and several music students.

"I'm working daily to ensure that it will be sustained when I graduate," Frankel says.

It was also through CODA that he visited his native New York City as a tourist.

"That was a very special experience," he says. "I didn't really appreciate it until I went back and saw it through different eyes."

He's also grateful for the CODA excursions to San Francisco and Chicago to view the arts scenes in those cities.

He laughs off questions about how he manages his grueling schedule.

"I'm like a new parent," he claims. "I don't sleep very much."

Also, he is able to piggyback many of his music and CODA activities.

"Rehearsals, going to symphony concerts, the opera, plays—those activities allow me to kill two birds with one stone."

The one thing he doesn't have time for is planning for the future.

"I have too much to do now to focus on life after Rhodes. I'm just trying to enjoy my time here."

Theater

For many people—even those alumni/ae who remember the days when the department was housed in the basement of Palmer Hall—McCoy Theatre embodies dramatic endeavors at Rhodes. That may be especially true now that the building has doubled in size and houses the entire faculty and staff under one roof. Members of the department are justifiably proud of

their new "digs" but hasten to point out that the academic department encompasses much, much more.

Chair David Jilg '79 explains that besides the McCoy productions that have a loyal following, the department teams up with Asian and Latin American studies for non-English language presentations, works with the Philosophy and Religious Studies departments and the Search program to offer staged play readings and has regular sessions on children's theater. It's not unusual to team up with other local groups to present special offerings such as this year's August Wilson Celebration, funded by the Mike Curb Institute for Music and produced by a coalition including Rhodes, the University of Memphis and Hattiloo Theatre. The most recent addition to the departmental repertoire is a course in Theatre for Social Change.

And while there is no shortage of dramatic companies around town, McCoy fills a special niche, says artistic director Cookie Ewing.

"We are not a conservative theater," she emphasizes. "Our productions are large in ideas. The issues and questions addressed have import."

Stephanie Cassel '10 broke with tradition in her Kent, CT, high school by heading south for her education.

"I loved the idea of branching out into a place where I didn't fit," she says.



Lucy Mason '08 in "Agnes of God"

That hope was dashed as she found she fit in very well here. “Rhodes is a warm environment to come into,” she says. “All the students are very talented and giving.”

Perhaps part of her acceptance had to do with the fact that she quickly learned to say “y’all.” It could also be related to the energy with which she plunged into campus activities. As a sophomore she is the student leader of Rhodes Rebuilds, was the stage manager of McCoy’s production of “The Rocky Horror Show,” serves as a staff writer of the *Sou’wester*, is risk management chair of her sorority and volunteers with Friends for Life, a local nonprofit.

“I like to stay busy 24/7,” she admits.

Cassel has a deep interest in both theater and zoology and is still trying to decide what her major will be. Fortunately, she says, “Rhodes is a great place for both. I hope to do some kind of internship at the zoo next semester. Maybe that will help me decide.

“Whatever I do for a career, though, I want to stay involved with theater for the rest of my life because it’s always a place to be open and crazy, to have fun.”

Lucy Mason ’08 was involved in theater in high school but made a conscious decision to stay away from it at Rhodes.

“I wanted to figure out my life interests,” she says.

On a family vacation to China when she was a child Mason learned that she was fascinated by different cultures and wanted to be able to communicate with all kinds of people. She went on a Maymester trip to Spain after her first year at Rhodes and stayed for the summer to complete an internship at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid. The next year she declared her major in Spanish with a minor in Chinese.

With that squared away, she auditioned for a role in the McCoy production of “Agnes of God” and landed the title role. The play was directed by Liz McClure ’07.

“Cookie gave us a lot of latitude for creative expression. The experience opened up a lot of different ways of looking at things—intellectual, dramatic, spiritual,” Mason recalls. “It left me with a more holistic view of life and literature. I also made some great friends. It was an amazing experience.”

This semester Mason is working with Ewing on a play about her study abroad experiences. (Last summer she joined international studies associate professor Steve Ceccoli and other students in a language immersion experience in China.) Currently, she’s taking a course on Spanish drama jointly taught by associate professors Eric Henager ’89 and David Jilg.

After graduation in May Mason plans to do volunteer work in Latin America or China for a year before heading for graduate school to study the golden age in Spanish drama, which she hopes to teach eventually.

“I want to take time to get some life experience before trying to tell others what to do,” she says.

Stacey Cotham ’11, recipient of the Linda Williams

Rhea Scholarship, grew up in theater and had an opportunity to see it from every angle.

“I started doing drama at church at age six and stayed with it all through high school. I learned how to run it like a business by managing the box office for two years,” she says. “By the time I got here I knew what I liked—either put me on stage or let me build props. Give me a hammer and a drill or a script.”

When she came for summer orientation and learned that McCoy was staging “Rocky Horror” this season, she inquired whether first-year students were allowed to audition. Her answer: She landed a major role in the production.

“When I read that I was Janet, I just thought, ‘I got a part!’ It didn’t sink in that I had been blessed with a major part that would usually go to a veteran, with an early chance to develop and showcase my talents. What a thrill!”

But that wasn’t her only early experience with the Theatre Department. She signed up for the Theatre for Social Change course that entailed spending fall break at the Heifer Project in Arkansas. The program exposes participants to the reality of poverty by having them live in actual conditions faced by the indigent in various parts of the globe. The Rhodes group was challenged to put together a performance to portray the problems they experienced.

“It was profound on a physical, mental and emotional level,” Cotham says. “I want to go back and experience all the other villages. Then I want to go to the Rhodes program in Arrezzo, Italy and study masking in Commedia dell’arte. That’s another outlet to entertain and enhance awareness. It’s an area that really interests me.”

Back to Andrew Whaley, who came to Rhodes because Cookie Ewing thought he could be taught.

“That’s the way it’s been for me the entire time,” he says. “Rhodes has offered me a community of learning and challenge from both the faculty and my fellow students. It has been a fantastic experience.”

Then, surprisingly, he adds, “I don’t plan on pursuing a career in the arts. I’m unsure of my career path but I am applying to seminaries to continue in the world of study and exploration. I don’t want all this magic to end.”

As for the arts career, he says, “I will always support the arts, wherever I am, whatever I’m doing. I’ll be the guy who seeks out the theater in a carpet store or the gallery in a warehouse, not just the main playbook listings. When you enter the business of the arts, though, there’s a danger that your ability to create and explore gives way to the need to survive. I feel I can be a much more effective patron of the arts as an outsider.” **R**

An Archive of Understanding

By Rachel L. Stinson '08

The Rev. Billy Kyles stood on the balcony of Memphis' Lorraine Motel when a rifle crack from a few hundred yards away ended the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Kyles was there to take King to dinner at his home that evening. The next day, the two were to have marched with thousands of others in support of the sanitation workers' strike. The pastor of Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis, Kyles lived in an era when civil rights protests were often silenced. Now, thanks to a Rhodes-led digital archive project, voices like his from the civil rights movement cannot be silenced again.

Russ Wigginton '88 and Suzanne Bonefas know that to affect the future, one must recall the past. Crossroads to Freedom is doing just that. The digital archive (crossroadstofreedom.org) covers the movement that changed history and the people who witnessed that change. Their words are captured on tape, and historically significant documents are available

for viewing on the computer. Crossroads aims to ignite conversation because, according to Wigginton, talking is what ultimately leads to change.

Such conversation about how the past impacts the present—and the future—began with the archive's launch in April 2007. This year, a national conversation led by Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Benjamin Hooks



Francesca Davis '08 (left) and Crystal Windless '08 prepare to interview Henry Turley

was scheduled on campus to celebrate Dr. King's birthday.

Wigginton, vice president for college relations, and Suzanne Bonefas, director of special projects, lead the Crossroads effort.

"The original idea was how Rhodes could contribute to learning about the civil rights movement," says Wigginton, who is a scholar of African-American history, author of the book *The Strange Career of the Black Athlete* and former Rhodes history professor and Hearst fellow. "Given the fact that we are in a city that's so connected to the civil rights movement, we thought we were a legitimate candidate."

Students agreed and signed on to assist with the project. Since summer 2005, a total of 19 students—12 from Rhodes—have worked on the project. Five are from Central High School, the remaining two from other colleges. Of the current six Rhodes students working on the project, three are Rhodes student associates, who work during the school year, and three are Crossroads fellows, who also work during the summer.

"Students do all of the project management," Bonefas says. "In consultation with their project faculty and staff, they determine whom to interview, set up the interview, conduct

the interview and digitize it."

The students are trained in oral history interviewing, but when mastering skills such as successful interviewing techniques, they perhaps learn the most from each other.

Students work in teams while they execute specific assignments from start to finish. For this reason, Wigginton and Bonefas believe that the experience of creating a digital archive will benefit students beyond their undergraduate studies.

"They not only see those processes; they're developing them all and learning the complexity of what it takes to make a digital archive," Bonefas says. "We meet weekly, and they all share what they're working on and what their challenges have been. They do a lot of group problem solving."

Students interview well-known civil rights activists, such as Kyles, in addition to everyday people. These "common" people not only witnessed the civil rights movement, they lived it.

"This period had an overwhelming impact on them, and the archive gives them a safe space to share those experiences," says Bonefas.

CROSSROADS TO FREEDOM

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HOME NEWS BROWSE COLLECTIONS

WELCOME

Crossroads to Freedom is a digital archive of materials that documents the Civil Rights era in Memphis TN. The purpose of this archive is to promote and support conversations in our community about the impact of this historical era on our city today.

The archive is intended to capture the picture of everyday life in Memphis during the era of the Black freedom struggle. The site is currently growing and contains 16 oral history interviews, the 1962 Hearings of the Commission on Civil Rights, materials from Judge Russell B. Sugarmon, and documents from the Hill Foundation pertaining to the Hoxie, AR school desegregation.

FEATURED COLLECTIONS

Newly Added Interviews
Includes Marc Willis, Rachel Shankman, D'Army Bailey, Art Gilliam, Luther Ivory, Leon Jones, Hattie Tuggle, Russell Sugarmon
[VIEW THIS COLLECTION](#)

Hearings before the United States Commission on Civil Rights
The hearings before the United States Commission on Civil Rights took place on June 25-26, 1962 in Memphis, Tennessee.
[VIEW THIS COLLECTION](#)

Crossroads Interviews
This collection contains all the interviews in the Crossroads archive.
[VIEW THIS COLLECTION](#)

Crossroads to Freedom home page

In addition to interviews, the digital archive holds publications and other print materials significant to civil rights. Among those is a 20-year run of *The Memphis World*, an African-American newspaper no longer in publication. All archived materials are searchable by date, subject and key words.

“We have a couple of special collections,” Bonefas adds. “One is about the desegregation of the Hoxie, AR, schools in 1955, which was our prototype collection. We also have a collection of papers from Judge Russell Sugarmon.” Sugarmon is a prominent Memphian who practiced law in one of the nation’s first integrated law firms and ran successfully for the state senate.

Wigginton is especially proud of one addition to the archive: The Civil Rights Commission Report from 1962, a 500-page document.

Through such significant interviews and documents, Crossroads aims to benefit not only Rhodes students but middle- and high-school students at Memphis City Schools.

But Bonefas and Wigginton hope the archive’s impact doesn’t stop at Memphis’ city lines.

“We’re absolutely hoping to branch out,” Wigginton says, with Bonefas adding, “We feel it will initially be of interest in particular in Memphis, but others who are interested in the civil rights movement will have a lot to gain from it.”

Wigginton believes that civil rights movement researchers can benefit from the archive because it provides a wide variety of hard-to-find information. It incorporates only primary sources, “without our added analysis.”

He explains, “Our goal is to present a wide variety of information related to this period—approximately 1950-70—so that there is an array of perspectives. Once you

visit this archive, it'll be hard to make many snap judgments related to the civil rights movement. We want to create a venue through which people—Memphians and beyond—can engage in civil discourse about a not-always civil part of our history.”

Hearing the reality of the past can positively alter the future, Wigginton believes.

“In order to effect progress, we can't take the road we've already traveled. The next generation of leaders won't recall how today was shaped and framed by the civil rights era. This era influenced Memphis, so it's not just learning about the past. It's real and connected to today.”

Wigginton himself was able to make that connection through the realization of an eerie fact: In very recent Memphis history, legal segregation was everyday life.

“In the big scheme of things, it was like yesterday,” he says. “And partly because of that, these issues are still very much a part of the people in our society. Coming to terms with that is not going to happen unless we continue to find avenues in which to engage this material. It's personal, and it's emotional.”

Yet, people want to talk about the civil rights movement. Wigginton largely credits people's openness to Crossroads' approach to facilitating conversation.

“They view this as a place where they can talk,” he says. “When people aren't asked to choose sides but to talk about how segregation impacted them, it's less about putting them in a certain category. It's a part of their identity. It's a part of their family legacy and history. And it's a part of the community in which they live. They want to talk about it because it's life.”

Davis Falvey, Snowden School

Snowden School seventh-grade teacher Davis Falvey showed his students the Crossroads interview with Maxine Smith, who was executive secretary of the Memphis NAACP for more than 40 years. Then the students listened to Smith speak in person.

“Watching the interview helped students prepare appropriate, informed questions about her role in the desegregation of Memphis City Schools,” Falvey says.

Falvey incorporates Crossroads into his teaching curriculum, and, as a result, has noted spiked student interest in the historical material.

“The students have enjoyed learning about the freedom struggle in Memphis history by exploring the archive,” he says. “They seem more engaged and interested in learning from personal stories and recollections rather than from secondary sources.”

He says that interest can be attributed, in part, to “a more natural and familiar way of learning” in listening to

stories. Listening as a learning tool is especially helpful for students who are not strong readers. Crossroads benefits students through its “ease of access and the ability to search transcripts for key words.”

In addition, Falvey is using Crossroads as a model for Snowden's own history project, Connecting Generations, with seventh- and eighth-graders.

“Crossroads is a fantastic archive of primary source material for students and teachers,” Falvey says. “The whole community benefits from Crossroads, especially educators who are looking for innovative ways to engage their students in historical research.”

As for the teacher himself, “It has helped me understand the local struggles on a more personal level so that I can teach more effectively about the civil rights era.”

According to Falvey, Crossroads isn't just an archive for the past; it's an archive that relates to the present. He explains, “The struggle for equality is ongoing, and we study past examples of social movement in order to continue the modern-day struggle to continually improve our society. Memories must be preserved because they connect us with our past and help guide us in the future.”

Francesca Davis '08

Francesca Davis '08 explored cultural differences in Memphis before doing the same overseas.

As lead Crossroads fellow, Davis was responsible for coordinating, organizing and executing various projects with a team of nine others. The group's projects included scheduling and conducting interviews and scanning documents from the Sugarmon collection for the archive.

“I definitely liked working with a team of people who contributed such great energy and ideas to the project,” Davis says. “Working with different personalities and perspectives kept things interesting last summer.”

In fall 2007, Davis left for Denmark to study psychology and child development in a cultural context.

“The preschool where I work has a handful of ethnic children whose parents do not speak Danish,” she says. “So I am learning first-hand how teachers are handling cultural differences.”

About studying cultural differences back home, she explains, “As a Memphian, my participation in the project means that I am learning about my heritage, about myself. When we interview people, they share many painful memories of a not-so-pleasant time in our city's history. They open themselves up to perfect strangers, yet every one of them does it with such incredible strength and resolve because they know the importance of passing that history along.”

Those people include Jim Lanier, professor emeritus of history who taught during the sanitation workers' strike



Menu of video interviews on the Crossroads to Freedom Web site

and later marched through downtown Memphis with Dr. King, and Lynne Turley, a white music teacher in segregated Memphis City Schools who incorporated African-American folk songs and spirituals into her lessons.

Davis comments, “They built for us a strong foundation of activism, of political and social awareness, of hope. They taught me that activism does not necessarily mean participating in marches; it can mean critically examining one’s surroundings and taking a stand.”

Davis believes that understanding the past is imperative to understanding the present. Rather than trying to tell people the story of the movement, Crossroads aims to provide the tools for critical examination of Memphis culture.

“The project is meant to get people to ask themselves and others questions about the period,” Davis says.

The archive can educate any viewer, from young to old,

and “could also bridge the gap between generations of people in a constructive and positive way,” she says. For example, Davis explains, after watching an interview, a high-schooler might ask his or her grandparents about their experiences during the period. “The opportunities to utilize the project,” she says, “are countless.”

When she met people who experienced the civil rights movement, Davis encountered an array of emotions. Talking about the movement unearths memories of hatred and violence that only a survivor can understand, she says.

“I think that completely different feelings and emotions come from those who lived in the civil rights movement and the people who learn about it second-hand,” Davis explains. “I could never be able to truly understand what it was like for Eddie Mae Hawkins (a cook at the Lorraine Motel in the years after Dr. King’s assassination) to see, smell and taste the tear gas that was thrown into a group of marching people in downtown Memphis. I could never feel what it is like to send your child to school escorted by police every day like the Rev. Billy Kyles. Now, I am able to hear these stories.” And now, so are others.

Daniel Jacobs '09

“History isn’t just the study of the big leaders,” says Daniel Jacobs '09. “It’s the study of the common people and what they think.”

For Jacobs, working on the archive as a Rhodes student associate has emphasized that train of thought in particular. He has conducted some of the interviews that are now accessible through Crossroads.

“The archive will be helpful to anyone interested in the civil rights movement,” he says. “It’s more open-ended than some other Web sites because it’s not about civil rights heroes; it’s about all different kinds of people who were just here in Memphis during that time period.

