

Memphis and the Mid-South region afford unique opportunities for academic research. From the foothills of the Appalachians to the foothills of the Ozarks, from the cotton fields of West Tennessee to the battlefields of Vicksburg, the region encompassing an approximately two hundred mile radius from Memphis has figured prominently in the social, cultural, political, and economic life of the nation. The area's racial and cultural diversity, its significant contributions to literature and music, its pivotal role in the history of civil rights, the prominence of its national political leaders, and its growing importance as a commercial and distribution hub make it an ideal laboratory for research.

The Rhodes Institute is an innovative program that capitalizes on the liberal arts tradition of the College, the research expertise of its faculty, and its location in one of America's great cities. All Rhodes Institute fellows receive housing, research expenses, and \$3,000 stipends while they pursue their academic work. Over the course of the program, Institute fellows spend their first two weeks together engaged in an intensive regional studies seminar; five weeks working on their own projects, interspersed with weekly group meetings; and a final week presenting and discussing their research. By the end of the program, all fellows submit 8,000-10,000-word research papers.

In addition, Rhodes Institute fellows will be encouraged to continue their research beyond the summer by enrolling in a directed inquiry, pursuing an honors research project, or preparing their research for publication.

Rhodes Institute fellows do not earn academic credit for their work, but participation in the Institute does fulfill Foundation requirement 11 (connections) under the Foundations Curriculum.

Interdisciplinary study

Grounded in the liberal arts tradition, the 2007 Rhodes Institute brings together faculty members from art, archaeology, music, political science, and religious studies, as well as Rhodes' new program in environmental sciences. These faculty members team teach the regional studies seminar, as they provide information and insight from their own disciplinary perspectives through lectures, readings, and discussions. Although each fellow works under the supervision of a faculty mentor within a specific discipline, all members of the Institute faculty take part in discussions of all of the projects during weekly meetings. During these sessions, fellows begin to see the relationships and make the connections among their various topics.

Independent Research

After gaining a broad, interdisciplinary perspective in the seminar, students embark on their own specialized research. Institute fellows leave the confines of the classroom and venture into the community to work in libraries and archives or in collaboration with businesses, government, or non-profit institutions and organizations. Encouraged and advised along the way through individual meetings with faculty mentors, as well as in the weekly group sessions, fellows produce papers that conform to the rigorous standards of the Institute faculty.

Regional immersion

Because the program focuses solely on the Mid-South, the Rhodes Institute serves as a cultural immersion experience. Much in the same way that students go abroad to imbibe the culture of a specific country, the Rhodes Institute provides fellows the chance to get to know the Memphis region in ways that few Rhodes students ever do. Fellows engage not only in "academic immersion" during the regional studies seminar, they also take a variety of field trips to experience first-hand the things they have studied in the classroom. In doing so, Institute fellows develop a sense of the unique attributes and contributions of the city and region.

Civic Engagement

The Rhodes Institute also fosters civic awareness and involvement in Memphis and the Mid-South. During the regional studies seminar and weekly group meetings, Rhodes Institute faculty and fellows discuss current events in the community. The program requires all fellows to read the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper and to report on articles relating to issues raised in the seminar. In conducting research, fellows make connections between their research interests and contemporary regional issues, while at the same time becoming acquainted with community leaders.

Application Guidelines

- Rising juniors and seniors (members of the classes of 2008 and 2009) with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 can apply to be Rhodes Institute Fellows. A limited number of Rhodes Institute Fellowships may also be awarded to graduating seniors (members of the class of 2007). All majors are welcome.
- Interested students should submit a proposal for a specific research project. Proposals should include a clear articulation of a research problem, along with a plan for exploring and investigating that issue. Project proposals should be 1000-1250 words in length.
- Students should submit one letter of recommendation from a Rhodes faculty member. The recommendation letter should not come from one of the 2007 Rhodes Institute Faculty listed in this brochure.
- The deadline for submission of proposals and recommendations is Monday, January 29, 2007. Students should submit electronic versions of proposals (Word documents or PDF files preferred) via email to rirs@rhodes.edu, and recommendation letters should be submitted in hard copy to Prof. Huebner, 305 Clough Hall. Students will be notified of their acceptance in mid-February.

2007 Rhodes Institute

Faculty



Timothy S. Huebner, Associate Professor of History, is the founder and director of the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies. A specialist in the constitutional and legal history of the American South, Professor Huebner brings expertise in the areas of local, state, and regional history. Author of *The Southern Judicial Tradition: State Judges and Sectional Distinctiveness, 1790-1890* (1999) and *The Taney Court: Justices, Rulings, Legacy* (2003), Prof. Huebner is co-editor of the University of Georgia Press's Studies in the Legal History of the South series. In 2004, he received the Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Teaching and was named Tennessee Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Endowment for the Advancement of Teaching.



