



Rhodes Faculty News

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Mock Trial Wins with Dr. Marcus Pohlmann

Under the direction of Dr. Marcus Pohlmann, Ph.D. graduate from Columbia University and current professor in the Political Science Department, Rhodes students have won four national Mock Trial championships. Students

compete in tournaments all around the country after training at Rhodes with local attorneys. This year, students have competed in Georgia, Virginia, Arizona and California. Dr. Pohlmann says, "One of the nice things about being around for 23 years is kids compete, then they go to law school, then they practice and they come back and help." Memphis will host the 2010 national finals for The American Mock Trial Association, an event that will bring 48 teams and more than 500 people from all over the country.



Theatre Students Challenged by Professor Cookie Ewing

Professor Julia "Cookie" Ewing takes pieces of her life and implants them directly into her teaching, a method that forces her students to explore human identities, including their own. She wants her students to understand not only how acting works, but how it works for the community. Theatre challenges students to actively analyze the basic questions of humanity, such as what it means to be human and what it means to live in a human community. Through an ever-progressing array of classes and workshops, Professor Ewing challenges her students to explore these challenging questions.

St. Jude Summer Plus Program

Dr. Robert Strandburg, a UCLA Ph.D. graduate in cognitive psychophysiology, coordinates a program that offers students intensive research experience with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for a period of at least one summer and one academic year. According to Dr. Strandburg, "Such fellowships are extremely beneficial to our students. In many cases, their



work at St. Jude leads to publication in professional journals or to presentation of their findings at biomedical conferences.

Their mentors at St. Jude often report that colleagues from other institutions who have attended these presentations cannot believe that these students are undergraduates. Students report that contact with the children being treated at St. Jude is a constant reminder of why the work matters and they return to their laboratories and to their classrooms with a renewed passion for research."



Biologist and Chemists Collaborate with 13 Students

Dr. Loretta Jackson-Hayes, Dr. Terry Hill and Dr. Darlene Loprete have been working together as co-principal investigators into the processes by which the cell wall is constructed and maintained in the filamentous fungus *Aspergillus nidulans*. With major grant funding, they have extended their collaborative enterprise to include 13 students. By working closely with their professors in the lab, students have gained unparalleled experience in basic molecular techniques, including gene cloning, DNA isolation and electrophoresis.



Students DIG the PAST with Dr. Moreland

Over the past three years, 75 Rhodes students have lived at a historic site for three weeks, excavating with Professor Milton Moreland, chair of the program in Archaeology. They excavate Native American villages from 2,000 years ago and discover long-hidden slave cabins from the antebellum period right here in Tennessee. Students have felt the thrill of discovery when uncovering ancient stone tools and weapons.

For more about teaching and learning at Rhodes, visit rhodes.edu/deansblog

History Students Present Papers in San Diego with Dr. Alex Novikoff

Four members of the Department of History's national honor society Phi Alpha Theta chapter — Stephanie Fox, Monica Gaudioso, Allie Garris, and Mary Beth Ricke — presented papers at the society's biennial conference in San Diego this past January. Professor Alex Novikoff, faculty adviser to Phi Alpha Theta, accompanied the students to the conference. Professor Novikoff also chaired a panel of student papers during the conference. The conference was held in tandem with the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in order to allow students the opportunity to attend sessions and hear papers by some of academe's most illustrious historians. Dr. Novikoff, who specializes in medieval history, holds a Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Jon Davis Connects Students to the Zoo

Biology majors Dan Eastlack and Allison Graham have received laboratory, field and presentation experience through their work with Biology Faculty Fellow Jon Davis, who holds joint appointments at Rhodes and the Memphis Zoo. Dan and Allison began working in Dr. Davis' lab last spring. After several months, the two competed successfully for internships at the zoo and continued to volunteer in the fall semester to complete their research projects. During winter break, they traveled with Dr. Davis to Seattle and presented posters at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology's annual meeting.



97.5% of the faculty at Rhodes have a doctoral degree or the highest degree in their field.

Dr. Cafiero Conducts Research on Molecules

Dr. Mauricio Cafiero's students have recently presented their chemistry research at conferences in New York, Finland, Utah, The Netherlands and Spain. Dr. Cafiero's research focuses on the weak interactions between ring-shaped molecules. Michelle Shroyer, a Chemistry major and Religious Studies minor, says of her experience with Dr. Cafiero, "Right now, my plan is to continue on to medical school and pursue a joint M.D./Ph.D. degree in the field of cancer research. Hopefully, with the knowledge I've gained from Religious Studies, I'll be able to

better relate to my patients since I'll have a sense of their religious customs and cultural backgrounds. But more important, I feel confident that when graduation rolls around, I'll be prepared to tackle



the full gamut of what lies ahead. Studying chemistry has taught me how to experiment and analyze; studying in the humanities has taught me how to critically read and write. Combined, those two skills will aid in shaping me into the best researcher I can be."

At Rhodes for every 10 students there is one faculty member.



Rhodes Students Attend Math Conference with Dr. Jeff Hamrick

In January, seven students with interests in pure and applied mathematics attended the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics. Dr. Jeff Hamrick, a Ph.D. graduate from Boston University and a scholar in financial mathematics and statistics, organized the trip. The conference provided these students the opportunity to meet other undergraduate women interested in the mathematical sciences, share their research experiences and meet possible future research collaborators.

Dr. Romano Leads Students to Turkey

Seven students recently tossed aside their summer plans and hopped on a plane to study abroad in Turkey. There, they learned about history, politics and religion thanks to the broad connections and meticulous arrangements of Professor David Romano of the Department of International Studies. The stories they returned with hit all the high points on the travel Richter scale.



They brought back the wild-adventure memories no one plans, from the I-can't-believe-this-is-legal-here moment to the this-would-never-happen-at-home moment.