“I definitely learned something about Memphis,” Jacobs states. “It’s kind of hard to put it into words. I learned about the massive amount of work that went into the civil rights movement. You read about events like the march on Washington or the King assassination here or the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision that was the beginning of the end of school segregation. Doing this project has shown me how many tiny things also went into the movement. I’ve gained a better understanding of Memphis civil rights history and a better understanding of how to work with a historical archive.”

Before working on the project, Jacobs didn’t realize the amount of work that a digital archive requires. Now, however, “I know all the intricate details that go into obtaining and classifying materials and putting them out there.”

In addition to interviews with everyday people, he says,

“We’re slowly trying to have interviews with people who were opposed to the civil rights movement. And I think that’s important because if we want to learn from our history, we need to understand why people would have those opinions, why people would be opposed to integration, so we can learn how to prevent that kind of thing in the future.”

Jacobs explains that the archive gives viewers “a better look at their background and all the important events that were happening in Memphis 40 years ago.” Simultaneously, the project allows Rhodes students, including non-history majors, to reach out into the community.

The civil rights movement may have ended decades ago, but its effects still ripple. Jacobs explains, “The movement still has an impact on Memphis today. Having a discussion about the civil rights movement in Memphis will help people work together better. If people look at the past through Crossroads, that might facilitate conversation about issues we face.”

Crystal Windless '08

Crystal Windless'08, recipient of the Edgar Wiggin Francisco Scholarship, knows that Memphis has made substantial progress since the civil rights movement. But she also knows that there is much progress to be made.

“We live in Memphis, which is still a divided city,” she says. “If you look at a school like Rhodes, it’s enrolling more and more minority students, and having a project like this represents progress. But people still live in different parts of the city; people still have different types of friends, and that’s an effect that has not changed.”

In summer 2006, Windless began participating in Crossroads as a Rhodes student associate. Her joint internship consisted of working for Crossroads and Memphis Stax Museum, which is dedicated to African-American soul music and is situated at the site of the former Stax Records. Now, she collects oral history, researches, conducts interviews, puts information on the Web site and helps with Snowden’s project.

“When I was growing up in school, history seemed like it could be really cool, but it wasn’t cool because of the way it was taught,” she says. “But when it’s time for these Snowden students to go, they stick around to ask more questions.”

Meeting people who contributed to the movement also holds great significance to her: “Probably the most rewarding thing is just sitting down face-to-face with people who were active in the civil rights movement—people you read about or people your parents have talked about. You think, ‘We just talked about you in class,’ or ‘I just watched a movie about you, and now we’re sitting in your home.’”

But the reality of the movement also comes from lesser-known witnesses.

“To hear everyday people talking about their lives in the civil rights movement, you kind of get captured in it,” she explains. “You get a better picture of history, and it becomes real. Sometimes you go into an interview expecting one thing, but people will surprise you. When they give you a specific story about history, wow.”

Windless fondly recalls speaking with Henry Turley, a Memphis real estate developer who’s watched the city’s growth since childhood, and Johnnie Turner, who currently serves as executive director of the Memphis chapter of the NAACP. Windless says, “When I heard her story and all the things that she did and was responsible for, I thought, ‘This woman is more powerful than I ever knew.’”

Windless feels that, today, people remain uninformed about the movement. She and the Crossroads crew aim to end the ignorance.

“We want to enlighten people that this is a pivotal part of history, that this is not over. This is history being revisited. We need to think about it and get a clear understanding.”

As for why that understanding is necessary, Windless states, “The segregation rules and laws are gone, but the effects are still there. We’ll have only a chapter in our history book about the civil rights movement, and so many people still don’t know why it was crucial.”

One person who does understand is Charles Penix, son of the former Hoxie, AR, School Board attorney and Windless’ first interview.

“He’s white and grew up with black kids,” Windless explains, “but when he got to a certain age, he was told, ‘Okay, this is over. Now you’re different and better than blacks.’ And he was so confused. When he talked about the civil rights movement, he began to cry. I realized that African Americans were not the only people hurt.”

“We’re very pleased that Crossroads is performing critical roles—a historical one, and one that builds for the future,” says Wigginton. “It is a true credit to the visionary sponsors who provided the resources that helped us get this project under way. FedEx was an early partner in the effort as was the Mellon Foundation. And it’s gratifying that the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency that typically supports large, well-established libraries and museums, found Crossroads worthy of support. Last year, IMLS funded projects at only two liberal arts institutions—Rhodes and Williams.

“We’re also grateful to the heroes who shared their stories, and I hope the readers of *Rhodes* magazine will contact us if they have memories of the civil rights movement to share,” he says. 



Visit Crossroads at
crossroadstofreedom.org

Making Education Real

By Jackie R. Flaum

Whether it's confronting a dishonest Scottish landlord, debating politics with fellow students in Brazil, teaching English in China or simply lunching with marketing colleagues in Paris, Rhodes College study/work abroad programs open up mind-altering experiences for students.

Many find the experience abroad so profound they can't slip back into old ways or accept life as they knew it.

"It was hard sometimes for those of us who studied abroad to find common ground with students who have not studied abroad. We had this 'out of world' experience," says Megan Colnar '08 of San Antonio, TX, who studied in São Paulo, Brazil. "I got to live life with different priorities. In São Paulo people work to live, not live to work. People never sit at their desks for lunch—it's unheard of." Yet, she adds, São Paulo has a booming economy.

For Eben Cathey '06 the experience of living and working in a variety of countries was even more profound. He now questions the extreme nationalism he feels in American culture.

"I'm beginning to believe America is not the only nation under God. There may be others," he writes in an e-mail from Bolivia.

Through such experiences as tracking lions and elephants in an African ecological study for a nonprofit organization, viewing art masterpieces in Italy with Tim Sharp, dean of academic affairs-fine arts, and the Elizabeth G. Daughdrill Chair in Fine Arts, or speaking Russian in Russia, Rhodes students gain a deeper understanding of other cultures—and their own.

The impact these experiences make on Rhodes student travelers is gratifying to the professors who lead study programs and the administrators who oversee international internships, research projects and third-party or privately-

contracted academic study at schools abroad. Just as important, news about the benefits of international study is spreading: Rhodes is graduating more and more students who have studied abroad—many of them for a semester or more. Of the 2001 graduating class, only 40 percent had studied in an international setting. By 2006, that figure was up to 60 percent.

Rhodes students can pick from a number of study abroad options that can last several weeks to several months, such as:

- Programs designed and led by Rhodes faculty. Most of these programs occur during the summer and include offerings in intensive language study in China, France, Germany, Russia and Spain; environmental field programs in Honduras and Namibia; a marketing program at the University of Antwerp; and British Studies at St. John's College, Oxford University. In summer 2008, Rhodes will operate a program in Turkey on the history and politics of identity within the country. Rhodes also offers a semester-long program, European Studies, which provides students an opportunity to study the history and civilization of Western Europe on-site.
- Exchange programs and programs operated by other institutions. Rhodes has bilateral exchange agreements with seven universities around the world and is a member of the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), a consortium that includes more than 130 universities. Through an exchange, Rhodes students directly enroll in a university abroad while a student from abroad attends Rhodes during a semester or academic year. In addition to exchanges, students may also

participate in programs offered by other institutions. Eighty-six students participated in semester-long programs in the 2006-07 academic year.

- Internships both at home and abroad. Through Rhodes Career Services, 10 students worked abroad in summer 2007 in places such as France, Spain, Germany, India, Ghana and Belize. The Buckman Center for International Education encourages students to participate in study abroad programs that include internships for academic credit as part of a program's curriculum. Recently, one Rhodes art major interned at Sotheby's in Paris while taking French language and culture courses.

Students who travel abroad through Rhodes develop a real appreciation for the depth and breadth of today's world, says Sandi George Tracy, director of Career Services. Rhodes is one of the few schools today that offers undergraduate international internships—a coup Tracy says is only possible

through cooperating Mid-South companies and forward-thinking Rhodes supporters.

“We all live and work in a global society. Today there are no roadblocks—we have to work with others around the world,” Tracy says. “There are political and social scenes in the world that we have to understand ... and we have to have a better idea of our role in those scenes.”

Katherine Owen Richardson '83, director of International Programs and head of the Buckman Center for International Education, says students should come back from a study or work abroad experience changed.

“We help them understand that change and how to use it,” she says. “Sometimes they know they've changed, but don't know how, or how to use it.”

She finds students who come through her office have acquired “skills that make them more sensitive to others—transferable skills.”



The faculty and administrative staff at Tianjin Normal University hosted a formal welcoming luncheon for the Rhodes delegation. Front row (from left): Lucy Mason '08, Katie Henderson '08, Chinese instructors Du Shengxiang and Hao Laoshi, deputy dean of international education Wen Xiangyu, Rob Purple '08, director of international education Liang DeZhong, assistant director of international education Li Tao, dean of international education Zhong Yinghua. Second row: Justin Kinchen '06, Joseph Doyle '08, Nathan Hulling '07, Professor Stephen Ceccoli, John Jennison '07

They are better communicators, better listeners, she said, and they have a great deal more self-confidence.

Moreover, John Planchon, associate professor of economics and business, says international study makes students more attractive to employers since they know these young people have been exposed to different ways of thinking and solving problems, can navigate in unfamiliar waters and deal successfully with differences and change.

For Planchon, combining classroom instruction and study abroad brings abstract ideas home. He led 27 international business students to study in Belgium and France in May. While they studied Harvard Business School cases, they also talked with officials of the diamond exchange in Antwerp, the European Union in Brussels and Moët et Chandon champagne in France.

“We can talk and read about cultural and regulatory differences (between Europe and America),” he says, “but being inside business and government makes it real.”

Making education “real” is at the heart of all Rhodes study abroad opportunities, says Richardson. Students who come to her office “should be very intentional about learning. This is not a travel agency. This is an office that facilitates out-of-classroom experience.

“One of the biggest concerns about international study is that it is too expensive,” says Richardson. “We’re hopeful that the current Campaign for Rhodes will dramatically put these opportunities within the reach of many more Rhodes students and open the door to the world for all of them.”

Richardson says studying abroad is not just a good idea, it is a practical one too. For one thing, it opens students to

career opportunities available outside the United States.

The newest study abroad program at Rhodes introduces students to one of the world’s largest economic and cultural powers—the People’s Republic of China.

Steve Ceccoli, chair of the International Studies Department, led seven students in a language immersion program to Tianjin in the People’s Republic of China last summer. All of them—including Ceccoli—studied at Tianjin Normal University in a port city of 10 million people southeast of Beijing. It was a varied group: Four had studied some Chinese, and three were recent graduates who had not. Their majors ranged from international studies to business to Spanish to history. The three recent graduates liked China so much they found jobs and stayed behind—two are now teaching English in Tianjin and one works for Apple in Beijing.

“There are tremendous opportunities for Rhodes students and recent graduates in China,” says Ceccoli. “While thousands of American companies are doing business in China, Chinese companies are also interested in hiring American employees.”

Of course, he says, China may not be for everyone. Air pollution can be considerable, hygiene standards aren’t what Americans are used to, and then there is the occasional meal of donkey meat or snake.

But for All-American golfer John Jennison ’07 of St. Augustine, FL, China with its huge population, growing economy and the upcoming Olympic Games seemed like the land of opportunity.

“My thought process as graduation neared was simple: Rhodes has been great experience, so what’s next?” he

writes from Beijing. His next thought is illuminating—he felt he hadn’t done enough to differentiate himself significantly from other top 2007 liberal arts graduates around the country—so he decided to do just that by learning another language and gaining valuable international business experience.

Jennison asked Ceccoli to accept him in the summer language immersion course, and along with a backpack full of clothes he brought his résumé and several recommendation letters.

Ceccoli reports that it was not long before Jennison had set up an internship in the Channel Strategy Department of Apple in Beijing. Three months later he was invited to play golf with one of the top executives in the Asian division



JOHN PLANCHON

Prof. John Planchon’s students at the European Parliament in Brussels

of Apple. Shortly afterward, he was hired full time in Apple's sales department as a major account manager working to establish and develop strategic partnerships with multinational corporations in China.

"Trying my luck by moving abroad to Beijing alone has been one of the most challenging—and often frightening—but smartest and most rewarding decisions I have ever made," Jennison says.

For his professor, watching students grow in a foreign culture was satisfying. Ceccoli realized early on his main job was "to step back and let the learning unfold naturally." He urged them to explore the city, meet people, try new things and challenge themselves.

There is, after all, a difference between studying a culture and being part of it.

Today, Richardson said, 70 percent of high school seniors come to college expecting to study abroad.

She said Rhodes endeavors to ensure their study abroad

experience doesn't simply mean "taking a classroom from the second floor of Palmer Hall and putting it in Antwerp. This is so much more." **R**



Megan Colnar '08 flying high off the coast of Ipanema in Rio de Janeiro for her 21st birthday

Rhodes Graduate Learns His World Isn't the Only One

Eben Cathey '06 of Smyrna, TN, remembers walking the desert with a man who slept in a sand dune, a Columbian veterinarian who gave him dog pills to cure a bacterial infection, a family in the Peruvian jungle who gave him food and a place to sleep when he was hungry.

He remembers being poor. Desperately poor.

He admits that before his travels he lived a sheltered, idyllic life in a small, conservative American town—his mother teaches third grade, his father owns a small construction firm, his sister Sally is a Rhodes junior. While at Rhodes, Cathey was a baseball player, musician and part of CUP (Contents Under Pressure), the comedy group. He double-majored in political science and Greek and Roman Studies.

"I became interested in studying and living abroad after I learned from friends in other countries how differently they study history and international politics," he says.

For example, while traveling in Latin America he says he learned there are only six continents—North and South America are one. Where a person from the United States refers to himself as an American, the people in Latin America call him a "United Statesian."

"So when I say, 'I want some American food,' or, 'I like American music,' they give me hell about it because they think they're Americans too," Cathey says.

Studying and traveling abroad has opened his eyes to the adage that the more you know about the difference between people, the more you realize everyone's the same.

"People really all want the same things that they do in the

first world: to go to school, have kids who go to school and have a job that pays well enough to own a house," he says.

Most of the people he met were kind and considerate and went out of their way to help him—his Scottish landlord being the notable exception. While working as a cook in Scotland, Cathey had a landlord who forged a document that made Cathey liable for property taxes. At first his paychecks were heavily taxed, but when the ruse was uncovered Cathey had a lot of money refunded—money he used to travel.

The people he met—French students, Polish sailors, Bolivian guinea pig farmers—all want to live in peace, he says.

Cathey's first study-abroad experience came when he was a junior at Rhodes. He joined the European Studies program, which is sponsored through Rhodes. He studied at Sewanee for a month, Oxford University in England for two months, then an Oxford professor led a group across Greece, Italy and Turkey for a month.

Immediately after graduation Rhodes helped him find a work-abroad program that landed him in Scotland. Since then he has traveled abroad picking up odd jobs—even singing on the street in Paris—and learning about the cultures of different countries.

His goal is to earn his doctoral degree and teach on the college level. He begins his study toward a master's degree in February at Rhodes University in South Africa thanks to a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. He credits faculty and staff at Rhodes College with helping him find and secure that scholarship.

The Liberal Arts—And Sciences

By Martha Hunter Shepard '66

Would you believe—current Rhodes chemistry students doing the science for an explosives detection apparatus that could sniff out an improvised explosive device (IED) at 1,000 meters and explode it before it hurt anyone? Or physics students researching the wearing process of materials used in hip and knee replacement? Or a biology student spending a summer internship asking for—and receiving—organ donations from bereaved families? Quite impressive for science majors at a small liberal arts college, but that’s Rhodes tradition.

Consider professor emeritus of physics Jack Taylor '44, who in the 1960s delighted in whisking students thousands of miles away to observe solar eclipses in the near infrared. Current physics professor Brent Hoffmeister, the Van Vleet Fellow in Physics, says it was Taylor's example that inspired him to lead his students in their successful 2006 microgravity experiment that took them several miles straight up—and down—on a NASA “weightless wonder” aircraft. And those are just the physics students.

Rhodes offers majors in five natural sciences: biology, biochemistry and molecular biology, chemistry, neuroscience and physics. Science majors comprise 20 percent of the students who have declared their majors. Like all Rhodes students, at the end of four years they're prepared to do anything.

It's normal for science majors to do research along with a professor in his/her lab, then jointly present their findings at national conferences and publish them in peer-reviewed journals are the norm. So are research opportunities and internships at major research institutions such as Memphis' St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as well as at research institutions throughout the country. Some science majors take advantage of study abroad programs in their field.

They are community-minded as well. Outside the lab many volunteer to work with elementary, middle and high school students in Rhodes' Learning Corridor. Those who do research in developing countries become painfully aware of the local citizens' living conditions and vow to do something

about it in their future careers.

As for those careers, some choose to venture outside the sciences, into law, for example, following the bliss learned in history and philosophy courses taken along with their science classes. On the other hand, some humanities majors go into the medical professions or postgraduate work in the sciences. Most science majors, though, stay in the field as teachers, researchers, health professionals. Rhodes science faculty advise them about graduate schools, and with Career Services, put them in touch with undergraduate internships.

For students from any major who are interested in the health professions, Alan Jaslow, associate professor of biology, is director of health professions advising, a comprehensive program in which he works with faculty, student services offices, community partners and alumni to counsel students interested in all health professions and veterinary medicine about their career options. Though medicine has been the most common health career sought by Rhodes students, many have gone on to study pharmacy, physical therapy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, or become nurse practitioners or physicians' assistants, or enter the fields of health administration or clinical psychology.

