• Last week had a very sobering beginning as we lost two members of our community, student Scott Rosenberg and our colleague Loretta Watkins. Our community is diminished by their loss but is strengthened as we pull together in our sadness and are reminded to appreciate each other every day.

• I am delighted to tell you that Megan Colnar ’08 has been named one of 50 Watkins Fellows http://www.watsonfellowship.org/site/what/what.html for the coming year. Her project, “In Peaces: Nonviolence and Reconciliation Movements” will take her to India, South Africa, Rwanda, Chile, and Northern Ireland. Dean Michael Drompp writes, “This is a highly competitive fellowship. Megan’s success in this fierce competition speaks to her commitment to and passion for her project, as well as the fine education she has received at Rhodes. It also speaks to the importance of our current efforts in regard to global education; Megan will be graduating in May with a double major in International Studies and Latin American Studies. Finally, it speaks to the dedication of our faculty. In addition to the letter of institutional support that I wrote on her behalf, Megan had excellent letters of recommendation from Professors Steve Ceccoli and Mike LaRosa (as well as a letter from Mr. Jacob Flowers, Director of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center). I also want to mention those faculty members who served, along with myself, on our campus nominating committee for the Watson Fellowship: Professors Tina Barr, Teresa Delfin, and David Mason. They worked diligently and thoughtfully to select our four nominees, and then worked closely with the nominees to help strengthen their applications. Everyone I have mentioned contributed to Megan’s success, and I want to express my sincere appreciation to them here. And we should be very proud of Megan – an extraordinary young woman who will do Rhodes proud.”

• We are making excellent progress in our various faculty searches and have filled four positions to date: Rashna Richards - English (Film Studies), Ph.D., University of Florida, currently Assistant Professor of English and Director of Film Studies, SUNY Brockport; Rychetta Watkins - English (African American Literature), Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, currently Assistant Professor of English, William Jewell College; Alex Novikoff - History (Medieval Europe), Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania; and Etty Terem - History (Islamic History), Ph.D., Harvard University, currently Post-doctoral Fellow, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.


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