

THE MAGAZINE OF RHODES COLLEGE

SPRING 2015

# Rhodes

## Rhodes College

*The Board of Trustees in recognition of the successful completion  
of the prescribed curriculum as officially certified by the Faculty  
does hereby confer upon*

**Rhodes C. Graduate**

*The Degree of*

**Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**Lifelong Learner, Critical Thinker, Problem Solver**

*With all the honors, rights and privileges thereto appertaining  
in testimony whereof, the Seal of the College and  
the signatures of the proper officers are hereto affixed  
this everyday of any class year.*

*William E. Trout*  
President



*Arthur W. Rollins*  
Secretary

# ALUMNI IN ACTION

Putting a Liberal Arts Education to Work

A TOAST TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR RHODES



## THE RHODES VISION

Rhodes College aspires to graduate students with a life-long passion for learning, a compassion for others, and the ability to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in their communities and the world.

We will achieve our aspiration through four strategic imperatives:

### **Student Access**

To attract and retain a talented, diverse student body and engage these students in a challenging, inclusive, and culturally broadening college experience.

### **Student Learning**

To ensure our faculty and staff have the talent, the time, and the resources to inspire and involve our students in meaningful study, research, and service.

### **Student Engagement**

To enhance student opportunities for learning in Memphis.

### **Student Inspiration**

To provide a residential place of learning that inspires integrity and high achievement through its beauty, its emphasis on values, its Presbyterian history, and its heritage as a leader in the liberal arts and sciences.

*Adopted by the Rhodes Board of Trustees January 17, 2003*



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EDITOR

**Lynn Conlee**

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

**Larry Ahokas**  
**Bob Shatzer**

PRODUCTION EDITORS

**Jana Files '78**  
**Charlie Kenny**  
**Justin McGregor**  
**Ken Woodmansee**

STUDENT EDITOR

**Caroline Ponseti '15**

COPY EDITOR

**Anna Acerra**

CONTRIBUTORS

**Stephen Deusner '96**  
**Nancy McCann**  
**Chris McCoy '93**  
**Caroline Ponseti '15**

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

**Liv Behre**  
**Justin Fox Burks**  
**Geoffrey Ellis**  
**Bryan Meltz**  
**Corey Nolen**  
**Allison Rodgers**

EDITOR EMERITUS

**Martha Shepard '66**

INFORMATION

901-843-3000

ALUMNI OFFICE

1 (800) 264-LYNX

ADMISSION OFFICE

1 (800) 844-LYNX



Photo by Justin Fox Burks  
Cover design by Bob Shatzer



## Columns

- 4** A Message from the President
- 6** The Campaign for Rhodes
- 35** Student Spotlight
- 36** Faculty Focus
- 56** Rhodes & Beyond

## Alumni News

- 38** Alumni Perspective
- 39** Class Notes, In Memoriam



## Features

### **IO** Alumni in Action: Putting a Liberal Arts Education to Work

**12** Ariana French '95  
**Connecting Natural History, Byte by Byte**  
By Stephen Deusner '96

**16** Ira Jackson '87  
**A Changing World, A Changing Worldview**  
By Chris McCoy '93

**20** Eric Mathews '02  
**Transforming Memphis One Start-Up at a Time**  
By Caroline Ponseti '15

**23** Ready, Set, Start Co.  
By Caroline Ponseti '15

**24** Philinese Kirkwood '11  
**Learning to Fly: Sometimes, It's (Not) the Hardest Thing**  
By Chris McCoy '93

**28** Bryan Darr '84  
**Data-Mapping the Globe for the Best Mobility**  
By Nancy J. McCann

**32** Hanging Out with Sarah Lacy '98

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The many ways our alumni lead and inspire others in their communities constantly remind us of the timeless value of a liberal arts education. The alumni featured in this *Rhodes* magazine further speak to how our college helps graduates in life-changing ways. They highlight the outstanding teaching-mentoring relationships between faculty and students that remain at the heart of a Rhodes education.

All our featured alumni in this issue reflect the breadth of experiences you encounter at Rhodes. Those often unexpected twists and turns along the road of college life helped to determine the career paths of many. Take for example Ariana French '95, who majored in psychology. Access to the Rhodes computer lab introduced her to the newly emerging curiosity known as the World Wide Web. She spent hours in the lab learning to code and today remains on the cutting edge of her field as the director of digital technology at the American Museum of Natural History.

Ira Jackson '87 reports that his deep conversations with his professors and classmates changed his worldview. This flexibility in his thinking has served him well in his role as owner of Perfect Image, a commercial printing firm in Atlanta, GA. Anyone



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

Rhodes College Commencement, Fisher Garden


familiar with the world of print understands how necessary it has been to adapt to change.

Closer to home, Eric Mathews '02 operates a business start-up incubator in downtown Memphis. More importantly, he shares his expertise with his alma

mater by working with young entrepreneurs on campus. Bryan Darr '84 observed a need for data-mapping information among early mobile phone customers in the mid-1980s and has grown his idea into the largest mobile network coverage database company in the country right here in Memphis.

Memphians Sarah Lacy '98 and Philly Kirkwood '11 retain their love for their hometown even though both have gone on to successful media careers elsewhere. Sarah—founder of *PandoDaily*, an online news source covering Silicon Valley—was recently included in two lists of top women in technology and was described as a “rock star” in her industry by Dr. Betsy Sanders, associate professor of math and computer science at Rhodes. Philly weathered job searching during the Great Recession, but stuck it out and landed a dream job in New York advertising, garnering attention in January from *Adweek*.