Rosanna Cappellato, Assistant Professor of Biology, teaches a variety of courses, most of which fulfill requirements for the new minor in Environmental Sciences. During the past two summers she has led an environmental field trip to Namibia. Since coming to Rhodes, she has initiated two research projects: the economic valuation of the ecosystem services provided by Overton Park and the promotion of urban green areas in the Hollywood-Springdale community. Research opportunities for students are in these two areas and include researching the social and ecological significance of urban green spaces; developing a model for establishing urban green spaces in other communities, based upon the Hollywood-Springdale experience; and assessing carbon sequestration by the trees of Memphis (i.e. the role of the forests in mitigating anthropogenic carbon dioxide in the atmosphere).



Stephen R. Haynes, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, teaches a variety of courses including Holocaust, Religion and Racism, Religion and Education, and Religion and Literature. He is the author or editor of ten books, including *Noah's Curse: The Biblical Justification for American Slavery* (2002), *The Bonhoeffer Phenomenon: Portraits of a Protestant Saint* (2004) and *The Bonhoeffer Legacy: Post-Holocaust Perspectives* (2006). For several years he has been engaged in research on the role of Rhodes students in the integration of Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis during 1964-65. In 1997 he received the Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Research, and in 2001 he was awarded the Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Teaching. Prof. Haynes has research interests in the impact of religion on education, culture, and society in the region.



David McCarthy, Professor of the History of Art and James F. Ruffin Professor of Art and Archaeology, teaches courses on the history and theory of modern and American art. He is the author of *The Nude in American Painting, 1950 to 1980* (1998), *Pop Art* (2000), *H.C. Westermann at War: Art and Manhood in Cold War America* (2004) and numerous essays on American art since 1945. In the fall of 2004 he was in residence at the Smithsonian American Art Museum as a senior fellow. As part of the Rhodes Institute, he will direct research on photographs from the African-American newspaper, *The Memphis World*. Shot between 1950 and 1968, these images provide documentary evidence of black, middle-class life in a period of historic change in our city. Students will write wall text for a forthcoming exhibition organized by the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, jointly exhibited by the Brooks and the Rhodes College Clough-Hanson Gallery, and they will write essays for the accompanying catalogue.



Milton C. Moreland, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and co-director of the Program in Archaeology, teaches courses in the Search and Life curricula. An archaeologist and scholar of early Christianity, Prof. Moreland has worked on excavations at ancient archaeological sites in Israel and Cyprus. His publications include articles on Roman period Galilee and Jerusalem and two edited books on the sayings of Jesus. Prof. Moreland also co-directs the new Rhodes archaeology field school at Ames Plantation in Fayette County, Tennessee, and his regional research interests focus on Ames. This site contains the ruins of over thirty separate plantations and share-cropper farms spread across 18,600 acres. Research opportunities include working on the excavated artifacts from a nineteenth-century manor house and slave quarters, studying economic development issues related to slavery and plantation life, and examining the social histories of families who lived on one of the plantations.



Michael Nelson, Professor of Political Science, is a nationally recognized authority on the American presidency. He has published more than twenty books on the presidency, elections, the bureaucracy, public policy, and higher education, as well as nearly two hundred articles on a wide range of political, religious, literary, and cultural topics. Prof. Nelson created and edits the American Presidential Elections book series for the University Press of Kansas. Active in the local community, he serves as political analyst for WMC-TV in Memphis. In addition, Prof. Nelson is a board member of Humanities Tennessee. His current research focuses on the presidency.



Timothy D. Watkins, Assistant Professor of Music, is the coordinator of the Music History and Literature Division in the Department of Music. In addition to the sequence of music history and literature courses required for music majors and minors, he has taught African-American Music, Latin American Music, and World Music, and he helped develop the Fine Arts track of the Search program. Prof. Watkins' research focuses on the musical consequences of the encounter between European, Indigenous, and African cultures in the Americas, and his work has been published in the *Journal of Musicological Research*, the *Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*, and *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Music of the World*. His regional research interests include African-American music (especially blues, soul, and gospel music) and Latin American music.



Rhodes College
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The Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies June 11 – August 2, 2007

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as an "Effective Practice" in American Higher Education
-CIC Effective Practices Exchange Website



rhodes.edu/regional_studies