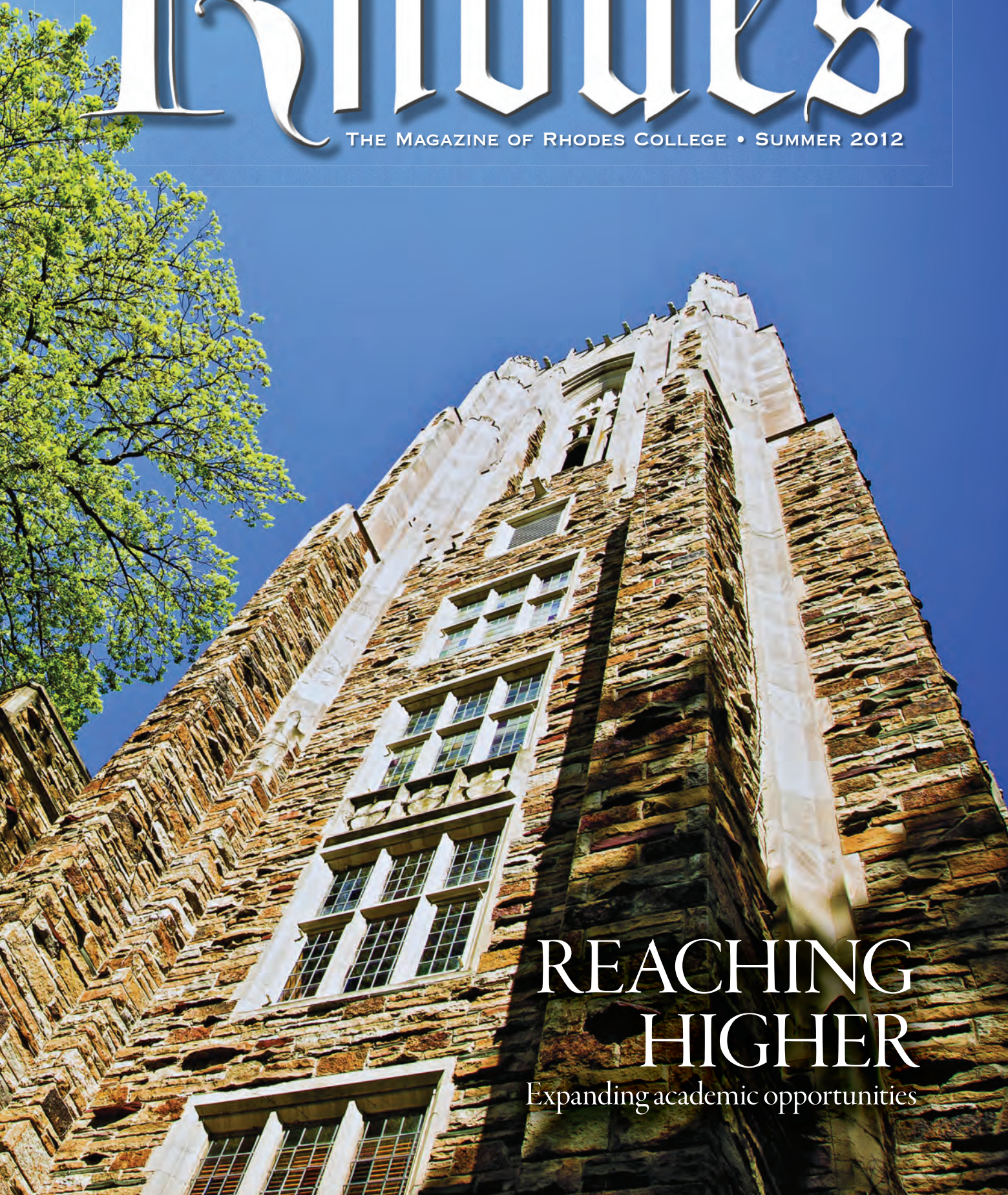


# Rhodes

THE MAGAZINE OF RHODES COLLEGE • SUMMER 2012



REACHING  
HIGHER

Expanding academic opportunities



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This year, Rhodes observes the 50th anniversary of the Richard Halliburton Memorial Tower. Halliburton, who was born in 1900 and lost at sea in 1939, was an internationally known traveler, author and lecturer. The tower was the gift of his parents, Wesley and Nellie Nance Halliburton, and dedicated Oct. 17, 1962, “to memorialize his wonderful life of action, romance and courage.”

# Rhodes

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- Commencement 2012 photo gallery
- Videos of staff members celebrating anniversaries at Rhodes
- Noam Chomsky lecture from Rhodes' Communities in Conversation series
- Some projects of the Creative and Digital Arts Program
- In Print—new books by faculty and alumni



# CAMPUS NEWS

## Annual Awards Presented at Rhodes Commencement

Dr. Robert R. Waller, a Rhodes trustee and president emeritus of the Mayo Clinic health system, received an honorary doctor of humanities degree at commencement. Dr. Waller joined the Rhodes Board of Trustees in 2003, and in addition to serving on several committees, he skillfully led a vital initiative that has provided Rhodes a trustee governance structure that serves as a model for other national liberal arts colleges.

Rhodes alumnus Bruce Lindsey '70 received the Rhodes Distinguished Service Medal. A longtime adviser to former President Bill Clinton, Lindsey served in the White House as an assistant to the president, deputy White House counsel and senior

adviser. He is currently the chief executive officer of the William J. Clinton Foundation, the global public service initiative dedicated to turning good intentions into measurable results.

History and Philosophy double major Colin Antaya was awarded the college's highest academic honor, the Peyton Nalle Rhodes Phi Beta Kappa Prize. The Rhodes Prize is named after Dr. Peyton Nalle Rhodes, longtime professor of Physics (1926-49) and later president of the college (1949-65).

Rhodes graduates Kelly Parry and Salar Rafieetary, and Admission staff member Dorothy Brownyard received the 2012 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards. The awards are presented annually to two graduating seniors (one male and one female) and one non-student who have given selflessly to others and the college.



Dr. Robert Waller



Bruce Lindsey



Dorothy Brownyard



Colin Antaya

## Dave Wottle Retires

Dave Wottle, longtime Rhodes dean of admission, and for the last year, special assistant to the president, is retiring at the end of June after almost three decades at Rhodes. His leaving coincides with the 40th anniversary of his stunning, come-from-behind victory in the 800-meter run that earned him a gold medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

When Rhodes conducted a national search for the top admissions post in 1983, David J. Wottle was the leading candidate. He came to Rhodes with plenty of contacts and credentials in professional administration in the Midwest and East, most recently having served as dean of admissions at Bethany College in West Virginia. That expertise and athletic fame preceded him to Rhodes, yet nowhere on his résumé did it mention Olympic gold.



Dave Wottle and members of the Rhodes Track and Field teams

What sold him on Rhodes, he said in a 1983 article in *Southwestern Today* (the predecessor of *Rhodes* magazine), was what he called the college's "one-two punch." At the college, he said, "you can get a good liberal arts education and you can get it in a beautiful setting, in an environment that has a lot of options in terms of internships and preparation for careers. It's a great combination."

He went on to successfully grow the number of campus visits by prospective students, encourage faculty to contact



The gold medal that Dave Wottle won at the 1972 Olympic games

those students, increase alumni involvement in recruiting and improve and expand admission publications to reach recruits. The strategy has paid off. The Rhodes student population has risen from 1,046 in 1983-84, Wottle's first year, to 1,830 in 2011-12.

A graduate of Bowling Green State University in Ohio, he is a member of the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, where his Olympic running shorts and trademark golf cap, which he famously forgot to remove during the "National Anthem," permanently

reside. He is also a recipient of the U.S. Olympic Spirit Award.

Dave Wottle has always kept everything in perspective. "I enjoyed the recognition I got from the Olympics. I went to the Olympic games to see if I could be the best in the world at a particular thing. I didn't go there to make \$1 million or become rich and famous. I achieved what I sought and was pleased with that."

When it comes to his productive tenure at Rhodes, he is equally eloquent. "The greatest reward has always been hearing a student speak fondly about his or her Rhodes experience," he says. "It really reinforces why our work in Admission is so important.

## Professors Luther Ivory and Shadrack Nasong'o Win Clarence Day Awards

Religious Studies Professor Dr. Luther Ivory is the recipient of Rhodes' highest faculty honor for outstanding teaching presented April 27 at the college's annual Awards Convocation. Dr. Shadrack Nasong'o of the International Studies Department received the Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Research and/or Creative Activity. He currently is out of the country and will be honored in the fall. The awards, first given in 1981, were established by businessman and Rhodes alumnus Clarence Day and now are provided by the Day Foundation.

The Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Teaching is given to a member of the faculty who has demonstrated excellence in teaching over the previous three years as determined by the assessments of students and colleagues, the effective use of imaginative and creative pedagogy, and motivating students to embrace a life of continuing study.

Since joining Rhodes in 1997, Ivory has taught courses on theological

tradition, contemporary theology, the texts and context of the Bible, religion and racism, African American religions, liberation theologies and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and civil rights.

In presenting the award, Dean Michael Drompp said, "If one were to seek a single word to describe Professor Ivory's manner of teaching, it would be 'exuberant.' Whether he is talking about Aquinas' proofs for the existence of God, Martin Luther King Jr.'s practice of nonviolent social change, the Afro-Brazilian religion of Candomblé, or even one of his inexplicably favorite theologians—John Calvin—Professor Ivory's classroom reverberates with his passion for communicating the material."

Ivory's courses are in high demand, and often students start early in their careers at Rhodes aiming at taking just one course from him before graduation. He frequently begins

classroom discussions with the phrase, "Talk to me," and works deliberately at structuring the classroom so that it resonates with different voices. He ensures that even in the heated discussions that may develop from sensitive topics, scholars respect the voices of others as they learn to develop their own voices.

"When his office door is open, and he is not in his frequent consultations with students, you can hear the intensity of his keyboard as he sends messages of encouragement, prompts for discussion and evaluations of papers and presentations," said Drompp. "With his students, Professor Ivory is sensitive to the fact that what is happening at home or in the residence halls has as much impact on the life of the whole student as what is happening in the

classroom. On occasion, he has practiced 'tough love' for students who wanted to give up or give less than their best."



Luther Ivory



Shadrack Nasong'o

## Rhodes Boasts Three New Fulbright Award Winners

Class of 2012 member Jake Groves of Louisville, KY, was named a Fulbright scholar for 2012-13, and will work as an English teaching assistant at a university in Russia. An English and Russian double major, Groves will also research Russian folk music, exploring its potential as a means of cultural exchange. At Rhodes, he served as an international peer adviser and studied abroad in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he took courses in Russian history, literature and contemporary issues. As a 2009 Rhodes Summer Service Fellow, he taught leadership and public speaking skills to students at Memphis University School.

Rhodes alumni Daniel Williford '11 and Richard Hurd '08 were also named Fulbright scholars and both will serve as English teaching assistants in Morocco and Brazil, respectively. Hurd is currently a M.A. student in Spanish Language and Literature at Georgia State University.

At Rhodes, he was a two-time Academic All-American baseball player and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Williford lives and works in Memphis, where he volunteers his time teaching ESL and GED classes for the Refugee Empowerment Program. He also

serves as a program assistant at the Memphis Leadership Foundation.

The Fulbright Program, America's prestigious international educational exchange sponsor, is administered by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



Jake Groves '12

## Five Members of the Class of 2012 Added to Rhodes Hall of Fame

**Kelly Allison, Sharwil Bell, Carson Duffy, Jasper Page** and **Salar Rafieetary** have been elected to the Rhodes Hall of Fame, considered one of the highest student honors. Since its inauguration in 1931, the Hall of Fame has recognized outstanding graduating seniors, based on their individual merit, leadership in student activities, service to others and overall contributions to the campus community.



Kelly Allison '12



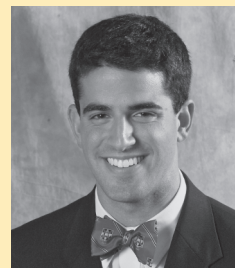
Sharwil Bell '12



Carson Duffy '12



Jasper Page '12



Salar Rafieetary '12

## Carson Duffy '12 Named a Watson Fellow

Carson Duffy of Charlotte, NC, was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation that will allow her to explore community building efforts in the post-conflict societies of Chile, India, Northern Ireland and South Africa. The foundation awarded 40 fellowships this year out of 147 finalists representing the most prestigious liberal arts colleges in the country.

Established in 1968, the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship offers a year of independent, purposeful exploration and travel outside the United States to enhance the fellow's capacity for resourcefulness, imagination, openness and leadership and to foster humane and effective participation in the world community.

Duffy's winning proposal was titled "All for One & One for All: Leadership



Carson Duffy '12

through Community Building in Divided Societies—Chile, India, United Kingdom, South Africa." Duffy, an Urban Studies major and Education minor, who graduated in May, says, "My classes at Rhodes, my experience as a Bonner and my involvement with the Kinney Program have given me

a foundational understanding of the ways in which communities are built, torn apart and sustained. I am excited to embrace the opportunity provided by the Watson Foundation to further explore the process of community development on a global and more diverse scale."

## Michael LaRosa Steps Down from Postgraduate Scholarship Post



Michael LaRosa

Associate Professor of History Michael LaRosa is retiring as co-director of Rhodes' Postgraduate Scholarship support program after serving in that capacity for more than 15 years. He is responsible for establishing the "Introduction to Postgraduate Scholarships" course at Rhodes, which helps prepare students for the rigorous application process. Under his leadership, Rhodes has become more competitive nationally in terms of

the number of students who apply and receive postgraduate scholarships, including Rhodes Scholarships, Fulbright Grants, and Watson Fellowships.

LaRosa, who was awarded a Fulbright grant in 1997, will continue to advise students who want to apply for postgraduate scholarships. He will also teach History courses at Rhodes related to Latin America. Dr. Judith Haas, assistant professor of English, will continue to serve as co-director the Postgraduate Scholarship program.



## National Recognition for Student-Athlete Sharwil Bell

Recent graduate and basketball standout Sharwil Bell has received a prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship. The association awards up to 174 postgraduate scholarships annually, and Bell is one of only 29 female athletes—across the NCAA's three divisions—to receive the award. She was also named to the 2012 Capital One District V Academic Women's Basketball First Team, and was a finalist for the Jostens Trophy, which honors the nation's top Division III basketball player.

This issue of *Rhodes* celebrates several recent academic milestones—new departments, programs and initiatives, anniversaries and updates—and the faculty who lead them. The alma mater says students “learn the higher aim” at Rhodes. Reaching higher is in our blood.

# Connecting Conversations

By Scarlett D’Anna ’12

Last fall, Professor Jonathan Judaken joined the college with an unusual opportunity: to determine the parameters and establish the scope of his position as Rhodes’ first Spence L. Wilson Chair in the Humanities. Tasked with further developing intellectual life on campus, Judaken began by speaking with students and faculty about the culture of Rhodes. These foundational conversations, concerning the college’s particular character and needs, informed his primary work as chair.

A sustained commitment to dialogue runs throughout all the initiatives Judaken has enacted over his first year. With the development of a program advisory committee he has created an avenue for faculty to communicate and collaborate across department lines, and his efforts to encourage cross-listing courses and promote team-teaching similarly enhance interdisciplinary discourse. The Communities in Conversation lecture series—the first step in Judaken’s four-fold plan to facilitate discussion among students, faculty and the wider Memphis community—was met with great success.

“We need to have more conversations with each other outside of the narrow silos of our own departmental

borders and boundaries,” Judaken says. Education that is confined within a particular academic discipline may limit students’ interests to one realm of intellectual concerns or one method for discerning truths. Rather, Judaken advocates a question-driven approach to learning that encourages “you to follow the answers wherever they lead—and that doesn’t stop at the doorstep of your department.”

Professor Judaken’s unique methods are clearly shaped by his own upbringing and education. As a Jew living under South African apartheid, he was a religious minority in a predominantly Christian country; yet, he was also “white,” which guaranteed inclusion among the racially dominant group. Advantaged but marginalized, both an insider and outsider, he says his experience on the perimeters of privilege has been central to his work. Part of his interest in subjects like existentialism, racism and the so-called Jewish Question stem from a desire to confront and come to terms with his own past.

After immigrating to the United States as a teenager, Judaken began his academic career at the University of California, San Diego. He completed his undergraduate education with a degree in Philosophy, spent a year in Paris studying French





JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Jonathan Judaken, the Spence L. Wilson Chair in the Humanities, accompanied by portions of Burrow Hall's trivium and quadrivium, symbols of the seven liberal arts

and French culture and history, and then returned to America to pursue a doctorate in History at the University of California, Irvine. Postdoctoral study took him to Hebrew University of Jerusalem where he spent two years learning from scholars of Jewish history. From there he went on to take a position at the University of Memphis, where he later became the Dunavant Professor of History and director of the Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities. Judaken's scholarly contributions are both prolific and wide in scope: He has edited, co-edited and written several publications that examine issues of race, prejudice, Jews and Judaism, tolerance and existentialism.

Now firmly settled in Memphis, he is excited to share his manifold intellectual interests with Rhodes students and staff. Judaken says he was drawn to the opportunity to innovate and build academic community in a small, liberal arts environment. His position is the first of its kind on this campus, and one of the challenges he faces as Wilson Chair is integrating the interests of faculty and student groups into newly created structures.

Consider the program advisory committee, which Judaken established in an effort to better facilitate the organization of intellectual life on campus and encourage greater dialogue among disciplines. This group, convened for the first time in the spring, includes faculty from almost every department in the humanities and social sciences, representatives from many of the college's endowed lectureships, every director of an interdisciplinary studies program and two student leaders (from the Rhodes Lecture Board and Student Government, respectively). "The idea is that the committee will be the main entity through which we will do the organizing of public events," says Judaken. By involving faculty and students in this process, he hopes to develop an anticipatory annual schedule—highlighting all the guest lecturers and major projects 18 months ahead of time—which is attuned to the college's interests and generates a sense of cohesive intellectual community on campus.



Judaken has developed a four-part platform for establishing institutionalized dialogue among students and faculty, across disciplines, and between campus and the broader community. The linchpin of the series, *Communities in Conversation*, debuted this spring. Judaken felt that "there should be an integrated marketing platform for the most significant intellectual events taking place on campus. We could build audiences for these events in accord with a coherent marketing strategy." A series of bookmarks and flyers peppered the campus before every lecture, heralding the coming speaker to the student body. Judaken caught the attention of groups outside of the college as well, advertising through the local NPR station, Facebook and the alumni email list. By directing the marketing through these social networking sites, Judaken says he hopes to "broaden the audience and establish a group of people with a variety of relationships to Rhodes." Judaken's promotional methods were clearly successful; most of the *Communities in Conversation* events boasted standing-room-only crowds.

The second part of the *Conversations* sequence is designed specifically for professors. Modeled on the European salon, *Tasty Conversations* invites faculty to gather for a meal. Participants discuss issues pertinent to the humanities, to Rhodes as a liberal arts institution and to their particular intellectual pursuits.

*Great Conversations*, slated to begin next year, will feature two faculty members from different departments discussing a common issue over lunch provided for students. Judaken already has plans for one of the first events, which may be framed as a debate. "We'll hear from an anthropologist and a biologist about the issue of evolution," he says. "It's



a central category for both of their disciplines, but they don't necessarily understand it in the same way." Explicitly for undergraduates, Great Conversations will provide students opportunities to examine problems from multiple academic perspectives.

The fourth piece in the series will be a class available through the Meeman Center. Called Scholarly Conversations, this program will open up Rhodes' intellectual community to include interested people from off campus. The course work, taught by Judaken and other faculty, will correspond with an impending public event. Later, when participants attend the event, they will already be actively engaged with the subject matter.

Once all four programs are fully implemented, they will work in tandem to encourage academic activity and cultivate intellectual community on campus and beyond. The Communities in Conversation events will sit at the center of this series, influencing the topics that faculty, students and other participants will explore through Tasty, Great, and Scholarly Conversations. Thus, the components will create an interconnected discursive web. So, he explains, "When the public event happens, you have a really informed audience who's been participating in conversations about the material on various levels."

Judaken's commitment to communication across disciplines clearly translates to his work in the classroom. This spring he taught a course titled Intellectuals and Politics, which was cross-listed under History, Religious Studies and Philosophy. The students included majors from each of those departments, as well as from the sciences and Greek and Roman Studies. Having input from so many disciplines shaped the class dynamic accordingly.

"We had theological discussions, philosophical discussions, historical discussions," says Judaken, and "that enabled a genuine interdisciplinary dialogue, because of the perspectives the students were bringing to bear." He describes the experience in somewhat unconventional terms: "Teaching it, at times, was like intellectual rock 'n' roll."

Despite his attention to multiplicity and interest in boundary-crossing conversations, Judaken remains aware and respectful of departmental borders. "You don't want a collapse of disciplines," he says. "Students must have a solid grounding within a certain tradition, even if they're pursuing bridge majors. To be trained well, you should be trained from some disciplinary perspective or another." Still, he insists that the most important questions are not circumscribed within such academic perspectives, and neither should our answers be bound by them.

Judaken describes his work at Rhodes as a balancing act. His challenge is to harmonize seemingly disparate elements: autonomy and community, disciplinary specifics and interdisciplinarity, specialization in an area and broader expertise. Each has the potential to enrich our students' educational experiences and intellectual lives, and Judaken's programs, newly convened committee, and classes foster an academic culture that embraces all these qualities. And like the collaborative, outside-the-box approach he's developed, Judaken hopes his work through the Wilson Chair will enable "a kind of teaching, research and building of intellectual community that doesn't force those of us inside the institution of higher education to forget what higher education is all about." **R**

# Rhodes Welcomes the New Head of Search

By Carson Irwin '08

**I**nspired by the grand vision of President Charles E. Diehl, Southwestern at Memphis introduced a course in fall 1945 that would become a fundamental part of the Rhodes College identity. Man in the Light of History and Religion (soon dubbed the “Man” course) aspired to “work the vast materials of our Western cultural heritage into an ordered whole under the integrating principles of history and religion.” It was originally taught by five professors—two historians, two philosophers and one biblical scholar. First-year students had the option to take the Man course or separate sections of History and Religion classes to meet academic requirements. The latter path would later be known as “Life: Then and Now” or “Life.”

Lorraine Abernathy '58 remembers the early Man curriculum as a mixture of lectures and colloquia that were held six days a week. The hours spent in class combined with a massive amount of reading caused Abernathy to feel both overwhelmed and awed: “When I was a little freshman from Columbia, TN, it was overpowering to discover for the first time that things were connected in ways that I never realized. It opened a whole new world for us. We learned to study and think in different ways.”

As incoming faculty brought fresh approaches and

new perspectives on what the humanities are, the curriculum evolved over time—though nearly all of the original themes and texts endure in the present version. The most evident change occurred in 1986 when, after considerable faculty discussion, the Man course was rechristened The Search for Values in the Light of Western History and Religion or simply “Search.”

Search’s popularity grew rapidly among both faculty and students. Today, there are 25 faculty members teaching in 47 sections of the Search program and about 60 percent of incoming students elect to take Search. The course is so well known in the Memphis community that the Meeman Center for Lifelong Learning offers a condensed version of the series to area adults. What’s more, several esteemed institutions throughout the country have modeled similar programs on Search.