These alumni serve as just a small handful of the many who have departed Rhodes toward a life of continued learning and questioning that characterizes a liberal arts education. I trust you will be reminded of special relationships you enjoyed with your favorite professors or the many friends made here and their impact on your life.

In December, we completed a very successful Campaign for Rhodes to ensure a vibrant future. Alumni, parents, trustees, friends, corporations, and foundations from across the country reinforced the importance of a residential liberal arts education with their generous support. Because of them, we have been able to establish new student scholarships, increase support for faculty, and make major campus capital improvements. Our college is a better place thanks to these meaningful investments. I am grateful and humbled by this most meaningful testimony to the power and promise of the liberal arts. I want to personally thank all those whose campaign contributions and support ensure that Rhodes continues to provide an exceptional education in the liberal arts and sciences in the 21st century. 



# The Campaign for Rhodes

As 2014 concluded, so too did the Campaign for Rhodes, a highly successful endeavor that aligned around the four imperatives of the Vision for Rhodes—student access, student learning, student engagement, and student inspiration.

The campaign significantly strengthened our financial base, raising \$314,004,495. Our endowment balance is up \$135 million. Total institutional assets have increased more than \$200 million. Our financial outlook has been bolstered to an A+ bond rating with a positive outlook. Most important, campaign support has advanced our Vision for Rhodes in all areas of our imperatives.

## Student Access

To attract and retain a talented student body and engage these students in a challenging, inclusive, and culturally broadening college experience.

- 258 scholarships created or enhanced to support our students
- Emergency assistance funds created to ensure financial hardships do not keep students from succeeding
- Establishment of major scholarship programs such as the Day Scholars Program

Day Scholar **KATELYN DAGEN '15** was just one of many students to benefit from campaign-generated scholarship funds.

“Clarence Day was a kind-hearted man and philanthropist who loved the city of Memphis. Because of his generosity, I have been able to grow alongside a passionate group of young Memphians who make up the Clarence Day Scholarship Program. This program, along with my general Rhodes experience, has allowed me to become a part of the Memphis community. My time as a Clarence Day Scholar has given me first-hand experiences with Memphis businesses, non-profit organizations, and the public school system.

“Each Day Scholar is expected to complete a project

during his or her time at Rhodes. Day Scholars are funded to the level of \$5,000 to organize and complete these projects. The projects are created on an individual basis, incorporating each Day Scholar’s passions and abilities into a service fellowship or internship in the Memphis community. For my project, I chose to work with the director of Special Olympics Greater Memphis to create a summer camp for the Special Olympics athletes, to be held here on our campus. The first camp took place in July of 2013 and the second followed this past summer. We plan on making this a continuing program.”





## Student Learning

To ensure our faculty and staff have the talent, the time, and the resources to inspire and involve our students in meaningful study, research, and service.

- New interdisciplinary programs established in Environmental Studies and Sciences, Neuroscience, and Political Economy
- Cross-departmental curricula added, including course offerings in the area of Urban and Community Health
- 13 faculty chairs and professorships funded, including endowments for:
  - \* The Nancy and Art Fulmer Professorship in Political Science
  - \* Plough Professor of Urban Studies
  - \* James T. and Valeria B. Robertson Chair in Biological Science
  - \* Irma O. Sternberg Chair in History
  - \* Spence L. Wilson Chair of Humanities
- Faculty generated institutional support through the:
  - \* National Science Foundation
  - \* National Aeronautics and Space Administration
  - \* Institute for Museum and Library Services
  - \* Housing and Urban Development
  - \* National Endowment of the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities
- Teaching, learning, and research enhanced by national foundations such as:
  - \* The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
  - \* The Teagle Foundation
  - \* Lumina Foundation for Education
- New partnerships formed with:
  - \* The Watson Fellowship
  - \* The Henry Luce Foundation
- 30 new funds established to support innovative faculty teaching and research



In 2011, **JONATHAN JUDAKEN** became the first professor to hold the Spence L. Wilson Chair of Humanities, endowed by Trustee Spence L. Wilson. Since taking the post, Judaken has brought an interdisciplinary approach to the classroom and launched a respected and highly popular series, Communities in Conversation (CiC). CiC has brought numerous lecturers to campus from American linguist, philosopher, and political commentator Noam Chomsky to Wesleyan University President Michael Roth to historian Dr. Nell Irvin Painter, Edwards Professor of American History,

Emerita, Princeton University. A series of Tasty Conversations prior to many lectures allows faculty a chance to discuss a speaker's works in advance of his or her campus visit. In addition, for the past three years CiC has hosted the Tournées French Film Festival on the Rhodes campus, a film series featuring a range of contemporary French cinema.

Behind all of these events lies the type of dialogue that Judaken hoped to spur upon his arrival. "We need to have more conversations with each other outside of the narrow silos of our own departmental borders and boundaries," Judaken told *Rhodes* magazine in 2012.

## Student Engagement

To enhance student opportunities for learning in Memphis.