One thing science majors—and all Rhodes graduates—have in common is a lifelong understanding of the liberal arts and sciences. Add to that the knowledge and resources to make a difference in the world.

The interdisciplinary approach

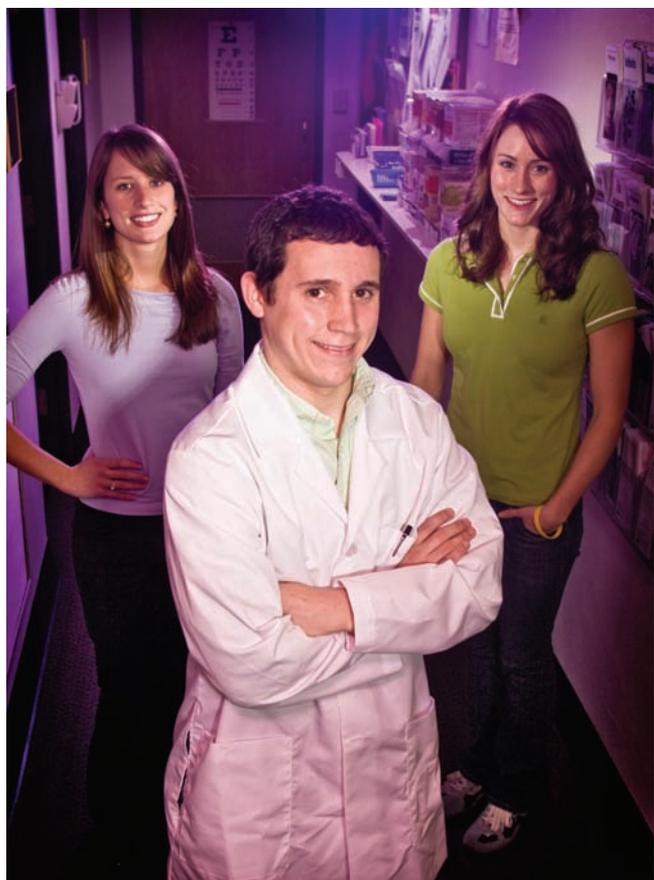
Rhodes students have options—from the curriculum they study to career choices. Science majors are not immune to experiencing some degree of cross-pollination in their disciplines, also known as the interdisciplinary approach to teaching.

For example, it sometimes happens that Rhodes faculty and students from mathematics will lend their expertise to a chemistry research project. Or that chemistry, physics and biology majors will end up on the same research team. In a small liberal arts college, size matters.

“In a place like Rhodes where we're all next door to each other, we interact even if we're not working on the same project. We don't team-teach all our courses, but we're all drawing on each others' perspective,” explains Biology Department chair Gary Lindquister.

That interdisciplinary approach, he says, “is second nature,” which made it relatively easy for Rhodes to add two majors to the science curriculum in recent years—biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB) and neuroscience.

“The BMB program, now in its third year, is interdisciplinary because we wanted to give students a choice,” says chemistry professor Darlene Loprete, department chair, and James H. Daughrill Professor of the Natural Sciences.



Biology major Taylor Butker '08, who has an internship at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center; neuroscience major Joel Chasan '09, who is doing research at UT-Memphis; and biology major Kim Green '09, who has done research at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

“It allows us to focus more on the molecular part of biology. Students who want to go into the health professions or do biochemistry or genetics in graduate school can major in BMB. There's flexibility for all kinds of students.”

Neuroscience, which began in the 2006-07 academic year, formalizes the previous bridge major between biology and psychology, says psychology professor and dean of curriculum Robert Strandburg.

“There's been an interest in this area for a long time. The problem was that we really didn't have the faculty infrastructure to support a department. Now we have three neuroscientists, plus a collaborative relationship with St. Jude and UT Memphis to provide research opportunities for the students.”

Strandburg describes all current science as “multidisciplinary.”

“The cross-fertilization from the behavioral end to the genetic end is what makes contemporary neuroscience so exciting.”

Keeping these teaching-learning options open is another matter. In December 2006, three faculty submitted a grant proposal for faculty-student collaborative research to the National Science Foundation: biology professor Terry Hill, who

holds the James T. and Valeria B. Robertson Chair in Biological Sciences; chemistry professor Darlene Loprete; and assistant professor of chemistry Loretta Jackson-Hayes. It was one of 220 proposals, of which the NSF funded only 22. Theirs was not one.

“Grants are drying up,” says Loprete, a past recipient of significant NSF funding.

The grant situation also worries the Biology Department, which sorely needs major laboratory renovations. Faculty envision creating new teaching spaces that would blend lecture rooms and labs, which traditionally have been separate entities.

Making It Better

In assistant professor of chemistry Mauricio Cafiero’s lab, biology major Karina Van Sickle ’08 and chemistry major Laura Hofto ’10 have worked on several projects, including a project modeling how large biological molecules help smaller ones wedge their way into DNA.

“Both carcinogens and chemotherapeutic drugs work that way,” explains Cafiero.

Hofto then took over a project her sister Meghan ’07 had begun, looking at how small molecules bind to neurologically important enzymes and how mutations in those enzymes can affect that binding and in turn lead to such conditions as Parkinson’s disease and obsessive-compulsive and bipolar disorders.

Then they decided they needed methods that could work

The department is pinning its hopes on a grant proposal to create one model teaching lab, but the funding won’t be announced till spring. It could go either way.

“A teaching lab would allow us to conduct a course in a common environment and facilitate more collaborative, investigational work,” says department chair Gary Lindquister.

He also emphasizes a priority of all faculty—maintaining student research fellowships and creating new ones to include more students, students who could learn and do research with faculty in vastly improved facilities.

faster and more accurately. Hofto went to work. Her first manuscript on that work was published in the *International Journal of Quantum Chemistry*. In fall 2007, she presented further research at the Computational Life Sciences Conference in Utrecht, Netherlands. After she spoke, Hofto and Cafiero fielded a multitude of questions from the audience of scientists all wanting to know how the findings could be applied to other diseases.

This summer, Hofto will do research in computational chemistry at Edinburgh’s Heriot-Watt University, one of the UK’s leading research institutions. Van Sickle plans to pursue a graduate degree in one of the many health fields open to her.

“I’m strongly considering dentistry now,” she says. “But I have so many options, I’m having a hard time deciding what to do.”

Options

Biology major Tyler Cullender ’08 found options when he transferred to Rhodes from a large southwestern state research university midway through his sophomore year. Passionate about environmental science, he worked with faculty in the ecology labs. He did a REU—research experience for undergraduates—in a summer program through the University of Notre Dame, investigating the massive problem of invasive species in the Great Lakes. He took biology professor David Kesler’s coral reef ecology course, traveling with the group to Roatán Island off the coast of Honduras for two weeks.

Then his earth shifted. His original ecology professor, who had finished a two-year fellowship at Rhodes, took an appointment at another college. The professor, along with other faculty, advised Cullender to give molecular biology a try. Cullender listened, and did so.

“The techniques in molecular biology seem to be rapidly progressing now, and they’re actually using those mechanisms and applying them to answering ecological questions,” Cullender explains. “It’s very beneficial for me



Mary Miller and Tyler Cullender ’08

to get that under my belt, because eventually I’d like to combine the two fields in grad school and a career.”

He sees himself in the biotech industry or in government programs that fund bioremediation, using organisms to help

extract toxins or heavy metals from contaminated soil.

He says he “kind of fell into” associate professor of biology Mary Miller’s lab.

“It was a big shift for me, learning the new techniques, how to observe things indirectly either under the microscope or through assays that involve antibodies or molecular probes,” he explains. “Yeast is used as a model system in the Miller Lab. We investigate the way cells divide and the proteins that are important for that division to occur. Having a dual

background in environmental science and molecular biology has really helped me.”

Rhodes was Cullender’s first choice when he was applying to colleges. He says, “The state university was free, and Rhodes wasn’t. But research opportunities there were reserved for grad students. So, I thought I’d rather be a little poorer and get a good education at Rhodes where I could explore my options.”

Movement

Physics major Justin Hugon ’09 is one of several students who work in associate professor of physics Ann Viano’s lab, where research is all about the human body’s interaction with man-made materials used in joint replacement. They investigate the wear of polyethylene (which comprises the plastic components in some artificial joints) and subsequent release of polyethylene particles into the body. Viano’s students also study corrosion of implant alloys caused by cells adhering to an alloy once implanted in the body.

Hugon has studied the size distribution of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene particles and optimized a technique to visualize the smallest of them—those in the nanometer range—using transmission electron microscopy. These particles are potentially the most biologically reactive due to their small size and represent a major reason for joint implant failure.



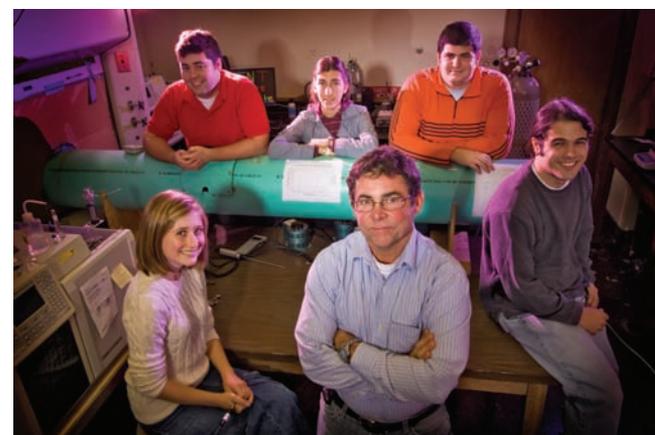
Physics major Justin Hugon '09 and Ann Viano

A Safer World

Chemistry Department Jon Russ has an annual \$100,000 grant from the Department of Defense to develop improved ways to detect explosives like TNT in an improvised explosive device (IED) so that it can be destroyed before it detonates. It’s called a standoff hazardous agent detection system (SHADES). Aiding him in his research are physics faculty Brent Hoffmeister and Shubho Banerjee along with four chemistry majors and one physics major.

In their lab on the fourth floor of Kennedy Hall, the students work with some extraordinary—and costly—equipment. They experiment with different versions of a solid phase micro-extractor (SPME), a polymer-coated filament a couple of inches long and no larger than a human hair, to detect and extract DNT vapors (accessible and less powerful than TNT) from a wind tunnel. From that, they can project DNT findings to TNT. Each SPEME costs \$100.

They work with the physics folks on theory, then collect the data. Other partners in the project are colleagues at Arkansas State University and a technology engineering company in Huntsville, AL, which will manufacture a device based on the science done at Rhodes.



The Russ Research Group, front row: chemistry major Sydney Milton '09 and associate professor of chemistry Jon Russ. Second row: chemistry majors Taylor Phelps '09, Jaala Spencer '08, Tyler Fraser '10 and physics major Michael Towle '08

The group plans to present the findings at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy in New Orleans over spring break. Publication is down the road, says Russ.

Surrounded by the Best

Biochemistry and molecular biology major Nici Thomas '08 participated in the St. Jude Summer Plus Program, a partnership of Rhodes and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, in which a student can devote one to two summers as a paid intern plus two semesters for academic credit working in a research lab at St. Jude.

Thomas, who worked in a radiology department lab there, says she "learned a lot about clinical work and research. I worked on three different projects—how delayed maturation affects bone density in children who survived acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), analyzing bone density in children who survived brain tumors using new computer software and studying the prevalence of kidney stones in

children who survived ALL."

Thomas says the strength of Rhodes' science departments attracted her to Rhodes.

Biology major Kim Green '09 also participated in the St. Jude Summer Plus program, determining the function of a protein in the viral infection of the Epstein-Barr virus. Her project grew out of a collaboration between a St. Jude biochemist and Rhodes biology professor Gary Lindquister, now sponsored by Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty.

"The faculty at St. Jude is the absolute best at what they do," she says. "Being surrounded by the best is inspiring, especially when you never lose sight of what you are working for—the children who are right next door, the ones who are eating in the same cafeteria as you, the ones you see every day."

Brain Surgery

"I don't know many other people who have performed brain surgery alone by the age of 20, albeit on a rat," says neuroscience major Joel Chasan '09 of his research with a pharmacology professor at the University of Tennessee-Memphis Medical School.

He examines the effects of nicotine on brain chemistry. "I work with a unique rat model, and I can perform all the work from before the rats are born until they are producing

the data that eventually will be published in a journal," he says.

Chasan says part of the reason he chose Rhodes was that "my predisposition toward biology and my interest in psychology merged well in neuroscience, and I greatly enjoy studying the brain and nervous system."

It's a difficult but rewarding major, he says, yet it has allowed him to take a broad range of courses in the liberal arts curriculum.

"I Held a Heart"

Biology major/sociology minor Britt Merritt '08 had a summer internship last year through the Nashville-based Dialysis Clinic Inc. She first worked at Camp Okawehna, a summer camp located in middle Tennessee for children with renal disease, before her internship moved her to Knoxville, where for the rest of the summer she worked for an organ procurement organization (OPO). There, she worked in a hospital with a team from Tennessee Donor Services soliciting organ donations from families who had suddenly lost loved ones.

"I would talk to the families, then present for organ donation, then monitor the donation as it went to a recipient. Only one family refused to donate," she says.

The medical staff took her under their wings, inviting her into the OR for transplant surgery. She wore a badge that said "intern" on it.

"I would scrub and go in for surgery. Heart teams and lung

teams would come in. I even got to hold a heart in my hand," says Merritt. "Some days, I worked at the UT Medical Center there, watching different surgeries from 7 in the morning till midnight.

"People ask me what I did last summer, and I say, 'I held a heart.'"

Merritt says she wants to go into public health. The inspiration came while studying abroad first semester her junior year. Through The School for Field Studies, she took the marine resources management studies option at a remote fishing village in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Far from a resort, students bathed and washed clothes in the ocean and lived in an un-air conditioned hotel built for now-nonexistent drug smugglers in the 1970s.

"The students there were all about ecology, conservation, the environment," Merritt says. "But as I saw how the people there live, I thought I'd rather save people than fish."

What They've Done with Their Rhodes Degrees

Rhodes alums make a difference in the world. In the health professions, research and academe, science majors daily affect our lives. Some examples:

Physics major **Harry Swinney '61**, director of the Center for Nonlinear Dynamics at the University of Texas at Austin, and a pioneer in chaos theory, the idea that systems—no matter how complex—rely on an underlying order, and that very simple or small systems and events can cause complex behaviors or events

Joe Ajello '62, also a physics major, a senior research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at CalTech who's worked on numerous projects, including the Galileo mission to Jupiter and the Hubble Telescope

Charles Robertson '65, physics, Nanodrop Technologies Inc., Wilmington, DE

Chemistry major **Joe McCord '66**, professor of

microbiology and immunology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, and a pioneer in antioxidant and free radical biology research

Sid Strickland '68, chemistry, vice president for educational affairs and dean of graduate and postgraduate studies, Rockefeller University

Rick Bostock '74, biology, professor of plant pathology, University of California, Davis and director, Western Plant Diagnostic Network, part of the national network formed after Sept. 11, 2001, to protect the nation's food supply from introduced pests and pathogens

Biology major **Dayna Miller Darden '91**, microbiology specialist, Sterilization and Microbiological Controls, Smith & Nephew, Memphis

Michael Long '97, biology/psychology, postdoc, McGovern Institute for Brain Research, MIT

Stanley Vance '05, chemistry, student, Harvard Medical School

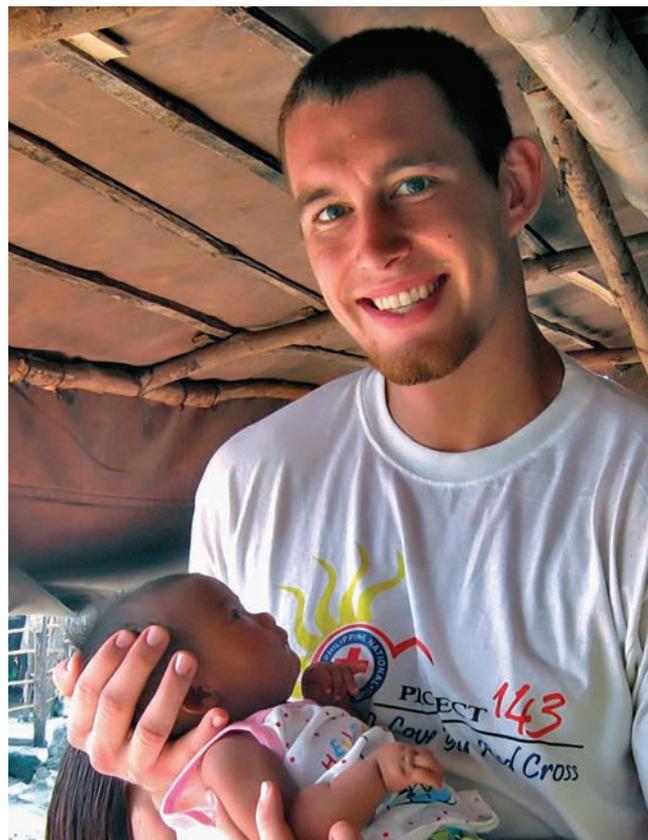
Aaron Creek '07

In my early days at Rhodes, I knew I would go straight to medical school from my undergraduate studies because, let's be honest, who would want to take time off and get out of the school mode; might as well stick with it while you're already plowing along, right?