Just prior to the 2011-12 academic session, Rhodes appointed a new program director for Search, Dr. Geoff Bakewell. A Yale and Brown University graduate, Bakewell enthusiastically began his new position here after teaching in Classical and Near Eastern Studies at Creighton University in Omaha for 17 years. He says that Rhodes’ genuine commitment to the study of liberal arts was a major



Searchers Vanessa Rogers, assistant professor of Music; Geoff Bakewell, director of Search; Chemistry major Maho Bano '13; and Dan Cullen, associate professor of Political Science

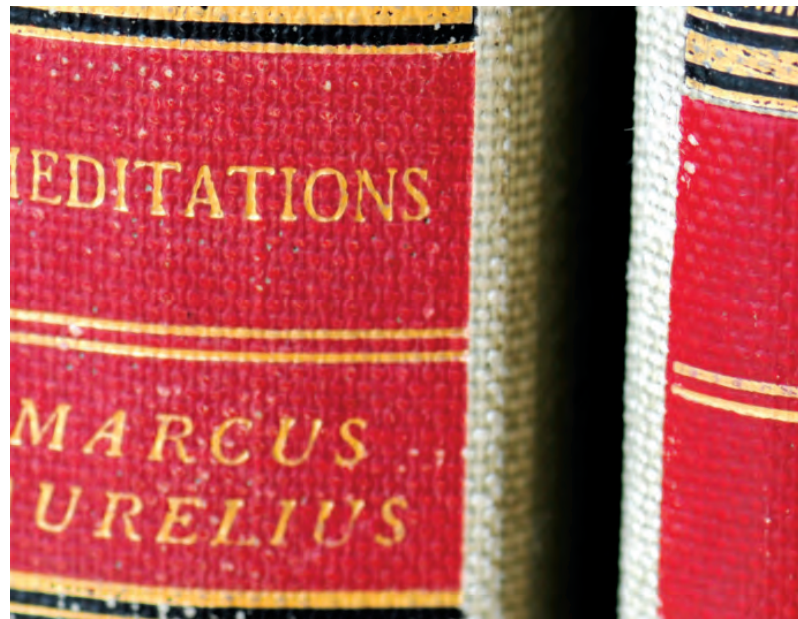
attraction to the position. “Rhodes is such a lively intellectual community,” Bakewell notes. “It has a wonderful mix of students who are interested in lots of different things. The faculty is equally committed to teaching and research. A lot of places talk that talk, but don’t walk that walk. But Rhodes really does.”

A classicist and member of the Greek and Roman Studies Department, Bakewell teaches in as well as directs Search. Managing a diverse staff and recruiting new faculty are his top priorities. He says he enjoys getting to know the interests and personalities of his colleagues while taking on the challenge of seeking out a variety of professors to teach in the program. He is also responsible for organizing the Douglass Seminar, a faculty workshop held each May that allows the Search faculty to troubleshoot everything from course mechanics to the all-important choice of authors and readings. The discussions are typically spirited, occasionally contentious and often humorous. Bakewell describes the experience as “a combination of summer camp and going back to school. It’s exciting to get people together from different disciplines,” he says. “We are really living what we’re telling our students to do, which is to go on and keep learning.”

Inevitably, there are different scholarly approaches to the topics covered in Search, but faculty members agree that preserving and improving the cross-disciplinary agenda of the program is paramount to its success. Each professor is attentive to the fact that academic disciplines must not be segregated in order for the course to accomplish its mission. This is both an exciting and challenging concept for faculty.

Political Science professor Daniel Cullen has been a member of the Rhodes faculty for 22 years and has participated in the Search program for nearly as long. “What’s unique about Search is that it’s not a course taught by specialists. Every one of us is a specialist in something, but none of us is a specialist in everything that Search covers,” Cullen explains. In other words, the professors often find themselves in two roles—teacher and student in their own classes.

Having just completed teaching in her second



academic year at Rhodes, Music professor Vanessa Rogers already appreciates her part in the interdisciplinary program. When asked how music fits into the curriculum, Rogers explains: “Music is always a product of the cultural, historical, political period that it comes out of. So it makes perfect sense that music would be a part of the Search program. For example, Martin Luther was a musician. He was extremely interested in how music worked in his new vision for the church and about what congregational singing meant for religion.”

Much like the faculty, Rhodes students appreciate the intellectual diversity of the Search curriculum. Political Science major Mary Frances Dunlap ’12 was able to explore her interests in political philosophy in light of many other fields through the course. “I think that this approach to learning makes people a little bit more flexible in how they approach problems and how they try to work with people who are coming from completely different perspectives,” she says.

Senior Chemistry major Maha Bano most appreciated the discussion-based nature of her classes. Bano remembers her professors often teaching by mediating conversations among students. When asked how Search has influenced her studies in the seemingly unrelated field of Chemistry, Bano reflects, “Search taught me how to think. Down the road, I may not remember every detail of every story I read, but it



taught me how to critically evaluate a source and think about it in broader terms of human nature.”


Ben Curtis '12 credits the Search program as the defining influence on his Rhodes experience. Curtis began at Rhodes on the pre-medical track but after taking Search, he was inspired to pursue a Philosophy degree and later won the Fred W. Neal Prize for excellence in Search. “It’s more than just learning about a historical text and moving on,” explains Curtis. “It’s understanding how we have the beliefs that we have and being able to show the history of the way in which thoughts and ideas have been shaped over time. It’s really powerful for the way that we understand ourselves.”

Geoff Bakewell hopes that students will emerge from Search with a better sense of “intellectual humility.” “I hope they get a sense that what matters is not how they’re doing, but what they’re doing; the kinds of questions they’re asking; and the integrity with which they approach them,” explains Bakewell. “We’re really trying to encourage them to be honest, thoughtful people in a way that fosters their human growth.” After completing Rhodes degrees in Greek and Roman Studies and Political Science, Barrett Haga '01 agrees. “One of the key skills that you learn in Search is to explore the question ‘why,’” says Haga. “That’s a skill that Rhodes teaches very well—master the art of exploration.”

Students and faculty alike acknowledge the interdisciplinary program as an integral part of the Rhodes, and broader liberal arts, experience.

So, where can Search go from here? Bakewell’s preliminary strategy is not to disturb something that’s working well. “Part of my job is Hippocratic: ‘First, do no harm,’” he says. “I want to maintain the traditions of democratic collegiality, which says that everybody who’s teaching in the program has a share in helping make it work.”

Bakewell also wants to see the course become slightly less text-centric. “I love the texts that we read but I think that we’re missing out on a lot by not having more representation of art, music, the fine arts and archaeology in the program,” he says. “There are fascinating things that can come out of working in non-literary viewpoints. I’d like to see us do more work with, for instance, reading Dante alongside the sculptural and painting tradition of the Italian, Medieval and Renaissance periods.”

Bakewell hopes that Search will enrich the liberal arts experience at Rhodes by being “an intellectual theme park” of sorts. “I don’t want it to be tacky and cheap with rides that leave you thinking about nothing, but I want it to really be an intellectual awakening for students and faculty.” 

# A New Chair for Urban Studies

By Lucy Kellison '13

**A**fter one semester at Rhodes, Dr. Elizabeth Thomas has no trouble articulating a clear and attainable goal for her program.

“My vision of Urban Studies is that it becomes an interdisciplinary, academic hub for students, faculty and community partners who come from every area—from the arts and humanities to the social sciences to the natural sciences.”

Last fall, Thomas joined the Rhodes faculty as an associate professor of Psychology and the new director and Plough Chair of Urban Studies. In the short time since her arrival, she and the rest of the Urban Studies Program have done a great deal to help achieve this vision. Stepping in for Dr. Thomas McGowan, who had served as interim director since Dr. Mike Kirby’s retirement in 2010, Thomas used her first semester as chair to observe and actively learn about the projects in which faculty and students were already engaged. She also met with community partners to assess how to better develop these projects. Thomas says she was drawn to the Plough position because of the established focus on community-based learning and scholarship within the Urban Studies Program and throughout campus.

“Rhodes has articulated a clear vision that is focused on having students translate the academic study they

are doing in the classroom into leadership and action in communities,” says Thomas. “The Urban Studies Program is a really terrific illustration of the college aligning its mission with its resources. And we are so well situated because there is so much interesting work happening on campus already.”

Thomas, who came to Rhodes from the University of Washington, Bothell, where she served as associate director for graduate education in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Program, has an academic background in community psychology. Her research has focused on how children and youth actively engage in and shape their learning environments, in addition to the role of community-based arts and public art in community development. Thomas says she hopes to incorporate her research methods into a shared vision for the Urban Studies Program.

During this first semester, Thomas taught an Introduction to Urban Studies course and another one on Community Psychology. She also developed a senior seminar for Urban Studies majors, which she will teach next spring. In the course, students are asked to determine the effectiveness of community-based programs that serve youth. In addition, it focuses on key concepts, methods and approaches to participatory action research and evaluation in community contexts.





History professor Gail Murray, Kelli Zomer '12 and Urban Studies director Elizabeth Thomas at the Midtown North Community Garden

Thomas' senior seminar is one of many courses within the program that demonstrates the applied component of academic learning that is such an integral part of Urban Studies. Kelli Zomer '12 has worked with several community organizations throughout her time as an Urban Studies major, both in connection with her classes and through independent internships. As part of her senior seminar paper on the concept of aging, she volunteered at the Lewis Senior Center. In addition, during the summer after her sophomore year, she completed an internship at the Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association, working with Memphis residents and at the Midtown North Community Garden.

"Just as in any big city, Memphis has its own share of problems with foreclosure, poverty, crime and other issues," says Zomer. "As an Urban Studies major, you become educated in the ways to defend against these types of things. Obviously, it is hard for one person to solve every problem. But with this major, you get the tools needed to put yourself in a better position to help the city that you live in."

In Thomas' Intro class, students completed a project in which they interviewed local Memphians to understand their perspectives on topics such as history, culture, political institutions, housing and the future of Memphis.

"These projects are really interesting," says Thomas. "Students use what they learn in class to think about cities and Urban Studies. In addition to doing traditional archival research they interview local stakeholders, so the idea is to blend scholarly work with the actual resources and people of the city."

As Plough Chair, Thomas hopes to increase this kind of student participation. One way, she says, is through the seven-member Urban Studies faculty committee. Along with serving as an advisory board to the Plough Chair, the committee acts as an interdisciplinary group that discusses course ideas and ways to connect the academic program to pressing, urban problems in Memphis. Thomas has been working to build relationships with the faculty this spring, and the committee will be officially launched under her direction in the fall.

Dr. Gail Murray, who has served on the committee since 2004, teaches History courses related to the study of urban issues. Next year, she will teach a class on the History of Poverty in America, which will look at how the American public has historically viewed the poor, and some of the ways the government and private groups have addressed their needs. Students in the class will take field trips and hear guest speakers from local organizations.

"I think wherever our students go, wherever they are citizens, they are going to be faced with crises in urban government structure, school systems, infrastructure, transportation and housing," says Murray. "Urban Studies prepares you to understand those problems and hopefully get involved in solutions."

Urban Studies requires majors to complete an academic internship. Murray says it provides them with transferable skills that are applicable wherever they go after graduation.

"Urban Studies majors are also much more critical consumers of the news," says Murray. "It teaches them to question institutions like local governments and school boards, etc."

One new way students are getting hands-on experience with local organizations is through Rhodes' involvement in a federal program called Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere, otherwise known as the HOPE VI Program. Established in 1993, the program provides competitive block grants to local public housing authorities to knock down severely distressed public housing sites and replace them with mixed-income communities. To date, Memphis has received five such grants, each of which requires a neutral third-party evaluator to assess the effectiveness of local programs related to HOPE VI. For the most recent grant, Rhodes was awarded the evaluation contract to assess the renovation and development of the Cleaborn Homes area in the 38126 zip code.

Dr. Heather Jamerson, assistant professor of Sociology and Urban Studies, serves as the appointed principal investigator for the 54-month contract. Her course, Field Projects in Community Organization, is focused entirely on working with the HOPE VI grant. During



JUSTIN FOX-BURNS

Thomas, Murray and Zomer with neighborhood residents

the fall semester, students collect data pertaining to neighborhood problems like vacancy and crime rates. They learn about public housing and work with local police and community partners to organize events such as community cleanups. In the spring, they focus on public housing and the residents themselves. This year, students conducted a door-to-door survey of previous Cleaborn Homes residents, asking how they were faring in their new settings and about any problems they may have faced. Students who work to evaluate the effectiveness of HOPE VI often present some of their data at Rhodes' Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Symposium in April.

“The goal is to train students to be quality, social scientific researchers,” Jamerson says. “Using multiple quantitative and qualitative methodologies, they find their interest in this huge project and then are supported in pursuing that interest.”


Once students have completed either section of the course, they are eligible to work with Jamerson as research assistants on the project. This can take many forms—Jamerson has two summer fellows who work for pay, and another former student who interns with an urban planning firm in Memphis. In addition, two former students are now working in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) class to supplement the existing HOPE VI data.

This participatory action research is one of the focal points of Thomas' background as a community psychologist, and something that both Jamerson and Thomas hope to incorporate more into the Urban Studies curriculum.

“To really know a city, to know Memphis, we need the lived experience,” says Thomas. “A lot of the history and culture of the city has not been documented. So in a way, by attending to the voices of those who have experienced Memphis, we are creating new forms of knowledge.”

Jamerson says she is thrilled that Thomas is the new Plough Chair. “I value the type of work she does with communities, which is not about just quantitative surveys but finding out who people are and how to best develop programs and services that are going to really change Memphis. I appreciate that passion.”

As for the future, developments are under way in the form of new classes and a new faculty hire this fall, Dr. Maya Evans, a political scientist who studies urban issues.

“I am so grateful for the strong foundation that has already been laid within the program,” says Thomas. “I hope to reflect on everything I have heard this year about what is already going on, and then incorporate my perspectives so that we develop a shared vision for Urban Studies.” 

# A New Major: Political Economy

By Richard J. Alley

The past academic year saw a new interdisciplinary program in the Rhodes catalogue with the introduction of Political Economy, a major that explores important ideas that are the foundations of economic and political systems throughout the world. It is, basically, the study of economics without the math. It brings a more philosophical approach to how and why markets work—or don't work.

Political Economy is the perfect storm of five different departments coming together: Economics, Political Science, History, Philosophy and International Studies. Others, such as Psychology and Greek and Roman Studies, contribute courses as well. According to the catalogue, "The program and the associated major will study the many ways that politics, principles and economics interact in the formation of policy choices and actual policies. It will further look at the impact of political and economic choices on the prosperity and well-being of those who organize their society under various systems."

The program is supported by program founders Thomas Garrott, chairman and CEO emeritus of National Commerce Bancorporation; Fred Smith, president and CEO of FedEx Corporation; and founder of AutoZone, J.R. (Pitt) Hyde III.

There were already a number of professors from Economics and Political Science in place sharing an interest in the intersection of economics, philosophy and institutions. So when program visionary, Thomas Garrott, agreed to help secure the funding to support the development of the program, Teresa Beckham Gramm, program chair, said, "We jumped on it." A program proposal, along with a Political Economy major, was developed and put in front of the faculty at large for approval, and eventual acceptance, in fall 2010.

A Political Economy major is one who is "interested in coming at economics from a direction that was much truer to the field's original existence, which is political economy, and of coming at it from the institutional, political, philosophical side as opposed to the mathematical side," says Gramm.

One such student is senior Ian Engdahl, who switched from a Political Science major because "something about it just didn't feel right," he says. He gave one last look through the Rhodes catalogue, stumbled upon Political Economy and reorganized his plan. "It looked like a really good synthesis of the kinds of courses I like to take ... Econ, Political Science, International Studies courses; and they all fit into my major."

Engdahl also takes History courses and is on a History



Teresa Beckham Gramm, associate professor of Economics and chair of the new Political Economy program, and John Murray, the Joseph R. Hyde III Professor of Political Economy, at the historic Shelby County Courthouse in downtown Memphis

track within his major of Political Economy. He relishes the challenge for “not just number crunching, but how we organize society efficiently, and we look at the moral questions under economic analysis.”

The program, at inception, hit the ground running by welcoming respected speakers to campus such as Amity Shlaes, author of *The Forgotten Man*, and Pulitzer Prize winner Gordon Wood, professor emeritus of History at Brown University and author of *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different*, among others. These are lectures that have been very well attended, Gramm says, because “this is a very interdisciplinary field where we’ve been able to draw quite a number of speakers from individual departments.”

Adam Smith, the 18th-century social philosopher and author (*The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and *The Wealth of Nations*) from Scotland, is regarded as a founder of political economy. He is taught and read widely in many disciplines, and studied extensively within the Political Economy program. His writings and teaching set the foundations for what would be free market economics.

“The Political Economy program is broad and, at the same time, ideologically open to the idea that market economies are very effective at making people better off,” says John Murray, the first Joseph R. Hyde III Professor of Political Economy. “Economic growth is really the only way to make poor people better off, and that’s a big issue.”

Murray moved here last year from the University of Toledo in Ohio to take the position, and has found “a real community” at Rhodes. He made the decision to come here because of this sense of community, and because he believes so strongly in the philosophy and vision behind the new program.

“One thing I really want to see is students coming out of the Political Economy program familiar with the notion that, not just people and not just firms, but also governments act in their own best interests as well,” he says in explaining the sort of philosophical thought carried on within his classroom. He is quick to point out that government is a neutral arbiter in judicial settings, but that “the executive and legislative

functions of governments often are motivated by people who want to get the government to act in their own self-interest or their agency’s self-interest. So I would define the government’s self-interest more broadly. That’s the political aspect that I would want to introduce into a study of economics.”

“We try to get into some of the deeper questions than in Economics, where ethical, moral questions aren’t always central to class discussion,” Gramm says. “I think the Political Economy major will ask, ‘What is the morality of capitalism? What are the ethics involved in some of these institutions that we have, or that we lack?’ Those questions are going to be more central to the Political Economy program.”

They are questions with local, national and international implications, certainly, and Rhodes draws on a worldwide view and student body to delve into such thinking. Sameer Warraich is a senior from Islamabad, Pakistan, who was on a track for a degree in Economics when, as a sophomore, he proposed a major called Public Policy and Economics, which was ultimately not approved. “Even though I was studying Economics at that time, I was still inclined toward public policy and how politics interacts with economics in general,” he says. Warraich, it seemed, was a natural for the program that would come about a year later.

The shift from the hard numbers of Economics into studying the philosophies of Aristotle, John Rawls and Karl Marx as they apply to the field has been a satisfying approach to Warraich’s interests. This approach, coupled with the work he’s done in banking in Pakistan and with the Illinois Policy Institute in Chicago, may well lead him to a career in public policy after graduation.

The interdisciplinary nature of Political Economy may be where the success will lie for the program. By working together, departments will ensure their students gain the well-rounded education that a liberal arts institution promises. As Marshall Gramm, department chair of Economics says, “Part of our goal, and part of our charge, with the Political Economy program and the funding we received was to increase economic literacy at Rhodes and across Memphis.” **R**

# A Grand Division

By Richard J. Alley

**L**ast year the joint department of Economics and Business split in two, becoming separate departments: One is now called Economics, the other, Commerce and Business—in part because of the steady growth of each. The sheer size of the faculty and student body was such that, managerially, one department was becoming unwieldy.

## Economics

Any liberal arts institution prides itself on a well-rounded education. It's an education that is made up of literature, history, science, religious studies and the humanities. At Rhodes, the study of economics is increasingly gaining favor among students as a major of choice.

“Rhodes offers this classical liberal arts education and, on top of it, you add courses maybe in economics, accounting, finance and business, which makes our students very, very attractive to the market,” says Marshall Gramm, department chair of Economics.

“It provides a different way of thinking, a different way of analyzing people's decisions and business's decisions, and I really enjoy it,” says Alex Petraglia '12 of his major in Economics.

The new Economics Department has taken the opportunity, with the inception of the new interdisciplinary major, Political Economy, to

create an introductory Econ 100 course, combining the study of micro- and macroeconomics. The course gives students a basic foundation for understanding how our nation's, and the world's, economies work. “We encourage students from many different disciplines to take that first Econ course,” Gramm says. “It is heavy on intuition, but it's less mathematical and technical; the mathematical and technical courses come next.”

Petraglia sees real value in the most basic class and recommends it for students from all segments of the college. “When you talk about what's going on in the current environment, in terms of basic economics, it's important to know how firms decide how much to produce, when to produce, when to shut down. It's not just about profit, and Economics provides that.”

Make no mistake, Economics is a numbers-driven course of study with an emphasis on logical and quantitative analysis and communication skills, and Petraglia and his fellow students have learned the nuts and bolts of finance.

“Econ has gotten fairly mathematical, technical and statistically driven ... it's just the nature of the discipline,” Gramm says. “We teach statistics in our department and we teach econometrics, and a lot of our students go into pretty technical work in economic consulting. Many graduates head toward Washington, DC, to ‘get their ticket punched,’ and



Marshall Gramm, Economics chair

take work with such economic consulting firms as Welch Consulting and Keybridge Research. Those with an Economics-Math bridge major will mainly find themselves in graduate school. And then there are the locally-based financial institutions that are drawn to the graduates, so many of whom have taken part in internships around town. The Rhodes name carries a lot of weight in Memphis.”

### Commerce and Business

Department chair John Planchon likes to think of the undergraduate major in Commerce and Business as somewhat analogous to an undergraduate MBA. There are no majors offered in any of the “functional areas of business,” Planchon says—not in marketing, accounting, finance or management—yet courses, introductory and advanced, from all those areas are offered within the major.

The confluence of all of those aspects will benefit senior Justin Lee, who chose the major as a way

to better understand the workings—accounting, marketing, overall management and strategy—of his family’s jewelry business of 28 years.

Compared to business school students, Lee feels he’s “a lot more prepared than a lot of these other people, maybe not in one specific aspect like accounting or finance ... but overall you learn leadership along with a lot of intangibles at Rhodes.”

Many of those intangibles can be found in real-world experiences and hands-on lessons such as Planchon’s ultimate field trip to Belgium each year to study international branding. It’s an experience that finds students touring breweries, FedEx Paris and the offices of diamond merchants to “learn more than they know they’re learning,” he says.

With its home in Memphis, Rhodes has the unique advantage of sitting literally and figuratively down the street from such worldwide corporations as FedEx,





John Planchon, Commerce and Business chair

International Paper, AutoZone and many financial institutions. These entities, and the people who help run them, offer a means to step out of the textbooks and onto the production floor, enabling students to combine theory and practice.

“Our department has extraordinary relationships with those businesses,” Planchon says. “We have quite a few alums who are in those firms.” Those contacts are called on and, as a result, large numbers of students have received internships, have toured and had access to the main FedEx hub, along with speakers brought in to lecture on various aspects of business.

The split from Economics has allowed both majors to spread their wings and grow. There are currently 62 students majoring in Commerce and Business or a bridge with Commerce and Business. Part of this growth means a new position for an executive in residence, Richard (Dick) Fisher. Fisher, who has extensive business experience with Dunavant

Enterprises and is a director of the Tudor Investment Corp. of New York, supervises the department’s internships and teaches the course, Internships and Professional Development, for Commerce and Business majors. “One of our goals is for every Commerce and Business major to have had considerable face time with Dick before they leave Rhodes. He works with them on their résumés, and helps them develop their interview skills as well as a clearer idea of their professional goals,” Planchon says.

“I think Rhodes’ effort to connect us with the Memphis community is really important. There’s a very big emphasis on having outside internships,” says Lee, who has interned at Morgan Keegan and ServiceMaster. “You’re learning in the classroom, but you’re also learning outside of it, connecting the two and, in many ways, I think that embodies a liberal arts education. We’re learning about everything as a whole.” **R**

# Think Globally, Act Locally

By Nicholas Brydon '12

**T**he Environmental Sciences (B.S.) and Environmental Studies (B.A.) programs, which debuted as minors in 2009-10, emerged as full-blown majors in 2011-12, providing a framework for students to specialize in Rhodes' abundance of environmentally themed class and field experiences. Students in Environmental Studies focus more on humanities and social sciences—History, International Studies and Anthropology. On the Environmental Sciences side students zoom in on Biology, Chemistry and physical aspects of the environment, yet each is informed by courses common to both tracks. The idea is to keep the program as interdisciplinary and universally applicable as possible regardless of which track a student pursues.