- St. Jude Summer Plus program, an innovative partnership formed between Rhodes and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, offers qualified students an intensive research experience at the world-renowned hospital.
- 89 new funds have been established to support fellowships at places such as the National Civil Rights Museum, the Memphis Zoo, and FedEx.
- The Memphis Center, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, focuses on the human experience of the Memphis region. The Memphis Center comprises several now well-known student learning opportunities, all created by campaign gifts:

- \* Rhodes Archaeological Field School at Ames Plantation
  - \* Center for Outreach in the Development of the Arts (CODA)
  - \* Crossroads to Freedom Digital Archive
  - \* Mike Curb Institute for Music
  - \* Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies
  - \* Rhodes Learning Corridor
  - \* Shelby Foote Collection
- For more than 65% of Rhodes students, the classroom experience extends globally. Thanks to Buckman Study Abroad Fellowships and 15 new assistance funds, students have a diverse selection of study abroad opportunities.



When she arrived at Rhodes in 2011, **DY'NELLE TODMAN '15** already knew the general direction her career would take. Sidelined by a basketball injury in high school, she worked with the Boys and Girls Club in her hometown of Athens, GA. A future of working with underprivileged youths lay ahead. But how that plan coalesced into a concrete job has everything to do with her Rhodes experience. Like most of her classmates, Todman juggled a full schedule, incorporating internships, a fellowship, and community work into her time at Rhodes. She will graduate with a double major in economics/

business and commerce and urban studies. Outside the classroom she is the captain of the women's basketball team.

Her work as a community development fellow opened her eyes to a glaring lack of transportation for students hoping to attend after-school programs in the Vollintine Evergreen community. For her senior seminar capstone project in urban studies, she is laying the groundwork for a solution to that problem so that Rhodes students who follow in her footsteps can continue to study and, hopefully, solve it. "There are a lot of after-school programs in Memphis," Todman says. "The issue is getting the kids to attend the programs and be able to participate."

Internships at Stax Music Academy and Freedom Preparatory Academy resulted in her decision to participate in the Teach for America program. "The spark was already there, but being involved in organizations like that really ignited the flame," she says. "Over the summer before I came back (for senior year), I was seriously thinking about what I wanted to do. Reflecting on my experiences, I think that teaching could be a really great first step in whatever I decide to do after that. And I can do all the things that I have seen and really connected with here at Rhodes."

## Student Inspiration

To provide a residential place of learning that inspires integrity and high achievement through its beauty, its emphasis on values, its Presbyterian history, and its heritage as a leader in the liberal arts and sciences.

- Increased total interior square footage from 899,439 to 1,217,825
- Rhodes Tower and Palmer Hall renovations and the anticipated construction of a new science building and renovations to Briggs Hall ensure that our students and faculty have access to state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories.
- The renovation and re-purposing of Burrow Hall has centralized student recruitment efforts in a beautiful, inviting environment, while also providing a convenient hub for student support.

- The college's performing arts offerings were enhanced with renovations and additions to McCoy Theatre.
- The Winston Wolfe Track and Field Complex, Crain Field, Mason Field, and Irwin Lainoff Stadium have elevated our student athletic and recreational resources.
- The purchase of the Evergreen Presbyterian Church property—a 10-acre addition to our campus **R**

**MAGGIE CUPIT '14** delivered a moving speech at the ceremony announcing a \$4.4 million grant from the Plough Foundation to help fund the renovations to Rhodes Tower:

"From a very early age, science was a defining part of my life. While my peers played outside on the playground, I searched for bugs and caught frogs and taught the other little girls how to suck the sweet nectar from honeysuckles. While my friends

played dolls, I came up with scenarios that required the dolls to pay for a trip to the doctor (me) and covered them with Band-Aids and medical tape. And when my friends started playing with video games and computers, I tested out my new microscope by squeezing anything that would fit into its little black stage clips. I was born a science nerd.

"Science is important to a liberal arts education. Science is a product of the world, the mind, the imagination, and the human heart. It has the ability to change humanity for better or for worse. It is a philosophy for some and a theology for others. I argue that science IS an art, that it is NOT a black-and-white field but a changing and evolving one, that students who commit to science are PASSIONATE about learning and trying to quench a curiosity that cannot be quenched elsewhere, and that science still has so much room to grow and improve and affect the lives of many."

Today, the self-professed "science nerd" is a medical student at the Mayo Medical School in Rochester, MN.






# Alumni in Action

## Putting a Liberal Arts Education to Work

Each May, some 500 students graduate from Rhodes and become the newest alumni class. The paths they take will be, in large part, shaped by their years here and the time they spent in classrooms and residence halls, in the Memphis community in internships, in the carrels of Barret Library surrounded by books, and working with professors conducting research or being mentored through a fellowship.

Many of our graduates, like the ones in this issue of *Rhodes* magazine, will land jobs in occupations that did not even exist when their parents began their careers. Start-ups, digital technology, data-mapping, videography—these terms are still fairly new in our vocabulary, but they describe the endeavors these featured alumni have chosen and in which they excel.

Despite the differences in their professions, they all share the well-rounded background that a residential liberal arts education provides. The stories they tell of the ways in which Rhodes figures in their daily lives offer inspiration both to their alumni peers and those current students whose journeys are just beginning. 

