

From: Handwerker_Margaret **On Behalf Of** Borst_Charlotte
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To: FACSTAFF; All_Students
Subject: This Week at Rhodes

•This is an intense time for the faculty and student members of our community, and I am glad we have the momentum of our two celebrations of scholarship—the Honors Convocation and URCAS—to help propel you through. I offer hearty congratulations to the student award winners and to our colleagues, Professors Mark Muesse and Mary Miller, this year’s recipients of the Clarence Day awards.

•Another colleague, Professor Carol Ekstrom, will be leaving us this year after a long and productive career at Rhodes. You can read about her many accomplishments in the Summer issue of Rhodes magazine where you will learn that she and Peter will be moving to Michigan permanently after an extended trip to Argentina. We will miss you, Carol. You leave a large hole at Rhodes and in Memphis.

•You may have read in the Commercial Appeal recently about the involvement of the Rhodes archaeology program in the restoration of Zion Cemetery. Professors Ryan Byrne and Milton Moreland and vice president Russ Wigginton have been involved with this effort for three years. Not only are our students doing very worthwhile work, they are learning a great deal in the process. Professor Byrne reports, “Zion is both an historical monument and an archaeological laboratory in which students learn about conservation, topography, surveying and burial rituals. When the memory of a human being is reducible to the words on a tombstone, the recovery of that stone is the highest honor we can pay an individual life lost to history.” Not only that, he adds, “While some may argue that society would not allow vital institutions to melt into the landscape, we have powerful evidence that it happens.”

•As you may recall, last August President Troutt signed the [President’s Climate Commitment](#) which formalizes our goal of reducing our carbon footprint in pursuit of climate neutrality. The Rhodes Environmental Planning Cooperative, which comprises faculty, staff and students, has been hard at work in pursuit of this goal and has made significant progress. They reported on their work last Friday at URCAS.

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