Well, it's obvious that my thinking evolved a bit because I'm currently in the Philippines, on a postgraduate fellowship called the Luce Scholarship, volunteering with the Philippine National Red Cross. I'm here for one year working with the community health and disaster management divisions. Last year, there was a horrible landslide in the middle region of the Philippines. Today, I'm assisting with cyclone relief.

I know the experiences I had at Rhodes (classes, internships, research, volunteer work, etc.) made me a good candidate for this fellowship, but beyond that, I don't think that I would have felt inspired to go after the opportunity if it weren't for the support and the atmosphere of empowerment that exists at Rhodes College.

Some people feel that going to a liberal arts school means that you *have* to take courses outside of your major, taking your focus away from what's most important. But comparing my premedical experience to that of people I know at other schools, I feel that a liberal arts education gave me the freedom to explore other interests and to go after a fellowship that is a little out of the norm for one heading in the medical direction. None of this has gotten in the way of my ultimate goal—when I return from the Philippines I will be attending medical school at the University of Tennessee.



Aaron Creek '07 immunizing children for measles in the Baseco area of Manila, Philippines

From the Alumni Relations Office

Dear Alumnus/a,

Greetings from the Alumni Relations Office!

This issue of *Rhodes* features several students' current learning experiences. They are involved in research projects, working in internships or studying in different nations.

Significant learning experiences often begin on campus and continue beyond the gates of Rhodes. Many students work closely with faculty members on research projects. A significant number participate in internships that provide opportunities to learn first-hand about the fields they are exploring or wish to enter.

While internships at one time may have been viewed as "enhancement" to help round out a student's education, they are now almost fundamental to the Rhodes experience. In some disciplines, students who do not have substantial internship experience are not considered as competitive candidates for entry-level positions.

During the last year, Rhodes has received recognition for providing opportunities for internships and study abroad. We will continue both these initiatives.

Alumni can help. Internships are always needed—in Memphis, during the summer in students' hometowns, and throughout the academic year in cities where students are interested in working in the future. Please contact the Alumni Relations Office or Career Services if you can assist.

Funding is also needed to help students present their research findings at conferences or to make up the gap



Bud Richey

difference to study abroad. Donations for these purposes may be sent to the Development Office.

Thank you for all you do to help Rhodes College.

Best regards,

Bud Richey
Associate Vice President and
Director of Alumni Relations

Nominations Requested

Nominations are requested for the following awards to be presented at Homecoming, Oct. 3-4:

Athletic Hall of Fame
BSA Distinguished Alumnus/a
Distinguished Alumnus/a Award
Faculty Portrait Series
Young Alumnus/a of the Year

Nominations must be received by Friday, Feb. 15, 2008

Use the electronic form at rhodes.edu/alumni/2951.asp
or e-mail alumni@rhodes.edu, or mail to:

Bud Richey, Alumni Relations Office, Rhodes College, 2000 North Parkway, Memphis, TN 38112

Class Notes

By Rachel L. Stinson '08

Rhodes College
Alumni Association
President
Marcus Kimbrough '90
Memphis

1941

Ann Bell, professor emerita of clinical laboratory sciences at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, received an honorary doctor of science degree during UTCHS graduation ceremonies Dec. 7, 2007. Ann was a coauthor of the 1956 book *The Morphology of Human Blood Cells*, which is still widely in use in the U.S. and abroad.

1957

After transferring from Rhodes to the University of Tennessee for her junior and senior years, **Evelyn Rausin Moses** received her master's degree from Presbyterian School of Christian Education and worked on church staffs in Lexington, VA, and Atlanta. She married a Lockheed engineer, Bill Moses, and had two children. Daughter Nan is a veterinarian, and son Alex is a Presbyterian minister. "We have one grandson, Addison (4)," Evelyn says. "Bill and I retired to Tennessee in 1999 about 15 miles from my hometown of Sweetwater."

1958

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

The Rev. Canon **Paul Waddell Pritchett** was delighted to join his daughter **Elizabeth '84** and George Thomas Swinney in holy matrimony Oct. 6, 2007, in Linville, NC.

1959

Reporter: Sara Jean (Shiney) Jackson
4383 Fiesta Lane
Houston, TX 77004
713/748-4025
sjj1022@earthlink.net

This was a milestone year in one way or another for many of us.

Keith and Nora Petersen Buckley celebrated Keith's birthday and are thankful for children and grandchildren and for the good health to enjoy "the golden years."

Sally Stockley Johnson reported seven weeks (!) of birthday celebrations that included a family dinner in San Antonio, a class reunion in Marianna, AR, a weekend house party and ballet in Houston and a cruise to New England and Canada.

Mike Lupfer went on a camping/hiking trip in the Ozarks.

Two of **Elsie Hay Cook's** sons presented her with new grandsons.

Ann Evans' sisters gave her a trip to Germany.

Ed Stock, now retired and living in Glenaire, NC, reports a low-key birthday.

Barbara Bondurant Pelot notes the celebration of her 50th wedding anniversary.

Princess Hughes Van Hooser celebrated with her two daughters and granddaughters. Princess can also be quoted as saying what the rest of us can appreciate, that she just "never

envisioned being 70!" Amen.

1960

Reporter: Kim Baxter
Henley
kbaxhen@comcast.net
427 Colonial Rd.
Memphis, TN 38117
901-761-1443

Bob Mansfield writes, "I recently completed a series of church school lessons to be published in Adult Bible Studies by the United Methodist Publishing House in June 2008. This series is used by about 400,000 Methodists across the nation. Also, I played on a USTA Super Senior (60 and over) tennis team that won the Tulsa League and the Oklahoma championship in Oklahoma City in July."

Carolyn Atkinson Sitra lives in Austin, TX. In her 15th year of being a Doncaster fashion consultant, she still enjoys what she does.

David Moreau has been appointed to the Water Science and Technology Board (WSTB), one of several operating arms of the National Academies. A professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, David is also serving on two WSTB committees.

One is a peer review of the federal interagency committee on evaluation of the performance of the New Orleans hurricane projection system, and the other is an independent scientific review of progress toward restoration of the Everglades.

Fontaine Meacham Taylor, president-elect of the Tennessee Association of Realtors, received the 2007 Presidential Award for her work on governmental affairs.

Patsy Dodge Taylor reports, "I am surviving with total contentment in peaceful Chapel Hill, NC, and I have plenty of room for visiting classmates. It seems that sooner or later, everyone comes to Chapel Hill! I spent the summer in beautiful, cool, sunny Seattle visiting my son and painting watercolor and oil. My son, Thomas, makes gorgeous peace-giving movies for hospitals, clinics, hospices and individuals to help everyone heal. Daughter Carolyn is a physician practicing in Raleigh, just 20 minutes from my house, and I see her often. During fall, winter and spring, I teach three adult classes of painting and take commissions for portraits. It keeps me busy, but not too busy for houseguests. So let me hear!"

Morris Reagan reports, "Last winter, my godson, David Smith, and I were in Austria. In Vienna, we visited the house where Joseph Haydn spent his last years and composed his crowning masterpieces, *The Creation*, *The Seasons* and six glorious masses. We also visited Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg."

Finis and Charlotte Carrell celebrated their 50th anniversary Oct. 5, 2007, by taking their three daughters (Cathy, Betsy and Jeanne) and their families on an Alaskan cruise in July. Finis and Charlotte are enjoying retirement and their five grandchildren.

Carolyn Shettlesworth McClurkan is busy in Washington State and Europe, having led a group trip to Italy last summer. Carolyn is president of the

Class Notes

Bremerton, WA, Lions Club and the Bremerton Symphony League.

After 40 years of practicing medicine (otolaryngology—head and neck surgery), **Jim Gay** has retired. “Travel and photography and giving something back to the community have captured my attention, and these factors dovetail nicely,” Jim says. “An unexpected opportunity to supplement the teaching staff of one of the two teaching hospitals in Nepal resulted in my being accepted as a visiting professor of otolaryngology in the city of Dharan, located in the southeast corner of Nepal. It is the second-largest city after the fabled Kathmandu. I was expected to lecture weekly, make ward rounds daily, cover an outpatient clinic when I wasn’t in surgery, help with the annual written and oral exams given to the residents and help carry a significant portion of their administrative load. I also went to Kenya with Living Waters International to dig wells in those areas of Kenya where water is so badly needed. I made another trip to Port Arthur, TX, to help rebuild a house that had been severely damaged by Hurricane Rita and one to Slidell, LA, for the same reason but a different hurricane—Katrina.”

Don Wright reports, “I recently returned from a fascinating trip to Vietnam, my first time there. I accompanied a group who belong to a nonprofit association in Spain that works to support children in difficulty in certain countries outside Spain, coupled with helping Spanish

parents adopt children from outside their country. I did not encounter one single unfriendly gesture or comment from any of the people I met. In fact, I found that Americans are very present in that country now, in many different areas of activity—from adoptions (they are cornering the market in this activity) to commercial affairs. I live just outside Paris with my wife Micheline. She retired early at 55 at the end of December. I have been retired from UNESCO since 1998, but my younger wife had to soldier on. We will now join the ranks of other readers who as couples have long since been traveling and enjoying the liberty of retirement.”

Memphis dentist **Jon Simpson** recently completed 36 years of running without missing a single day. Ranked sixth in the nation by the Official USA Active Running List, Jon has run in most of the continental U.S., Alaska as well as in several countries abroad. “My plan is to increase my ‘streak’ to 50 years and then make the decision at that time whether to try for another 50,” he says.

1961

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

George and Betsy Breytspraak Awsumb '63 are the proud grandparents of their third grandchild, Roosevelt Awsumb Liu, or Rosie, who was born Sept. 6, 2007. George and Betsy attended her christening in Washington, DC, Nov.

5. They now have three grandchildren, Jay (7), Graham (5) and Rosie. I am sure Rosie will not get spoiled, being their only granddaughter!

Cynthia and Edwina Bringle write with lots of news, as usual. “I think I’ve been busy,” Cynthia says. “I taught an eight-week pottery class at Penland (NC) School of Crafts in the spring. Did weekend workshops at Lee Art Center, Arlington, VA, and The Pottery Shed in Winston-Salem, NC. Taught a two-week class at Haystack School of Crafts in Deer Isle, ME. Took a painting class at Penland this summer. The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts is producing a video on me that will be released at a conference in Pittsburgh in March. Plus, I keep working in my studio. **Edwina** took a class at Haystack this summer. She has been busy weaving scarves and blankets. She was a studio assistant in a flamework bead class at Penland, and this year will teach a class there. Edwina also serves on the board of The United Way of Mitchell County.”

Barbara Ensrud, Marily and Allen Hughes and Jerry and Martha Duncan got together for a fun dinner party this past summer at the Duncan’s. Allen and Jerry provided wild game that Barbara paired with her stylish oenological palate. Barbara is a contributor for the magazine *Garden and Gun*. There is a very nice article in the fall issue about the wonderful meal that was had by all. If you cannot find a copy of the magazine, you can print part of the article by going to *Garden and Gun Magazine*

on the Internet. The name of Barbara’s article is “Mating Game,” which refers to the delicious wild game and the wonderful wine they had at the dinner party.

Bill and Marlene Peebles Howard '62 had a fun time at Marlene’s 45th class reunion at Rhodes during Homecoming. From Memphis, they traveled to Fort Sill, OK, where Bill and Marlene first lived. They then went on to the Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon and Zion National Parks.

Joanie Adams King had great news this summer when her most recent brain scan was clear with no sign of recurrence of a brain tumor. Her last brain tumor was in 2000. Also, during the summer, she traveled to Little Rock for the 50th reunion of her class at Central High School. In case you don’t remember, the school year of 1956-57 was the last year that Central High School was segregated. In November, Joanie visited her grandson, Mike, who is in his second year at the Naval Academy, after spending three years as a Marine. For Thanksgiving, Joanie spent time in Ft. Worth with her son, Sam, and his family and with her daughter, Lori, and her family. It was the first time in a number of years that they were all able to get together. Joanie still enjoys singing in the church choir and being in a fun bridge group.

Billy Landers and a number of Southwestern football players had a great get-together at **Grady Tollison’s '62** home in Oxford, MS, in September. Those at the event were **Tommy Clinton, Robert Echols '62, Frank Coyle '62,**

Mike Rowland '62, Glenn Hayes '62 and Bill Harwood '63. The group would like to invite other athletes from that era to join them next year from Sept. 12-14. If you are interested in being a part of the get-together, please e-mail Billy at blandvol@bellsouth.net for details.

Jack and Emma Young Thompson had a wonderful trip to Mississippi in October to visit their son, Johnny, and his wife, Inger. Needless to say, they also spent a little time with their 10 grandchildren! I quote from a letter Jack sent. "You can hardly believe how beautiful and precious all of these grandchildren are to us and everyone. They run out to greet our car as we drive around the back of their home. The little ones jump into our arms and the older ones hug our necks and smile from way down deep in their souls. Every one of them has more than a grand smile." After a short visit, Emma and Jack drove on to Louisiana, where Emma had planned a cousins' party at her farmhouse in Port Hudson, and Jack met his good friend Wilmer Mills at Grand Isle, 100 miles south of New Orleans, to fish for redfish. Jack caught a 25-lb. bull redfish, and Wilmer, a 35-pound one. Jack hit the jackpot, though! He caught a four-foot, 50-lb. shark and four stingrays! For Thanksgiving, Emma and Jack hosted Johnny and Inger and their children, plus Scott and Beth and their five children, for a wonderful time at their beautiful farmhouse outside Ashland City, TN, near Nashville.

Judi Carson Vestal retired from LSU Health Sciences

Center effective Sept. 1, 2007. However, she continues to teach some and does some consulting at a residential facility for developmentally-delayed children. She is also enjoying working on some genealogy research, writing and traveling. In November, Judi and her husband, Tom, spent a long weekend in Washington, DC, visiting a niece and her family. A great-nephew was christened while they were there. During Christmas, they had a great time in New York City visiting museums and going to a number of plays and musicals. They also had a few delicious meals. Of course, no calories were consumed!

1965

Reporter: Virginia Lowry Ives
virginiaives65@bellsouth.net

Gerry and **Lou Ellyn Hindman Griffin** live in Salem, OR, where they are semi-retired, Gerry from project management training and consulting, and Lou Ellyn, from substitute teaching and lay counseling. Gerry writes, "Salem is where our M.D. daughter, Page, husband and granddaughter Katie (4) reside. We visit our daughter, Alice, and her family in Allentown, PA, a couple of times a year. In September, Gerald and his family moved to San Sebastian, Spain, where they are rapidly learning Spanish and the Basque language. Gerald coordinates a cultural home stay program that brings Basque high school students from France and Spain to the U.S. for a month in the summer. In Salem, Gerry and I each mentor a grade-

school student and help in the after-school program one day a week. One morning a week I interview at the Baby Boutique, which provides donated clothing and baby items for single pregnant women and moms with infants. We also teach a parenting class for the Baby Boutique moms once a month. In July we went as part of a team of 13 to south central China for 17 days to teach about 100 English teachers from rural and small-city high school/middle schools English pronunciation, classroom management and American culture. We are loving the Pacific Northwest outdoors, from whale watching at Depoe Bay to midweek skiing in the Cascades with no lift lines."

Martha Neff Dane lives on an island off the coast of Maine: "I don't normally see many Rhodes graduates. However, this year was different. I spent a weekend in March with **Nancy Glenn Green** in San Antonio, TX. We had lunch with **Mary Christian**. In April, on a trip to Norman, OK, I had a wonderful visit with **Perry '63** and **Martha Dunmire White**. Martha was the realtor for my son Matthew and his wife Christina Jennings when they moved to Norman in 2000, and their exiting selling agent in 2007. (Sorry, but they graduated from Amherst and Juilliard.) In the summer, we had a visit from my brother **Bob Neff '63** and his wife Pam. In August, I connected with **Patience Moore Rall '63** when she visited Winter Harbor. Her Mississippi hostess/friend had recently established her barn as an

Episcopal summer chapel. Attending a service there was resident **Jeanne Hope Jacobs Buckner '67.**"

1966

Reporter: Sammy Primm Marshall
samamarshall@comcast.net

Tina Alston, who lives in Gatlinburg, TN, with husband Wayne Biggers, works as a therapist and Starbucks barista at the new Pigeon Forge coffee shop. Tina writes, "No, I don't do drive-through therapy, but I can make you a good 'mocha.'" Tina's son, Darian Boggs, lives with his wife, Rebecca, in the greater DC area, where his godmother, **Martha Overholser Whitney**, helps keep a watchful eye on granddaughter Hailey (3).

Isabel Van Merlin recently returned from a wonderful trip to India.

Bob Wild, Charlie Bagley and Lee Pevsner returned to Rhodes at Homecoming and attended the reunion celebration of the class of 1967.

Kay Willis Allen is training to be a Stephen minister at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. **Bill** will serve as president of the Red and Black Society at Rhodes next year.

With special guest Jim Dickinson, **Bob Frank** and John Murry played in Memphis at the Hi Tone on Dec. 7 and in Oxford, MS, on Dec. 8 at Proud Larry's. On Dec. 6, they were scheduled to be on a radio show from Square Books in Oxford.