# Connecting Natural History, Byte by Byte

By Stephen Deusner '96

When Ariana French '95 was a student at Rhodes, she spent hour upon hour hanging out in the computer lab. Tucked away on the second floor of Buckman Hall—which was the college's newest building at the time—the

facility housed what were then state-of-the-art Macintosh desktop computers, bulky contraptions with monitors as big as TVs, mice that were actually wired to the keyboards, and skyscraper hard-drive towers with slots for floppy discs. Noisy with the clatter of fingers on keyboards and fans cooling circuitry, the room was kept dim, the lowered lights giving it the feel of a cave.

The computer lab was not a classroom but a resource for students from all departments: a tool to research, type, and print essays and lab notes. Most days—and well into the evenings—it was full of stressed-out students, with a slew of latecomers camped in the hallway outside, reading up for class while they waited for someone to leave and free up a computer.

“It was such a great place,” says French. “You could go there at any hour. It was totally unstructured—or at least that’s how I used it. I’m sure other students used it in a very constructive way, but for me it was a place to play.” A psychology major hailing from Martin, TN, she didn’t take any computer science classes during her four years at Rhodes, but French found the lab so inviting and intriguing that she would camp out at a terminal.

“I would just play around with this thing called the World Wide Web,” she says with a laugh. “I taught myself how to build a web page. This was back when the only background color you could have was gray. I was just having fun with it and didn’t even think about it too much, certainly not from a professional standpoint. But the computer lab was where I got my professional chops at an early age.”

For many students, a liberal arts education allows them to take inspiration wherever they find it. By turning any space into a classroom—whether it’s a lecture hall, a chemistry lab, a library carrel, or even Oak Alley—Rhodes allows for experimentation and exploration, and, therefore, unlimited opportunities to develop new ideas and make new connections. French found inspiration in the computer lab, and today those experiences inform her work as the director of digital technology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

“People think it’s really strange that I have an undergraduate liberal arts degree and a master’s degree in art history, yet I work doing what I do,” French says. “But I don’t think it’s strange at all.” She oversees a small but growing team of programmers and support analysts who write, maintain, and





The Rhodes computer lab circa 1990s

to do with delivery, which means making sure that code is reviewed and approved in a proper code repository for versioning issues and things like that.” Most of the code is written by outside vendors and then edited and stored by French’s department, but because her position covers so many responsibilities and because she works with so many different departments within the museum, her days are largely unpredictable. One minute she might be writing a line or two of code, the next she might be hunting down lost Ethernet cables.

Founded in 1869, the American Museum of Natural History houses a massive collection of biological and geological specimens, including plants, animals, minerals, even meteorites. More than five million people, many of them junior and senior high school students, visit the institution yearly, venturing to its location adjacent to Central Park. There they visit the Akeley Hall of African Mammals and Milstein Hall of Ocean Life and wander through the Arthur Ross Hall of Meteorites and the iconic Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda, with its Barosaurus skeleton rearing back on its hind legs to show the full length of its two-story neck.

“We have so many school kids come through here, from the time they’re in kinder-

garten all the way through high school. When they become adults, hopefully they become members. So we have a lot of very active, very involved people who have been coming to the museum all their lives. It means very different things to them at different points in their lives.”

With the bustle of scientists and students, the museum is a busy place both in the galleries and behind the scenes, with more than 1,000 employees ranging from guards to guides to nearly every type of -ologist: paleontologists, anthropologists, herpetologists, mineralogists, petrologists, and on and on. The museum houses a world-renowned natural history library, as well as facilities for microscopy and imaging, biodiversity research, and geochemistry. It also grants a master of arts in teaching (MAT) degree, as well as a PhD in comparative biology. “To some people the museum is a dead zoo—a collection of things that were once living,” observes French. “But it’s a very dynamic place.”

Her job puts her in contact with nearly every department in the institution, as she assesses their specific digital needs. In some ways she is actually helping to bring these departments together, unifying the museum at least from a digital perspective. Currently she is heading up an effort to create a centralized application programming interface (API), which French describes as “the connective tissue that holds together a lot of different systems,” such as departmental databases and case collections. The ongoing project holds special appeal for her, because “it positions us well for the future. In days past, you basically had to get everybody on the same database, but that meant things could get lost. API gives us the tools to create and strengthen those connections.”

Inside the American Museum of Natural History





French's route from the computer lab to the Museum of Natural History has been circuitous. After graduating from Rhodes with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in art history, she didn't think she'd do much with her computer lab experience. She had other plans that aligned more closely with her undergraduate studies, but a chance opportunity provided a new path. In the late 1990s, at a time when websites were still a novelty and before mp3s were the predominant musical format, French offered to create a basic website for a friend's band, a garage-rock trio called the Subteens. That project, she says, "ended up getting me my first job in technology. And here I am."

French moved to New Orleans, where she worked as a full-time application developer—or, as she explains, "coder and database developer"—for Tulane University. At the same time, she attended art history classes and, in four years, had earned a master's degree, studying anatomy lesson portraits commissioned by seventeenth-century Dutch surgical guilds.

Instead of working in academia, she continued pursuing a career in information technology, eventually moving nearly 1,500 miles north to New Haven, Connecticut, where she worked at the Yale University Art Gallery. "I wore two hats," she explains. "As a digital projects manager, I oversaw projects like website redesign. As a collections systems administrator, I did database development, collections reports design, and systems administration. It was a marvelous job."