## What Makes Rhodes the Best Place to Study the Environment?

History Professor Jeffrey Jackson, director of the Environmental Studies and Sciences program, explains: "It might be difficult to find another school like Rhodes for studying environmental issues. Many schools are either in a large city without access to natural features like we have here—the Mississippi River, Shelby Forest and the Wolf River watershed—or they are in rural areas without exposure to urban environmental problems. Rhodes is unique because we can offer a

broader range of experiences, internships and research opportunities."

Off-campus opportunities complete the environmental course of study at Rhodes by providing a professional accent to stimulating academics, and many students take advantage of these opportunities through local connections to the college. Junior Autumn Baker, who worked at Shelby Farms State Park Conservancy, one of the nation's largest urban parks and one of the only parks in the world featuring a roaming buffalo herd, offers these words about her experience:

"Working for a nonprofit was fun and interesting, especially because I'm majoring in Commerce and Business and nonprofit organizations are maybe not the first things that come to mind when you think of business. I think it's a really good idea to have some kind of work or internship experience while at Rhodes, instead of going out after graduation and walking into something totally new." How did Autumn secure this position? "It's all about connections."

## In the Field at Home & Abroad

From a field trip in the deserts of Namibia to conservation biology in the Grand Tetons of Yellowstone, the college demonstrates its environmental



Jeff Jackson, associate professor of History and director of the Environmental Studies and Environmental Sciences programs; Biology major Kimber Jones '13; and Rosanna Cappellato, assistant professor of Biology

passion through internships, research opportunities and summer field experiences.

A few summers ago Rhodes began a collaboration with the Teton Science Schools with the introduction of Rocky Mountain Ecology, a two-week summer field program in the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone National Park. Professor Jackson relates the student response to this unique program: “Everybody who has been on the program raves about how much they learned and how they loved the place, so we wanted to expand our relationship with the Teton Science Schools. Summer 2012 is the first time we are offering a four-week course that enables students to conduct extensive field research based in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.”

Junior Caroline Todd, an Environmental Studies major, traveled to Wyoming with the program to compare southern loblolly pine trees with another related species found in the Tetons. “I forgot how it felt to go outside and see stars at night—really see stars—it was breathtaking.” Writing a research report following the trip is a part of the Teton Science School field experience. All majors and minors participate in some variety of field study experience, explains Todd, who is an environmentally concerned resident of Memphis. She recently interned with Congressman Steve Cohen and spends her time in local and political activities dedicated to making Memphis a greener city.

The Namibian Wildlife Conservation summer field study led by Biology professor Rosanna Cappellato places students in a unique environment for studying methods of conservation in the developing world. The Namibian desert offers an ideal environment for these studies thanks to the abundant variety of wildlife, not to mention the economic and political integration among government officials, conservation activists and farmers.

Senior Kimber Jones, a veteran of the Namibian field experience, explains the conflict and one promising solution: “Conditions there are unique because the government and activist groups try to express the importance of animal diversity and preservation, but there are also economically stressed farmers who feel the need to hunt predator species in order to protect their families and livestock. How do we solve a tripartite

problem like this so that everyone benefits? One promising approach is the promotion of ecotourism: Offering tours and education to visitors, for example, could serve as economic incentives to protect and preserve existing wildlife while enhancing Namibia’s political image. The field study is basically dedicated to exploring strategies like this to see what is actually effective and what is not. Ecotourism helps to convince farmers in a poor country that animals are worth more alive than dead.”

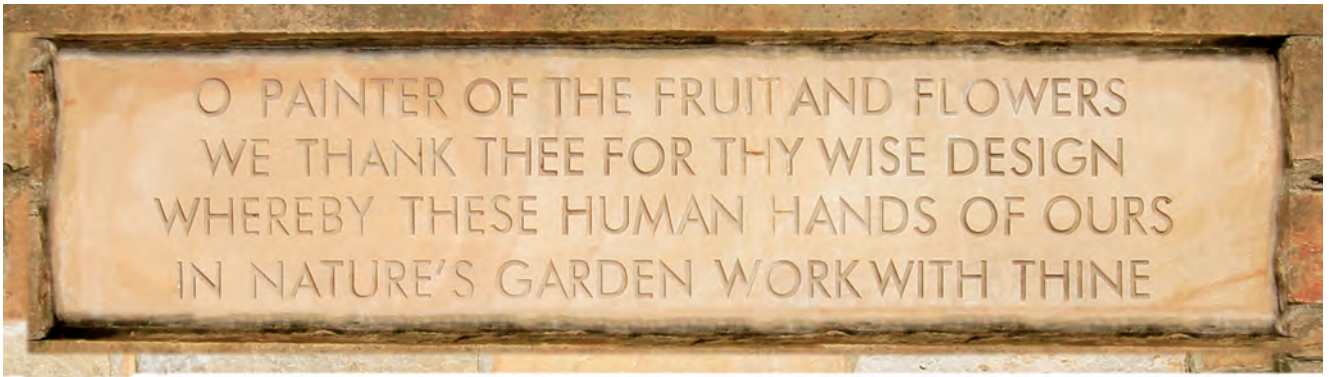
Outside the classroom, Jones serves as the Rhodes student coordinator for Great Outdoors University, a program funded by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation that provides outdoor experiences to inner city middle and high school students. She has also participated continuously in conservation projects at the Memphis Zoo.

Back in the classroom, the Environmental Sciences program welcomed visiting professor Christine Powell, from the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis, as the 2011-12 Cargill Scholar in Residence.

### What Drives the Programs?

A cursory survey of the Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies curriculum reveals a liberal interpretation of environmental topics and courses taught by a number of different departments across campus:

- The International Studies Department offers a course on comparative ecopolitics.
- A recent research project led by analytical Chemistry professor Jon Russ surveyed area public schools for heavy metals in the soil.
- The Modern Languages Department offers a course on Chinese gardens.
- An Urban Studies course introduces topics relevant to politics and communities of urban environments.
- In the Anthropology and Sociology Department, Kimberly Kasper is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Archaeology.



Inscription on the stone bench at the entrance to the Hubert F. Fisher Memorial Garden, the site of Rhodes Commencements since 1942


- The Biology faculty play major roles as well. Sarah Boyle teaches a course in Independent Research in Environmental Studies, and Michael Collins teaches Ecology.
- Tait Keller of the History Department teaches courses in Global Environment History and Environment and Society.
- Ermanno Affuso, an Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellow in the Economics Department, teaches a course in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics.
- Students can choose from dozens of internship and research opportunities around Memphis and with programs around the world.

What philosophy drives the course offerings of these interdisciplinary programs? Professor Jackson explains, “I think we try to interpret the idea of the environment broadly, so we have an inclusive idea of what constitutes Environmental Studies and Environmental Sciences.” The result is that Rhodes’ environmental programs are not limited to trees in a forest: If a student wishes to look into something more traditional like fertilizer pollution of the Wolf River watershed, Rhodes offers a selection of courses and internship connections around Memphis to help that passion blossom into something grand and fulfilling.

Or, a student may opt to study green architecture, an emerging building style using environmentally responsible techniques for carbon neutrality and energy efficiency. There are courses and internships for this interest as well, such as Introduction to Urban Studies. While an orthodox interpretation of

an environmental program may not include Urban Studies, topics like urban parks, green architecture and pollution control certainly do affect the world around us. Through its broad interpretation of environment—from the waters of the mighty Mississippi to the roaming buffalo at Shelby Farms, to sustainable architecture on campus and downtown—Rhodes encourages a truly interdisciplinary interpretation of “environment” in order to inform students of broader topics and larger questions in an environmentally concerned world.

Every summer new courses seem to sprout out of the coming year’s catalogue while alumni and internship connections likewise reach out like roots across the Mid-South. Rhodes is even incorporating principles of green architecture in the construction of West Village, a new residence hall set to open this fall. This is part of the college’s growing environmental consciousness, symbolized by the signing of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment by President Bill Troutt in August 2007. The ACUPCC commitment requires colleges to develop a plan to achieve climate neutrality by reducing emissions, purchasing or producing renewable energy and constructing new buildings according to the LEED Silver standard of sustainability.

The expansion of Rhodes’ Environmental Sciences and Environmental Studies programs with new courses, local internships and field experiences demonstrates a growing awareness of and participation in environmental topics. The tenets of these budding programs demonstrate one of the most significant traits of Rhodes as a leading institution of higher education. 

# Going Public

By Lynn Conlee

In 2003, a group known as the Creative 100, consisting of some of the best minds in the United States, gathered in Memphis and joined forces with 50 area artists to develop guidelines for attracting creative minds to urban areas. The resulting Memphis Manifesto became the cornerstone plan for cities far and wide in their efforts to form what national columnist Neal Pierce called a “creative ecosystem” that cited creativity as the driving force of a thriving community. Fast-forward seven years and the Memphis Manifesto found itself at the center of a \$50,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant to fund public and digital arts projects for Rhodes faculty, staff and students.

In the ensuing two years, seven projects directed by Rhodes faculty and staff have taken shape in a variety of forms, all with one goal in mind: to link the college’s artistic efforts with those of a wider community so that the creative arts could flourish. The Public and Digital Arts Program originated in an effort by Dean Michael Drompp, and soon began to make its way into the city’s churches, onto the walls of a local middle school, online via recordings of campus events and a database of public art, into theater textbooks and anthropology texts for children, and as a story of immigrant life. But the road to creative progress was anything but staked

out when a committee chaired by Professor Bill Skoog, chair of the Rhodes Department of Music, began determining how the grant money should be awarded.

“From the very beginning, our meetings consisted of: We don’t know what to do with this. This really is—in the truest sense of creating art—chaos and we’re supposed to somehow create form and bring it to our colleagues,” Skoog explains. “It was not without a compass, but it was really like Columbus, and here is the ocean, and we think there is land over there. Let’s go looking for it.”

The committee—consisting of Skoog; Liz Daggett, assistant professor of Art and director of the Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts (CODA); Dr. Scott Garner, director of Fellowships; David Jilg ’79, associate professor and chair of the Department of Theatre; and Rashna Richards, assistant professor of English—met three times in an effort to define the parameters of public and digital art for the purposes of awarding grants. A subsequent sequence of public forums for the campus community helped generate feedback that refined the grant’s guidelines even further and in spring 2011, 17 proposals were submitted. Seven of the projects were awarded grants.



Alexandra Corbett '15 works on part of the mural at Cypress Middle School

## Working Together

The old trunk that sat underneath assistant professor of Music Carole Blankenship's piano had clearly seen better days. It had miraculously survived a house fire. Ultimately, it was discarded, but not before the priceless content of sermons by the Rev. Dr. William Herbert Brewster was diligently removed and organized in preparation to be digitally archived. Brewster was an African American Baptist minister, composer, dramatist, singer, poet and Memphis community leader. These sermons, an addition to Memphis religious history, will likely attract scholars for years to come. Funds from the Public and Digital Arts Program helped make the archival project possible. Blankenship and associate professor of Religious Studies Tom Bremer first began working with the Brewster archives around four years ago when both taught during the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies, a summer student research program on campus. The project, along with similar ones connected to Memphis-area religious music, continued with funding through the Mike Curb Institute for Music.

"When Mike Curb, the musician and record company executive, established the Curb Institute at Rhodes, there was a lot of talk about the 'Tennessee Music Miracle,' and what was missing from that conversation was the church, which is very central to this whole thing, but there wasn't any interest in that. With our common interests, we thought, 'Let's start an archive that focuses on music and religion,'" Bremer says.

Applying for the Public and Digital Arts grant "seemed a logical thing to us," adds Blankenship, "because we knew we needed to digitize and make these things available to people. And our focus right now is to get that to work."

Likewise, Curb Institute director John Bass saw the grant program as a way to purchase portable recording equipment and training for a team of fellowship students to provide recording services to the campus community, which could then be shared more broadly with others. The students worked with local recording engineer Jacob Church '04, who was already handling campus concert recordings for the Music Department.

"We saw the funding as a way to create an educational opportunity for students and to provide a service on campus that wasn't previously available," Bass explains. "The idea was to have the students shadow Jacob and train for a semester and then work on campus as recording engineers on various projects. Part of the grant goes to fund Jacob's increased duties. The other part goes to buy needed equipment. Through the grant we've been able to create a portable, but pretty powerful and versatile, recording system with a laptop computer, ProTools recording software and some very nice microphones. It's perfect for our needs because it can be taken to various rooms to record all kinds of events."

For a reasonable fee, the fellowship students can be hired to capture student recitals, lectures, classroom presentations or discussions—any event that warrants documentation. Thus far, the Curb team has recorded all the Communities in Conversation lectures established this year by Dr. Jonathan Judaken, the Spence L. Wilson Chair in the Humanities; a Curb-sponsored panel consisting of Mike Curb, musical historian Peter Guralnick and Knox Phillips '67, son of Memphis music legend Sam Phillips; concerts by the Rhodes Jazz Band; and the annual Battle of the Bands sponsored by the Rhodes Activities Board.

A major undertaking that the Curb students tackled involved a tribute to Dr. Brewster in January. Community of Faith Christian Church contacted Bass about recording the service and Rhodes' Crossroads to Freedom Digital Archives students videoed the event. Blankenship was on hand to provide information about the Brewster archive project. Bass describes the program as having been a "learning experience and an opportunity for various programs on campus to work together." The students worked through spring semester to edit the performances, which required syncing audio to different video cameras.

"The students are getting training and real-world experience," says Bass. "The grant provided seed money to purchase the equipment, which was the first major hurdle. Going forward, through fellowships we will be able to provide a service to the community and record the many wonderful things that happen at Rhodes."



## Community Art

On the lower level of Cypress Middle School, in the Springdale community north of campus, a room called the Red Zone is home to an after-school program for students. Today, what were once one-color cinderblock walls leap out with vivid blues, yellows and pinks—the brilliant tones of a round-the-world mural created by associate professor of Art Erin Harmon's Mural Painting 366 class. Funding from the Public and Digital Arts grant paid for the supplies the class of 15 used on the Cypress mural and on a temporary, site-specific mural installed during the spring semester around the construction site for West Village, Rhodes' new residence hall due to open this fall.

Harmon got the idea for starting Rhodes' first mural painting class when her advanced painting students collaborated with the Mathematics and Computer Science Department in spring 2009 on a mural for Ohlendorf Hall. "We collaborated with the Math Department in order to treat them like a client and design something that was specific to their needs," says Harmon. "It was a great experience. We had a lot of fun, and for students, painting murals is an opportunity to paint large-scale. We don't have a facility that allows them to make giant paintings, where you're using your physical body instead of your wrists."

The Cypress Middle School mural, titled "Imagine the Places You'll Go," covers four conjoined walls along the back side of the room and represents each of the earth's continents. A detailed portrait of a historical figure and colorful graphics of well-known symbols from each continent highlight the land masses in between blue-toned waves of ocean. A festive public unveiling in late April drew members of the Rhodes and neighborhood communities together for a reception. It is this community connection that Harmon appreciates most about public art projects like the mural.

"I definitely want to teach the class again," says Harmon. "It's been a very positive experience for me and I feel very lucky to be at a school where we have this kind of support." In early May, the Tennessee legislature adopted a resolution honoring Rhodes and

Harmon, along with Daggett and CODA, for the film "Far Away, Next Door" that featured Cypress students.

## From Walls to Web

While the mural tells the story of our geographic world, another project funded by the grant tells the story of those whose migration from continent to continent offers compelling details that come alive through digital media. Associate professor of Modern Languages Felix Kronenberg received grant funding to create the website "That's How I Got to Memphis," which features a storytelling mosaic of digital narratives about immigrant life in Memphis.

Continuing its reach around the world, the grant was also used to develop an online Introduction to Theatre in India textbook. Associate professor of Theatre David Mason, who received the grant, says, "College and university theater programs are increasingly interested in internationalizing their curricula. This free, online text is designed to help nonspecialist teachers at the college and high school level introduce elements of Indian modes of theatrical performance into their courses."

From theater to engaging young people in the arts, the Public and Digital Arts Program also funded the website and database, the "Memphis Arts Project," a developing comprehensive public arts repository under the direction of Karen Brunsting, Rhodes' visual resources coordinator. And Anthropology/Sociology professor Susan Kus received grant funding to create a book series designed to engage young readers' interest in anthropology.

While this particular Mellon grant served as seed money for these seven projects, Dean Drompp and Bill Skoog hope that future similar grant proposals will continue to help the arts at Rhodes gain more community exposure and bring the Rhodes arts community even closer to kindred ones off campus. Speaking of his conception of the grant, Drompp comments on its achievement: "In a way, digital is public, but I didn't want to limit the projects to digital. I wanted them to be anything that could draw attention to the arts and link them—and our arts people—to broader communities." **R**

# Living the Language

By Mary Helen Randall

**N**ever before has understanding and appreciation for other cultures and peoples been so crucial, so it's with pride that during the 2011-12 academic year Rhodes marked the silver anniversary of its Russian Studies program. Professor Valeria Nollan founded the program 25 years ago, when the campus and the city surrounding it seemed very different. Six years later, assistant professor Sasha Kostina arrived, and a complementary and comprehensive partnership was formed.

Nollan, who was born in Germany to Russian parents, claims Russian as her first language. Kostina is Russian-born and holds dual U.S. and Russian citizenship. "We built the program together," explains Nollan. "Our approach to the language is very intuitive. We both do what needs to be done and we are both very comfortable making decisions."

Those decisions on how the Russian Studies discipline should be run are not ones that either takes lightly. "When I started in 1986, I knew that one person could not develop a language program alone," recalls Nollan. "I needed help, and it came in the form of Sasha. The Middlebury Consortium brought exchange students here shortly after I began, and that's how Sasha got here," smiles Nollan. "There is a huge comfort in the stability of this program," she notes. "Our students know we

are going to be here, and they in turn are there for one another. "It fosters confidence," explains Kostina, who goes on to note that 60 percent of Russian Studies majors go on to graduate school to continue their study of the language and culture, and their acceptance rate is close to 100 percent.

It's hard numbers like these that let Kostina and Nollan know they are doing something right. In fact, many things right. "We have a unique program: We compare ours against those at other universities, and what we do goes beyond the surface, which is why we have not only survived but thrived when some others just didn't make it," says Nollan. One of the distinctions, according to the two professors, is that they prefer to do fewer things in an excellent way, rather than doing too many things in a more superficial way.

But it would be a mistake to call this simply a "language" program. It is far more encompassing, and far more forward-thinking. The interdisciplinary, integrated program is a perfectly choreographed dance involving communication, writing, literature, art, travel, immersion, social media and cultural understanding, the latter being an issue of much concern for both Nollan and Kostina. "We have the opportunity to be part of the solution to the many misconceptions Americans have about the Russian people. Not all Russian elections are



Sasha Kostina, left, and Valeria Nollan

fixed, not everyone drinks vodka, the Russians are not our natural ‘enemies,’” sighs Nollan. “That mentality is so dangerous. Sure, these days it’s easier than ever to get facts, but where do you get understanding? Not just in reading online and having surface discussions; one has to dig deeper. Differences exist even in simple things, like not filling every silent moment with empty words,” Nollan explains. “That is a teaching moment. We as Americans are so plugged in and wired. In Russia they respect silence, and I try to bring that aesthetic to my classroom.”

Says Kostina, “We target the features of Russian culture that are essential for an understanding of the people, such as literature, folklore, Russian Orthodox religious philosophy, linguistics and music.” Nollan adds: “This kind of learning reveals a real gentleness and kindness, which are very touching and so characteristic of the Russian people. But what we both say to our students is, ‘Don’t take our word for it, go see for yourselves.’”

And see for themselves they do. Many participate in a Maymester, when students travel as a group to St. Petersburg. It’s an experience that stands out for alums of the program, with good reason.

One such student is 24-year-old Colin Johnson ’10, an Aledo, TX, native who graduated with a major in International Studies and a minor in Russian Studies. He traveled with Professor Kostina to her native city of St. Petersburg in 2008, with the aid of a scholarship through Rhodes’ Buckman Center for International Education. “My interest in Russia came from my fascination with World War II and naval history,” explains Johnson. “Russia has always been a mysterious place to me, and as I grew older I became interested in the Cold War and felt that we as Americans had yet to get a firm grasp of Russia’s history in the 20th century.” That fascination stuck with him, and when it was time to choose a college, Rhodes was the clear winner. “After one campus visit I knew Rhodes was the place I’d get the results and that Memphis was a place I could learn to call home. When I received a letter from an alumnus who practiced international corporate law in Japan, it was the icing on the cake. There was no doubt that Rhodes was the place for me to challenge myself, get out into the world and get a huge leap forward on my career path.”

Immediately after Johnson’s Maymester trip, Kostina assisted him in securing a Buckman Study Abroad scholarship to study Russian-European relations at the University of Tartu in Estonia. While not in Russia, the venture helped Johnson obtain a Critical Language Scholarship from the State Department to study Russian in Kazan the summer after graduation.

“Both Nollan and Kostina were incredible instructors,” says Johnson. “With Nollan, it was the first time I’d been in a literature class since high school, and I loved being able to bring my knowledge of Russian culture to the table. I took all three years of my language classes from Professor Kostina, who inspired my passion for Russian as soon as I set foot in her classroom,” he recalls. “She is so knowledgeable of linguistics that she can help put you into the mind of a Russian speaker so that you naturally understand that world through grammar and syntax. I’ve spoken to students from other universities, including Georgetown, who studied with her for a summer and later said that she was the best Russian language instructor they’d ever had,” he says.

Currently, Johnson is beginning dissertation research on Russian politics. “After my time in Russia and my classes, I was fascinated by shifts in population: migration urbanizations, population growth and decline,” he notes. With all that in his head going into senior year, he decided that graduate school was what he wanted to pursue, and it was with the support from professors in International Studies and Russian Studies that he says he was able to complete the applications and be accepted into a great program.

Looking back at his broad range of experiences, Johnson knows he received superior training coupled with the real-world experiences that even the best classrooms can’t replicate. “The opportunities that Rhodes provided were exceptional,” he says. “If I hadn’t been able to study abroad so many times—which was a huge financial



obstacle overcome by various generous programs—I would not have been able to develop a CV that legitimated my application to Ph.D. programs straight out of undergrad.”

He offers this bit of practical advice for future modern language students: “While mastering another language is a worthy goal in and of itself, it must complement other skills, whether professional or academic. Whatever language you choose, combine it with training and knowledge of other academic disciplines or professional skills. Another language can create linkages to other cultures, countries and resources to reinforce your other interests. Russian has given me access to sociologists, artists and knowledge that I would not have had if I had not known the language. Mastery of other languages reinforces your other strengths and signals to employers that you can not only absorb massive amounts of information but that you also have the discipline to undertake such long-term tasks,” he says. “Take your passion for a language and go to where it’s spoken! And take your passion for physics or business or art! Then you have everything you need to succeed in the future.”



Another alumnus, Emily Liverman '04, a Lexington, KY, native and Russian Studies major, echoes Johnson’s sentiments. “I took Russian as an elective my first year and was completely hooked,” she explains. Her

Maymester trip in 2003 “brought everything Professor Nollan taught in the classroom. Her kindness and passion for her topics really stand out. I enjoyed the small size of the classes at Rhodes, and the dedication of my fellow students in those classes was impressive,” she smiles. “After graduation, I went to the University of Texas, Austin, to get my master’s in Slavic Languages and Literature, where my thesis was on translations of poetry, especially the poetry of Marina Tsvetaeva.”

Those experiences have served her well, and she currently works as the academic adviser/assistant director for Student Services at the Russian and East European Institute at

Indiana University. She also credits the combination of classroom work, under the tutelage of professors Nollan and Kostina, with the real-world experiences of traveling and studying abroad. To current and future students of modern languages, she advises, “Spend more time in the country than I did! Seek out more opportunities to engage with the language outside of the classroom. And of course, practice, practice, practice.”