1967

Reporter: Jeanne Hope
 Jacobs Buckner
 9903 Woodlake Cove
 Austin, TX 78733
 jhbuckner@aol.com

Amazing how many of us made it to the reunion in October. For those of you who weren't able to be there, it was a fun weekend with a reception at the college, a lunch among those beautiful tall trees on campus on Saturday followed by a football game that we actually won! The new library is spectacular and even sports a Starbucks! Saturday night we were fêted at the home of **Canon Thomas Hall** with a fantastic dinner that Canon prepared with the help of husband Clay and their kids. A big thank-you to our class committee who made all the arrangements for the perfect weekend: **Canon, Robert and Mimi Anderson Mehrle, K.E. Field Boyd, Nell Caswell Percer, Jerry Chandler and Janie Baxter Carlross**. It was touching to see classmates who walked with us those formative days at Southwestern and to share stories of our lives in the intervening years. It was also fun to be reminded of shenanigans that we had selectively forgotten!

Susan Head and Pat Osoinach hurried to Jackson, MS, following the reunion to attend the baptism of their newest grandchild. Their son John is a professor at Millsaps.

Sam Highsmith and wife Beth were on their way to Barcelona where they met their son who is serving in the Peace Corps in Ukraine. Seems he wanted some

pampering during the visit so Sam arranged a cruise for the three of them.

George Abraham came! He commented that it was the best class reunion ever. "I thoroughly enjoyed seeing my classmates. Thanks to all of those who planned it." While in Memphis he called **Gale Buckley** and found that he is fighting cancer. He said Gale was so happy to know that we all cared about him and wished he had been with us. "I also sent **John Boswell** an e-mail, at Mimi's request. Turns out he lives 13 blocks north of me in NYC."

Eleanor Jackson Howe arrived from Chapel Hill, NC, where she is working as a grant writer for a nonprofit.

Rosie Gladney flew in from Florida. "I was so happy to see everyone else's smiling face, and I just wish I had had more time with everyone. I think I talked when I should have been listening more. I'll try to remember that for our next reunion. I was especially aware of those who were there for the first time in 40 years and those whom I really had not known well when we were there. How nice to know that we continue to learn from shared experiences—even when we were not aware that we had shared the experience!"

Willie Edington came from DC, bringing his 17-year-old son Payne to see the campus. "It was great to see you guys in Memphis. I wish it were more frequent than five years. Maybe when I get my kids out of high school there will be more time to spend with lifelong friends." He still takes the

prize for having the youngest children among us.

Arnie Pittman was out of town and heard that he missed a grand time. His wife **Debbie Nichol Pittman '71** is chair of the Economics and Business Department at Rhodes again and loves teaching the juniors and seniors finance. "We built a place on the Tennessee River and enjoy it. Daughter Joelle is still in Los Angeles doing the acting thing and dating a neat fellow who lives in Malibu; the fire almost got his home which is close to Pepperdine. I will begin to take it easier one of these days soon."

Beth Pevsner Polanka brought her brother **Lee '66** to the Saturday party. She is doing well and still enjoying her work as a psychotherapist. She is planning a walking tour of Provence with friends in 2008. "I am enjoying life again and open to the possibilities of new experiences. 'Adventure' is my new favorite word!"

Jim Hayes e-mailed with news that he has had an interesting year. "I got hit by a 79-year-old in Asheville, NC, in October, totaled my motorcycle and his car. Seems I was going too slow at 60 mph. I ran up \$12,000 in medical bills by midnight, could hardly walk and the doctor. asked, 'Are you a religious man?' to which I said, 'I can be.' And then he went on to say I should be religious because I should be dead, and by the way, 'we can't admit you to the hospital because the only thing wrong is you broke your pinkie!'" Later, Jim tripped on the dock on the way to his boat and broke

his wrist. "And about three weeks after the cast came off I slipped on the boat while it was raining and managed to break two ribs." Jim is living on his boat in Charleston Harbor.

Jimmy Whittington and his wife, Annette, will travel to Oxford, England, in June, where Hizzoner will be giving a lecture on the battle of Shiloh. He knows everything there is to know about it and even the Brits want his expertise! He and Annette will take advantage of the opportunity to travel the country while they are there.

Ray and Jennifer Bird Henley were sorry they couldn't make it to the reunion: "Ray and I had a really great trip to Iceland in July. It's a gorgeous country, and we can't wait to go back again in a couple of years. It's only a 4½-hour flight from Boston. **Bill Heiter** was right about us going north to fish." The fishing was not as good as Ray had hoped due to very dry conditions, but he did catch some Atlantic salmon. His guide was a Brit who could pass for Hugh Grant. "The geysers, waterfalls, glaciers, fjords, etc. were plentiful and beautiful. The people are warm and friendly, and most speak English very well. I highly recommend travel there."

Look who I have found thanks to **Jim Cole** and **Bill Brooks**. The one and only **Bob Jolley**. Bob is a priest living in Africa. His monastic name is Brother Timothy. Bob reports, "Greetings from the tip of Africa! It was good to get your e-mail and read a bit about your life over these

umpteen years! They do have a way of slipping by, eh? But they have been good, I must say. I'm into my 10th year here in South Africa and loving it. We have quite a work with local children on the farms and those who come to the monastery for retreat and prayers. The place is situated on a hill overlooking a lovely valley. Great views! If you will send me your postal details, I can mail you some information on the monastery and the community that will give you an insight into our work and life here."

On a sad note, **Mary Louise Williams Sharp** died of cancer at her home in Brandon, MS, Saturday, June 2, 2007. She was 61. She leaves her daughter, Emily Elizabeth Sharp of Birmingham, AL; her son and daughter-in-law, William Garry Sharp and Kelley Sharp; and granddaughter Emma Sharp, of Wilmington, DE.

Doug Post and his wife Susan have moved from Los Alamos to Arlington, VA, where Doug is chief scientist for the Department of Defense Performance Computing Modernization Program. Doug reports, "I joined the Carnegie Mellon University of Software Engineering Institute and accepted a long-term assignment in the supercomputing part of the U.S. Department of Defense. I'm organizing three projects in the DoD to write codes to design airplanes, ships and radar and communication antennas. Susan and I are finding the Washington area to be a wonderful place with lots of music, art, theater and drama, history, culture

and outdoor opportunities. We've bought a lot and are building a house on it in Mclean while we live in a nearby rental. Our children live in Boston. Our daughter is a graduate student in political science at Harvard in the Kennedy School. She's studying the issues associated with large industrial engineering firms trying to make money by supplying utility services in the emerging countries like Argentina, Brazil and other parts of South America. Our son, Alan, is a software engineer for Endeca in Boston."

Memphis music producer and promoter **Knox Phillips** was honored at the biannual Recording Academy Honors in September. It was staged by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), the 50-year-old organization that oversees the Grammy awards. Knox was instrumental in obtaining Memphis' own NARAS chapter in 1973. In addition to receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award, Knox was also feted with a "Special Legacy Presentation" for his efforts on behalf of the local music community. Singer-songwriter John Prine paid a musical tribute to Knox.

Nancy Fraas McLean's children keep her life interesting. She went to Florida in the fall to attend her son John's team competition in the National Championships for Ultimate Frisbee. Her eldest son, Matt, tried a Guantanamo detainee case before the Supreme Court in December and Nancy was able to attend. Then, her son Kenney presented her with

a new grandchild whom she is hoping has a sweet disposition since Grandma is going to be doing some of the day care.

1968

40th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Reporters: Bob Morris

bmorris68@comcast.net

Drue Thom White

drueboo@aol.com

Louis Ponders, architect with the Askew Nixon Ferguson firm in Memphis, writes, "The Alex Haley Interpretive Center is under construction in Henning, TN, and is scheduled to be completed next summer ('08). The book *Roots: The Saga of an American Family* was published in 1976 and received a Pulitzer Prize, which will be displayed in the Visitor Center's exhibit gallery. In 1977, the book was made into a critically-acclaimed TV miniseries that became the third-highest ranked by the Nielsen Ratings in TV history. It set records for viewership and won nine Emmys, a Golden Globe Award and a Peabody Award. Author Alex Haley died in 1992 and is buried in the front yard of this house."

1969

Jim Roper is beginning his second year as pastor of the Archer's Chapel United Methodist Church in Crockett County, TN. His first grandchild, Jackson Thomas, was born Aug. 29, 2007, on the Louisiana Gulf Coast on the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. James writes that Jackson's parents are "our

older son, Josh, and his lovely wife, Ashley. Our older daughter, Sarah, married June 30, 2007." Also, Jim's new book, *Praying the Truth*, is expected out next summer.

1971

Reporter: Betha Hubbard Gill

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The New Yorker magazine featured **Cary Fowler** in an Aug. 27 article, "Sowing for the Apocalypse." Cary is executive director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, which is based in Rome.

1973

35th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 3-4

Reporter: Margaret

Lawson Headrick

mheadrick@utm.edu

Patricia Spears Jones, who lives in New York, was one of the featured authors at the 2007 Arkansas Literary Festival in Little Rock. It was the first time she had read her poetry in her home state. Although she was busy "being a poet," appearing (and reading her work) on two panels, reading at "Pub or Perish" and being a celebrity contestant at literary trivia, she did take a break to feast on some Southern cooking at a local barbecue joint with **Gerald Koonce** and his wife Myrna Thomas. **Susan Burnside Fleming** also visited with Patricia after one of her readings. **Bill Jones '72** was the moderator for a short-story author panel at the festival.

Tom Jones has taken a

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position with the resort development division of Walt Disney Imagineering in Glendale, CA. As vice president of Real Estate Entitlements, he directs predevelopment planning and approvals for a portfolio of niche hotels and resorts worldwide. "While this does not fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a Mouseketeer, it is a foot in the door."

Tom's wife Molly Newman is a writer/producer for the ABC Television series "Brothers and Sisters." They continue to reside in Los Angeles.

Liz Hendricks has opened a Christian bookstore, Holy Grounds, in Grapevine, TX. With two locations, the stores sell Christian gifts, books and coffee beans.

Stephen Patrick was recently elected chair of the Tennessee Board of Regents Faculty Sub-Council for 2007-08. The sub-council is one of three main advisory councils to the chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents. Stephen will be the first faculty representative, and probably the only librarian, from East Tennessee State University to serve as chair of this group. Stephen is also president of the ETSU Friends of Music.

F. Clark Williams was presented the Papa Joe Lightman Award "for extraordinary leadership for the Belcourt Theatre," the highest (and only) honor bestowed by the board. He has served as membership committee chair and secretary of the board. The Belcourt (belcourt.org) is Nashville's last neighborhood theater, and is operated as a nonprofit. F. Clark also reports that

he was among the principal organizers for the inaugural Richland Creek Run, a five-mile race benefiting Greenways for Nashville. He actually won his age group, which he reports is a bit unusual. The event attracted 390 registrants and approximately 300 finishers on one of the coldest April mornings on record (richlandcreekrun.com).

After returning from a walking tour in Cornwall, England, **Amy Bailey Evans** enjoyed a beautiful fall in Colorado. To view some of her *plein air* paintings visit amyevans.com.

Pamela McNeely Williams is completing her 30th year as a counselor for the West Memphis School District, for a total of 32 years of teaching. Husband Brian retired as county judge in Crittenden County and now is an assistant public defender for the county and practices law.

Jim Shumard is working on a doctor of ministry program in social justice and leadership at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. His wife Maureen is administrator for a Sisters of Mercy Convent for retired nuns.

Meriwether Montgomery is riding the trails of Tennessee and other areas with her horse Rocky and several equestrian groups. In October they headed to Myrtle Beach with 1,300 other riders for the Jack Monroe Heart Association. In September 2008, Meriwether goes to the Grand Canyon for the Red Rock Ride—hopefully, on a surefooted mule riding seven to eight hours a day and including the North

Rim. Correction: In the last *Rhodes* magazine Meriwether Montgomery was incorrectly referred to as Meriwether Montgomery Maranzana.

1974

Memphis divorce attorney **Larry Rice** was recently keynote speaker for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education's Fourth Annual Solo & Small Firm Seminar. He spoke on law office management, client retention and trial preparation.

1976

As members of the spiritual care services department of Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, chaplain **Julie Allen Berger** and two colleagues were invited to serve as faculty for specialized training of U.S. Navy chaplains in outcomes-oriented spiritual care in September 2007 at Camp Pendleton, CA, and Portsmouth, VA. Julie reports, "The chaplain who requested our department's participation is Cmdr.

James T. Denley '88, deputy chaplain of Navy Medicine, based at the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, DC. Jim and I were visiting prior to the workshop in Portsmouth and discovered, to our surprise, that we are both alumni of Rhodes and fellow religion majors. We enjoyed reminiscing about what were then Southwestern days."

1979

Rob Summitt writes, "Three years ago, I left full-time academic practice at

the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and started a private practice with two other former faculty members. Our growing practice, Women's Health Specialists, was awarded the 2007 *Memphis Business Journal* Small Business of the Year Award."

1980

Executive vice president and managing partner at Revenue Rocket Consulting Group in Denver, **Andy Fletcher** was elected president of the Colorado Lacrosse League this fall. He says, "The CLL is the governing body for boys' lacrosse for 19 clubs throughout Colorado. In addition to my work with the CLL, I have been on the board of directors of Mountain Lacrosse for the past four years, helping our local club grow from three boys' teams to 17 teams (boys and girls) last year. While I never played lacrosse, all three of my boys are avid players. Again this winter, on the weekends you will find me teaching skiing at the Winter Park Resort, where I am an instructor for the Winter Park Ski & Ride School. In addition to working in the kids' ski school program, I work as a mountain guide and provide private adult lessons. I'm really just trying to stay ahead of my own kids before they pass me up on the mountain."

1984

Reporter: Tracy Vezina
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1984

Dear Classmates,

Thank you for answering my “distress call” for news about yourselves. Your selfless acts of kindness (and pity) are greatly appreciated. For those of you who have not experienced a desperate plea for news, find out what you are missing by forwarding your e-mail address to me. I will gladly include you in the next frantic solicitation.

From reading all of your e-mails, I will have to say that no matter what our news and noteworthy accomplishments, children seem to be the ultimate equalizer. My 13-year-old daughter recently informed me that she had been looking over my old college yearbooks. “I can certainly see why you were attracted to Dad. He was really hot. I just can’t figure out what he saw in you.”

Interestingly, she can’t seem to understand why she is the only eighth-grader at White Station Middle School without a cell phone.

Warmest regards,
Tracy

Elizabeth Reeves

Pritchardt married George Thomas (“Tommy”) Swinney in early October in the mountains of Western North Carolina. The couple was married by the father of the bride, **The Rev. Canon Paul Waddell Pritchardt ’85**. The small wedding party included **Mark Harrison ’85**. “Tommy graduated from Gardner-Webb College and holds a master’s degree in social work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He works for

the Davidson County, NC, Department of Human Services in Child Protective Services. Elizabeth continues her limitless streak of underachievement as a working-from-home medical transcriptionist. After a glamorous honeymoon at Topsail Island on the North Carolina coast, this late-blooming awesome twosome make their home in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, near Charlotte.”

Lura Bond also had some wonderful news to share: “The past year and a half has been a whirlwind! I got married for the first time in August 2006 to David Alyea, who works in corporate finance for Thomas & Betts. He has a wonderful 13-year-old daughter, Wendy. We built a house and I moved from the house that I bought 17 years ago. Both were quite a task—all the efforts/choices that are part of the new house and then packing up almost 20 years of accumulation of living solo. In the midst of this, I changed jobs in 2006 and am now the corporate controller for a company called Vitro America Inc. Vitro distributes and installs automotive and construction glass, including mirrors and flat, tempered, insulated and laminated glass.”

Joining Elizabeth and Lura in the ranks of the happily married, **Jennifer Frost Ramos** wed Jason Stark Oct., 27, 2007, in a lovely ceremony at the historic Sanctuary on the Square in Collierville, TN. Jen was escorted down the aisle by her two handsome sons, Greyson (14) and Tice (10). Yours truly was the matron of honor. **Bryan**

and **Leslie McCormick Darr ’86** graciously hosted the reception at their lovely Germantown home. **Robin Newcomb Miller ’85** outdid herself by creating both the wedding cake and the groom’s cake. **Tina Babcock Miles** traveled from Florida to attend, and **Nate and Cameron Conley Phillips** took a break from their arduous dance training schedule to be there. Other Rhodes alumni in attendance included **Amy Doville, Cathy Cotham Harris, Cathy Reese** and **Scott Patterson ’85**.

And speaking of marital bliss, **Michael Matthews** and his lovely wife, Julia, celebrated 20 years of marriage last summer with a sailing trip. Their girls, Lynley and Hannah, are still swimming competitively with the Memphis Thunder and the Rhodes summer team.

John Hamilton, who is personally responsible for the untold happiness of the couples he has married, reports that he is now the Priest in Charge at St. John’s Church, Getty Square in Yonkers, NY. This historic church, founded in 1693, welcomed George Washington as a worshiper. During the Revolutionary War, the entire congregation supported King George and the British except the pastor’s wife, who signaled the revolutionaries from her window. John also states, “I’m having a blast! Holy Eucharist is at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sundays. Anyone in the neighborhood, come visit!”

Another marriage facilitator and man of the cloth, **Matt Soper** writes:

“After four years in the northeast and nine years in southern California, we have been in Houston now for four years, where I am serving as the senior minister of the West Houston Church of Christ (westhoustonchurch.org). It is great to be back in the southwest, closer to family in Texas and Louisiana. I finally completed my doctor of ministry from Abilene Christian University earlier this year. My wife, Angela, helped begin a nonprofit counseling center last year and is working three-quarter time as its clinical director. Our daughters are 16 and 13 and doing the usual teenager stuff (school, hobbies, hair). Life is good. I have not been to the Rhodes campus since 1994 (driving cross-country from Connecticut to California) but I enjoy reading *Rhodes* magazine and keeping up with the school and our class of 1984 news.” I asked Matt if, now that he has attained his doctorate, whether he should be referred to as “The Rev. Doctor.” Matt responded that the Church of Christ is very informal and that he still goes by “Matt.” The teenagers in his church, however, call him “MDawg.” Something to consider, Father Hamilton!