Still, New York beckoned, and she fell in love with the city and its invigorating pace. "I find it hard to imagine living anywhere else now," she says. "I love going to new restaurants and to plays

on and off Broadway, and I really love attending events at the museum. There's a tremendous calendar of lectures and educational programs."


While she had no plans to pursue such a path, the educational aspects of her jobs at Tulane, Yale, and finally the American Museum of Natural History certainly appealed to her. "I fell into that by accident, but it was a natural fit for me. Maybe it sounds corny, but there is something so rewarding about working toward the greater good and having that be your bottom line."

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**“. . . a liberal arts degree equips you like nothing else for identifying those connections between very different systems.”**

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As the museum's president, Ellen V. Futter, recently told the *New York Times*, the institution's founders "were about collecting things and cataloging things. Now what we're interested in is what the connections are among the different things that we have. It's a much more interdisciplinary world."

French's responsibilities involve facilitating those connections, whether they're between different disciplines or between the museum and the public. "A lot of what I do has to do with uncovering or reverse-engineering connections," she explains. "And I feel like a liberal arts degree equips you like nothing else for identifying those connections between very different systems. It can be the economics of one country, the geography of another, and the history of a third—all of which can yield these incredibly rich patterns and similarities. It sounds really conceptual, but on a day-to-day level, I feel like it's given me everything I need." 



# A Changing World, A Changing Worldview

By Chris McCoy '93

“There have been many iterations of me,” says Ira Jackson '87. “I’m like Ira 6.0 at this point. I came in as a 5.25–inch floppy, but you can download me from the cloud now.”

Jackson’s metaphor for his life is quite apropos. For the last 24 years, he has been the owner and operator of Perfect Image, a commercial printing company in his hometown of Atlanta, GA. Not only has his industry seen an incredible technological shift, but so, too, has Jackson shifted through some dramatically different cultural times and changes.

“I just turned 50,” he says. “Being at this intersection of life compels me to think about where I came from. The Civil Rights Act, which gave my people the right to vote and seek injunctive relief from discrimination, was passed four months before I was born. My life has been significantly shaped by race, specifically black and white, different from what might be considered contemporary diversity.”

Jackson’s father, Ira Sr., was a Korean War veteran who met his wife, Annie Shumate, while they were both attending Clark College in Atlanta. Ira Sr. was an entrepreneur who parlayed a neighborhood gas station into a chain, and

from there moved into numerous other businesses—from the construction industry to real estate to home health care. “He even sponsored a race car at one time,” Jackson recalls. “I had an opportunity to watch him make a million, lose a million, and make it back again. His success ultimately led to politics, where he served for over three decades.” His mother, whom he calls “the toughest dude I ever met in my life,” was a school teacher and social worker. “My perseverance absolutely comes from my mom.”

He says he feels fortunate for growing up in Atlanta, which billed itself as “The city too busy to hate.” “My mother’s admonition that I was no better or worse than anyone else, and that I could be and do anything I wanted to be and do, didn’t just serve me well—it resonated with me,” he says. “I’m a guy shaped by the Old and New South, but overwhelmingly by some really positive role models.”

Inspired by fellow Atlantans such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Hank Aaron, Andrew Young,

and John Lewis, Jackson was a driven student. Asked for a quote for his high school senior yearbook, he chose “Amidst the spectrum’s brightest hues, consider the darkest color. A vivid gesture against routine, strikingly different. Consider its demur defiance.”

“Years later I read that and said, ‘Oh wow. I was kind of angry.’”

When it came time for college, Jackson knew he wanted to leave Atlanta. “I didn’t know much about Southwestern (now Rhodes) at all, but I went to a great prep school,” he says.

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**“They weren’t just handing out diplomas,” he says.  
“We were putting in the work. You were going to come out knowing something, or you wouldn’t be coming out.”**

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“Unbeknownst to me, my college counselor and my mom, who both knew me pretty well, decided I would do better in a smaller environment. They arranged a prospective student’s visit, which I did with a couple of my buddies. I remember the first time we went to Memphis. After being in the car for three hours, I was like, ‘Where the heck are we going? It only takes a couple of hours to get to Tennessee!’ Of course, that was Chattanooga. Seven hours later, we get to Memphis. It was a terrific visit. The campus was gorgeous. I loved it. And, ultimately, they decided to take a chance on me.”

But on the inside, he was not as confident as he appeared outwardly. “I remember when my dad was pulling away. I was staying in Stewart dorm. He was pulling off University onto North Parkway, and I was looking at the back

of his car, and I thought, ‘Oh my gosh. What am I doing here?’”

Jackson’s time in college was one of transition. “I came in to Southwestern, but graduated from Rhodes,” he says. “Rhodes was not the most ethnically diverse place when I was there. But there was a diversity of ideas, a diversity of thinking, a diversity of activity. I was involved in student government; I was in the Black Student Association; I was the welfare commissioner; I was president of the honor council; I ran track for three years. I was a decent student. There was a diversity of activities that I was able to engage in.”

Jackson says his worldview was forever changed by what he experienced on North Parkway. “There was a guy in my class at Rhodes, David Oxley. I have not seen Dave since 1987. He was a staunch conservative Republican. He and I would have some of the most impassioned debates about politics. I would leave those conversations so much better, and I hope he would, too. They weren’t attacks or fights. They were political, philosophical debates about, you name it—a spectrum of things. But it was collegial. I have not seen that guy in over a quarter century, and I still have the most positive feelings about him.” It is a commitment to honest debate and mutual respect that Jackson finds lacking in contemporary politics. “When people say that we can put aside our differences and find a better way to do things, I know that’s right. From a leadership perspective, we should expect more. Because there is more. I saw it at Rhodes.”