Conversely, Rhodes provides a learning destination for Russian students studying English. Russian teaching assistants make up a critical part of the Russian Studies experience at Rhodes. In fact, that is how Kostina made her way to Rhodes from St. Petersburg. Zheyne Bakin was another such assistant at Rhodes. “Coming to America was a huge learning experience, obviously,” he says via a Skype interview in his native Russia. “It would not be until years later that I was truly able to appreciate all I learned there from the faculty and to a large extent, the students themselves. Being there taught me a lot of patience, which I had not any of before,” he laughs.

In his current role as an English as a Second Language professor he reflects, “The students at Rhodes are so clever, so studious. And professors are not like they are in Russia, where they are very much independent of students. If the students do the work, great. If they do not, they are out.”

He takes a page from his favorite professor at Rhodes, Art History Professor David McCarthy, who used songs, jokes and storytelling in addition to lecturing to reach his students, says Bakin. “I very much admire, and try to emulate, his teaching style. He wasn’t just talking about pieces of art but rather tying time periods together and explaining how those times affected the style of the pieces. He was giving us his heart with each class. It made me fall in love with the subject and it serves as my guide for my own teaching,” he says. “In fact, my experience teaching at Rhodes and taking classes at the same time serve as the cornerstone of my own teaching, especially the way Rhodes encouraged personal responsibility.”

“It was at Rhodes when I knew for certain I wanted to teach for a living. And I do now. It was very eye-opening,” he continues. “It was a whole new way to reach students and approach material that I never would have known if not for Rhodes.” **R**

# A History of Teaching & Learning

By Dionne Chalmers

**S**tudents who engage in Rhodes History courses venture back in time to various periods and destinations. They learn the stories of monarchies and democracies, leaders and rulers, revolts and reformation, and so much more in understanding how societies and civilizations come to be.

The Department of History at Rhodes has its own story of transformation. It begins with History being one of the few subjects taught since the college's founding in 1848 in Clarksville, TN. Even after the college moved to Memphis in 1925, there were no "defined" academic departments, but among the professors who taught the subject of History were Robert Price, Margaret Huxtable Townsend, W. Raymond Cooper and John Henry Davis. In addition, there were no "official" department chairs until Douglas Hatfield, who was hired in the late 1960s, served in the role. Chairs who followed include Professor Emeritus Jim Lanier; Michael Drompp, now dean of the faculty and vice president for Academic Affairs; Lynn Zastoupil, J.J. McComb Professor of History; Gail Murray; and current chair

Timothy Huebner, the L. Palmer Brown Professor of Interdisciplinary Humanities.

"The main thing that has impressed me about the History Department is the way in which it, both individually and collectively, has remained committed to undergraduate education," says Hatfield. "Besides teaching, it has always encouraged undergraduates to develop a passion for learning in general."

## Expanding the Curriculum

When the college moved to Memphis in 1925, the areas of history taught included American and English history. But over the decades, offerings have expanded to include the history of Asia, Europe, Latin America, North Africa and the Middle East. And while the department has long been strong in social and political history, in recent years it has added more courses in cultural history.

Hatfield says when he came to the college, the primary entry-level course in the department was a two-semester History of Western Civilization. "It



Tim Huebner, the L. Palmer Brown Professor of Interdisciplinary Study; History major Elizabeth Henrikson '13; and June West, executive director of Memphis Heritage Inc., at the organization's Midtown headquarters

was taught by a team of two or three professors. The course met three times a week. The first two meetings involved lectures, each given to the whole class by one of the professors. In the third meeting the class was divided into small discussion groups, each led by one of the professors.”

Now, Hatfield says, the department offers courses that are “much narrower in scope and designed to introduce students not only to a body of historical knowledge, but also to give them an opportunity to learn to think in the ways that historians think, to examine historical sources, to respond critically to historical interpretations and to write their own essays on ‘live’ issues.”

“If you were to put into perspective the history of the department, the diversity of our course offerings, the fact that our faculty are nationally-and internationally-recognized scholars, the emphasis we place on student research and the availability of internships in the community—these are the things we emphasize, and each one of these is a story of evolution,” says Huebner. “These are all points of pride—the opportunities for our students to go into archives, to present papers at conferences, to publish their own journals and to be recognized for their outstanding achievement.”

Huebner cites Daniel Williford ’11 as a success story. “Daniel, who was our top major last year, not only won the college’s Peyton Rhodes Prize, the highest academic honor you can win at the college, but received the highest award in the country for undergraduate research. We submitted a paper he had written under the guidance of Professor ETTY TEREM for a prize sponsored by the American Historical Association, and he won. He and Professor Terem both went to the AHA meeting in Chicago and were recognized by hundreds of people from all over the country.”

### Significance of a Common Place

Although course offerings have become wider and more diverse, an abiding theme that has existed in the department has been to connect students with each other, to the faculty, staff and residential community and to the world. Bill Troutt recognized

this when he became president of the college in 1999 and included academic space in the college’s strategic planning process. Today, Rhodes is one of the few colleges in the nation to possess a master plan for the use of academic space.

As a result of that plan, in summer 2011, all History faculty moved to their new home on the second floor of Buckman Hall. It includes new faculty offices and a multipurpose conference room. The space once had been occupied by the Computer Center before its move to the Paul Barret Jr. Library. Although Clough Hall was considered the department’s home before last summer, faculty had been housed in various offices throughout campus.

“We were in Clough for a long time, and we needed a new design,” says Huebner. “The great thing about the move was our faculty got to come up with a list of priorities we wanted and handed it to the architect. This has turned out to be a very nice space that really does contribute to the cohesion of the department and the spirit of our common enterprise.”

The conference room has provided an environment for teaching, learning and social interactions, and can be used for classes, student conferences, faculty meetings and small lectures. This spring, the department held its Phi Alpha Theta initiation ceremony there.

### Classroom Learning and the Memphis Community

The department has recently expanded its internship offerings to include public history, a growing field that includes museum studies, archives management and historic preservation. The Public History Internship gives majors the opportunity to learn about the theory of public history while also doing a local internship. The class involves field trips to places such as the National Civil Rights Museum and the Memphis and Shelby County Room of the public library.

Andrea Perkins ’12, a History major and an Environmental Studies minor from Milton, GA, worked at Victorian Village Inc. this spring as part of her Public History Internship. Victorian Village



Inc. is a community development corporation working toward creating new construction while preserving original designs and treasuring the architectural heritage of a historic Memphis neighborhood. Located almost downtown, Victorian Village itself is the site of several 19th-century Italianate mansions along with 20th-century apartments, businesses and offices.

“I worked on preliminary research, laying the groundwork for updating the design guidelines, which the Landmarks Commission has on record for Victorian Village,” says Perkins. “These guidelines will ensure the preservation of Victorian Village houses so that they can’t be torn down and that new construction is compatible and cohesive to what’s already there.”

For her internship at Memphis Heritage Inc., History major Elizabeth Henrikson '13 from Houston developed an educational program about the importance of preservation that incorporates photographs of historic Memphis to be used in local elementary schools. She also updated and added to the extensive archives the organization keeps.

“My Public History class taught me that historic preservation is more than saving buildings just because they are old and beautiful,” says Henrikson. “Instead, preservation is about building communities, creating more livable cities and fostering a vibrant economy through the preservation of buildings that have important historical meaning. Memphis Heritage gave me the opportunity to use this knowledge.”



Huebner and Henrikson with photos of old Memphis

As part of the final grade for the Public History internship, students must make a presentation to the History Department faculty that ties together all the academic theory and essays they’ve been reading with what they have been doing in the field.

## Sharing History with the World

History majors develop highly marketable skills—writing, research, critical thinking, oral presentation and interpersonal skills—that employers and graduate school entrance committees desire in their candidates. A History major or minor serves as excellent preparation for careers in a number of fields, including law and government, business, the foreign service, education and the nonprofit sector.

“What we typically say to our students is that if you major in History you can do anything,” says Huebner. “We really feel like History is at the heart of the undergraduate liberal arts experience and because that is true, we feel like our students are preparing to enter the workforce in a wide variety of ways.”

Still, some History majors follow directly in the footsteps of their professors by pursuing academic careers. Ben Houston '99, a lecturer in Modern United States History at Newcastle University in England, says, “Rhodes is where I first began to learn the craft of doing history. It’s one thing to have a general love of history as a high schooler but to have professors modeling for you the acts of thinking, grappling with books and primary sources, drawing out connections, trying to make everything as nuanced as possible, and then writing this all up was at a ‘whole ‘nother’ level! I think what’s especially amazing to me now is how much I draw from specific examples of my Rhodes professors in teaching and mentoring.”

Houston, whose book *The Nashville Way: Racial Etiquette and the Struggle for Social Justice in a Southern City*, which is scheduled to be published in November, adds it was while completing an honors thesis at Rhodes that he began using Nashville as a laboratory to understand the civil rights movement from both black and white perspectives.

## The Department’s Next Chapter

Huebner says developing and adding more internship opportunities is critical to the department. In addition, he says because students are able to study with faculty who are teacher-scholars committed to publishing books and articles, there are higher expectations for excellence in undergraduate research and for students to publish and present at national

conferences. “I would argue that if we didn’t have the faculty we have doing research, then we wouldn’t have the number of students doing research. That’s where those two things fit together.”

Examples of such faculty activity include Jeffrey Jackson, Lynn Zastoupil and Charles McKinney, who published books last year and delivered numerous lectures—in the U.S. and abroad—to discuss their research. This year, Mike LaRosa published a new book on the history of Colombia, and Alex Novikoff’s article on medieval disputation appeared in the *American Historical Review*, the most prestigious journal in the discipline. And Dee Garceau is quickly making a name for herself as a historical documentary filmmaker, having won a Special Jury Award this past year for her film “Stepping—Beyond the Line” at the Memphis Indie Film Festival.

Last year, the department revised its curriculum to incorporate more courses that are global and comparative in nature. Environmental History courses offered by Jeffrey Jackson and Tait Keller particularly fall into this category.

“Since rivers, animals, hurricanes and germs brazenly traverse political borders, Environmental History practically demands a transnational approach, just like people who want to understand today’s world need to have a global perspective,” says Keller. “As our students become increasingly engaged with worldwide concerns, they are drawn to History courses like Disease and Epidemics or Natural Disasters that explore those topics within a global framework.”

With its continued emphasis on covering more areas of the world, the department will offer a new course on Imperial Russia in the fall. “And so all of these things continue to motivate and inspire our students,” says Huebner. “We want to continue to provide those opportunities for them to learn about other parts of the world, to go into archives, to present papers at conferences, to publish their own journals—and to win awards.” **R**

# Summer Reading

## Three faculty proffer their picks for summer reading enjoyment

MARK BEHR

Associate Professor  
Department of English



Mark Behr in the archway between Neely and Robb/White halls

**M**ichael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*: Written in beautiful, poetic prose and carried by a host of memorable and empathetically drawn characters, the novel offers a new look at European history from the Renaissance to a moment near the end of the Second World War. Set in the ruins of an Italian villa and moving between there and North Africa, Ondaatje's novel engages European art as emblematic of Western civilization by exposing the intersections between aesthetics and violence.

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*: The most flawless and fully realized novel I know; one that I continue to read. Here the relationship between literary form and content seems perfect. Every reading foregrounds new layers of the text's structural and thematic genius. On the most overt level it is a story of U.S. slavery, trauma, racism and the relentlessness of memory. Morrison shows how this is a story of all of us. The novel engages a multitude of themes, one of which suggests that we will live fuller, more meaningful lives by constantly confronting and (re)integrating the horror and pain of our shared and individual pasts.

J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*: Against the backdrop of a transforming South Africa an English professor in Cape Town has an affair with one of his students. But this is no longer a world in which white, educated, heterosexual men are allowed to do as, how, and with whom they please. Intellectually, philosophically and even in terms of sex and sexuality, history has arrived to collect its dues. Read together with Philip Roth's *The Human Stain* which appeared a year after Coetzee's book, it is clear that male privilege feels itself besieged on a transnational scale.

Keri Hume, *The Bone People*: This highly original novel introduces one of contemporary literature's most unforgettable "butch" characters. Hume resists all pressures to feminize her central Maori character,

instead overturning many of our presuppositions about femininity, masculinity and childhood, and how we organize our relationships to each other and to the world. There is magic to the defiant and transformative ways the English language of Niue Zealand is used in this book.

Michael Cunningham, *The Hours*: Alternating the stories and connections between three women's lives at different points in the 20th century, the novel asks us to consider what has changed and what remains constant for women over time. Virginia Woolf, creating her novel *Mrs. Dalloway*, provides this novel's central conceit. How, over extended periods of time does art imitate life and vice versa? How do the constant struggles around sexuality and gender equity impact us all? The novel is crafted in sparse and elegant prose that renders slices of

ordinary life quite unforgettable.

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children*: If Morrison's *Beloved* is the most "flawlessly realized" novel I know, then Rushdie's may be the most "spectacular" as well as the most "ambitious" of the unforgettable texts I've read. At exactly midnight on the eve of India's independence from Britain and the creation of the state of Pakistan, 1,001 children of national liberation are born. Rushdie uses one of these children—one who develops the gift of facilitating telepathy between himself and the other 1,000—to narrate the story of the first 30 tumultuous years of Indian nationhood. This novel was created by a staggering imagination, and it changed world literature in English forever.

## HAN LI

Assistant Professor of Chinese  
Department of Modern Languages and  
Literatures



Han Li beside a Chinese zelkova tree in the Rhodes Arboretum

Growing up in the *Jiangnan* (literally, "south to the river") area of China, I always spent part of my summer reading about and visiting classical Chinese gardens in the region. Involving traditional Chinese philosophy, ethics, religion, painting, calligraphy, literature, architecture and horticulture, a classical Chinese garden is a microcosm of Chinese culture. In addition to being admired works of art, Chinese gardens are also fascinating because they are at the same time valuable pieces of real estate. Therefore, I greatly enjoyed reading about the "beauty" of the Chinese gardens and studying how the aesthetic meanings were translated into social experience and sensibilities.

*The Chinese Garden: History, Art and Architecture* by Maggie Keswick is one of my favorites. When the book was first published in 1978, it was among the first book-length attempts in English to explore the meaning behind Chinese gardens. I highly recommend this book because in a scholarly, yet highly accessible way, Keswick traces the origin and development as well as the principles and techniques used in creating Chinese gardens. In doing so, she particularly focuses on the key elements of the gardens—rocks, water, plants and architectural features. Now in its third edition, the book is accompanied with rich illustrations where readers gain an intimate glimpse of this unusual form of art and living.

If you find Keswick's book interesting, you probably will be equally fascinated by the next "reading," which is actually the award-winning website of Yin Yu Tang (a Chinese

residence) at PEM (Peabody Essex Museum, Massachusetts. URL: [pem.org/sites/yinyutang/index.html](http://pem.org/sites/yinyutang/index.html)).

Built by a Huang merchant in Anhui province around 1800, eight generations of the Huang family had lived in this house compound until the mid-1990s when the house was abandoned. The remaining members of the family sold the house to the PEM, and it was dismantled, shipped from China to Massachusetts and rebuilt at the museum in 2003. I have visited Yin Yu Tang a couple of times only to find the allowed 30-minute tour time is not nearly enough for one to truly appreciate this compound. The Yin Yu Tang website features a detailed deconstructed view of the orientation, structure and ornamentations in the house. Visitors can take a virtual tour of the house with audio narratives and see incredible detail, including a faded Chinese wedding symbol on one of the doors. I'm guessing some of you will want to take a trip to PEM after viewing this wonderful website. Don't forget to make reservations beforehand as the tour frequently sells out.

Another book I have enjoyed reading repeatedly is *Six Records of a Floating Life*. In this memoir, Shen Fu, a young Chinese poet and painter who lived at the beginning of the 19th century, describes with great tenderness the trifles and idylls of his time with his wife, Yün. Yün's admirable balance between her passions

for life and her duties as a traditional Chinese wife has led many critics to reckon her as "the most adorable female image in Chinese literature." Troubled by Yün's premature death, Shen Fu tells and retells the significant events in their lives in different chapters, each time in a different light. Finishing the book, one can't help but wonder if his memoir writing is actually like one of the practices the couple takes great delight in doing—hiding the puttied joints in the miniature stone mountain, an eternally unsuccessful self-deception.

In addition, I highly recommend a film from Ang Lee's "Chinese father trilogy"—*Eat Drink Man Woman* (1994). This film tells the lives of a widowed Chinese master chef and his three daughters in modern-day Taipei. As the film progresses, each daughter embarks on a romantic relationship (and, actually, so does the father!) and finds there is a surprise around every corner for the family. I love this film for its finely-tuned drama, spontaneous comedy, seasoned dialogues and unexpected little twists. Most important, the film is compelling for its portrayal of Chinese ethical relationships, especially between father and daughter. If you like this film, you may also enjoy the other two titles in this trilogy—*Pushing Hands* (1992) and *Wedding Banquet* (1993).

Happy reading and happy summer!

### KIMBERLY KASPER

Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow in  
Environmental Archaeology  
Department of Anthropology  
and Sociology

**W**hen I arrived at Rhodes last summer, I had just moved from rural Massachusetts where lush deciduous forests, rolling streams and mountains were all around me as I conducted field and lab research related to the field of paleoethnobotany, the study of human use of plants in the past. As I have shifted to my new Memphian lifeways, I have come

to fully embrace my new urban landscape. I have therefore selected readings that suggest how, regardless of where you live in the United States or around the world, you can come to fully appreciate and understand the cultural and environmental choices we have made through our history. So if you are interested in understanding cultural choices associated with plants, food and sustainability—this reading list is the one for you.

I start this journey with a book written by Colin Trudge. *The Tree: A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter*. This book provides an essential backbone to start a journey to appreciating the tremendous growth in our basic Western knowledge of plants, specifically trees. Trudge presents the reader with an eloquent biography of 60,000 different tree species and how they are the key players on our local, regional and even global stage.

Learning about trees within a humanistic narrative offers a unique opportunity to weave together the beauty of trees, their utility and even their agency in our constantly changing globalized landscape. You will appreciate the life of the tree and its major roles within our highly modified landscapes as a source of food, fuel and architectural and religious inspiration. Perhaps Trudge hopes the readers will recognize the synergy that exists within our humanistic and scientific knowledge of these plants in order to address how we ourselves live and tackle the major environmental problems of our contemporary world.

The second book deals with how our cultural use of plants, such as wild weeds and domesticates, has shaped the evolutionary trajectory of our diet. In *Ancestral Appetites*, Kristen J. Gremillion draws upon the archaeological record from 7 million years to the present day to highlight the vast reserve of cultural knowledge associated with gathering, harvesting and processing plants. Through various case studies, she discusses how we as humans have the cultural capacity of choice and explores the ways we encode and direct those choices. The book imparts a deep understanding of how “fad” diets related to restricted choices, such as the paleo diet, are just contemporary nostalgia. Gremillion demonstrates that our food choices throughout history have been (and still are) extremely complex and adaptive—the central lesson of her book is that our use of plants for food is a continuing story of dietary diversity and adaptability.

*Ancestral Appetites* is a great stepping-stone to the next book, which is a contemporary analysis of our food systems. *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan, explores our modern-day food landscape through three different lines of food production: industrialized food, organic food, or the food we forage/grow for ourselves. Pollan calls into question the choices that we make as individuals by detailing their political, economic and social implications. After digesting the engaging content in the book, you will certainly be re-evaluating your own cultural choices.

Another book, *Green Sisters: A Spiritual Ecology*, by Sarah McFarland Taylor, may gently push you (if the other three have not) into a more engaged and environmentally conscious existence. It focuses on the lives and motivations of a growing number of Roman Catholic sisters who are creating community-



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Kimberly Kasper by a dawn redwood tree in the Rhodes Arboretum

supported organic gardens, building alternative housing structures from renewable materials and adopting green technology such as composting toilets and additional “green” ways of being. This book is fantastic for learning more about environmental activism, different perspectives of nature, feminism, social justice and how religion can be an important resource for solving today’s environmental problems.

These four books have certainly opened my eyes and shaped my environmental perspectives and choices. I hope they provide you with some food for thought. What better time than now to learn plants, food and sustainability? Enjoy, and happy reading! **R**

## From the Alumni Relations Office

### Dear Friend,

This issue features some recent Rhodes “academic milestones.” Many of us recall one of our own major milestones—graduating from Rhodes surrounded by family, friends, classmates and revered faculty members. On May 12, 393 members of the class of 2012 walked across the stage in Fisher Garden to receive their diplomas, as generations of Rhodes students have done before them.

As the newest members of the Alumni Association, these young men and women have joined an extraordinary community of individuals with shared values, memories and experiences.

I am confident they will follow the remarkable example of their predecessors who serve our alma mater in so many ways: working tirelessly to recruit the finest students to Rhodes; hosting events in their homes; serving as leaders of Rhodes Chapters; providing meaningful learning opportunities to our students; offering career advice to undergrads at networking events; hiring young alumni and recent graduates and encouraging others do so; and generously supporting the college financially.



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Tracy Vezina Patterson '84

## Admission 101/201

**Navigating the college admission process can be daunting.  
We can help.**

Learn from our Admission experts about planning for college—from financial considerations, to selecting the best college for your student, to penning the perfect essay.

**Saturday, September 29, 2012  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**McCallum Ballroom, Bryan Campus Life Center**

**Featured speaker: Carey Thompson  
Vice President of Enrollment and Communications  
and Dean of Admission**

The day includes lunch in the newly renovated refectory, classes taught by Rhodes professors and campus tours.

Join us afterward for a special reception and concert at the Levitt Shell in Overton Park, sponsored by the Mike Curb Institute for Music and the Rhodes Chapter of Memphis, featuring internationally renowned jazz trumpeter Bill Mobley '76 and the Rhodes student jazz band.

To register and to see a full schedule of activities, as well as a list of area hotels with Rhodes discounts, go to [alumni.rhodes.edu/admission101](http://alumni.rhodes.edu/admission101), or call Tracy Vezina Patterson '84, Director of Alumni Relations, 901-843-3856.

In March, the Alumni Association Executive Board spent a day considering how to improve and strengthen our programs to better serve alumni. Several themes emerged: Alumni want a stronger relationship with the college; they want a greater connection to other alumni; they need user-friendly technology to enable them to do both. The results:

The next issue of *Rhodes* magazine will include photos of alumni and parents at Rhodes events around the country. Also, when you log on to Lasting Lynx, our online community, you can upload pictures and videos of your own special events, such as weddings, new babies, vacations with classmates. You'll find the site is more user friendly in updating your personal information, locating friends and utilizing the Alumni Relations Office career networking services. Lasting Lynx is a great way to stay connected. I hope you will visit [alumni.rhodes.edu](http://alumni.rhodes.edu) and join today!

With warm regards,

Tracy Vezina Patterson '84

## Class Notes

**Rhodes College  
Alumni Association  
President  
Charlie Kinslow '72  
Little Rock, AR**

### 1938

**Lewie Donelson** has written a memoir titled *Lewie*. Available through the Rhodes Bookstore, it tells the story of his life in the law, politics and civic causes. Rhodes hosted a booksigning in March, and The Booksellers at Laurelwood held another one in April.

### 1950

**Reporters:** Ann DeWar Blecken  
6406 Pine Circle  
Memphis, TN 38115  
901-797-2024  
Jim Williamson  
733 University St.  
Memphis, TN 38107  
901-276-3989

### 1951

**Anne Caldwell** has moved back to Memphis from Asheville, NC.

### 1952

**60th Reunion**  
Homecoming: Oct. 19-20  
Reporter: Ann Rollow Ross  
ar991@bellsouth.net  
College sweethearts **Peggy Pence Schuster** and **Henry Freund '53** married May 13, 2012—more than six decades after their first meeting—at Canterbury Place in Dyersburg, TN. The two, whose story has enjoyed international attention, dated while at Rhodes, then went their separate ways and married others. Henry, an ordained minister and a widower, attended a church meeting

in Memphis in 2001, where he learned that Peggy also had been widowed. He wrote her a letter of sympathy. A decade later, Peggy gave him her email address. “It didn’t take long for the spark that had survived for 60 years to burst into flames,” Henry recounts.