Mary Lynn Tucker Davis wrote in to brag about her husband, **Jeff Davis ’85**: “Jeff was recently named top earnings estimator for commercial banks and the fifth-best among all analysts at estimating earnings by Forbes.com/StarMine. Additionally, *The Wall Street Journal* recognized him in its Best on the Street rankings based on stock-

Class Notes

picking ability in 2006. He is managing director of FTN Midwest Securities Corp. and director of research for the financial institutions group, which covers approximately 165 stocks.”
Way to go, Jeff!

Laura Hollingsworth Jernigan did a bit of bragging about her husband, as well. “**John ’82** has been in the news talking about “MRSA” (resistant staph infections). He has been spotted on CBS, Fox, heard on NPR and quoted in *The New York Times*. I am in my third year as chaplain/teacher of religion at The Lovett Lower School in Atlanta. Our boys, Ben, Jefferey and Will are 15, 12 and 8. John and the boys haunted our house for Halloween, and now it’s an expected tradition in our neighborhood.”

Barbara Hackett Etheridge sent in this update: “Believe it or not, we still have not completed the adoption of the two boys from Russia that I told you about over a year ago. There has been one delay after another, which one would expect when one is dealing with a foreign government. That doesn’t make it any less frustrating. Jeff and I wait patiently and resubmit documents every few months—we’ve been working on this for 2 1/2 years now, so things tend to get out of date. They tell us we should get our court date soon. I’m not sure what ‘soon’ means in Russia, but it definitely does NOT mean what it means here! Hopefully we will be all together under one roof very soon. Keep your fingers crossed for us!”

John Shanley, who

moved back to Memphis in 2004 after spending seven years in North Carolina, currently anchors the burn unit at The Regional Medical Center. “The challenges of our patient population and the fact that I do trauma and burns make my work rewarding both professionally and personally,” he says. John and his wife, Elaine, have three children currently enrolled at Snowden, just up the street from Rhodes. “My last child started kindergarten this year. That gives me one in the fifth grade, third grade and kindergarten. So you see, “retirement” is not a word in my vocabulary any more. We go to church with **Becky Mosby Halverson ’85**, and watching her kids and ours together is really strange. Seems like it was not that long ago we were running around campus at the same time and children were not the top priority of the day.”

Dev Butler continues to live in Grand Rapids, MI, with his wife and three boys. Working at Spectrum Health, Dev leads a team responsible for nonclinical education throughout the 14,000-member organization. The Butlers enjoy their cottage on Lake Michigan where they golf, kayak, fish and generally goof around. While Yankee summers can’t be beat, Dev is still learning to “*embrace* the winter, *embrace* the snow ...”

Eschewing the cold climate, **Christian Boswell** reports from South Florida that he and his family have successfully survived another hurricane season. “Tricia and I have stayed busy. As I read about my classmates

sending their kids off to college while I’m just getting mine off to preschool, I’m not sure if the late start on having kids (40) will keep me young or kill me early. Maggie will turn five in February, and she is as fun as a human being ought to be allowed to be. She wants a surfboard for her birthday. My business, bfw advertising, is doing well—the agency has won more than 30 creative awards this year alone, for everything from television to Web design. Tricia left the hotel business when we had Mags, but she’s returning now to her first profession—teaching—as a substitute in Maggie’s school. I finished my second triathlon season in the fall—last year, I did five races. Next season, I’ve got my eye on an even half dozen, as well as an adventure race in which I’ll probably get really badly injured. Even though we only get to Memphis about once a year, we get good updates, since both my brother, Marshall, and my sister-in-law, Rebecca, are English professors there. Which makes for about 27 uninterrupted years of Boswells on the Rhodes Campus—something no self-respecting college should have to bear.”

Chris also provided news from **Bill Townsend**, who sends his regards from London. “If you’re wondering where he’s living, check out the cover of “Abbey Road.” It’s the gate right behind George’s head.”

Phil Dupont, who *finally* responded to my pleas for news, shares this: “I went to law school at the University of Missouri at Columbia after Rhodes

and then moved to Kansas City, where I have been for 20 years. I practice business litigation at a large law firm in Kansas City (Husch & Eppenberger). Our classmate, **Tucker Dewey**, joined the firm’s Memphis office for a few years. I met my wife in law school and we have been married for 20 years. Mary Nan Dupont is an estate planning attorney. We have three kids, Nicholas (16), Elisabeth (13) and Caroline (12).”

After much arm-twisting for news, any news, **Linda Odom** reports that her six-year-old son’s baseball team won the McIntire Minor League Championship in a tense, extra-inning game. “The losing team had appealed a number of calls to the league director who was heard to remark afterward, ‘Gee whiz, it’s just a game.’ No word yet on whether he made it home safely after the game.”

Laurie Enos Quattlebaum also felt compelled to send in some news despite her concerns that she “just didn’t have intellectual, glamorous, or I’m-making-the-world-a-better-place news to report!” Laurie and **Marvin ’86** live in Greenville, SC, and have three children. “Our daughter, Elizabeth (12) recently finished playing her first season of JV tennis. Our twins are Martha and Wes (8). Wes has been playing tournament tennis for some time, and Martha is begging to play in a tournament and may get her chance soon. I think our family would agree that one of our highlights was a trip to Paris and Normandy in October 2006. We found the kids to be pretty easy

international travelers, so we are thinking of trying Rome in March. Marvin is still practicing law and after a trial in Jackson, TN, recently he spent some time on the Rhodes campus. He says although it has changed a lot, it is still as beautiful as ever. In spite of considering, from time to time, seeking gainful employment outside the home, I am still mainly driving a minivan around, moving children and sporting equipment from one location to another. If anyone has reason to be in Greenville, look us up!”

David Pepple is still in Memphis and currently wearing two hats as director of transportation and interim director of R.E.I.P. (Refugee Economic Independence Program) for the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers of Memphis Inc. “This program helps resettled refugees, mostly African, adjust to life in Memphis. We offer tutoring in English, household budgeting and job skills to adults. We also offer help with English, basic skills and homework to their children. Currently, we have about 20 women and 60 children who attend nightly. It is a large undertaking but very rewarding.” David also enjoys traveling to Nashville as often as possible to spend time with his two daughters.

Linda Parrot Coleman and her husband, Scott, have nearly completed construction of a small log cabin in the woods about an hour from their home in Olive Branch, MS. According to Linda, “It will be a fun place to escape from the rat race. We are already seeing lots of wildlife,

turkey and quail. The cooler weather has us looking forward to sitting by the fire at the cabin. Doesn’t that sound peaceful?”

Linda also included news about her brother, **Chip Parrot ‘83**. “Chip’s daughter, was in the Homecoming court this fall. Chip was her escort. His daughter, Meredith, was selected for the all-conference team for volleyball. **Leslie Price Sweeney’s** daughter, Emily, is very active in volleyball and also made the all-conference team. Emily and Meredith compete against each other. Chip’s daughter, Linda, also plays on the same volleyball team as her sister, Meredith.

Those of us who have cheered our children’s athletic efforts at sporting events will certainly appreciate **Alvin Moore’s** note. “My son, Chris, in sixth grade, was on the cross country team this year. In the first two meets he was forced to quit early because of asthma attacks. In the third meet, he had no asthma problems and he persevered and finished the run. We were so proud you’d have thought he won the Olympics. To say ‘and there was much rejoicing’ is to put it mildly.”

Lee French, chief executive of Old Salem, NC, was featured in the Oct. 3, 2007, edition of the *Winston-Salem Journal*. Formerly, Lee was a vice president of Superior Coffee for Sara Lee Corp. and chief operating officer for Kaplan Early Learning Co.

1985

Reporter: Jim Golden
jimatphi@hotmail.com

Greetings from Connecticut. As I write this we’re getting near the end of a beautiful New England fall and by the time you read this, we should be deep into winter. I’m guessing the autumn colors around Rhodes peaked in November and the campus was beautiful.

Blair Gatewood Norman reports that “My family has left Atlanta where we have been for the past 7.5 years to move to Boulder, CO. We wanted a lifestyle change for our kids, ages 10 and 6, that included more daily recreation. We bike to downtown and school now and have a great hiking trail right out our back door. The bike trails here are awesome. The boys are really looking forward to learning how to ski and playing in real snow! Give us a shout if you are in the area!”

After many years in the big city, **Peter Baumgarten** is in the process of relocating from Atlanta to his hometown, Asheville, NC. He says to stay tuned for more news from the mountains.

Charles “Chaffee” Mosby is living in Germantown, TN, and working for Schering-Plough. His daughter Amy recently got her driver’s license, which keeps him up nights.

Dane Ciolino is busy with kids and work. He is the Alvin R. Christovich Distinguished Professor of Law at Loyola University. He sends his best to the class of ’85.

I received an e-mail from

Dr. Livingston Brien letting me know that **Tommy “Tee” Cloar** (of Neighborhood Texture Jam fame) had put out a new musical single based on recent political happenings in Memphis. I sent a note to Tommy to get the details and he tells me, “It is indeed original. I play guitar and sing. **Greg Easterly ‘87** is on bass. Two non-Rhodes dudes round it out—Steve Parkinson on drums and Big Daddy on Farfisa organ.” The band is sometimes called Ah Woo. Derived from “AWO,” which stands for “All Wallered Out”. It’s a smoking tune—if you’d like to get a copy drop me an e-mail and I’ll send it to you. It is definitely at the top of my iPod list.

I got a great e-mail recently from **Mike McGibbony** who attended Rhodes his freshman and sophomore years. Mike says, “I still stay in touch with **Virgil Starks**; he keeps me updated and I wanted to pitch in where I am in hopes of reconnecting with some of the old friends made at SAM. Donna and I have been married for 22 years and our daughter Catherine is a freshman at Savannah College of Art and Design. Our son Michael (14), a freshman in high school, plays football and baseball and attends Catholic High School for Boys. We live in Little Rock where my company, Smart Southern Homes Inc., is headquartered. I started it in ’98 after having had enough of the corporate world. Donna and I have a small farm in the heart of duck hunting country where we spend lots of time enjoying the great Arkansas outdoors.

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We are also very involved in our church, St. Andrews Anglican Church.”

Rob and Dawn Bass Popovitch '86 and daughter Katy (6) live in Southlake, TX, where Rob is general counsel for The Mullins & White Group of companies, which has subsidiaries in oil and gas exploration and private equity investing.

I look forward to hearing from many of you over the coming months.

Best wishes, Jim

1986

Reporter: Colleen Grady
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I just celebrated my four-year anniversary with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society as executive director of the Tennessee Chapter. I love the job, but I work long hours and sometimes feel overwhelmed. An e-mail I received from my old friend and roommate **Michelle Henkel** helped me put things in perspective. She writes, “I hope to start spending a lot more time on my bike riding for Team In Training in memory of my parents and raising money to find a cure for leukemia and lymphoma. I unofficially did my 5th century ride Nov. 10, and I’m already raising money for a ride next spring. I’ll keep pedaling until we find a cure.” Go Michelle!!

Stasia McGehee catches insects and fruit flies for the California Department of Agriculture, Alameda County.

Will Albritton was recently promoted to executive director of the YMCA at Schilling Farms in Collierville, TN. The

Collierville Y serves more than 9,000 individuals in the community, including 300 children in the Y-School Age program in six elementary schools.

1987

Reporter: Brian Mott
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This installment of class notes will be short, but oh-so-sweet. As I write this (it’s early November), I’m still reveling in the success of our 20th reunion weekend. It all began on the Friday of Homecoming weekend, with various small group gatherings. That night, I was graced with the presence of some delightful women from our class: **Susan Hook Patterson, Susan Adams Proebsting, Laurie Fromberg Norris** and I (and their spouses) joined **David Lusk** and **David Peterson** (and their respective spouses) for dinner at The Grove Grill. **Wendy Tallent Rotter** and **Carol Pierce Olson** also dropped by with their kids and husbands. David Lusk had generously offered to open his gallery—which is just next door to The Grove Grill—for an impromptu party after dinner. So as we got up to leave, we discovered that we’d been sitting in the banquet room next to another bevy of Rhodes beauties.

David’s gallery was the scene of a really fun and laid-back gathering, the perfect place to catch up. **Lauren Wellford Deming, Alison Abernathy, Karen DeLong Sanders, Alice McCarthy Finn, Mary Munn Laronge** and **Marion Samuel** were there, as was **Jason Hood, Andy MacQueen** and

Nathan Tipton. (I’m certain to be leaving someone out, and I’m sorry for that.)

Saturday, God smiled on us with perfect weather for a full day of Homecoming activities. The picnic in the Rollow Avenue of Oaks was the place to catch up with **Tim Davis, Ron Kuhn, Jane Amend, Phil McSween** and **Lynn Tranum** (looking mighty fit and every bit the proud papa!). **Tim** and **Christie Hoffman Ruppel** had their whole clan in tow! **Harriet Smalley Monnig** and her husband enjoyed the picnic and weekend without their four boys, who are the very cutest kids you’ve ever seen in your life (and that includes my own nephews!) Departmental open houses followed, so naturally I made it over to the McCoy Theatre, which looks fantastic with its new addition. Laurie and I went to the sorority open houses, and we got the lowdown on the current “personality” of the Greek organizations. My, how things have changed!

And then there was Saturday night’s class reunion party, held on the Haygood Terrace of the Bryan Campus Life Center. (If you aren’t insanely jealous that we didn’t have the BCLC when we were there, that can only mean you haven’t seen it yet.) Y’all—the party was just fantastic. The weather cooperated for a beautiful evening outdoors. **Leslie McCormick Darr** worked especially hard to make sure the evening ran smoothly, and husband **Bryan Darr '84** put together an outstanding mix tape of music from our college era.

I know I will leave someone off the list of

attendees, so please don’t get your feelings hurt. **Nell Fullinwider Bush**, looking absolutely ravishing, told of her exciting and meaningful work with early childhood issues. **Tony Harveson, Kathy Swanson** (who picked the perfect party dress), **Sue Randall Stone, Bob** and **Melissa Staley '89, Melissa Aquino** and **Todd Doolin** mingled with **Jennifer Thomas Starck, Angela Hedges, Mark Wells** and **Alan Harris. John Crabtree** and **Rick Melton** tore themselves away from the LSU game long enough to make the scene (sorry guys, you know I’d give you a hard time about that!). **Dave Maddux** and **Gene Adams** apparently gave **Kevin Schulte** such a hard time on Friday about not being here, that he drove up from Atlanta on Saturday morning! I was especially glad to see **Ira Jackson** here, who made the trip with his wife and beautiful daughter.

Sunday morning, a group of us—including **Sam Briden Duke, Margaret Wood Atwood** (yay, Margaret!), **Michelle Dry** and **Karen Cagle York**—capped off the weekend with a big ol’ Southern style breakfast at The Cupboard.

And now I’m going to wander into dangerous territory: I’ll name some names of people we wish had been there. **Sherry Keeney Hollis** and **Lorna Lyell Chain** were talked about quite a bit (all good, I promise!). I would surely have loved to see **Harold Dufour** (e-mail me, Harold?) and **Laura Richens** there. The Pike contingent was underrepresented: **Jonathan Tupper**, where were you?! **Graziella Dionisio Barton**,

Trish Barron Dunn, Doug Rockett, Rusty Bourne, Apasra Hayes ... the list goes on of people who should have been there. Of course, we wish everyone had been there, to see how stunning the campus looks, to see how stunning WE all look, and to remember the crazy and peaceful times we shared at Rhodes. We're an exceptional group of people, who were lucky enough to spend time at an exceptional place.

Folks, don't wait another five years to be in touch, OK?

All the best,
Brian

1988

20th Reunion
Homecoming: Oct. 3-4
Reporter: Mandy Bond Judd
amanda_judd@adp.com

Rob and **Meg McCully Neill** had a son, Samuel Robert, May 23, 2007, in Silver Spring, MD. Everyone is doing well.

Jeff and **Nancy Myers** had a son, Ryan Patrick, Jan. 30, 2007. Sisters Ginger and Molly are very excited about having a baby brother.

1990

Reporter: Rod White
rodw@white-associates.net

We were saddened to learn of the death of our classmate, **Claire Dalrymple Watkins**, on Nov. 27, 2007, in Atlanta. Claire and **Robert** met on their first day at Rhodes. They married Dec. 17, 1994, and had two children, Bonnie Cameron Watkins (9) and Robert "Robbie" Cameron Watkins IV (6).

We'll always remember her love of life, quick wit, great sense of humor and sense of style.

Brad Shelton writes, "I recently started a new job as the director of entertainment experiences for BRC Imagination Arts in Burbank. We produce films and design as well as theme parks, museums, cultural heritage sites and attractions around the world. I recently traveled to Dubai, where I'm working on a new theme park. I also have a 3D movie I wrote going into production. On the personal front, my daughter is in middle school, my son in pre-school, and my wife and I recently celebrated our 13th anniversary."