He remembers Rhodes as the most intellectually challenging time of his life. “They weren’t

just handing out diplomas,” he says. “We were putting in the work. You were going to come out knowing something, or you wouldn’t be coming out. The Rhodes education is solid. It wasn’t easy for me to get into Rhodes, but those kids today are just a whole other level.”

Upon graduation, Jackson returned to Atlanta and got a job selling the then-new mid-range computers for Digital Equipment. “I had a Ford Taurus and a Diner’s Club card. I was doing fine,” he recalls. “But having come from an entrepreneurial background, I knew there was more than just the corporate life.”

After a few years, he decided he wanted to go into manufacturing. “I’m sure my dad planted that seed in my head.” So in 1991, he took over leadership of Perfect Image Printing. He says the biggest lesson he has learned from more than two decades of business leadership is adaptability to change. “I’ve watched the business change from manual typesetting, to prepress, to digital imaging. From a film-based environment to computer-to-plate, from camera-ready art to FTPs (File Transfer Protocol) and now to Dropbox. Who would have thought that by jumping into Gutenberg’s printing industry that I would be a guy who could tell you about the challenges of change and how to reinvent yourself, but I have had the privilege of doing just that. Our tag line is ‘More than a printer,’ evidencing our services beyond print, like integrated, cross-media solutions and marketing support aimed at serving client needs, which extend well beyond ‘ink on paper.’ For at least two decades, Fortune 500 companies were our target clients, but in the last five years, we’ve evolved to include a lot more schools and select non-



COURTESY OF IRA JACKSON

profits, from private and public secondaries to colleges and universities, and cause-driven organizations. I think it’s so cool that I can take all of these great things I have learned from my corporate experience, from supporting some of the biggest national brands, and bring that into colleges and universities and nonprofits. Organizations that don’t usually get—but absolutely deserve—that kind of high-end service and quality.”

Ira Jackson '87 receives his diploma during commencement in Fisher Garden.

Now, Jackson has a family with two college-age children of his own. His oldest is following in her father’s liberal arts footsteps by attending Oglethorpe, while his younger daughter is currently fielding offers from great colleges and universities. “Professionally, I love what I do. When I think about my Rhodes experience and some of the people who taught me, I could tell that they loved what they did, too. I was once driven by a need to be the biggest. But today, I am driven by this ‘True North’ position of being the best I can possibly be, of striving for excellence—or, as we like to say at my company, being ‘more than.’ ” **R**



# Transforming Memphis One Start-Up at a Time

By Caroline Ponseti '15

During his years at Rhodes, chemistry major Eric Mathews '02 supplemented his classroom experiences by building learning systems for artificial intelligence research in the psychology

department. A decade later as the founder and CEO of Start Co., Mathews applies those same skills to build software with entrepreneurs.

Mathews' post-graduate studies exposed him to the research and business side of the technology development world and sparked an interest in the start-up industry. After getting a master's degree in cognitive psychology, he became associate director for corporate research and development at the FedEx Institute for Technology.

"We were building all of these cool technologies, but I was wondering where all of these cool tech start-ups were," says Mathews. "We needed to provide the infrastructure for those who are unsure if they have good ideas so that they can get to resources like incubation and venture capital that exist in our community."

Since his entrance into the technology development sector, Mathews has been instru-

mental in establishing the start-up world in the region. The journey began in 2006, and in 2008 he founded what would become Start Co., a nonprofit that works at the early stages of entrepreneurship. Start Co. invests in four areas: women-led tech start-ups, logistics technology, enterprise software, and social entrepreneurship. "Those play to the strengths of our Memphis community and have attracted people from all over the world to come here and build," says Mathews.

Start Co. focuses on the three early stages that an entrepreneur goes through before they can get to incubation and venture capital. In the "idea sandbox" stage, Start Co. provides workshops, business boot camps, start-up weekends, and office hours for entrepreneurs to test and develop their ideas. The core of Start Co.'s work lies in the subsequent accelerator level, where the company provides mentorship and investment capital to help entrepreneurs progress. In the final post-acceleration stage, Start Co.

provides companies with new strategies and tactics to help them transition from product success to business success. It has also created an entrepreneurial ecosystem including an angel network and professional service providers to offer an infrastructure for successful start-ups.

Mathews credits his liberal arts curriculum for providing him with diverse skill sets at an early stage in his career. “I can think of a lot of courses that have impacted me and how fortuitous it was to take those courses like architecture to financial accounting,” he says.

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“As always, Rhodes is continuing to iterate and think through what the future of this education is supposed to look like inside and outside the classroom.”

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“I took business classes even as a chemistry major. I gained communications skills through my writing courses. In order to be an excellent entrepreneur, you have to be an excellent communicator.”


He emphasizes the value of having engaged in active research as an undergraduate student. “I think it’s certainly not just the education of the classroom,” he says. “As always, Rhodes is continuing to iterate and think through what the future of this education is supposed to look like inside and outside the classroom. And the liberal arts education has been directly applicable to the work that we are doing here at Start Co.”