### 1957

**55th Reunion**  
Homecoming: Oct. 19-20  
Reporters: Eric Mount  
trulyanderic@earthlink.net  
George Morris  
drgeo@gate.net

**Mary Frances Files Silitch** has been included in the *Arkansas Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. When she was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame in 2010, she met a fellow inductee, Milton Crenshaw, a 93-year-old Tuskegee Airman from Arkansas, and also Edmond Davis, who was writing a book about Arkansas Tuskegee Airmen and other notable African-American aviators. She offered to edit the book for Davis, an instructor at Arkansas Baptist College, and it has just been published: *Tuskegee Airmen of Arkansas* (info@aviatethroughknowledge.com).

**Eric Mount** is currently serving on the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Justice & Advocacy Commission of the Kentucky Council of Churches. He recently published an article on the theology of Wendell Berry. He and **Truly '59** have completed their first year as court appointed special advocates for abused and neglected children in the Family Court System.



## The Charitable Annuity: The Gift That Keeps Giving

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

The amount of your lifetime annual payment is determined at the time the charitable gift annuity is funded. Your annual payment will never change and will continue regardless of how long you live.

| Age             | Annuity Rate |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 70 .....        | 5.1%         |
| 75 .....        | 5.8%         |
| 80 .....        | 6.8%         |
| 85 .....        | 7.8%         |
| 90 & over ..... | 9.0%         |

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

**The Rhodes College Office of Development**  
901-843-3850  
rhodes.edu/plannedgiving



**Rhodes College**  
—1848—



Ann and **Richard Teaford** are traveling, hitting Nashville, Seattle, Portland and probably California in June. They have been mentoring a Yale college student on an internship for the summer. Richard is staying politically active in Kentucky, and Anne is teaching tai chi, with Richard continuing as a struggling tai chi student.

**Jane Williamson** writes that this past Christmas they cruised to Cozumel. Since Jane retired from teaching she has been keeping up with three grandchildren. She and **Nancy Mays** stay in close touch, and she is looking forward to our 55th reunion.

**Connie Stettbacher** comments on our lack of news because most of it involves high blood pressure, the latest operation and memory loss.

**John and Phyllis Mosteller '59** are doing well in Mobile. They still see **Billy and Sue McLean '58** occasionally, and as most golfers do, he is lying about his score and his age.

**Donald Parker** writes that he received his MFA from Sewanee in May, and is now formally a parish associate at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, CT.

**Jim Eikner** was the Memphis Rotarian of the Year.

**George Morris** still practices full-time orthopedic surgery. He is running a nursing education program within the health care system along with an annual golf tournament each year to support nursing education. He spends as much time in Steamboat Springs, CO, and on the boat in Clearwater with his grandson as humanly possible. George thought he was the aviation class leader until Mary Francis Files Silitch's information came out.

## 1958

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

**Bob Booth** has taken off for the West. He recently moved from Memphis to Denver, saying, "My son, Richard, lives a few blocks away with his wife, Lauren, and 13-year-old son, Nicholas, and their 22-year-old daughter, Lindley, also lives nearby." Bob plans to stay in touch via "the miracle of email" and hopes that good things always come our way.

**Jack and Jane Alexander Biedenharn '59** still live in Vero Beach, FL, but have moved a short distance in Vista Plantation. Jane sent the change of address poetically: "Vista Plantation is still what they call home. And they hope for a few years they will not from it roam."

Karen and **Robert Neil Templeton** visited with old chums **Jettie** and Glenda **Bowen** in Memphis in early January to attend Elvis' birthday party at the house he had bought for his mother on Audubon near the University of Memphis. Temp writes, "Well, it was excellent! We not only enjoyed the peanut butter, banana and mayo sandwich but had the added pleasure of visiting with college (notice I did not say old) friends, **Betty Chalmers Peyton, Beth LeMaster Simpson** and **Sissy Raspberry Jones '59**. Everyone was as well as could be expected, much wiser than when we graduated."

**Jane Dean Sohm** said the beautiful choral music at Easter services at Evergreen Presbyterian Church, across from the campus, sent thrills

throughout the sanctuary ... a beautiful day haunted by the memories of days spent at Rhodes in a continuing passage of time ... a time to be remembered ... priceless memories."

Happily returning to New Orleans for the first time since Hurricane Katrina's devastation, **Mike Ivy** and wife Jane were relieved to see that there had been considerable recovery from the storm. Jane had lived there at one time. In December the Ivys flew to Ft. Lauderdale from Arkansas to visit a cousin and then took off for a week's cruise of the western Caribbean, during which they had fun in spite of being a bit under the weather.

**Paul Thompson** and wife Bunny, from Cape Cod, write that they had an incredible spring schedule. Goodness, the energy these folks have! In late April they retraced last year's steps to Edisto Island, SC, renting a car in Myrtle Beach and ambling down the coast (I suggested that they look in at our favorite spot, Pawleys Island) for a visit with a cousin in Charleston before going to Edisto. The first week in June the Thompsons went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with a group from the Diocese of Massachusetts. Paul was at St. George's College in Jerusalem attending a six-week program for his sabbatical in 1992. Back on the Cape, Paul will once again be priest in charge of St. Andrew's Church, Hyannis Port, in August. He is promising himself to get out to the beach for sunsets.

In the spring I took a train from Richmond to Philadelphia and met my New York daughter, Melissa, for the Van Gogh exhibit at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Wow! I'd

seen Van Gogh works in Paris, but this collection was wonderful.

So good to hear from you. Hope more folks will let us know what's doing in their lives.

## 1959

Reporter: Sara Jean (Shiney) Jackson  
4000 Purdue St., #149  
Houston, TX 77005  
713-748-4025  
sjj1022@earthlink.net

It's been nice with this issue to hear from some folks who haven't previously contributed; I credit my success to updating my class database.

**Claude "Red" McMillion** reports on the recent publication of wife **Margaret Stewart McMillion's '60** novel, *Personal Baggage: A tale of marriage, medicine and murder*. Huge congratulations to Margaret!

And, from **Marguerite Livingston Stone**, a good report on her granddaughter's graduation from law school at University of Southern California.

Birthday celebrations included this happy note: Classmates **Sissy Jones, Bob Welsh** and **Richard Park**, joined by Anne Welsh and Pam Park, celebrated a glorious spring and their 75th birthdays in the waterfall country of western North Carolina. Hiking and reminiscing (and keeping up with Sissy's new dog, Monkey) were the major themes of their two-day celebration. And, I happen to know (because I was there!) that Sissy had earlier been feted by her five children with a springtime birthday celebration at the Memphis Botanic Garden. It was good to see many, many Rhodes and church friends.

Actress **Lamar Rickey** (Lara Parker), who originated

## Class Notes

the character of the witch Angelique Bouchard in the 1966-71 TV series "Dark Shadows," makes a cameo appearance in the recently-released film's party sequence. For the past two decades, Lamar, who earned a master's in Creative Writing from Antioch University in 2004, has taught in secondary schools and community colleges. Check her website: [laraparkersite.blogspot.com](http://laraparkersite.blogspot.com).

**Bates Peacock Toone** sends news of travels to Costa Rica with son, Edwin, and his wife. She stays busy (beautifully busy, I will add) with her art. Current shows include Wilmington's Spring Art Show, and another scheduled with a friend in September.

From **Ralph Gore**: He is now retired after working as senior Code Enforcement inspector for the Memphis City Division of Community Development for 30 years. He has five children, two of whom are Rhodes grads. He is proud to report their academic credentials include four BAs, one MA, one MFA, one MBA, not including Ralph's BFA. Ralph is a traveler, now studying Italian, drawing "a lot," and teaching himself to play the violin.

## 1960

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

## 1961

George Awsumb  
[wawsumb@gmail.com](mailto:wawsumb@gmail.com)

**George and Betsy Awsumb '63** visited their daughter, Catherine, her

husband, Chris, and their two grandsons, Jay (12) and Graham (10). As long-distance grandparents, they took in Jay's band concert and Graham's baseball game as well as the LA symphony and Cirque du Soleil.

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, **Jim Hutter** retired from Iowa State's Department of Political Science. "One last task: I presented a paper ('Bush Goes to War: Groupthink and the Decision to Invade Iraq') at the Midwest Political Science Association convention on April 12. Now, more time for duplicate bridge!"

**Kathleen O'Leary** is still working and involved in politics.

Martha Ann and **Jerry Duncan** "are downsizing and have bought a zero-lot-line in the six-unit community where my brother, **Joe '63**, and **Lee Seabrook Duncan '73** live. It needs a bedroom on the first floor, which is in the making, but several months down the road. Of course since I am selling the present house, the entire place inside and out will be refurbished, just to be sale worthy. We do things a bit backwardly, don't we? It was a fine meeting of old alums at the Rhodes Athletic Hall of Fame when **Tommy Clinton** was inducted last October. He and his wonderful family made a big weekend of it. We are all saddened by the death of **Mike Macey** and condolences go out to his wife **Penny '62**. We are so fortunate to have had him pass our way over the years."

**Emma and Jack Thompson** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. She also asks that Jack be remembered in our prayers.

## 1962

### 50th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20

**Joe Ajello** is "still a full-time scientist at the Jet Propulsion Lab, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, working on Cassini Ultraviolet observations of Saturn and the moon Titan at JPL and the University of Colorado, and am a part-time avocado farmer in Fallbrook, CA, with a crop of 2,000 pounds a year."

## 1963

Charlie Rich  
[gsrcar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gsrcar@sbcglobal.net)

## 1964

Reporter: Mary Lou Quinn  
McMillin

320 Ohio Ave.  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
[maryloumc1@comcast.net](mailto:maryloumc1@comcast.net)  
"Summertime and the living is easy ...." Hope this finds you enjoying a "simpler" schedule and perhaps some grand adventures. Adventures we'd love to hear about ... come fall!

**Howard Romaine** writes, "I believe Professor Steve Haynes at Rhodes has written a manuscript about Southern churches and student activism. My partner in some of those events, Dr. Hortense Spillers of Vanderbilt, spoke on *Invisible Man*, by Ralph Ellison, at the University of Chicago. Recently we had a great reunion with **Robert Morris '63**. We met at Jackson, TN, and had a great lunch. This spring we were scheduled to make the American Studies conference in Dartmouth, the Faulkner 50th in Oxford, MS, July 7-11, where Hortense is a keynote speaker, and in the fall, Harvard, where she'll

give the Dubois Lectures. As for me, I'm writing for a weekly paper, *ntribune.com*, practicing law, visiting grandkids in the Raleigh-Durham area, where my daughter, Rita Romaine Rakestraw, is active with school democracy, and has produced a web page of my youthful Atlanta follies: *The Great Speckled Bird*, the 'South's standard underground newspaper,' which has the boys Jack and Paul making fun of Paw Paw's follies ([facebook.com/pages/The-Great-Speckled-Bird/224075284292887](http://facebook.com/pages/The-Great-Speckled-Bird/224075284292887)). The exhibit, which was at the Dekalb History Center through mid-April, was extended twice."

From **Linda Jackson Walter** we hear that she and her husband have sold their condo in Nashville and have moved to Richmond, VA. This puts her closer to her daughter, Laura, and her husband who live there. Linda will continue to commute to Tennessee every six weeks or so to keep the travel business going there. She's hoping to bring her expertise to Virginia as well. In that regard she reports that 2012 has been a very busy year for them with lots of great small-group trips and that 2013 is shaping up well. I'm sure Linda would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining any of their adventures.

**Jim Bullock** reports: "**Ervin** and I have moved completely to St. Augustine. We now live on the beach. It is hard to believe our backyard is the Atlantic, and we sleep to the sound of the waves. Our two sets of twins we adopted when they were 11 and 12 years old are now 25 and 29 and live together in Ocala. The older twins are seriously courting girls they met in the church youth group long ago. Our

daughter this year gave birth to Jasper, our first grandbaby. She and her husband and Jasper moved to Providence, RI, where he has a fellowship for a master's at Rhode Island School of Design. She is working on her thesis for a doctorate in Sociology. Our oldest son and wife are co-pastors at Central Presbyterian Church in Mobile. They are doing a great job. This is the church of Dr. John Crowell, whose children, **Anne '64** and **Bummie '66**, came to Rhodes. Ervin and I have placed our energy in Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine. Memorial is feeding 130 children each weekend with the Food-4-Kids program. We are starting a mentoring program at the school where we feed the 130 children. I mentor Wyatt who is in the 4th grade. I am also mentoring Daniel who is 17 and in a juvenile justice program. Ervin has been doing interfaith work. We welcome family and friends to our beach home. So, if any Rhodes folks are down this way, we hope they will give us a call and come by."

**Tom and Eleanor Geiger** sent greetings from their Tucson home where they are "snowbirds" ... said it had been "chilly" there this winter, while the rest of the country had an unseasonably mild one. They probably would have been warmer in DC this year!

**Mary Lou McMillin** will represent Shenandoah Presbytery as a commissioner at the 220th General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh, June 29-July 7. She'll serve as vice moderator of the Theology, Institutions, and Christian Education committee. She's looking forward to this opportunity to serve and to experiencing the "larger church" at work.

Enjoy your summer and please, let us hear from you ... especially those who have yet to let us know how you are "spending your days."

## 1965

Reporter: Virginia Lowry Ives

ivesvirginia@gmail.com

**Charles Robertson** received the Delaware BioScience Association Award for Innovation at the group's gala held April 16. Charles is co-founder and chief technology officer of NanoDrop Technologies Inc. The association's mission is "to become the catalyst to ensure Delaware becomes a global leader in life sciences by developing a cohesive community that unites the region's biotechnology, pharmaceutical, research, financial and agricultural strengths."

**Carol Pennepacker Walker** is "still in the travel business after 45 years and can't seem to tear myself away from it. I work part time from my office in Memphis and part time from aboard our boat (the Keys, Bahamas or wherever), where my husband spends most of his time. I recently returned from a 19-day trip to Turkey, Greece, Israel, Jordan and Egypt and found it a fascinating time to be there. Never felt unsafe, but had a guard with a machine pistol accompanying us in Egypt and former members of the Mossad keeping track of us in Israel. Talked to the people of all countries and heard all sides of the issues now before them and the Middle East. Came away with new insights, but still with mixed feelings. I had not been to Egypt for 47 years and could not believe the difference. Jordan was my favorite. The people are wonderful and the sites

(Petra and Wadi Rum) unbelievable."

**Bill '67** and **Reba Wright Wingo** settled into their new home in Peoria, AZ, after selling their Dallas condo in March. Bill is teaching Chemistry at Glendale Community College and Reba is consulting for her former employer, Beckman Coulter. Both enjoyed playing in some small poker tournaments in Laughlin, NV, while celebrating their 26th wedding anniversary. Reba came in first and fourth in four tries. Bill is looking for his fourth royal flush on the video poker machines.

**Suzanne Burns** is now president of the Scottish Society of Middle Tennessee. She left for her third trip to Scotland May 26 along with old friends from high school.

**Lou Ellyn Hindman Griffin** writes: "Gerry and I celebrated our 45th anniversary on Kauai in May. We also visited the Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. I often see classmate **Patty Starck George** who also lives in Salem, OR. Patty keeps very busy with one grandchild and another is expected. Gerry and I will return to south central China this summer to teach in an English camp for middle school students."

## 1966

Reporter: Sammy Primm Marshall

sammyannmarshall@gmail.com

An exhibition titled "Unfamiliar Territory" by Seattle painter/photographer **Randy Hayes** is at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University, Salem, OR, June 2-Aug. 26, 2012.

**Becky Smith Kissel** and her husband are going to Buenos Aires in November.

They have been learning the Argentine Tango for a few years.

**Isabell Van Merlin** is a grandmother. Dylan Daniel Patel was born Feb. 19, 2012, to daughter Sia and her husband, Ashish Patel, in Santa Rosa, CA. He is a beautiful, happy baby.

## 1967

### 45th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20

Reporter: Jeanne Hope

Jacobs Buckner  
Box 345

Winter Harbor, ME 04693  
jhbuckner@aol.com

Hi, everyone. Don't forget to mark your calendars now for our 45th reunion, Oct. 19-20. I have had the job of class reporter for the past 10 years and am officially retiring at the reunion. So—someone out there, please volunteer so we can keep the news flowing. It's an easy job. All you need is my class email list!

**Thad Amacker** passed away on Monday, March 19, at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, MS, after a brief illness. Thad was born July 25, 1945 in Akron, OH, and was raised in Shelby, MS, and later in Jackson where he graduated from Murrah High School in 1963. He attended college with us and graduated from Millsaps in 1969. Thad will be remembered as a loving husband and father with a passion for art, literature and humor. He leaves his wife, Alice Holder Amacker, his three children, Petrina Amacker, Ariana Amacker and Drew Amacker, his mother Mary Helon Roberts, and sister Carol Coursey.

**Linda Robinson Overly** is enjoying her retirement although it is questionable that she is really retired. She says she has two part-time jobs—one for Ameriprise

## Class Notes

Financial and the other as an office manager for a lady lawyer. She says retirement takes place on Monday and Friday mornings. She is enjoying a weekly knitting class, which she refers to as therapy, traveling as much as she can and spending time with her grandson, Conner (7).

**Sam Highsmith** is delighted to be a grandfather! "My daughter, Kathleen, presented me with my first grandchild. Chloe Caird Lee entered this world March 15. She is a jewel. Grandparenting advice for 'Pop' is welcomed!"

**Ketti Tyree's** Christmas letter is always delightful. In 2011 she continued to travel a lot for both business and pleasure. She visited "Harry Potter" in Orlando with a friend to celebrate a birthday, sprained her ankle at Opryland, had visits in her bedroom by ghosts, lost her pants in a parking lot while wrestling with grandchildren and delights in the antics of her two hilarious granddaughters.

**Will(ie) Edington** has survived knee surgery and is back on the slopes and the golf course. Knee surgery was nothing compared to Capitol Hill. His daughter, Jessie, is a junior at Sweet Briar and has been chosen for the USA lacrosse team that will play in an international tournament in Australia in June. His son, Payne, has joined the Navy where he will be in two years of intense training and education in the Navy's elite nuclear power school. Willie and P.J. now have an empty nest and have offered chocolates on the pillow to those who want to visit.

**Anne Thacker Leuke** wrote that "without a doubt the best part of 2011 was daughter Clair's marriage in September in Las Vegas."

This followed on the heels of a 10-day photographic trip she took to Italy's Amalfi Coast. She is hoping to go back to Sicily this year for more of the same.

Heard from **Bill Anderson** who lives in Houston: "I'm still working at my AOB career (After Oil Business) as a consulting manager in the information management firm that my wife founded 26 years ago. The past year was travel time for Janice and me, starting with a music mission trip to Beijing and Chengdu in February, then a 14-day raft trip through the Grand Canyon in May (wow!). In August we were back in SW Utah to hit a few more national parks, and tacked on a week at my brother's place on the Columbia River in Washington state. We left in early February 2012 for three weeks in Australia and New Zealand. That depleted our energy and bank account so we returned to Houston to think retirement thoughts. Greetings to all."

**Jimmy Whittington** is staying very busy. "The first week of April was the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh. The park asked me to become full time for two weeks, so I worked from sunup to sunset from March 25-April 8. I was scheduled to supervise 23 tours, plus, during this time period. I doubt I will be around for the 175th and I am all about enjoying the time I have, so full speed ahead. I have even enrolled in yoga classes to build my strength and endurance. I never saw myself in that picture. My work with the poor in our area has turned me into a full-time homeless advocate. Currently, we have approximately 400 homeless families in McNairy County. Last year we stabilized housing for 83 families and had a 60%

success rate in their ability to maintain the stabilization on their own. We work with budgeting, building networks and boosting self-esteem. I am counting off the days until October when we are all together again. None of you will ever know how much everyone's kindness meant to Annette and me at our last reunion. Can't wait to see you!"

**Annie Aitken Trauernicht** wrote: "We have sold the trucks and come home to live. I spent two years riding with my husband on an 18-wheeler and enjoyed it while it was happening. I loved moving around and remembering other times I had visited specific locations (on a trip west with Isabell, aka AB, and many other travels with friends). Harold and I are now living on our small farm in Nunnely, TN, and I have mixed feelings about not working. It was OK not to work in Colorado but here it is not so easy. Speaking of Colorado—we still haven't sold the house. Living on the farm and in the house we built is also a good life. I have given up the big garden but still plant a few things just to keep summer interesting. I am planting some seeds this year and planning to grow my plants from seeds to fruits and vegetables. Harold is now planning to build a greenhouse for me. Maybe I will have tomatoes all winter next year. Will let you know just how that works out."

**Carol Wertz Sutter** and her husband recently retired to Holden Beach, NC. Carol worked in the airline business for 20 years, then as a broker/realtor for 18 years in New Jersey. "I am really looking forward to returning to Memphis for my reunion."

When this goes to print

**JH** will be back in Maine escaping the heat of a Texas summer. I am looking forward to growing more good vegetables and seeing a lot of my three grandsons over the summer. I, too, took a memorable trip to New Zealand this winter around the time Bill Anderson was there but never found him in that wide expanse of beauty. The people, the native birds, the fjords and the great seafood were awesome! Have a great summer, everybody!

## 1968

**Reporters: Bob Morris**  
bmorris68@comcast.net  
**Drue Thom White**  
drueboo@aol.com

**Louis Ponders**, architect with Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects in Memphis, was invited to attend the prestigious American Academy in Rome as a visiting artist and scholar in architecture. Louis traveled to the academy in April where he spent five weeks studying urban design and planning. Historically, rivers have had dramatic influences on city design and urban development; Louis researched the effects the Tiber River has had on the patterns of urban settlement in Rome.

**Ann Bruce Pinada** is working full time at Escuela Panamericana in El Salvador. "My son, John, participated in, and is acknowledged in the Davos IMF presentation by Google and his boss, Boston Consulting Group. The work is called Digital Manifesto. Our daughter, Leslie, and her husband, Victor, also produced a masterpiece this year. His name is Mateo Andrés, giving us a total of five grandsons, each about two years apart. John's and Heather's oldest son was accepted into a competitive

Spanish immersion program at McKinley School near San Francisco.”

From **John Williams**: “After 15 years as a Presbyterian minister in Texas and northern California, I shifted to a career in music, performing on piano with opera and ballet companies, at an opera cafe in Sacramento and on organ in churches and cathedrals in California and Europe. I have now retired from regular music work, and live in the Sierra Nevada, a few miles northwest of Lake Tahoe, at 7,000 feet, still making music and spending a lot of time outdoors skiing, hiking, canoeing and playing tennis. My wife and I have a son who’s a doctor in Oregon and a daughter who’s a professor at Chico State, and three grandchildren. I’d love to hear from classmates, and would enjoy seeing any alums who might visit in the Tahoe or Reno area.”

**Katie Stanton** is serving on the Transition Planning Commission, developing the plan to merge Memphis City Schools and Shelby County Schools.

**Linda Harkrider Hutton** says she is a stay-at-home grandmother enjoying her six grands who range from 11 years to 6 months old. Her husband, Tom, still practices law full time, but they manage to squeeze in a trip every now and then.

## 1969

**Claudia Oakes** plans to retire June 30 to her hometown, Pulaski, TN, after 43 years in the museum field. She began her career, right out of Rhodes, at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Air and Space Museum, where she worked for 21 years. She has held senior level administrative

positions at the Milwaukee Public Museum, Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City and the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City, NY. Her most recent position was executive director of the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home in Rome, GA. She served on the board of the American Association of Museums as an at-large member for three years and vice chair for one year. She also served on the boards of the Wisconsin Federation of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, Utah Museums Association, Western Museums Association and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums.