John Hicks and **Armando Brito** married Sept. 14, 2007, in Waltham, MA, and currently reside in Mansfield, MA. John writes, "After more than six years, Armando and I decided to make it official. Thank you, Massachusetts! We were honored that **Leigh Ashford** agreed to read from the landmark Supreme Judicial Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in Massachusetts at our wedding. **Trish Puryear Crist** and **Cay Chastain-Elliott** created a trivia game to test how well our guests knew the grooms. The night before the wedding, we all got together for dinner at a barbecue restaurant near our home called, of course, Memphis Roadhouse. Many, many thanks to Leigh, Trish and Cay for making our wedding day so special."

1991

Chris Casey recently

became vice president and corporate counsel for Swisher International Inc. in Jacksonville, FL. He was previously a partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson.

1992

Brent and **Laura Cabanillas Brickman** announce the birth of a son, Evan Garfield, Aug. 23, 2007, in St. Louis Park, MN.

Kevin Tilley has a new position as research manager for the National Association of Homebuilders in Upper Marlboro, MD. He and his wife, **Christie Kennedy Tilley '90**, have three children: Caroline (11), Jack (8) and Lauren Grace (3).

John and **Tracy Bonéy Nipp** have a son, Wyatt Christopher, April 10, 2006. He joins Emma and Alec.

Stinson Liles has been in the national news lately with Red Deluxe, the brand development and advertising firm he co-founded. The firm's work for the national American Red Cross recently appeared in the *New York Times*, and a national radio spot for Scripps/Yahoo! HotJobs will be recognized at Lincoln Center in a program featuring the country's best radio advertising, hosted by Stephen Colbert. "But none of it is as exciting as these crazy kids," Stinson writes. He and wife Patty are parents to Ruby (5) and Jasper (3).

Brad and **Elizabeth Todd** announce the birth of a daughter, Blair Elizabeth, Aug. 1, 2007, in Fairfax, VA. As a founding partner in the advertising and strategic communications firm OnMessage Inc., Brad

recently helped lead Bobby Jindal's successful campaign for governor of Louisiana.

1993

15th Reunion
Homecoming: Oct. 3-4
Reporters: Chandlee Bryan
chandlee_b@yahoo.com
Kelley Slagle Funk

The Labor Relations Institute named **Tanja Lueck Thompson** in the top 100 labor lawyers; she is the only Memphis attorney to receive the honor. Tanja is a labor and employment lawyer at Kiesewetter Wise Kaplan Prather. She and husband **Kevin '92** welcomed a daughter, Ana Jade, May 3, 2007.

Harper Cook and **Mary Grantham** married Oct. 13, 2007, in Charlottesville, VA. Alumni who attended included **Andrew Shipman, Eric Smith, Reid Smiley** and **Britt Summers**. Harper and Mary currently live in Arlington, VA, but will be moving to Fort Leavenworth, KS, in early 2008.

1994

Reporter: Judy Brown
judy.brown@borax.com

Derek and **Pace Harrison Bowers** married June 8, 2007, in Nashville, TN. They currently live in Franklin, TN, with their blended family of three dogs: Harold, Maude and Miles.

1995

Reporter: Sarah Sears-Egeli
703-971-9417
sarahegeli@hotmail.com
Sean and **Nina Kokotas Hahn** announce the birth of

Class Notes

a son, **Everett Craig**, May 30, 2007, in Lake Forest, IL. Sister **Sophia Scarlet** (3 ½) loves “Little E.”

Chris and **Jennifer Peebles Wilson** married Aug. 11, 2007, in the Collierville United Methodist Church sanctuary on the Square in Collierville, TN. They currently reside in Nashville. The couple recently completed LL.M.s in taxation at the University of Florida, Levin College of Law.

A former employee of International Paper, **Allyson Hawks Moody** has joined Charlie Wood ImageWear as an account representative.

James and **Carrie Shollmier West** had a son, **James Henry**, May 24, 2007. James joins sister **Caroline** (3 ½), who is loving pre-kindergarten at St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis.

The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor recently celebrated the life and legacy of alumnus and former U.S. President **Gerald Ford**, who signed the Title IX legislation into law. Among speakers on the panel was **Welch Suggs**, author of *A Place on the Team: The Triumph and Tragedy of Title IX*. The event was cosponsored by the Ford School and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.

Kemp and **Stephanie Maxwell** had a son, **Witt Meguiar**, May 26, 2007. He joins brothers **Asher** (4) and **Raleigh** (2). **Kemp** completed his CIMA designation (Certified Investment Management Analyst), a program taught at the Wharton School of Business, in June 2007.

Kemp is in his fifth year at Trustcore Financial.

Hunter and Jinanne Maribel West '98 welcomed a daughter, **Annelise Brighton**, Aug. 30, 2007 in Nashville, TN.

1996

Reporter: **Jennifer Larson** larsonej96@rhodes-alumni.net

Chip and **Stacey Thomas** had a daughter, **Brooke Stephanie**, May 30, 2007, in Richardson, TX.

Josh Stevens was recently promoted to associate producer, content, for the mobile division of 20th Century Fox in Los Angeles. According to **Josh**, “I’ll be working on projects such as “Avatar,” a James Cameron film, and coordinating the production of News Corporation’s global mobile content.”

Catherine Cuellar recently accepted a position as managing editor at PegasusNews.com in Dallas. She was previously employed as a reporter at KERA. **Catherine** writes, “I’m now helming a rough-and-ready startup staff dedicated to delivering hyper-local, all-digital news.”

1997

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

Thank you, class of 1997, for a fantastic 10 year reunion! We had an impressive turnout and missed those of you who could not attend.

Aubrey and **Frank Farmer** welcomed their beautiful daughter to the world Sept. 28, 2007, in Jackson, MS. Mother and baby are both doing well.

Joy Richmond and **DeJuan Bowen** also had a daughter, **Eva Greyson Bowen**, April 30, 2007.

Katherine Wooten, who had been employed at Youth Villages in Memphis since shortly after graduating from Rhodes, recently accepted a position as director of day and support services at Shelby Residential and Vocational Services.

Leah Daniels sends an update from Portland, “I just finished my MBA at Willamette University. I focused my studies on organizational analysis and international management. I am working as a senior HR specialist at FEI Co.—we build tools for nanotechnology. I am responsible for international assignment management, HR metrics, and I’m a business partner to our finance and IT groups. Prior to going back to school, I worked in the legal industry for a number of years doing business immigration.”

Alison Ketner Goodman has joined the law firm of Mitchell, McNutt & Sams in its Tupelo, MS, office.

Molly and **David Norton** announce the birth of a son, **Richard Carter**, July 12, 2007, in Chattanooga, TN. **David** writes, “**Molly** and **Carter** are doing very well, and we are just trying to make the adjustment to being first-time parents and functioning with a lack of sleep. My wife and I recently moved back home to East Tennessee after being in

Memphis for a majority of the last 10 years. We are in the process of building a house, which I strongly recommend everyone go through at least once in their lifetime. I actually relocated with my company, Robert Half International Inc., and was promoted to division director of the Permanent Placement Services.”

Jason Turns has been promoted to manager at Deloitte & Touche in Memphis.

Rob Marus was recently promoted from Washington bureau chief to news editor at Associated Baptist Press in Washington, DC. **Rob** says, “This means that I retain some of my responsibilities to report on public-affairs issues here in the nation’s capital, but now I’m focusing more on editing and have gained the additional responsibility of coordinating the daily news flow for our entire news service.”

1998

10th Reunion
Homecoming: Oct. 3-4
Reporter: **Amanda Grebe Tamburrino**
1805 Central Ave.
Memphis, TN 38104
901-278-1093
tamburrino@rhodes.edu

Andrew and **Laura Squire Trott** had a daughter, **Abigail Eloise (Abby)**, May 24, 2007.

Chris '96 and **Autumn Cartmill Chastain** welcomed a daughter, **Soah Hayes**, June 16, 2007.

Carolyn Ransford earned a Ph.D. in human development and family studies from Pennsylvania State University in May 2007. She also accepted a research education

analyst position with RTI International in Raleigh-Durham, NC, starting in fall 2007. She has relocated to Durham.

Jason '94 and Lilly Ditto LaFerry are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Loran Elliot, May 14, 2007, in St. Louis. Loran receives extra love from sister Lucy, who turned 2 in early September.

Nick and **Libby Weaver Sieveking** had a son, Bond Weaver, Oct. 1, 2007, in Nashville, TN. Cole loves his new brother.

Hunter '95 and Jinanne Maribel West welcomed a daughter, Annelise Brighton, Aug. 30, 2007 in Nashville, TN.

Courtney Elliott and Greg Itson are happy to announce their marriage Nov. 10, 2007, in Dallas. The ceremony, which took place at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, was followed by a reception at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. Many Rhodes alumni were in attendance. Following a honeymoon in Curacao, Courtney and Greg are living in Dallas.

1999

Class Reporter: Leigh Powell
powla99@gmail.com

Pete "Monty" Montgomery recently accepted a new job as account supervisor with Rhea & Kaiser Marketing Communications in Naperville, IL.

James and **Jill Waldrip Davis** welcomed a daughter, Caroline Julia, April 17, 2007.

On Sept. 15, 2007, **Adele Hines** married James H. Bailey Jr. Congratulations to

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey!

Sarah Chittenden Curry and her husband Stephen welcomed their daughter, Harper Margaret, July 31, 2007. Big brother, Truman James, is very proud and excited, Sarah writes.

Adam and Holly Frederick Beck are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Wyatt Johnson, Oct. 5, 2007.

Drew Butler continues to work as an attorney for the Richardson Plowden law firm in Columbia, SC. He recently was elected president of the Young Lawyers Division for the South Carolina Defense Trial Attorney Association. He and his wife Lisa recently celebrated the first birthday of their son, Jackson Hamilton.

Chris Stopera was awarded his Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry from North Dakota State University in August. Chris and **Amanda Moore** married in Orlando, FL, Aug. 18, 2007.

Tim Haberberger has been promoted to senior manager at Deloitte & Touche in Memphis.

Still Hunter closed \$1 billion in real estate sales in 2005. Still is senior investment associate at Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services Inc. in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He was recently featured in *Forum* magazine as one of the industry's "Standout Stars."

2000

Reporter: Richard Lum
Richard_Lum@hotmail.com

Steele Means, a U.S. State Department foreign affairs

officer, will leave for Congo early this year for a two-year tour at U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa.

Lisa Schum recently completed her clinical internship at Duke University Medical Center and received her doctorate in clinical psychology in August 2007. Lisa says, "I returned to Memphis for a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital."

Kenneth and **Ebony Woods McCain** married Sept. 8, 2007, at St. Andrew A.M.E. Church in Memphis. The Crescent Club was the site for the reception that followed. The couple currently resides in St. Louis. Ebony's sister, **Keva Duckett '01**, was maid of honor. **Heather Lockridge, Grace Seecharan** and **Ellen Weirich** were in the wedding party. Other lass of 2000 attendees were **Jamie Hook, Matthew Shipe, Emily Monroe, Joe Peeples, Val Witte** and **Louisa Conroy**. Also, as Ebony reports, "I was recently selected as a member of the Missouri Bar Leadership Academy."

Brad and **Emily Slagle Dieringer** married June 25, 2005, at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in scenic Slidell, LA. A reception followed at the historic Salmen-Fritchie House. Maid of Honor was **Sarah Bettinger**. Alumni in attendance included **Ashley Teal Baker** and **Brett Ramsey '03**. Brad and Emily spent most of their honeymoon backpacking through Olympic and North Cascades National parks (Washington), with a few side trips to Seattle. They currently reside in Fort

Worth, TX. The couple had a son, Henry Francis, Feb. 13, 2007, in St. Petersburg, FL.

John and **Jennifer Stefan Lindsley** are proud to announce the birth of a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, Sept. 18, 2007, in Atlanta. Jennifer writes, "Life is very busy with our two little girls (Kate and Lauren), but we are enjoying every minute of it!"

Jay Eckles was recently promoted to director of Information Services at Rhodes. He has also started work on a doctorate in higher education at the University of Memphis; his work there is supported by a graduate study fellowship from the Association for Institutional Research and the National Center for Education Statistics.

2001

Reporter: Amanda Flaim
amandaflaim@gmail.com

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

Chris and **Jenny Peebles Wilson** married Aug. 11, 2007, at Collierville United Methodist Church. They currently reside in Nashville. Jenny and Chris recently completed LL.M.s in taxation at the University of Florida, Levin College of Law.

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

Cameron Spearman and Taneisha Woodard-Spearman welcomed twins, Braylon Cordell (son) and Brielle Alaina (daughter), Oct. 28, 2007, in Memphis.

Class Notes

2002

Reporter: John Ramsey
jtramsey@rhodes-alumni.net

Bob Arnold's Chatterbox Theater launched online (chatterboxtheater.org) Sep. 14, 2007. Chatterbox offers free downloads of fully soundscaped audio productions performed by Bob and a cast of several other Rhodes alumni.

Misty Ballew Green writes, "After graduation, I lived in Atlanta and worked in a mentoring program for young women. Upon moving back to Memphis in 2004, I worked part time to figure out what the next step was. I married Rickey Green in January 2006 and gave birth to a son, Shea Emrich, in July 2006. I am delighted to be a stay-at-home mom."

2004

Reporter: Kyle Russ
ckylerruss@yahoo.com

After a small hiatus (ahem, deadline issues), I'm back. Let's kick it off with those of you in NYC (seems to be a lot of you nowadays). Over the summer, **Emily Sottile** accepted a position as an executive assistant at EverGreene Painting Studios. **Jon David Willingham** is enjoying life in the financial district at Bear Stearns, and fellow Kentucky native **Casey Hail** graduated from NYU School of Law. In September, Casey began as an associate at the firm of Hughes Hubbard & Reed.

Upon hearing rumors that Memphis' own Raiford's was closing for good, Casey invited several of her classmates to NYC to remember this great Memphis

tradition. **Jacob Church, Jessie Flanders, Daniel Head, Richard Johnson, Emily Sottile** and **Chelsea Stevens** decided to convene in the Big Apple where they recreated the Hollywood Disco. This involved rebuilding Raiford's in a studio apartment. Needless to say, it was a bit of a challenge, but they were up to it. Plastic-wrapped couch—check. Makeshift dance floor and pole—check. FedEx Pilots Only VIP section—check. Nice work, guys.

The other half of you seem to be in law school, so here's the rundown: **John Decker** is in his third year at Charleston Law School. **Kelly White** graduated from UK Law School last May and is now working for a firm in Louisville. **Elisa Devall Davis** and her new husband now live and work as attorneys in Lafayette, LA. **Emily Costarides** finishes up Emory this May and has already accepted a position with the Atlanta office of Womble, Carlyle, Sandrige & Rice. Upon graduation, she will practice law with the firm's Capital Markets Group. In Emily's words, "Graduation cannot come soon enough!" Something tells me that sentiment is shared by many of you in still in school.

Stephan Horbelt is soon to receive his scores from the California bar exam. In the meantime, Stephan writes a popular nightlife column for a Los Angeles magazine and spends every other weekend in Vegas with his buddy, Pamela Anderson. Oddly enough, **Matthew Hoffberg** writes that he recently won a Halloween costume contest dressed as, you guessed it, Pamela Anderson.

Apparently, he took home a \$500 cash prize. A small price to pay for your dignity, I'd say. On that Halloween note, cky's DC neighbor **Whitney Garman** won the Glover Park Neighborhood Association's annual pumpkin-carving contest. Her winning submission was a set of silhouette themed jack-o-lanterns which were slightly risqué yet still tasteful enough to win this family-friendly contest.

Katie Walsh is midway through her second year of law school at the University of Memphis and was recently hired to work at the attorney general's office in Nashville this summer. She shares a house on Mud Island with **Julie Clary** and **Katie Maxwell**. When not drowning in a sea of law school books, she is an assistant coach for the Rhodes field hockey team and is a member of Treble with Girls, a "grown-up" *a cappella* group whose members include **Anna Fraser Underwood '02, Katherine Whitfield '03, Caroline Ferrari '06, Caroline King '06, Abby Walsh '07** and **Megan Pollock Hulgan**.

Megan, by the way, has changed positions within Youth Villages in Memphis. She had been working as a family counselor since June 2004, and in November began working as a foster parent trainer/recruiter. Megan has an internship (for her master's in social work) at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center this academic year, which she finds very interesting and will be great learning experience. Keep up the good work Megan!

Farther down South,

Elizabeth Townsend is still living in New Orleans, teaching sixth-grade history at Newman. **Joanie McEnry**, also in the education field, is working in Development at Sacred Heart. **Emily Hoermann** moved back to San Antonio, where she is the executive assistant to the CEO of South Texas Money Management. Emily notes that it is great to be back in the heart of Texas.

Sarah Margaret Bridwell graduated from Vanderbilt in May and moved to Charleston, SC. She teaches French at Ashley Hall, an all-girls preparatory school. Sarah Margaret loves it in Charleston and is planning a "really fabulous language immersion program in France this summer." Sarah Margaret's roommate **Leland Haugh** is pursuing her master's in public administration at the College of Charleston and working at the office of Greek Life at the college.

Matt and **Katherine Brooks Goldman** married in August. They live in Birmingham, AL, where she will soon finish her degree in occupational therapy at UAB.

Maude and **Tony Pampel** live in Dallas. She is in speech therapy school full time.

Jonathan and **Elisa Devall Davis** married Dec. 30, 2006. Elisa graduated from Louisiana State University Law School in May 2007 and is currently practicing law in Lafayette, LA.

Lauren Ferrera joined the FedEx team and is a marketing specialist for FSM (FedEx Ship Manager) at fedex.com.