The world of entrepreneurship has grown immensely since Mathews attended Rhodes in the dot-com era, and he has offered his expe-

rience and expertise to Rhodes students. “Being an entrepreneur, I’ve been wanting to get back into the campus and build the campus ecosystem,” says Mathews. “As we are local to Rhodes College, we are uniquely positioned to do that. All of the knowledge skills that we have accumulated in the past decade, we can now apply to Rhodes College.”

For students interested in becoming entrepreneurs, Mathews and his Start Co. team have offered office hours each semester, hosted entrepreneurship workshops on campus, and conducted business idea competitions. The company was also instrumental in helping business students establish an entrepreneurship club last year. Rhodes students have become immersed in the entrepreneurial world through internships at Start Co., and one of the company’s latest hires was a recent Rhodes graduate.

“The nature of the collaboration is that we are long-term partners in expanding entrepreneurship throughout the Rhodes campus and also throughout the broader community, because we are visiting with alumni now in different parts of the country and talking with them and getting them involved and engaged,” explains Mathews.

Mathews has found that his work has also enabled him to give back to Memphis. “We aren’t doing start-ups for start-ups’ sake,” he explains. “We are doing this to change our community in a very fundamental way through entrepreneurship. We believe that, if we do a good job, there will be economic vibrancy that will last beyond our lifetimes, transforming this community.” 



# Ready, Set, Start Co.

By Caroline Ponseti '15

In March 2014, fellow Rhodes students Evan Katz '15, James Ekenstedt '15, and I founded a nonprofit that provides a sustainable opportunity to earn income for people with experiences of homelessness through sales of a newspaper, *The Bridge*, written by the homeless themselves. Everyone has been convinced at one point or another that they have that one brilliant business idea that will launch them into *Forbes* magazine. If you're like Evan, you keep an iPhone list full of mind-blowingly brilliant ideas (genetically straightened bananas for easy storage!). But I'd never really thought about the process through which entrepreneurs turn their ideas into a reality . . . until I stepped foot into Start Co.

Starting the day after our spring final exams last year, my two co-founders and I left the confines of Rhodes' library to begin a social entrepreneurship "boot camp" accelerator under the auspices of Start Co. My lack of business knowledge coupled with my fear of exercise made me uneasy about this classification. Fortunately, Start Co.'s social entrepreneurship accelerator consisted of condensed business classes, exercises in product development, and regular meetings with entrepreneur mentors.

The accelerator program constantly challenged us to set higher goals, to rework our business model by actively pursuing funding from businesses and individuals interested in investing in social change, and to readily articulate the issues of homelessness in Memphis and how *The Bridge* addresses them. Most importantly, Start Co.'s accelerator taught us how to transform *The Bridge* into a sustainable business.

Today, *The Bridge* has trained more than 250 people with experiences of homelessness to be vendors of the



newspaper. Together, they have sold more than 55,000 papers, totaling between \$40,000 and \$55,000 in profits split among them. Evan, James, and I will graduate this May, but we know that *The Bridge* will remain an integral part of the Rhodes experience, thanks to the 60 student volunteers who continually dedicate their time and talent to making a real impact in the Memphis community.

Caroline Ponseti '15 is one of the co-founders of *The Bridge*, a nonprofit publication benefitting the homeless in Memphis.

# Learning to Fly: Sometimes, It's (Not) the Hardest Thing

By Chris McCoy '93

Today, Philinese “Philly” Kirkwood '11 is riding high in New York City. A commercial she helped produce for the NBA's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Game and

Celebration was just featured as *Adweek's* Ad of the Day. It was the first television spot produced for the league by Translation, the creative agency where Kirkwood has served as associate producer for the Content Production Division since October 2014.

But despite the fact that she has been a New Yorker for almost two years now, the native Memphian still keeps a phone number with a 901 area code. “I'll probably never change my number, which has its positives and its negatives. But I've had it since I was 14 years old. I grew up in Memphis, born and raised,” she says. Her parents are Alan Kirkwood, an entrepreneur, and Philinae Kirkwood, a physical therapist.

As Kirkwood approached graduation from White Station High School in 2007, she applied to many different colleges and universities with the intention of leaving her home town. “Rhodes was the only school in the South I applied to,” she recalls. “It's funny. I thought I wanted to be

a plastic surgeon when I was in high school. I actually applied to a lot of schools that specialized in medicine.” But a prospective student visit to Rhodes would change the course of her life. “When I was visiting Rhodes for a weekend, I was discussing it with an academic advisor, and they were telling me all of the courses I would have had to take along with my liberal arts [requirements], and I thought, ‘It's not for me.’ I needed something with a little more variety.” Rhodes, she says, gave her a chance to think more deeply about her life goals. “I didn't have to know what I wanted to do right then.”

So, she unexpectedly found herself staying in her hometown for college. “I got scholarship money, which was extremely important to me,” she explains. “And, even though I was from Memphis, I felt like there was a lot [about Memphis] I hadn't experienced on my own.”