## 1970

Reporter: Hud Andrews  
hud.andrews@srvs.org

**Hud Andrews** is now director of Property Operations for SRVS, an organization founded in 1962 that supports children and adults with disabilities in the greater Memphis area.

## 1971

Reporter: Betha Hubbard Gill  
1365 Yorkshire Dr.  
Memphis, TN 38119  
901-685-6712  
bethagill@hotmail.com

An exhibition of New York artist **Daisy Craddock’s** “New Works on Paper” was held June 20-July 28, 2012, at Garvey Simon Art Access in New York City. She created many of the *plein air* works in the Berkshires while she was renting a 19th-century farmhouse. Her studio was a renovated goat shed, and the surrounding fields, barns and lakes were the inspiration for her work.

Our thoughts are with our

classmate **Jean Carter Fisher**, whose husband, John T. Fisher II, passed away Dec. 30, 2011, in Memphis.

**Cary Fowler** and Amy P. Goldman wed April 28, 2012, in New York, atop the Arsenal in Central Park.

## 1972

### 40th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20

**Dan Haskell** is a lawyer in Nashville.

## 1973

Reporter: Margaret Lawson Headrick  
margaretheadrick@comcast.net

## 1977

### 35th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20

**Pinkney Herbert’s** works were in a group exhibition titled “Reenacting Sense” at Yace Gallery in Long Island City, NY, Jan. 19-March 3, 2012. In addition, his oil painting, “The Rice Terraces of Cordillera,” was selected the fine arts poster for the 2012 Memphis in May International Festival. This year’s honored country was the Philippines. The rice terraces, on the island of Luzon, have been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. To see the poster, go to [memphisinmay.org](http://memphisinmay.org).

## 1978

**RJ Harper** has been promoted from senior vice president of Golf to executive vice president of Golf and Retail Operations for the Pebble Beach Co. RJ, who started with the Pebble Beach Co. more than 25 years ago as a marshal on Pebble Beach Golf Links, is one of the most respected executives

in the golf industry.

## 1980

**Brian Thompson** was the speaker at Rhodes’ 2012 Phi Beta Kappa induction luncheon May 11. He is assistant director for administration at the Chazen Museum of Art on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Brian served in the White House Office of the director of Central Intelligence, Admiral Stansfield Turner, and was appointed to President Bill Clinton’s transition team in 1992 and then to the White House staff as a deputy director in the Office of Presidential Personnel. His second career in arts administration began when he was appointed as White House liaison at the National Archives, and he did the first planning for the Clinton Presidential Library. He subsequently was executive director of the Museum of American Finance in New York.

## 1982

### 30th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20

**Mary Bryan Fortin** has a senior in high school and an eighth-grader. “Between family and work, I stay ‘crazy’ busy.” She is senior audit manager at International Paper and will celebrate 25 years with IP in 2012.

**Mary Lynn Brock Nicholson** lives in Collierville, TN, and sells real estate for ERA Chamberwood Realty Group. “My husband of 25 years, Brett, is a general contractor. My daughter, Olivia (23), graduated from Vanderbilt with a degree in engineering in 2010. I have two sons, BJ, who will

## Class Notes

be a senior at MTSU and is planning to go to law school, and Noah, who just graduated from Christian Brothers High School. My daughter, Tate, will be a ninth-grader at Collierville. I love keeping up with my Rhodes buddies on Facebook and I am so excited to see the children of my peers now attending Rhodes!"

An exhibition of **Gregor Turk's** work, "Terminal Velocity," is at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in Atlanta through July 14. The new pieces, which explore monuments, mobility and marking place, were created for MOCA GA's 2011-12 Working Artist Project.

### 1983

Reporter: Margot Emery  
memery06@gmail.com

**Emily Mills Johnson**

continues to practice psychiatry in Southern California. "I'm working in private practice as well as for a VA community clinic. My husband and I enjoy spending weekends in Palm Springs, where I've reconnected with **Laura Lee**. She is so funny and it's been great having a fellow Rhodes alum so close!"

**David Abbott** has been working as a staff physicist at Thomas Jefferson National Laboratory in Newport News, VA, for over 20 years. "The lab is a Department of Energy funded electron accelerator facility dedicated to fundamental nuclear physics research. I love my job and live close enough to be able to ride my bike to work every day. This is really nice as my twin sons (Robert and James) have "borrowed" all available cars and taken them to college. The even better news is that they both graduated this spring (although I have no

illusions of getting those vehicles back). My wife of 29 years, Donna, and I are enjoying the empty nest. We are doing some traveling. We are avid cyclists (both on- and off-road) and are always looking for new destinations to ride."

From **Kim MacQueen**: "We have two beautiful teenage daughters and are amazed at how time flies! Sutton (17) will go to college this fall, and Ali (14) will continue to swim competitively year-round. She is our resident fish! Our oldest graduated as senior class president and is the apple of her dad's eye. **Andy '87** continues to work hard at money management for NewSouth Capital Management and has fought the economic odds with all his might! His tenacity is amazing. I am very involved in the Memphis community and jumped into my latest endeavor, chairing the Shelby County Books From Birth Board. Trying with all my might to contribute to the fight against illiteracy in Shelby County. We enjoy our Rhodes friends here in Memphis and are shocked that now we are joining them for 'student programs' for our own children!"

### 1984

Reporter: Linda Odom  
lcodom@comcast.net

**Sherry Turner** has been named executive director of the Atlanta University Center Consortium Council of Presidents. She oversees the day-to-day operations and provides leadership to the consortium's academic and community engagement activities, reporting directly to the Council of Presidents that lead the four consortium institutions: Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School

of Medicine and Spelman College. Sherry is former vice president for Student Affairs at Spelman.

### 1985

Reporter: Jim Golden  
jimatphi@hotmail.com

**Doug Trapp** was scheduled to appear on "30 Rock" as Howard, Liz Lemon's tax accountant, April 5, 2012. He was in the first scene of the episode. Says Doug, "Feel free to send a note to Lorne Michaels, Tina Fey or NBC to tell them that you want to see Howard again and again! It was a terrific shoot and Tina and everyone there could not have been nicer. Let me know what you thought of the episode. Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm as I continue living my dream."

### 1986

**Mike Palazzolo** has joined Rhodes as a senior Development officer.

### 1987

#### 25th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20  
Reporter: Mimi Swords  
Fondren  
mimifondren@bellsouth.net

**Margaret Wood Atwood** reports that both her boys are in school all day now. Mason (6 1/2) and Archer (5) have completed first grade and kindergarten, respectively.

**Elizabeth Gibson Clogston** is executive director of the 20th Century Club of Little Rock Inc. "We are a nonprofit that provides no-cost housing at our 21-room lodge for cancer patients traveling to Little Rock to receive outpatient chemotherapy and radiation."

**Brian Davenport** is in

his 18th year at Booz Allen Hamilton where he is a lead associate. His wife, Lisa, a former special education instructor, is active in the PTA, and son, Logan, just completed first grade.

**Susan Hook Patterson** encourages everyone to come to our 25th reunion this October! I can second that!

### 1988

Reporter: Brooke Glover  
Emery  
brookegemery@gmail.com

From **Jenni James Selby**: "My' judge, the Hon. W. Allen Pepper Jr., passed away unexpectedly in January 2012. Because chambers staff serve at the pleasure of the judge, that meant that in addition to experiencing a personal loss, I was also facing a job loss in the not-too-distant future. After taking a little time to absorb things, I began my job search at the end of February. I was fortunate enough to find another position with the federal judiciary and I relocated to Dallas to work as a career law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge Irma C. Ramirez in May. Things are a little hectic in our household right now with two teenagers (particularly with one who is trying to determine whether to move or stay in Mississippi for her senior year) and a husband who is feverishly working to prepare our home for sale. Things can change in an instant; I'm still sad about the circumstance that brought this change to our lives, but I'm looking forward to what the future holds."

**Anne Kaiser Apple** is in her second year serving as interim associate for Congregational Life at Idlewild Presbyterian Church. "It's good work, in the truest sense of the Word. Been writing for both a lectionary commentary

series called 'Feasting on the Word.' Also very good work that makes me appreciate those days back at Rhodes and Dr. Wood and my first 'D' ever on a writing assignment and Bensko's Creative Writing course. Took a long MLK weekend with **Joanna Priester, Katie Bright Amato and Evelyn Edwards Graham** in Florida—was good to be with the girls and to be reminded of the power of friendships that were formed in the late '80s alongside North Parkway, in a river city. Our children: Betsy (20) has finished her sophomore year at Agnes Scott, James graduated from CBHS in May and Abigail hit double digits (10) in May. **Jim '89** works with Raymond James—he made the transition in the Morgan Keegan acquisition. The Rhodes Women's Chorus sang in worship not too long ago, and truly, it was a joy to be led by strong, intellectually gifted and creative young women. Lots of gratitude for the ways in which Rhodes shaped me for the life I'm living today."

"So much has happened in the last year here in Joplin," writes **Heather Habicht Grills**.

"The city lost 160 people and 8,000 buildings in the tornado. Luckily, our house, my husband Jeff's hospital and my painting studio and gallery I've had for six years, Studio Argonauta, survived the storm. As a member of Midwest Clay Artists, a not-for-profit conglomerate of clay artists, I solicited donations of pots to be sold for the Joplin Schools Tornado Fund, and over the summer we raised about \$1,000. Jeff and I decided it was time to act on my longtime dream and open a community clay center and art gallery. Clay is an extremely therapeutic

medium for stress relief and self-expression, and Joplin needed a positive reason for people to come visit us. I partnered with a friend who is a local ceramic artist and teacher and we found a space that had been an old post office branch in the same building as Studio Argonauta. We held our grand opening Feb. 2 with a show of work by 16 artists from six states. Sometimes life-changing events cause us to re-evaluate our priorities. Whether it be illness, an accident or devastating weather event, we decide that it is time to stop daydreaming and take the risk and step out of our comfort zone in order to bring about the positive changes we want to see happen in the world. Phoenix Fired Art is the name I chose for mine. I am so proud of it and hope that any Rhodes friends or grads who are driving across I-44 (historic Route 66) will stop at Joplin and visit."

## 1990

Reporter: Rod White  
rodw@white-associates.net

## 1991

From **Rhynia Henry**: "2011 offered me the opportunity to pursue something I never thought I would get the chance to do. I was asked to coach a 16-and-under basketball team for the Maccabi Games in Israel. We started training in April 2011 and flew to Israel July 21 to compete in the weeklong event. Our team came in 8th, finishing 2-3 in the tournament. During the next week, we had the opportunity to visit some of the most special places on Earth—the Western Wall in

Jerusalem and the Dead Sea (the lowest place on Earth), to name a few. It was truly a trip of a lifetime. Needless to say, the basketball program at the Memphis Jewish Community Center has flourished and I'm proud to be a part of that movement."

## 1992

### 20th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20

Reporter: Sara Hawks

Marecki

saramarecki@sbcglobal.net

Plans for our 20th reunion are under way and we hope you are all planning to attend. It promises to be an exciting weekend. Mark your calendars and book your flights! You are going to want to be in Memphis Oct. 19-20!

### Christy Clippinger Sawyer

lives in Kingston Springs, TN, with her husband and children, Drew (15), Luke (12), Nolan (11) and Kelsey (7). She works as a preschool director at Bellevue Presbyterian Early Education and loves it. Dale works as a project manager for Schneider Electric. They are planning to come to the 20th reunion (and hope to see many classmates). Christy writes, "My biggest challenge of the year so far: teaching my 15-year-old son how to drive. Yikes! If you live and drive in Nashville, look out."

**Coleman Barton Johnson, Howard Cleveland and Andy Nix '91**, along with Rhodes trustee Meg Thomas Crosby, have formed PeopleCap Advisors, a high-end HR consulting firm. They are using their collective experience to help small to mid-market organizations strategically manage their people, navigate significant organizational changes and identify and reduce their risks. They were recently

featured in an article in the Memphis *Daily News*. Check them out at [PeopleCapAdvisors.com](http://PeopleCapAdvisors.com).

## 1993

Early in 2011 **Lisa**

**Turnbow** was promoted from a senior account manager position to branch manager for the Lebanon and Gallatin, TN, branches of Staffmark.

**Mike Sears'** research on computer simulations of the effects of heat and shade on thermoregulation of New Mexican lizards was featured in an article in the April 13, 2012, issue of *Science* magazine, [sciencemag.org](http://sciencemag.org). Mike and a fellow researcher studied lizard ecology in the field to see if their models were valid. Their data support what the models predicted, the article said. "Lots of small patches of shade and sun are better for the animals than a few big patches."

**Jennifer McNair** received the Frisby Griffing Marble Scholarship from Mississippi College School of Law during its annual Law Day ceremony. The award is given to a student who is in the top one-third of his or her class and has shown potential for outstanding service to the legal profession.

## 1994

Reporter: Judy Brown  
judy.brown@borax.com

**Andrew Jeter** has joined the Memphis accounting firm of Cannon Wright Blount as director of assurance and accounting services.

## Class Notes

### 1995

Reporter: Sarah Sears  
sarahsears@live.com

**Robyn Stone**, manager of Job-Linc services for the Memphis Public Library, was quoted in the January 2012 *Memphis* magazine article, "Still the Place To Go: Even in the Age of Google, the Memphis Public Library retains its core mission as a cultural unifier."

### 1996

Reporter: Jennifer Larson  
larson\_jennifer@yahoo.com

**Catherine Cuellar** reports that she and Paul Williams married Oct. 15, 2012, in Dallas. She also received a promotion at work and is now communications manager for Oncor.

**Mark '95** and **Helen Sweitzer Mihalevich**, welcomed son Elliott Mason Aug. 11, 2011. He joins big sister Palmer (10) and brother Phillip (7).

**David Overend** and his wife, Willson, welcomed their third child, Rebecca Elizabeth, March 15, 2012. She joins big brothers John (5 1/2) and Harry (14 months).

**Jeb Hoge** and his wife also celebrated the birth of their third child, Alexander, in June 2011, "and he has been keeping us busy ever since," Jeb writes.

**Beth Lacaeyse** and Jay Mickle married Nov. 26, 2011, in their hometown of Kankakee, IL. Beth writes, "The interesting thing about our wedding as it relates to Rhodes, is that both of Jay's siblings went to Rhodes and met their spouses there: **Matt '92** and **Ashley Mickle Preston '92**, and **David Mickle '02** and **Miriam Dolin '04**.

**Ned Crystal** recently completed his first half

marathon through the Team in Training Program at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in Atlanta. Not only was he a top fundraiser for the team, but as a result, Ned also has started playing hockey again, something that he missed during his six-year journey of fighting cancer.

**Jessica Rainey McKnett** and her husband Chris celebrated the arrival of their son Charlie Jan. 15, 2012. Jessica is a senior liaison of Corporate Partnerships with ALSAC/St. Jude.

### 1997

#### 15th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20

**Enrique Espinosa** reports that "after 17 year of legal balderdash, I finally became a naturalized U.S. citizen."

**Parker Smathers** is acquisitions editor at Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, CT. On staff since 2007, he was previously with the University of Chicago Press.

### 1998

Reporter: Amanda Grebe  
tamburrino@rhodes.edu

**Jason Griffith**, a CPA with De Joya Griffith & Company, LLC in Henderson, NV, was recently selected to *Las Vegas Inc.* magazine's Top 40 Under 40.

**Elizabeth Hays** and Benjamin Taylor married Aug. 27, 2011, in McCall, ID. In attendance were **Elizabeth Epley Sheets**, **Libby Weaver Sieveking**, **Kelly Crane Kennedy** and **Catherine Elcock Schwartz**. Elizabeth and Ben reside in Alexandria, VA, where Elizabeth serves as chief counsel for Sen. Tom Coburn on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Ben is a contractor.

**Michael** and **Laura Goza Kutcher** are excited to announce the birth of their daughter, Cora Alyda Ruth, April 3, 2012.

**Aaron** and **Amy Berlin Ospal** "were blessed with a baby boy, Oliver Layne (daddy's middle name), Nov. 8, 2011. We are all doing very well, and Izzi is proud to be a big sister."

### 1999

Reporter: Leigh Powell  
Mayfield  
powla99@gmail.com

**Sarah Frierson** was quoted in the January 2012 *Memphis* magazine article, "Still the Place To Go: Even in the Age of Google, the Memphis Public Library retains its core mission as a cultural unifier."

**William** and **Julie Decker Hendrick** welcomed their second son, Franklin Reese, Feb. 23, 2011. Frank and big brother Will (3) have become great buddies and love to terrorize all their furry feline and canine siblings.

**Adele Hines Bailey** and her husband welcomed their son, James H. III, Dec. 11, 2011.

**Kyle** and **Libby McCormac Ryan** are still living in Jacksonville, FL, where Kyle works in sales for Centurion Medical. They have three boys: Tucker (6), Mac (3) and Charlie (1). Libby reports, "It is insane most of the time!"

**Farah Fite** recently began a new job as media relations director for the Missouri Bar. Previously she worked as the Missouri Senate Majority Caucus communications director for eight years. She and her husband continue to reside in Jefferson City.

**Bradley** and **Karla Riemenschneider Blackmore** welcomed a daughter, Savanna Lily, Feb. 8, 2012. Big sister Johanna is very

excited about her arrival. The family resides near Cincinnati, where Karla practices as a veterinarian.

**Vanessa Lanceley Hauser** and her husband welcomed a son, William Lawrence, Feb. 21, 2012.

"My husband, John, and I welcomed our first baby, Genevieve, in November. She is a blessing and a joy," writes **Rachel Morris Rosson**.

**Robert** and **Halle Mitchell Walker** are pleased to announce the birth of a daughter, Madeleine Frances, Jan. 14, 2012. Madeleine was also welcomed by brother Alexander (6) and sister Olivia (3).

**Charles** and **Madison Moore Agee** happily announce the birth of their second son, Andrew Campbell, Dec. 26, 2011. Madison reports that their older son, Charlie, is thrilled to finally be a big brother.

### 2000

Reporter: Nicki North  
Baxley  
nickinp@gmail.com

On Jan. 1, 2012, **Jason Jowers** was named a partner at the Wilmington, DE, law firm of Morris James LLP, where he has practiced since 2003. Jason handles cases in the Delaware courts, with a primary emphasis on corporate, alternative entity and complex commercial litigation.

**Ebony Woods McCain** returned to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri as a career law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge Nannette Baker in February 2012. A very short time later on March 15, Ebony and her husband Kenneth welcomed their son William Henry to the family. William was 11 weeks early, but he is doing very well. Ebony is convinced William wanted



to arrive early so he could celebrate Ebony's birthday, Easter, and Mother's Day with her.

An article by **Jeff Sutton**, founder of ValueTree Investments LLC in Charlotte, NC, was published in the January 2012 *Value Investing Letter*, a monthly web newsletter with more than 55,000 subscribers, published by Schwartz Tilson Information Inc. Schwartz Tilson is the same organization that sponsors the biannual Value Investing Congress, an event that has been described by CNBC as "the super bowl of value investing." Jeff is also a new member of the Rhodes Alumni Executive Board.

**Barrett Hathcock** had a January 2010 signing at Memphis' Burke's Book Store for his book *The Portable Son*, a collection of linked short stories about the main character, Peter Traxler, who is raised in Mississippi in the last quarter of the 20th century and caught up in the nostalgia of his upbringing.

**Grace Amy Seecharan Vester** completed the family medicine residency program at North Mississippi Medical Center in June 2011 and is currently working as a physician at Pontotoc Family Medicine in Pontotoc, MS. Grace and John Matthew Vester of Stuttgart, AR, married Jan. 14, 2012, at Hope Church in Tupelo, MS. In attendance were classmates **Ebony McCain, Heather McDonnell, Ellen West** and **Tim Hayes**.

## 2001

Reporter: Elisabeth Meyers Yoder  
elisabethyoder@gmail.com

**Beth Serex Evans** is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Human Movement Science-Exercise Physiology

at UNC-Chapel Hill. "My research focuses on the effect of aerobic exercise on immune system and endocrine system function in cancer patients and survivors. My husband, **Ben '03**, is in his fourth year as an assistant professor of Physics at Elon University. We have a daughter (2) who definitely keeps our life exciting!"

**Virginia Benitez** received her Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz. A week later she gave birth to her daughter, Nina Francesca. Virginia, husband Wes Tooke and Nina live in Santa Monica.

**Hillary Livingston Butler** writes, "My husband, Dave, and I welcomed a baby girl, Bridget Garrett, Feb. 7, 2012. We are probably biased, but she is the best thing ever!"

From **LaShanda Green**: "After leaving Rhodes I worked for Deloitte & Touche for five years, then served as controller at the Urban School of San Francisco for the past six years. I became a certified detoxification specialist in 2011 and recently quit my job to launch my own consulting business, Higher Purpose Healing, where I show people how to tap into the body's natural ability to heal itself through detoxification, raw foods and herbs. I also teach raw food classes in the Bay Area and I'm a health coach for Rawality, a local program helping people reverse type II diabetes with raw foods. Feeling blessed, grateful and inspired."

**Keva Duckett** began working as development associate with the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis in August 2011.

**Erin and Robert Markel '99** had their third child, John Douglas, July 16, 2011.

Big sisters Lillie (5) and Louise (2) love their little brother and are great helpers.

Marcus and **Hannah Smith Mason's** "little Valentine," Clarence Charles "Charlie," arrived safely Feb. 14, 2012. Big brother Max is quite proud. "Also, Marcus has made a full recovery from our unfortunate incident after the WVU v. LSU football game last fall. The outpouring of concern and support from our Rhodes friends will never be forgotten. THANK YOU!"

R.J. and **Wesley Moore Briscione** and big brother Bo welcomed William "Will" Moore Feb. 20, 2012.

**Patrick and Liz Meyers Yoder** and big brother Oliver welcomed Graham Patrick to their family Jan. 12, 2012.

## 2002

### 10th Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20  
Reporter: Shannon Cian  
shannoncian@gmail.com

Jeff and **Allison Evans Bolton** of Boston proudly welcomed their third son, William Bennett, Jan. 6, 2012. Big brothers Cooper (5) and Reid (1½) are thrilled with the newest addition to their basketball team. Allison has been working as a private practice pediatrician in the Boston suburbs the past two years.

**Chris and Lisa Bloom Higgins** have been living and working in Paris, France, for three years. Chris is working for a European aerospace company and Lisa teaches English Literature at an international school.

Mark and **Jill Doshier Meyer** welcomed twin boys, Luke Alan and Ethan Richard, Dec. 15, 2011.

**Jenna-Lise Zouzelka** recently started work at Robot Creative, "an award-winning creative

marketing firm, specializing in providing print and web design, advertising and marketing-related services for companies seeking accelerated growth and increased visibility."

On March 4, 2012, **Shannon Cian** completed her second half marathon since giving birth to a charming and cheerful daughter, Vivian Marie Leslie, in March 2011. Shannon has also had a few job changes since last checking in and currently serves as assistant to the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. She, **Jack Leslie '04** and Vivian (more commonly known as "VIVISHACK") are loving living the family life in the city that care forgot!

## 2003

Reporter: Lindsay Levine Rouse  
lindsayrouse@gmail.com

**Faris Al-Shathir** was featured in the Jan. 11, 2012, *New York Times* about his nonprofit group Boffo that repurposes spaces and fosters collaborations among artists, designers, communities, theorists and the media. The article called Faris a "creative matchmaker, pairing young fashion designers with emerging architects," and said for the last two years, he has "popped up around New York, transforming oddly configured or forgotten spaces into architecturally stunning retail installations."