Catherine Ogle was married in October and bridesmaids included

Courtney Lundeen and **Lauren Ferrera**. Congratulations Catherine!

Daniel Head recently returned from a three-week trip to Brazil for a friend's wedding. Daniel switched jobs and now works at an international development consulting firm, Chemonics International Inc.

Palmer Snodgrass was recently transferred to Marine Corps Air Station in New River, NC. Palmer is excited about the move and is specializing in flying Huey helicopters.

On a somber note, this summer we unexpectedly said goodbye to our classmate and friend, **John Hogue**. Honorary pallbearers included **Palmer Snodgrass, Robert Edgecomb, Matthew Hoffberg, Jason Brink, Peter Igoe, Ander Daly '03, Patrick Crouch '06, Graham Little '06** and **Ken Bode '05**.

Please send me your news and as always, be well, do good, and keep in touch.
ckyle

2005

Reporters: Brandon Couillard
brandon.couillard@gmail.com

Molly Fitzpatrick
mhfitz11@hotmail.com

Liz Roads graduated in August from the University of Memphis with a master's in speech language pathology. She is working on her clinical fellowship in the outpatient pediatric department at Methodist Hospital North. She lives in Midtown with college roommates **Maureen Miller** and **Meg Brodman**.

Maureen Miller graduated from the University of

Michigan's School of Public Health in April 2007 with a master's degree in public health. She works as a data analyst on a variety of clinical trials at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. Her work involves child neurological development from birth to age 3, smoking cessation, blood pressure control and breast cancer survivors.

Frances Rabalais moved to Columbia, TN, to teach English at Columbia Central High School.

Jane Anne Miller moved to Austin, TX, where she is working as advertising coordinator with the *Austin Chronicle*.

Brian London is still living and working in Memphis. He plans to attend law school in 2008.

Susie Weller is living in Washington, DC, where she works as a research assistant at The Humane Society of the United States.

Logan Wheeler also lives in Washington, DC, where he works for a nonprofit entity called the Latino Economic Development Corp. He works with a microfinance program geared toward Hispanic and other underserved entrepreneurs in the DC area.

Garney Caldwell attends the Savannah College of Art and Design. He is getting a MFA in sequential art to learn to write and illustrate his own graphic novel. Over the summer he traveled to Zibo, China to teach English to all ages and hopes to return to China after earning his degree.

Sarah Hildenbrand is working on her M.A.

in English at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN.

Penning from faraway, **Julian Thomas** is in Barcelona where he is earning a master's in finance at Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

Additionally, **Molly Fitzpatrick** wrote while vacationing in Argentina. She ventured to Buenos Aires, Mendoza and Colonia, Uruguay and had an amazing time.

2006

Reporter: Nicole Vasquez
nicolev@rhodes-alumni.net

Aaron Creek reports, "I am in the Philippines right now and will be here until July of 2008 working for the Philippine National Red Cross as part of the Henry Luce Scholarship. I have Internet access in my apartment, so e-mail and talking to friends and family on Skype (online telephone service) keep me connected with home. The Philippines is not designed for a guy who is 6'3". I am constantly hitting my head on stuff and can't see my face in any of the mirrors in my apartment. I think I will enjoy my work setting once things pick up. I have been training and doing a bunch of orientation programs so far. But I plan to be out in the field working as soon as possible. I got to go to a groundbreaking ceremony at a relocation site in the Visayas (middle island region of the Philippines) recently, which was pretty neat."

2007

Now in graduate school, **Kourtney Schroeder** writes,

"Both schools that I applied to accepted me, but I chose to attend the University of Texas at Dallas since the program is specifically focused on molecular and cell biology. Currently, I am taking the first year introductory courses, including molecular. I can't express how well Rhodes prepared me for graduate-level study. Also, I am in a lab rotation with Dr. Jeff DeJong, who conducts research on eukaryotic gene transcription. My project involves isolating total RNA and performing RT-PCR to identify if a specific transcript is in various tissues, using the testis as a positive control. This lab is in the process of characterizing a gene associated with the production of some piRNAs—they have yet to name the gene—as well as characterizing the promoter of the ALF gene found in gametes."

Justin '06 and **Stephanie Walters Guthrie** married Sept. 8, 2007, at the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis. Bridesmaids included **Kelly Reed Davis, Julia Withoelter, Elizabeth Wingo '08, Kasey Brooks Culbreth '06** and **Amie Cahill**. Alum groomsmen included **Tyler Gamble '06, Ed Smith '06** and **Aizaz Tareen '06**. Several additional alumni were in attendance. The couple honeymooned at the Riviera Maya, Mexico. Justin is currently working as a planner for the city of Memphis, and Stephanie is earning her master's degree in nursing at Union University.

In Memoriam

'33 Lola Ellis Robertson of Memphis, Oct. 4, 2007. She was the widow of Charles William Robertson, to whom she was married for more than 47 years. She leaves two sons and a granddaughter. She performed research in parasitology at New York University, working with Dr. Horace Stunkard, while her husband completed his graduate studies, and then moved to Eureka, IL. While in Eureka, during World War II, she joined the group from Great Britain developing penicillin. The family moved to Charlotte, NC, and then to Evansville, IN, after the war. She lived in Evansville for more than 50 years before moving to Wilmington, DE. In Evansville, she was a member of East Side Christian Church. For more than 20 years, she taught special education at private and public schools in Evansville. She continued her work with Dr. Stunkard in the summers at Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, working with him for more than 50 years before retiring. She was a noted watercolor and china painting artist for most of her life. She was a member of Colonial Dames, Daughters of the American Revolution and P.E.O. The widow of Charles William Robertson, she leaves two sons, including Charles Robertson Jr. '65, and a granddaughter.

'34 Jerdone Kimbrough Davis Holloway of Atlanta, Aug. 16, 2007. She was the widow of Jefferson Davis, her husband of 55 years, and her second husband, E. Thompson Holloway

'33. She leaves two sons; a daughter; a stepdaughter, Emily Holloway Walker '64; a sister; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. During her lifetime, she was a member of several organizations, including the Rabun Gap Nacoochee Guild, Rose Garden Club and Fine Arts Study Club. While her sons were in high school, she was a founding member of the Mother Geese Club, a group of active mothers. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, where she attended the Women's Bible Class.

'36 Adele Bigelow Gragg of Juno Beach, FL, Sept. 15, 2007. She taught high-school English until her marriage in 1941, at which time she moved back to Chicago. In 1974, the couple retired to Juno Beach. The widow of Harry G. Gragg, she volunteered for a broad range of organizations, including the League of Women Voters and the First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta. She played piano and violin, performing in various community orchestras for more than 40 years. She leaves a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter and four great-grandchildren.

'41 Olive Martin Garren of Malden, MO, Nov. 6, 2006. She was a music teacher and member of the First Presbyterian Church in Malden, where she played the piano. The widow of Fulton Garren, she leaves a son, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

'41 William Patrick Murphy of Chapel Hill, NC, Sept. 29, 2007. A lieutenant commander in the U.S.

Navy during World War II, serving in the Pacific, he was a former law professor at the University of Mississippi in Oxford and retired as a law professor at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1990. He leaves his wife, Joy Upshaw Murphy '49; three sons; and one grandchild.

'41 Fred Shenep Jr. of Germantown, TN, June 24, 2004. A member of Germantown Baptist Church, he was a retired tire builder for Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. The husband of Jimmie "Terry" Shenep for 66 years, he also leaves a son, Jerry Shenep '73; a sister; and two grandchildren.

'42 Josephine Gilfillan Seabrook of Memphis, Nov. 12, 2007. The wife of Conrad Seabrook for 66 years, she was a former member of the TNT Investment Club, Eastwood Garden Club, Thalia Circle of the King's Daughters and Sons, the Lydia Church Circle at Idlewild and The Woman's Exchange. She was an active member at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where she and her husband were among the founding members of the LeMaster Sunday school class. She also leaves 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 Company and was approaching his 50-year membership at the University Club of Memphis. He was formerly a member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church. He leaves his wife of 28 years, Mary Wills; a granddaughter; a grandson;

and a great-grandson.

'49 Leona McCarthy DeMere Dwyer of Memphis, September 2007. She was the sister of the late McCarthy "Mac" DeMere '39 and the widow of John T. Dwyer. She had six children, including Anne-Clifton DeMere Dwyer '82; 17 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. She worked in her brother's medical clinic as a receptionist, medical assistant, photographer and medical illustrator. She also wrote speeches for his presentations and taught speech therapy to children with cleft palates after their surgery. Additionally, she organized and was the first president of the Crested Ladies of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and president of the Bicford Civic League.

'49 Mary Ella Battle Ethridge of Jackson, MS, Oct. 7, 2007. She started her career as a math teacher at Byram in 1963, then worked at Peoples Junior High School until her retirement in 1990. She was also treasurer at All Saints' Episcopal Church, retiring from the position in 2004. The widow of John Owen Ethridge '49, she leaves two sons, two grandchildren, a great-grandson, a sister and three brothers.

'49 Shirley Conroy Frisch of Memphis, Oct. 8, 2007. She worked at Rhodes College for 45 years and was assistant to the dean of financial aid upon her retirement. Her husband, Bernard, died in 2003 after 48 years of marriage. She leaves a daughter and three sons, including Frank Frisch '77 and Douglas Frisch '77;

nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was a devoted member of Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth congregation. She was also ASBEE treasurer and secretary (separate positions) and ASBEE Sisterhood president. She was a life member and former board member of and volunteer for Hadassah. She was a board member of Plough Towers in its early years from 1983-88.

'50 William Henry Fitchpatrick of Counce, TN, July 5, 2007. He served in the Navy during WWII aboard the U.S.S. Sullivan and was a 50-year member of Angerona Masonic Lodge and Pickwick Methodist Church. The widower of Maxine Woodruff Fitchpatrick, he leaves his wife of 12 years, Nancy; a sister; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

'52 William Thomas Jolly of Memphis, Nov. 4, 2007. As a professor of classics at Rhodes from 1965-1994, he was the recipient of the 1991 Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Teaching. An avid collector of classical music recordings, he donated his entire record collection to the college in 1993. At the time, the Jolly Recorded Music Collection was perhaps the largest compilation of complete operas in Memphis. Before the start of his teaching career, he was a member of the Naval Reserve and served on active duty for two years.

'53 William Edgar Metzger, of Memphis, Nov. 2, 2007. A family physician, he was a charter member of The American Board of Family Practice. He was a past president of the Memphis

and Shelby County Academy of Family Practice and past chairman of the Blue Cross Blue Shield IPA Board. A longtime active member of the Memphis Rotary Club, he was a member and deacon at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where he also served on various committees. He leaves his wife of 52 years, Ann Garrecht Metzger; a son; two daughters; 15 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

'54 Thomas Henry Crais of Fairfax, VA, Nov. 15, 2006. He served as freshman tennis coach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and taught tennis in several high schools in the northern Virginia area, as well as at Howard University in Washington, DC. He and his wife later formed their own business, Twin-Trak Voice Writers, which specialized in recording and transcribing congressional committee hearings, think-tank seminars, meetings for national associations and depositions for patent lawyers. He leaves his wife of 36 years, Greta Swinnen Crais.

'56 Mary Williamson McCabe of Scottsdale, AZ, Nov. 4, 2007. After teaching school for a year, she moved to Huntsville, AL, to work as a computer programmer for G.E. She transferred to Phoenix with G.E. in the mid-1960s and married in 1973. She and her husband moved to Minneapolis in 1978 and both worked for Honeywell/Bull until their retirement in 1992. In her retirement in Scottsdale, she was active in the Arizona Republican Woman's

Association and the Altar Guild of Christ Church of the Ascension. The widow of Henry Arthur McCabe, she leaves five stepchildren and 11 grandchildren.

'68 John Bradley (Brad) McMillan of Jackson, TN, Sept. 15, 2007. In 1983, he began working as an artist and editorial cartoonist for *The Memphis Business Journal*. In 1977, he married Carolyn Miller McMillan '70. The couple moved to Dallas in 1986 with their children, and Brad drew for many publications while focusing on his personal artwork. He received numerous awards and accolades during his professional and personal career as an artist and had studio shows in Memphis, Jackson and Dallas. A widower, he leaves two sons and a daughter.

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

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

'78 Don Allison Ramier III of Memphis, Sept. 2.

2007. His family's tradition at Rhodes includes his grandfather, Don Allison Ramier Sr. '31; parents, Don Allison Ramier Jr. '53 and Joan Smith Ramier '53; Joan Ramier's sisters, Patricia Smith Gill '60 and Anne Smith Sarber '64 and Sarber's husband, John Sarber '63; and sister, Margaret Elizabeth Ramier Vacheron '82. He began his business career with IBM in Washington, DC, and spent the rest of his life involved with computer management, programming and technical writing. A member of Independent Presbyterian Church, he leaves a son.

'90 Claire Dalrymple Watkins of Atlanta, Nov. 27, 2007. She was involved in numerous philanthropic and social endeavors such as the PEO Sisterhood and the Parent Organization at the Atlanta International school. She also coached Tophat Soccer and chaired the Ronald McDonald House Port of Call benefit. She and her husband Robert Watkins '90 met during their first day at Rhodes. They married in 1994 and had two children. A member of First Presbyterian Church, she also leaves her parents; a twin brother; and a sister, Megan Abbott '89.

'94 Lisa White of Decatur, GA, Nov. 17, 2007. She spent a year traveling the world with her friend and college roommate Julia Culleton, at which time she met Hillary Clinton. A few years ago, musician John Mayer called her to sing "Happy Birthday." She leaves her parents, a brother and her fiancé.

Continuing the Tradition

By President William E. Troutt

The student stories you have read in this issue bring to life what makes Rhodes today one of America's very best liberal arts colleges. We have a reputation for excellence with our focus on the individual student, peer learning and opportunities beyond the classroom. We are increasingly known for how we educate students between disciplines, beyond the gates, beyond Memphis, beyond our national borders.

You, of course, already know this from your own Rhodes experience. As I learned early in my tenure from my conversations with alumni, three great themes lie at the heart of the Rhodes saga—the way students and faculty connect, the way students connect with one another and the way the college connects students with the larger world. In so many ways, everything we are doing today involves “dialing up” those fundamental and familiar themes.

These student stories speak to our overall aim—to guarantee every student these kinds of distinctive life-changing opportunities and to be sure the most deserving students can come, stay and take full advantage of all we have to offer. If you want to learn more of these stories firsthand, there is no better setting on campus to talk with students than our newly-renovated Lynx Lair.

Recently, Carole and I had the pleasure of dining there with head resident assistants Ben Lyon '09, an economics and international studies major from Arkansas,

and Sarah Barowka '09, a neuroscience major and Spanish minor from Louisiana. Over delicious wood-fired pizza we discussed how they came to Rhodes.

Ben, who will tell you he could not have come here without the financial assistance we provide, has flourished at Rhodes. He is involved in Rhodes Student Government and Model UN and was voted ODK Sophomore of the Year. He also takes advantage of opportunities afforded by our relationship with the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock.

Sarah was accepted at a top-tier northeastern liberal arts college, but the financial assistance Rhodes offered made the difference. Fully engaged as a student, she is a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the national collegiate honorary society for students who excel in the study of Hispanic languages, and has engaged in significant research and service opportunities at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital here in Memphis.

The Campaign for Rhodes is all about being sure we continue to attract, support and graduate students like Ben and Sarah, who will continue to be outstanding leaders in their lives ahead, just as they are at Rhodes. With your help, we'll achieve our aim and guarantee these life-changing opportunities for every deserving student. **R**



President Troutt enjoying the student entertainment at the grand opening of the renovated Lynx Lair

JUSTIN FOX BURKS

A Trust for the Future

When Dr. Mary Jane Smalley Roberts '58 received the Distinguished Alumna Award in 1992, she said in her acceptance speech, "... I am here today because a scholarship enabled me to come to this college. I believe strongly that the emphasis and commitment to financial aid, whether for merit or other leadership qualities, is a cornerstone of Rhodes' history and of its future. I am proud to have been the beneficiary of the generous alumni and friends of the college who went before me."

Mary Jane served as secretary-treasurer of the Rhodes Student Council, represented her class on the Honor Council, sang with the Rhodes Singers, was tapped for membership in Phi Beta Kappa and ultimately, selected to the Hall of Fame. She attributes her personal growth to Dr. Laurence Kinney, "... who was more than just an intellectual guide. He was a true mentor who encouraged me to think of possibilities much grander than I could ever dream." With Dr. Kinney's guidance and encouragement, Mary Jane applied for and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study at the Université de Bordeaux, and later, a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for graduate study at Harvard.



Paul and Mary Jane Smalley Roberts '58

After her retirement as deputy director of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, she found another avenue to support her life's priorities. In 2000, she and her husband, Paul, created a charitable remainder unitrust at Rhodes. The trust will provide income to Mary Jane and Paul for the rest of their lives. The remainder will then fund international study opportunities for future generations of Rhodes students.

Mary Jane looks forward to celebrating her 50th reunion this fall knowing that she will enable future Rhodes students to experience the same sense of transformation that she did while studying abroad.

You, too, can provide current and future Rhodes students with "possibilities much grander than [they] could ever dream." Consider making a planned gift to Rhodes today. For information, contact:

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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Tim Sharp and the Rhodes Singers rehearsing in Hardie Auditorium. Prof. Sharp holds the Elizabeth Gay Daughdrill Chair in the Fine Arts and serves as dean of academic affairs for fine arts.

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