**Evan Beth Goss** and David Novotny married in a civil ceremony Feb. 17, 2012. Evan Beth is currently finishing her second year of law school at South Texas College of Law, and David is the director of technology at the Texas Classroom

## Class Notes

Teachers Association, where they met. The couple had a wedding and reception to celebrate with friends and family May 27, 2012.

**Steven and Lindsay Levine Rouse** welcomed their son, Jack William, Oct. 3, 2010. Steven, Lindsay and Jack live in San Antonio, TX, where Steven is an attorney and Lindsay is a teacher.

**Julie Hallums** was awarded the Chicago Distinguished Alumni Teacher Award from Teach For America in May. The award is given to one Chicago area alum who embodies Teach For America's core values: relentless pursuit of results, sense of possibility, disciplined thought, respect and humility and integrity. She and her sister, **Cindy**, completed their second Chicago Marathon Oct. 9, 2011.

**Page Thead Pulliam** and husband Todd welcomed son Robert Franklin, March 27, 2012. They reside in Mobile, AL.

For the last seven years, **Amanda Womack Haley** has worked as a Hebrew translator, commentary writer and English style editor for Thomas Nelson's new Bible translation project, "The Voice." The complete Bible is now in bookstores everywhere, and she is transitioning to ghost writing for popular Christian devotional authors. She and her husband, David, live in Murfreesboro, TN.

Olivia and **Jim Mueller** welcomed a daughter, Leisel Joy, Nov. 21, 2011.

**Bryan '02 and Leanne Rosenfield Jackson** married Oct. 29, 2011, in Houston.

Dan and **Beth Purves** welcomed a daughter, Julia Ellen, Feb. 20, 2012. Beth also successfully defended her dissertation in early February and received her Ph.D. in Economics from

the University of Virginia in May.

**Lauren Sefton** continues her work in the Rhodes College Admission Office. She is also currently serving as conference chair for the Southern Association of College Admission Counseling organization and planned the annual conference for over 1,000 attendees in Crystal City, VA, in April. Lauren and her husband, **Eric '01**, are planning a summer trip to Crater Lake, OR.

**Haskell Murray**, a corporate law professor at Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach, VA, recently published two academic articles: J. Haskell Murray, "Latchkey Corporations": *Fiduciary Duties in Wholly Owned, Financially Troubled Subsidiaries*, 36 Del. J. Corp. L. 577 (2011) and J. Haskell Murray and Edward I. Hwang, *Purpose with Profit: Governance, Enforcement, Capital-Raising and Capital-Locking in Low-Profit Limited Liability Companies* ("L3Cs"), 66 U. Miami L. Rev. 1 (2011).

After graduating from Rhodes, **Aisha Sharif** earned her MFA in Creative Writing at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her poetry has been published in several literary journals including *Poemmoirstory*, *Callaloo* and *Mythium*, and she was also selected as the Featured Series Poet for the 2011 Fall/Winter Issue of *Tidal Basin Review*. She is an adjunct English professor at Park University in Kansas City, MO.

**Matt Capitanio** graduated with a doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in May. He has accepted a small animal rotating internship

at Michigan Veterinary Specialists in Southfield, MI.

## 2004

Reporter: Kyle Russ  
ckylerruss@yahoo.com

**Erin Heslip Bennett** is active in Big Brothers/Big Sisters Nashville. She recently adopted two retired greyhounds and became a board member of All About Hounds, a nonprofit agency helping to place retired dogs in loving homes. A senior associate at Prochaska, Thompson, Quinn, and Ferraro P.C., Erin is a 2007 graduate of Vanderbilt Law School. She and Scott Bennett of Yarmouth, MN, wed in 2009. They reside in Nashville.

**Kevin and Megan Murphy Brown** welcomed a son, Colin Murphy, Aug. 29, 2011.

**Maggie Goodman** writes from Chicago that she's doing really well and has scored gigs at both the iO and Second City. There are numerous performances this summer.

**Kathleen Fox-Davies** also chimed in—she's now the manager of ATLAS Gallery in London and the founding director of the soon to open ATLAS Contemporary. They are launching seven contemporary internationally-known artists to the London art scene for the first time this June. "It is super exciting and rewarding to get to work with artists I respect and believe in, and get to have a huge role in building their careers," she writes.

In Memphis, **Nick Patterson** and wife **Shelby '06** just bought a new house in Midtown near Overton Park. "Granted, we haven't quite sold our old house yet, so we are basically like those people on HGTV

who ruin the economy with multiple houses less than a mile from each other," Nick admits. He's also started a new position as director of admissions at New Leaders. In this role, he develops and leads a process for identifying and selecting principals to serve in underperforming schools in Baltimore, California's Bay Area, Charlotte, Chicago, Memphis, Greater New Orleans, Newark, New York City, Prince George's County and Washington DC, with the goal of dramatically improving student achievement through effective urban school leadership.

Nick's best buddy, **Marcus Cox**, opened a new real estate office in Rockport last summer (Shoreline Real Estate) and that has been going really well. Additionally, Marcus and his wife Karrie have been busy with a production company, Through Films. They are in talks with PBS and National Geographic to distribute their television series, "Homeland Nation" (homelandnation.com). Needless to say, they are very excited about that.

And Marcus' pal and one-time roommate, **John Gordon**, took a position with Deloitte & Touche after an exhaustive, and ultimately unsuccessful, stint with the Des Moines Lyric Opera. He's not bummed, however, and writes that, "Hey, at least I chased my dream. Most suckers are too afraid to even try."

**Palmer Snodgrass** married Christie Kellam of Virginia Beach, VA, Aug. 13, 2011. Several other Rhodes friends were able to make it, **Chad** and **Shaunna Mason**, **Jim Mueller**, and of course, yours truly. It was a lovely and at times, wild affair. Just ask Palmer about the

after party. Also note that we're all wishing Palmer well as he's currently on deployment (he's a Marine) embarked aboard Navy ships and conducting various training exercises with other countries and serving as a theater reserve force in case something happens (natural disasters, embassy evacuations, war, etc.) that the U.S. has to respond to.

**Tiffany Moore** writes that she loves being back in Georgia after four years in DC working in government affairs. She's now at USP, a startup in Lyons, GA. She works primarily in brand management, which involves the development and management of new, upscale pet food products. "In other words, I spend most days getting paid to play with puppies and kittens. And it is amazing."

Thanks to everyone who wrote in. Keep it coming!  
—ckyle

## 2005

Reporters: Brandon Couillard  
brandon.couillard@gmail.com

Molly Fitzpatrick  
mhfitz11@hotmail.com

**Eliza Hanson**, who still resides in Austin, TX, was recently accepted to the University of Texas School of Social Work program. In the meantime, she is interning at LiveSTRONG in the Grassroots Fundraising department.

**Katie Jameson** and her fiancé, Neil, recently embarked on a cross-country move from California to their new digs in Nashville, TN. Both are doing post-docs at Vanderbilt University and excited to be relocating to Music City.

**Megan Fuller** graduated from law school at the University of Memphis and

expects to spend the summer preparing for the bar exam later this year.

**Jennifer Brooks** is currently a Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Memphis. She successfully defended her dissertation prospectus in the fall and has been writing her dissertation on radical women in African-American and Afro-Caribbean women's literature.

**Altovise Ewing** earned her doctoral degree in Genetics and a specialization in Genetic Counseling from Howard University in December 2011. Her dissertation examined factors that influenced an African-American cancer cohort's willingness to engage in cancer genetic research. She is currently serving as a cancer control and prevention postdoctoral research fellow at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**Christine Coy Fohr** joined the pastoral staff of Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, KY, where she is working in the areas of Christian education and community outreach.

**Brandon Couillard** was recently promoted to vice president at Jefferies, an investment bank in New York City, where he writes equity research on health care companies in the dental, diagnostics and life science tools industries.

**Katharine Etchen** recently left her digs at *Bon Appétit* magazine in search of greener pastures. She has joined *Eating Well* magazine, an emerging food-oriented publication of Meredith Corp., as associate marketing director.

Quite a few folks celebrated the arrival of future Lynx Cats over the past several months:

**Jordan and Krista Dewitt**

**Wood** welcomed daughter Tessa Frances Dec. 6, 2011. Jordan are Krista are both attorneys in Birmingham, AL.

**Lauren Beecher** and her husband, Jim, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Lydia Jane, Feb. 22, 2012. The happy family will be moving to Vicenza, Italy, soon for Jim's new assignment with U.S. Army Africa.

**Jackie Ruick McCrary** and her husband, Jonathan, celebrated the birth of their son, Bates Walker, Feb. 26, 2012.

**Adam Aubel** and his wife, Jessica, celebrated the birth of a daughter, Audrey Lane, Feb. 22, 2012.

Congratulations, y'all!

## 2006

Reporter: Caroline King Willson  
Caroline.king.Willson@gmail.com

After getting her M.A. in Gifted Education from Columbia University, **Alice King Sullivan** was recently accepted into the Curriculum & Instruction doctoral program at the University of Texas at Austin's College of Education. She married Brandon Sullivan last year and teaches 5th grade in Austin.

**Jenny Rogers** took a job in February as the gossip columnist at the *Washington Examiner*. She is living on Capitol Hill a block from **Leah Hirsch '08** and still seeing **Chrissie Hendrickson, Johanna Ogden** and **Haley Fults** as much as possible.

**Laura-Caroline Johnson** graduated this spring from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with dual masters in Modern Art History, Theory & Criticism, and Arts Administration & Policy. She has just finished

curating, with California curatorial partners, grupa o.k., SAIC's MFA Graduate Exhibition, which also includes work from Rhodes alum **Joel Parsons '07**. Laura-Caroline has plans to stay in Chicago.

In May, **Ellen Whitten** graduated from the University of Memphis with a master of Public Administration and a focus in nonprofit administration. She still resides in Midtown and works in communications at the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association.

From **Molly Williams Logan**: "Eli '04 and I had a baby girl! Penelope Grace was born Dec. 22, 2011. She is the most beautiful baby in the world!"

**Ryan and Megan Pillsbury Hollis** married in 2010 in El Dorado, AR. Ryan has been working as an accountant in Memphis since then, after having received his master in Accounting from Rhodes. Megan, who received her master of science in Nursing from the University of Memphis in 2011, was recently offered a job in Salt Lake City, where she will be working as a family nurse practitioner. They will make the big move there in June. Ryan will be working full time as a professional fine art/landscape photographer. They have a golden retriever, Tucker (2), and a cat, Sammie (4). Megan and Ryan are sad to be leaving Memphis after a decade.

**Danielle Mashburn-Myrick** and Matthew Callahan Myrick (also from Fairhope, AL) married this past New Year's Eve. They have a beautiful springer spaniel puppy named Ava.

**Rachel Hagerty** was recently made partner at Wally Workman Gallery in Austin, TX.

**Caroline Ferrari** was

## Class Notes

recently promoted to senior marketing consultant for LivingSocial in Los Angeles. She continues to sing with her a cappella group, Voxel Rox, does reformer Pilates and spends time with her boyfriend David and pug “Weezy” in Venice Beach.

Ryan and **Becky Saleska Wolfe** had a son, Samuel Felix, Dec. 26, 2012. He is quite the chubby-cheeked little gem.

**Justin and Stephanie Guthrie '07** welcomed a healthy baby girl, Ava Corinne, Jan. 19, 2012. All are doing well and currently live in Bartlett, TN. Justin was recently promoted to manager of field reporting at AutoZone and Stephanie is a nurse on the hematology/oncology inpatient unit at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

**Claire Singleton Williams** has begun a new position in human resources at Target headquarters. She works on the Talent Development Team to manage content and deliver professional development programming for Target corporate employees. Claire lives in Minneapolis with her husband of four years, Rob.

**Ashley Mitchem Dillingham** is happy to announce her marriage to Rob Dillingham Sept. 4, 2011, in Memphis. Members of the wedding party included **Kristen Andrews Vescovo, Paige Carpenter, Amy Noelle Haygood, Catherine Bloom, Margaret Love '03, Sam Weigle '03 and Joe Vescovo '02**. So many Rhodes friends came, and they had a great time! Ashley and Rob live in St. Louis, where she is a social worker in an area hospital.

**Joey Garrison** lives in Nashville, TN, where he is a staff writer for *The City Paper*, covering the city hall beat.

**Celia Mutchnick**

recently began working as community outreach director at the May Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. She works with children who have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum as well as their families, and she is currently learning ABA therapy practices. The center mainly works with military families in Fort Campbell, KY. Celia loves being near Nashville and back in Tennessee.

**Jake Cremer** was selected by other attorneys across the state as a 2012 Florida Trend Legal Elite “Up and Comer.” The award is given to the top 2% of attorneys in the State of Florida under 40.

**Catherine Bloom** graduated in December with a M.A. in Archives and Records Management from the University of Liverpool, UK. Catherine is currently working as a document review contractor for Keller-Rohrbach LLP.

**Erick Isaacson and Warren Boone** are finishing up their first year of residency in Chicago and Charleston, SC, respectively. In January, they dominated every blue run on the Snowmass, CO, trail map.

**Eddie Davis** recently accepted the role of corporate responsibility officer for St. Vincent Health System based in Little Rock.

**Maggie Sommer Osborn** is VP of North Mississippi Great Dane Rescue, which she helped start in 2010 and co-runs today. The group received its 501c3 federal charity status this spring. She is also a paralegal at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP in Atlanta.

## 2007

### Fifth Reunion

Homecoming: Oct. 19-20  
Reporter: Mollie Briskman  
Montelaro  
mollie.montelaro@gmail.com

Happy Summer, Class of 2007! As usual, you have been a busy group.

**Scott Bayer**, a recent graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, is now working at Gaston and Thanheiser, a small oil and gas law firm in Houston.

**Megan Benson** received a M.A. in Developmental Psychology at the University of Alabama and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the same field.

Blayne and **Davis Bonham** married last spring.

**Rene Orth** won the 2011 Photo and Video Contest sponsored by the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program in which participants share their experiences abroad. A CLS recipient, she studied Chinese in Shanghai last summer. Her video captures a CLS group excursion to Qinghai, China. Rene is pursuing a master's degree in music composition as a Bomhard Fellow at the University of Louisville. CLS, a program of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, is administered by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and American Councils for International Education.

We have a number of graduations to report. Congratulations to everyone!

**Aaron Creek** graduated from the University of Tennessee Medical School in May. In July, he and **Anna Cantrell Creek** relocated to Greenville, SC, where Aaron is in his orthopedic residency. According to Anna, the

Creeks are looking forward to the next chapter of their lives in South Carolina!

In other med school news, **Sara Bransford** graduated from the University of Arkansas College of Medicine in May and began residency in Little Rock for Internal Medicine/Pediatrics.

**Kelly Garner** obtained a Juris Doctorate from New York Law School in May.

**Megan Norman Lombardo** wanted to pass on some exciting news: She and **Dan** are moving to Denver. Dan graduated from medical school at the University of Florida in May and accepted a position as a family medicine resident at the University of Colorado Denver. Megan plans to pursue a career as a full-time private piano instructor and accompanist in Denver.

In December 2011, **Eden Badgett** graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a master's of Music Performance in Choral Conducting. Eden is now director of music for Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Durham, NC. She is also currently helping former Rhodes music professor Tim Sharp coordinate the American Choral Directors Association Youth Honor Choir tour to London in June.

**Anne-Marie Crifasi** reports: “In honor of **Martina Melliland's '06** graduation from Johns Hopkins, this summer the two of us are backpacking the Inca Trail, zip-lining Peru, white-water rafting the Urubamba River and trekking our way to Wonder of the World Machu Picchu! Much Argentinian Malbec tasting shortly thereafter to ensue.” Anne-Marie also has cause to celebrate. In addition to being named the 2011 Top Sales Performer for the

Westin New Orleans, she was recruited to become Complex Sales Manager for the Starwood W Hotels of New Orleans. Anne-Marie was honored in June as a March of Dimes Spotlight on Success Outstanding Young Professional of New Orleans for her community involvement, professional success and dedication to the wonderful city of New Orleans. Congratulations!

**Meghan Hofto** graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in May 2011. She recently completed her first year of pediatric internship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Our thoughts are with **Laura Ann Meyers Daly**, whose brother, **Paul Meyers '01**, passed away March 31, 2012, in Jackson, TN.

In July 2011, **Katie Jardine** returned to the states after living in Japan. She is currently teaching Spanish at her alma mater, Saint Scholastica Academy in Covington, LA. Katie also mentioned that that she is "on the lookout for more adventures."

That's all for now. I hope to see y'all in October for our 5-year reunion!

## 2008

Reporter: Madoline Markham

madolinemarkham@gmail.com

**Michael Turco** has accepted the new position of alumni and parent engagement coordinator for Rhodes' offices of Alumni Relations and Development. He will share responsibilities across the Development division, including fundraising, event planning, volunteer management and more.

**Deborah Rogers** finished her second year of teaching

in St. Louis Public Schools, completing her commitment to Teach For America. "I plan on staying at the same school for a third year because I absolutely love teaching," she writes. She will graduate with a master of Education this summer. "The fall of 2012 will be my first semester NOT as a student. I'm ridiculously excited."

**Michael Towle** graduated with a master of Geophysics from the University of Memphis before spending all of 2011 working as an actor for the Hampstead Stage Company, a national touring children's theater that specializes in the performance of literary classics. He and his tour partner and girlfriend of three years, Jennifer Henry, traveled about 30,000 miles, performing "Alice in Wonderland;" "Aladdin;" "The Adventures of Mr. Toad;" "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe;" and "A Christmas Carol." Now the two are managing a theater based out of an 18th-century farm in New Hampshire. "Oddly enough," he writes, "the skills I learned with my science degrees have proved very useful in providing database management and tech networking skills that I'm now applying to the theater office and online marketing strategies. Life is great!"

**Kaitie Yeoman** and **Jim Igoe '07** married March 10 in Memphis. Rhodes graduates at the wedding included **Grayson Smith '07**, **Brandy Pratt**, **Jessi Denby**, **Lauren Anderson '07**, **Peter Igoe '04**, **Brent Owens '06**, **Kevin Mosher**, **Nick Patterson '04**, **Andrew Falls** and **Josh McCoy**.

**Casey Roman** writes that she is still riddled with debt paying off her college education.

Last November **Eric Friederichsen** accepted an account management position with Critical Systems, a premier Fire and Life Safety company in Atlanta. Eric also volunteers with the Georgia Middle School Athletic Association, where he serves as an assistant football coach for the Walton High School eighth grade feeder program.

Also in Atlanta, **Kat Ledlie** lives in Virginia Highlands and teaches first grade at Christ the King School, which she attended from fourth to sixth grade. She is also the assistant varsity girls' lacrosse coach at Westminster Schools, where she taught in the elementary school last year during a one-year teaching fellowship.

**Brynn Dickie Bowyer** and her husband, Tom, still live in Livingston, TX, where he is assistant summer camp director at Camp Cho-Yeh and she teaches logic and rhetoric at a school nearby. In January, they took a weeklong trip to Honduras to build houses and run day camps, and in March they traveled to Scotland, where they toured the Highlands for a week.

**Zack Stovall** still resides near St. Louis, where he sleeps on his catfishing/noodling boat, Heartbreaks and Hand Grenades, along with his dog/first mate, Newman. After recovering from injuries from a bad noodling trip, Zack and Newman returned to the shallow waters of the Mississippi only to find a rival vessel, the S.S. Cary Elwes, had moved in on their noodling turf, using hooks, lines, lures and reels to nab his catfish. Zack has been setting up booby traps along the tributaries of the Mississippi to thwart the S.S. Cary Elwes, and if anyone knows any police officers or

congressmen who can help Zack, please contact him immediately.

**Taryn Kaselonis** is an attorney at the district attorney's office in Albuquerque. She prosecutes DWI, domestic violence and various other misdemeanor crimes.

And now for a grad school report (congrats to all of you!):

**Laura Sellers** graduated with her M.A. in Latin American Studies from Vanderbilt in May and will be starting a Ph.D. in Political Science at Vanderbilt in the fall.

**Masters Richards** graduated from medical school at UAMS in May and will do a general surgery residency at the University of Missouri-Kansas City for the next five years.

**Karina Van Sickle** graduated in May with a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She has accepted a job at HealthSouth hospital in Memphis.

**Elizabeth Wingo** graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in May and will begin an anesthesia residency at Tulane Medical Center in June.

**Kelsey Jarrett** is in law school at Tulane. "I have one more year!" she writes. "But I made Moot Court Board and our National Trial Competition Team, and am loving it."

**Griffin Morrisson** completed medical school at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine and will move to Rochester, MN, to begin training in the urology residency program at Mayo Clinic.

**Alex Heit** was accepted to at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School

## Class Notes

of Public and International Affairs for fall 2012.

### 2009

**Claire White** is the program coordinator at the Exceptional Foundation of West Tennessee, a social and recreational facility for adults and children with special needs. She is also enrolled in the Applied Behavior Analysis Program (master's) at the University of Memphis.

### 2010

Reporter: Emily Jenkins  
emilyj@rhodes-alumni.net

**Elizabeth Parkinson** was of one of six people who received an award for her research at the University of Illinois Cancer Center Research Forum in March 2010. Her research focuses on targeting the enzyme NQO1 as an anticancer strategy. Elizabeth is pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemical Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. At Rhodes, she participated in the St. Jude Summer Plus Program where she researched molecules for use in medications to ameliorate the dose-limiting toxicity of CPT-11, an anticancer drug. She also was a Goldwater Scholar and a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow.

**Molly Bombardi-Mount** is currently working for

the Centerstone behavioral health care organization, where she is the research analyst for its Clinical Research Institute. "Having worked here for a few months now, I can honestly say it is the dream job I wished for right out of college. Now I'm livin' the dream."

Jacob and **Jennifer Whatley Vaughn** married in Madison, MS. **Nina Guo, Alex Kiester, Natalie Mayo** and **Amanda Law** were bridesmaids, and **Mason Mosby '09** was a groomsman. Jennifer and Jacob are living in New Orleans.

**Katherine Delavan** is working on the USAID Haiti Task Team.

**Meredith Martin** is currently living in Chicago, pursuing her master's in Art Education from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She plans to graduate this December.

**Caroline Boone** was recently admitted to at Vanderbilt University's French Ph.D. program.

**Jessica Sprengel** was accepted to the University of Texas at Austin Graduate School for Nutritional Sciences.

**Lyndsay Solimine** was accepted to Vanderbilt Nursing School.

**Pam Palmer** is in her second year of law school at William & Mary; she is also interning for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**Joshua McDiarmid** is in

law school at LSU.

**Leah Stein** is enrolled in law school at the University of Oklahoma. She is doing a four-week study abroad program at Renda University in Beijing this summer.

**Derek King** is in the Mississippi Teacher Corps and graduated with a master's in Curriculum and Instruction in May. He is coaching football and track at North Panola High School.

**Dani Parrot** recently graduated from the University of Nottingham with a master of science degree in Neuropsychology. She is in Italy working as an au pair and learning Italian before she returns to the states.

**Lily Elfrink** is working as a software quality analyst at AutoZone headquarters in downtown Memphis.

**Tyler Ponder** is currently living and working in Memphis, but plans to attend the Master Brewers Program at the University of California-Davis in 2014. "Afterward, I plan on working for a brewery."

**Emily Jenkins** ran her second consecutive Boston Marathon in April, with a qualifying time of 3:23:03.

### 2011

Reporter: Grace Weil  
gracem.weil@gmail.com

After graduating last May, **Lee Bryant** accepted a one-year teaching fellowship

just east of Houston in Highlands, TX. "My contract ended in May 2012 and I am currently seeking new job possibilities. I am looking for jobs in the field of environmental education as well as the National Park and National Forest services. I am an avid outdoor enthusiast and would like to incorporate my passion for nature into my next job. If you have any information please feel free to email me."

### 2012

**Carolina Sánchez-Hérvás** has been named one of two 2012 Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) Abroad Ambassadors of the Year. She is being recognized for her commitment to the promotion of study abroad as well as clear demonstration of intercultural competence. Part of a group of approximately 700 IES Abroad Ambassadors, she participated in IES' fall 2010 study abroad program in Rome. There, she made a lasting impression as an intern at Slow Food Rome, which advocates for good, clean and fair food and farming policy. Later, she was named the U.S. Ambassador to Slow Food Rome, and organized Slow Food events in Memphis.

## In Memoriam

'37 **Elizabeth (Betty) Jones Bradford** of Laurel, MS, Jan. 8, 2012. After graduation she briefly served as society editor of the *Laurel Leader-Call*. She was a member of First Trinity Presbyterian Church,

where she served in many capacities, and sang in the choir. She was also a trustee of the Palmer Home for Children in Columbus. The widow of Irwin S. Bradford, she leaves a son, a daughter, two grandsons and three

grandchildren.

'39 **Ewing Carruthers Jr.** of Memphis, May 8, 2012. After graduation, he began working with MassMutual Life Insurance Co. He served as a naval aviator during World War II and

was discharged with the rank of lieutenant junior grade. At the time of his death, he was a lieutenant in the Retired Reserve. At MassMutual he became a Charter Life Underwriter (CLU) and first qualified

for the Million Dollar Round Table in 1950. He was a leader in local, state and national organizations including the National Estate Planning Council, the National Association of Advanced Life Underwriters and the American Society of CLUs. He was a speaker at many national and international conferences. His book, *A Way of Life*, was first printed in 1969 and revised and reprinted in 1986. A longtime member of Calvary Episcopal Church, where he served three terms on the vestry, he was also a past junior and senior warden of the Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee. A pilot, in 2005, he was awarded the Wright Brothers' Master Pilot Award by the FAA, which recognizes pilots who have maintained safe flight operations for 50 or more years. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Jane Ogden Carruthers '48; two daughters, including Jan Sturdivant '75; two sons, nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**'40 Virginia Ragsdale Keller** of Tuscaloosa, AL, Feb. 4, 2012. She taught school in Whitehaven, TN, before moving with her husband to Alabama. A member of First Presbyterian Church where she was a member of the Fellowship Sunday School Class, she leaves her husband of 69 years, Eugene Keller III '41, a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a brother.

**'40 Wallace Howard Mayton Jr.** of Dallas, Jan. 16, 2012. He served as director of Continuing Education and Conferences for the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences, Memphis, and as an elder and member of the Usher Guild of Idlewild Presbyterian Church. He

volunteered as leader of Idlewild's youth ministry, directed recreation for its annual family camps at NaCoMe and coached a generation of boys in baseball. After retirement, he moved to Clarksdale, MS, where he became a member of First United Methodist Church and the Clarksdale Rotary Club, serving as president and district governor, and was a recipient of Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow Award. He was a founder of The Depot community outreach program, providing meals to neighbors in need. He later moved to Baton Rouge, LA, where he became a member of First United Methodist Church and an active volunteer at Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center where he was named a Volunteer of the Year. The widower of Ann Bolling Eckert Mayton '40 and Mary Jean Smith Johnson Mayton, he leaves two sons, Wallace H. Mayton III '70 and Maury Weisiger Mayton '76, five granddaughters, two great-granddaughters, two stepchildren and a stepgranddaughter.

**'40 John Alden Pond** of Bethesda, MD, April 12, 2012. At the outset of World War II he enlisted and served in Cmdr. Edward Outlaw's Air Squadron 32 piloting F6F Hellcats from the USS Langley CVL-27 in the Pacific theater. In the battle of Truk he was one of eight pilots who on April 29, 1944, shot down 21 aircraft within a 15-minute dogfight. His illustrious naval record includes a Distinguished Flying Cross and eight gold stars earned from 329 missions. Following the war he taught college math as his father had, then followed a career in applied mathematics with defense industries and 18 years as a

high ranking civilian in the Department of the Navy. An elder and choir member of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, he was the widower of Nancy Wood Pond '40. He leaves a daughter, three sons and five grandchildren.

**'40 Will Rhea Winfrey Sr.** of Somerville, TN, Dec. 12, 2011. A retired colonel in the U.S. Army, he was a track and field star in college and was inducted into the Rhodes Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006. The widower of Marguerite Mason Winfrey, he leaves a son and a large extended family, including a cousin, Karl Rhea '83.

**'41 Ann Bell** of Memphis, Feb. 17, 2012. She received a M.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Memphis in 1977, and in 2007, an honorary doctor of science degree from the University of Tennessee, honoring her 44 years of teaching and research at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center as an assistant professor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences in the College of Allied Health Science and assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. While at UT, she co-authored *The Morphology of Human Blood Cells*, which was first published in 1956 and is currently in its seventh edition. The book is widely used to teach hematology to health care professionals around the world. Among her many awards was her induction in 1992 as an honorary faculty member into Alpha Omega Alpha, the national medical honorary society. She traveled the world conducting teaching workshops in hematology for medical technologists. After retirement from UT in 1992, she continued to work and teach there as a volunteer

for many years. She also regularly volunteered at the Church Health Center. A longtime member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, where she served for many years as an elder, director of the church library and member of the Hannah Circle, she leaves a nephew, two grandnephews and a grandniece.

**'42 Vive Walker Montgomery** of Memphis, Feb. 21, 2012. She loved to travel and enjoyed volunteer work, cooking, handcrafts and acrylic painting. The widow of Charles Warren Montgomery Jr., she leaves two daughters, two sons and two grandchildren.

**'43 George Blodgett Stuart Hale** of Raleigh, NC, Dec. 23, 2011. An Episcopal priest, he served churches in Tennessee and North Carolina. During his tenure at St. Thomas Church in Elizabethton, TN, he founded the Episcopal Church in Mountain City, TN. In 1946, he served under his father, the Rev. Dr. Charles Stuart Hale, at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Memphis, where the two founded Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Day School. In 1956, he moved to Raleigh as the first rector of St. Saviour's Church (now St. Timothy's). He and his wife founded St. Timothy's School, which was named Father Hale High School in his honor. He and his wife were honored for their work by the church and the state. An author and gardener, he leaves his wife, Carolyn Ann Sharp Hale, a daughter and two grandchildren.

**'43 Jessamine Grimes Younger** of Dallas, Jan. 11, 2012. She taught History at Highland Park High School in the mid-1950s and was the coordinator of museum programs for the Junior League of Dallas. Her

## In Memoriam

last position was archivist at Highland Park United Methodist Church. She was a charter member of the church's Two by Two Class, for which she compiled and edited a history. In addition, she was assistant editor of *Branches of the Living Vine, A Seventy-five Year History of Highland Park United Methodist Church, 1916-1991*. She also wrote for publications for and was a member of several Dallas civic organizations. She was the recipient of the Texas Sesquicentennial City of Dallas award for a teachers' manual published by the Dallas Historical Society, as well as the Texas United Methodist Historical Society Kate Warnick Award for her church's history. The widow of William M. Younger, to whom she was married for 65 years, she leaves a son, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**'44 Mary Elizabeth Worrall Frissell** of Columbia, MO, March 4, 2012. For more than 20 years, she taught English at Beaumont (Texas) High and West Orange (Texas) High. She was a Life Master at duplicate bridge and one of the founders of the Beaumont Bridge Studio, playing regularly until her final decade. She proved adept at using the Internet and made friends all over the world online. Having lived in Beaumont for 50 years, she moved to Columbia in 2007 to be close to her son. The widow of Harry Frissell '44, she leaves a daughter, two sons, a sister, four grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

**'49 Calvin A. King** of Ocala, FL, Nov. 9, 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served on the warship Midway. He and his wife Jean lived and worked in Tennessee, where he was a CPA partner with Ernst & Young. He

was past president of the Red Cross in Tennessee and a past president of the Tennessee Society of Public Accountants. An usher at First Baptist Church, he and Jean Meek King were married for 69 years.

**'50 Sam Berry Blair** of Memphis, Feb. 25, 2012. A member of the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, he served in the South Pacific. He worked for International Harvester before founding his real estate company, Sam Blair Co. Inc. He was a charter member of the Million Dollar Sales Club of the Memphis Realtors, and sold commercial, industrial and agricultural properties in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi during his 40-year real estate career. He leaves his wife, Nancy Blair, two daughters, a son, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**'50 Gene Edwin Canestrari** of Johnson City, TN, March 12, 2012. A longtime resident of Jackson, TN, he was a Presbyterian minister who served churches in Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In Jackson, he pastored Johnson Memorial Presbyterian Church and preached at Denmark and Anderson Churches for 16 years. He served as supply pastor of the Tiptonville Presbyterian Church until last December. He taught philosophy at Jackson State Community College and was an active member of the Exchange Club in Jackson. He leaves a brother, two nieces, three nephews, nine great-nieces and great-nephews and a great-great-nephew.

**'50 James Millen Darnell** of Memphis, February 2012. A World War II Navy veteran, he was a Presbyterian minister, serving in churches in North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

He was founding minister of Farmington Presbyterian Church in Germantown, serving as its minister for 14 years. He also served as president of the Memphis Ministers' Association and moderator of the Presbytery of Memphis. The author of the book *The History of the Presbytery of Memphis and its Predecessor Presbyteries (1810-2001)*, he also wrote the *History of Germantown*. He was the chaplain of the city of Germantown for three years, president of the Kiwanis Club of Germantown, was active in Boy Scouts and was the recipient of several civic awards. He leaves his wife, Lutie Cotten Darnell, two daughters, a son, two stepsons, two grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren.

**'50 Emma Jane McAtee Patterson** of Memphis, April 10, 2012. A charter member of Rhodes' Phi Beta Kappa chapter, she earned a master of Religious Education from the Assembly Training School (now part of Union Theological Seminary) in Richmond, VA. Before her marriage, she worked as a kindergarten director in Midland, TX, and as associate director of Christian Education at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis. She was active in Evergreen Presbyterian Church, serving as an elder and a longtime choir member. The widow of Robert Glasgow Patterson Sr., professor emeritus of Religious Studies at Rhodes to whom she was married for 55 years, she leaves two daughters, two sons, five grandchildren and a brother, the Rev. William McAtee '56.

**'52 Dhane Basom** of Palm Springs and Redway, CA, Jan. 12, 2012. A talented trumpet player in and after college, he was an Army veteran who served

in intelligence, going on to become an instructor and supervisor in electronics. He leaves a sister, Betty Basom Bliss '55, six nieces and numerous grandnieces and nephews.

**'52 Wanda Jo Henry McDaniel** of Kennett, MO, March 26, 2012. She taught music in the Memphis and Kennett Public Schools before starting a family and becoming a private voice instructor in her home. She was active in the Child Evangelism Fellowship, conducting the Good News Club for area children for 11 years. As an active member of the United Methodist Church, she started the youth choir program when she was music education director of her church in 1961. She taught Sunday school for several years and at one time was the adult choir director. For many years she was active in the local Wednesday Music Club, serving as president in 1981-82. She leaves her husband, Jack McDaniel, three children and six grandchildren.

**'53 William Blair Allen Sr.** of Memphis, March 27, 2012. Serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve as battalion equipment officer for the Eighth Engineer Battalion attached to the Second Marine Division, he was honorably discharged with the rank of captain in 1960. Returning from the Marines, he took over the operation of his father's business, Allen Ready-Mix. Over the years, he expanded it to include Allen Sand and Gravel, Allen Block and, eventually, Allen Materials. He founded Allen and Associates and later co-founded Allen-Villiere Partners, both industry consulting firms. In 2011, he was named an Industry Influencer by



the trade magazine *The Concrete Producer*. In 1981, he served as a chairman of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association which in 2006, created the William B. Allen Award to recognize an industry leader in the ready mixed concrete industry. Scoutmaster for his sons' Boy Scout troop, he leaves his wife, Dorothy Santos Allen, four sons, including William Blair Allen Jr. '79, and eight grandchildren.

**'53 Mary Grace Myers McMillan** of Spanish Fort, AL, and Meridian, MS, Jan. 13, 2012. The widow of Dr. T. Morton McMillan Jr. '53, she leaves two sons, including William W. McMillan '85, five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, a sister, Ann Myers Redus '60, a brother and a cousin, Hattie Bryant '52.

**'54 Annette Vaughn Landrum** of Ft. Smith, AR, Nov. 25, 2011.

**'55 Will Johnston Jr.** of Houston, March 1, 2012. He was a professor of economics and finance at Old Dominion University, the University of Baltimore and Salisbury University. An active member of the community at The Terrace at West University in Houston, he leaves his wife, Mary Margaret Storck Johnston '55, a daughter, a son and two grandchildren.

**'56 David Ragland Davis** of Memphis, Oct. 1, 2011. He taught high school in Parma, MO, and later taught English at Whitehaven High School, where he helped develop the Honors English and Guidance and Counseling programs. He was headmaster at Memphis Preparatory School, and was a Shelby County language arts supervisor. He retired as professor of Education at Christian Brothers

University, where he was chair of the department. He was a former deacon and elder at Whitehaven Presbyterian Church, where he was a member from 1947 until 2005, when the church closed. He was an active member at Idlewild Presbyterian Church since that time. He leaves his wife, Adrienne Davis, four nieces, three nephews, a sister and a brother.

**'57 Marian McClelland Hill** of Knoxville, TN, Nov. 11, 2008. She volunteered at the Knoxville Zoo, Recording for the Blind and the Knoxville Symphony Guild. She also contributed to the local public television and radio stations. She was an accomplished artist in ceramics, watercolor and life sketching, which she practiced at the Oak Ridge Art Center. She leaves her husband, Robert M. Hill, two daughters, two granddaughters and two sisters.

**'57 William Andrew (Bill) Stewart Jr.** of Carthage, NC, Nov. 28, 2011. An active Presbyterian minister for 49 years, he leaves his wife of 54 years, Sarah Margaret McLeod, a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren and a sister.

**'60 Jo Ann Owen Dorr** of Shalimar, FL, July 24, 2011. A former third grade teacher and wife of an Air Force officer, she and her family moved to Germany in 1974. She honed her culinary skills while traveling throughout Europe, and attended a French culinary school in Dieppe, where she received a coveted diploma in *de bonne cuisine française*. In 1978, she brought that skill back to Austin, TX, and with one of her best friends from Germany taught cooking classes. After a final move to Shalimar in 1981, she worked as an interior

decorator and personal color coordinator. She leaves her husband, Jack Dorr, two sons, a granddaughter and a grandson.

**'61 Michael Carter Macey Sr.** of Longview, TX, Dec. 28, 2011. Rector emeritus of Trinity Episcopal Church, he was a founder of Longview Community Ministries and the Palmer's Drug Abuse program. He was on the board of the executive committee of the diocese, as well as on the board of examining chaplains, and was a fellow of the College of Preachers at the Washington National Cathedral. A member of the Rotary Club in both Nacogdoches and Longview, he was a Paul Harris Fellow. He received the Tom Putnam Award and the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts and was a board member of Good Shepherd Medical Center, which awarded him a certificate of appreciation for 35 years of service. He leaves his wife, Penny Nichols Macey '62, a daughter, two sons, four grandchildren and two brothers.

**'64 Anna "Willene" Langley Hendon** of Ft. Collins, CO, Nov. 2, 2011. Most recently, she worked for the National Park Service developing web-based tools and databases. She loved the outdoors and supported numerous environmental causes, including otter spotting for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. At 62, she earned a master's degree in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University. She had previously earned a master's in Natural Resources. She leaves her husband, of 47 years, Robert "Bob" Hendon, a daughter, a son, three grandsons and two brothers.

**'65 William Joseph Boyd III** of Memphis, Sept. 18, 2011. He held a Ph.D. in

Physics from the University of Tennessee and was retired from Buckeye Cellulose. He leaves his wife of 39 years, Jeanne Humphreys Boyd, a sister and several nieces and nephews.

**'65 Charles W. Brandon** of Menlo Park, CA, Oct. 27, 2011. After graduation, he worked as a research assistant at William F. Bowld Hospital in Memphis. He was later instrumental in the formation of Federal Express Corp., where he served as a vice president from its inception. He leaves a sister, two nephews, four great-nephews and a great-niece.

**'65 James H. Fall III** of Hilton Head, SC, formerly of Falls Church, VA, Oct. 13, 2011. Serving in the U.S. Army, he was posted in Vietnam as an analyst for the Strategic Research Division of the Intelligence Directory. He was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his work there. The majority of his working career was spent in the Office of International Affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department, serving seven administrations. He represented the U.S. Treasury as financial attaché at the American Embassies in Bonn, Berne and Paris. Upon his return to the U.S., he served the Treasury as deputy assistant secretary for Developing Nations and later, deputy assistant secretary for Technical Assistance where he engaged more than 50 countries, notably in struggling democracies in Africa and the Middle East, providing policy guidance to finance ministers and central bank governors. In addition, he served as vice president and program chair for the World Affairs Council and as U.S. coordinator for the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint

## In Memoriam

Economic Commission. The recipient of the U.S. Treasury Secretary's Honor Award and two Presidential Rank Awards for distinguished service in the Senior Executive Service, he was one of four finalists for the 2005 Service to America Career Achievement Award sponsored by the *Atlantic Monthly*. A recipient of Rhodes' Distinguished Alumni Award, he leaves his wife of 41 years, Marsha Fall, two sons, a sister and three granddaughters.

**'67 Thad Morris Amacker Jr.** of Jackson, MS, March 19, 2012. He leaves his wife, Alice Holder Amacker, two daughters, a son, his mother and a sister.

**'67 Arnold Hey Pittman** of Memphis, May 10, 2012. In college, he was captain of the Rhodes golf team, which won College Athletic Conferences titles in 1964 and 1967, and was later inducted into Rhodes' Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduation, he joined Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Memphis. He was vice president of marketing until 1980, when he founded Pittman and Associates, an employee benefits firm which grew to become one of the region's most successful health insurance claims administrators. He was an original partner in the Half Shell Restaurant, continuing as an active investor over the last 38 years. He also was president of the West Tennessee Hunter Jumper Association, and was a board member of the James Hyter Scholarship Foundation since its inception. A member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church, he leaves his wife, Deborah Nichol Pittman '71, a daughter, Joy-Elizabeth Nichol Pittman '07, and a brother.

**'68 Dale M. Steinmeyer** of

Marion, AR, July 5, 2011. A member of the Marion First United Methodist Church, he leaves his wife, Judith Ann Jordee Steinmeyer, a son, two daughters, three grandchildren and a brother.

**'68 Jack Howard Taylor Jr.** of Bartlett, TN, Jan. 29, 2012. He was employed at Northeast Mental Health Center, Charter Hospital, Saint Francis Hospital and at Crye-Leike Realtors in human resources. He leaves a daughter, a son, his parents, Sara Sparr Taylor '46 and Dr. Jack Howard Taylor '44, three brothers, including William Sparr Taylor '71 and J. Charles Taylor '74, five grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

**'69 Nell Elmore Johnston** of Memphis, Jan. 14, 2012. A retired art and music teacher for Memphis Preparatory School and a private piano teacher, she was a longtime member and elder of Whitehaven Presbyterian Church and most recently a member of Providence Presbyterian Church. The widow of William Aaron Johnston, she leaves a son, four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

**'72 Joseph B. Pierce** of Little Rock, March 13, 2012. A psychiatrist at the VA Medical Center, Fort Roots for 27 years, he was a member of Quapaw Quarter United Methodist Church. He leaves his wife of 33 years, Pam Waggoner Pierce, a son, a daughter, two grandchildren, his mother and a brother.

**'75 Onwuka Joseph Moemeke**, Nov. 7, 2009. He leaves his wife, Patricia Moemeke, and four children.

**'77 Susan Porter-Levy** of McKinney, TX, Dec. 5, 2011. A psychologist in private practice, she

also moderated a support group for cancer survivors. She leaves her husband, Dr. Raymond L. Levy, a daughter, her mother, a sister, a brother and several nieces and nephews.

**'78 Wayne Perrin Todd** of Black Mountain, NC, Nov. 4, 2011. He was a fine art portrait and commercial photographer whose clients included television star Art Linkletter and Memphis' Peabody hotel and Graceland. He was a decorated Eagle Scout and a member of the Black Mountain Rotary Club and Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, where he had served as an elder and played guitar and mandolin with the Prophets of Praise. He leaves his wife of 22 years, Donna Marie Todd; a son; his mother, Mary Taylor Todd '56; three sisters; a brother, Taylor Todd '80; an uncle, William Newton Todd '55; and seven nieces and nephews, including Taylor Marie Butker '08.

**'82 John Reed Hill Jr.** of Lebanon, TN, Nov. 2, 2011. A founder, with his grandfather, of Cumberland Company Real Estate, he was past president of the Board of Realtors and named 1999 Realtor of the Decade. A member of the Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, he was also active in several civic and religious organizations, including Rotary and First Presbyterian Church in Lebanon. He leaves his wife, Michelle Judy Hill, a daughter, a son, his parents, John and Bettie Hill, and several cousins, aunts and uncles, including Tom Teasley '69.

**'86 Wendy Walker** of South Pittsburg, TN, Feb. 8, 2012. She worked in the Marion County School System for several years and loved

reading, learning, painting, playing piano and animals of all kinds. She leaves a sister, an aunt, an uncle, two nieces and a nephew and her cousins.

**'91 Alison "Ali" Regina Gray McKenna** of Juneau, AK, Oct. 15, 2011. She taught high school in Georgia for four years and in Spain for a year before moving to Juneau in 1997, where she taught at Juneau Douglas High School. She also taught in the graduate education program at the University of Alaska Southeast, and young children at Juneau Dance Unlimited's summer Fine Arts Camp. For several years she ran the Youth Court program in Juneau. She leaves a daughter, a son, her parents, a brother, John Charles (Chaz) Gray Jr. '88, and her great-grandmother.

**'00 Thomas Dewitt "Todd" Abbott** of Dallas, Jan. 30, 2012. A graduate of the Baylor College of Dentistry, he was an Eagle Scout and senior patrol leader of Troop 70. His greatest love was his 25 years spent as a camper, counselor and assistant director of Camp Country Lad in the foothills of Tennessee. He also cherished his time outdoors on his boat, playing golf and snow skiing. He leaves his parents, Lynn and Bob Abbott, and two sisters.

**'01 Paul Edward Meyers II** of Jackson, TN, March 31, 2012. The assistant public defender of the 26th Judicial District for the State of Tennessee, he was first employed with Friedman & Downey, P.C. in Birmingham, AL. A member of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, he leaves his mother, Gayle Meyers, three sisters, including Laura Ann Meyers Daly '07, a grandmother and several aunts and uncles.

**'03 Marvin Lee Addison** of Memphis, Nov. 17, 2011.

# I Am a Mentor

**Catherine Cuellar** is a natural-born communicator—especially when it comes to articulating her passion for Rhodes.

A member of the class of 1996, Catherine majored in English, was a Rhodes Singer, a Diplomat, was a leader in her sorority and a member of the publications staff, ODK and Mortar Board.

Since graduating from Rhodes and starting her career—first as a reporter in Dallas, and currently as communications manager at electric utility Oncor—Catherine has continued to “walk the talk” for Rhodes. She has served as president of the North Texas Rhodes Chapter, organized career networking events, served as the moderator of career panels, recruited students and worked on her class reunion committee. She is also a member of the Red & Black Society and will begin serving on the Alumni Association Executive Board next March.

Catherine Cuellar understands that, as members of the Rhodes community, we are all one. And it takes all of us to ensure that Rhodes remains the very best.

Please consider how you can give back to the Rhodes community. For more information, please visit [alumni.rhodes.edu](http://alumni.rhodes.edu).

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JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Salar Rafieetary and Kelly Parry received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards at Commencement. The awards are presented annually to two graduating seniors (one male and one female) who have given selflessly to others and the college.