At Rhodes, Kirkwood became involved with the McCoy Theatre, acting in plays like *Taming*







Philly Kirkwood's portrait for a Rhodes blog she wrote while on campus

*of the Shrew* and *No Exit*. “In my sophomore year, I had an epiphany,” she says. “I was tak-

ing theater classes, and I loved theater. I really enjoyed politics and news, however, and that’s when I decided I wanted to be a news reporter. I reached out to (theater professor) Cookie Ewing and the theater department, but there were no classes offering broadcast journalism. Professor Ewing told me how to combine my liberal arts experiences and make them match what I wanted to do. I love the news and I love theater. In news reporting, in some ways, you are acting, and I wanted to talk about hard news and politics. So I was able to learn about politics with my political science degree and minor in theater. That way I could have the best of both worlds and, eventually, become a news reporter.”

Among her favorite learning experiences at Rhodes was studying Shakespeare with Associate Professor of English Scott Newstok. “That was fabulous. We went through Shakespeare’s great plays, and I found out my favorite play is *Titus Andronicus*.”

And as she studied the Bard’s insights on the intersection of power and personality, she was also tearing into the nuts and bolts of modern political campaigns in a political science class. “We were going over congressional campaigns, seeing how voters actually vote, and how people work on campaigns. I think I liked that so much because I was taking it from the perspective of a news reporter, reporting the facts and being as objective as possible with the content, and not subjective.”

But, she adds, “My absolute favorite course that I took, that I feel like was designed specifically for me, was a course called Docu-Drama. I was the only person in the class. Professor Ewing was my teacher. It combined documentary and theater.” The course culminated in Kirkwood writing and producing a one-woman show where she explored the harsh reality of the Memphis underworld by portraying the tragic stories of four real-life Memphis sex workers based on interviews she had conducted.

Ewing also led her to another educational opportunity that would prove invaluable. The summer between her junior and senior years, Kirkwood took an intense two-month course at the New York Film Academy. “I learned to write, shoot, and edit news stories for online content—the whole new realm of digital journalism. And that was the moment when I realized, this is what I should be doing. Everything is now a one-man band. I went back to school, and that was my goal.”

But like millions of students who had the misfortune to graduate during the Great Recession, opportunity was hard to come by for Kirkwood. “I applied for a number of fellowships and jobs when I was a senior,” she recalls. “I was very, very persistent, and when it came to my goals, I knew what I needed to get there. I knew I needed a job. But I did not get a single job or fellowship that I wanted. I would make it to the second round, but I didn’t get accepted to anything—not the jobs I wanted in New York or in Memphis. And that was so hurtful to me. I had worked so hard and didn’t understand why I wasn’t getting a job.”

After a painful interval, she found a position at Universal Asset Management, a Memphis avia-

tion company. “While this had nothing to do with what I wanted to do, it was useful in that I got to get office experience, real work,” she says. Within a year, she was promoted to marketing manager, producing public relations and marketing content. “And the best part is, the company gave everybody free flight lessons, so I have six hours on my private flying license!”

Kirkwood learned that opportunity comes in many different forms. “Everything was like a stepping stone. Even though I did not get what I wanted, this job set me on the path I wanted to be on.” Filled with renewed confidence, she saved up her money and struck out for New York. “I left Memphis with a suitcase and a toothbrush in April 2013. I did not have a single job lined up,” she remembers. Her savings, she calculated, were enough to last for a two-month job search. “That was the plan. My money was depleted in, like, two weeks.”

Staying with a friend, Kirkwood took a job as a waitress to make ends meet. “If that doesn’t bring you down to earth, I don’t know what will,” she says. “I thought I had tough skin, but I had to get tougher skin.” Undeterred, she continued to beat the bushes, looking for work. “I applied for more than 210 jobs in four and a half months, and I got 25 interviews.” The interview that finally paid off was for a freelance production assistant at the advertising agency Ogilvy and Mather. “This, again, changed my direction. This is not what I really wanted to do, but it gave me the production experience I felt was essential for me to do work in this industry.”

With her foot in the door, she advanced in her field through persistence and networking. “I can’t say it enough. If there’s somebody impor-

tant you happened to meet three years ago, connect with them on all kinds of social media.”

Her hard work paid off when she landed a job at the digital content company Interactive One, where she worked with musicians such as John Legend, Jennifer Hudson, and Toni Braxton. “We had artists in intimate settings playing their upcoming albums, and then we would have an interview portion.” After a year, she moved on to her current position at Translation.

“We execute the ideas that our client and our creatives have developed. The client wants a 60-second commercial, the creatives come up with the actual concept, and then our production team makes it happen. We go over the budget, we scout locations, we hire talent. We make sure the talent can get paid. We hire a director and the staff they need as well. We make sure the commercial is executed in the most timely and efficient manner.”

Kirkwood says she has found her niche, and Translation allows her to also pursue her interest in investigative journalism. “I’m really enjoying what I’m doing. It’s fast paced, and we work long hours and long nights. But when you see the end product, you just feel so accomplished and so relieved.”

Her advice for the recent graduate is simple. “I feel like it’s so trite: ‘Be persistent! Never give up!’ But it’s so true.” **R**

#### WEB EXTRAS

See Translation’s MLK Day ad:  
[rhodes.edu/magazine/kirkwood](http://rhodes.edu/magazine/kirkwood)

# Data-Mapping the Globe for the Best Mobility

By Nancy J. McCann

The time is the mid-1980s. Sitting low in the tan leather seat of a red Jaguar, Bryan Darr '84 adjusts his aviator sunglasses and downshifts into second gear as he winds

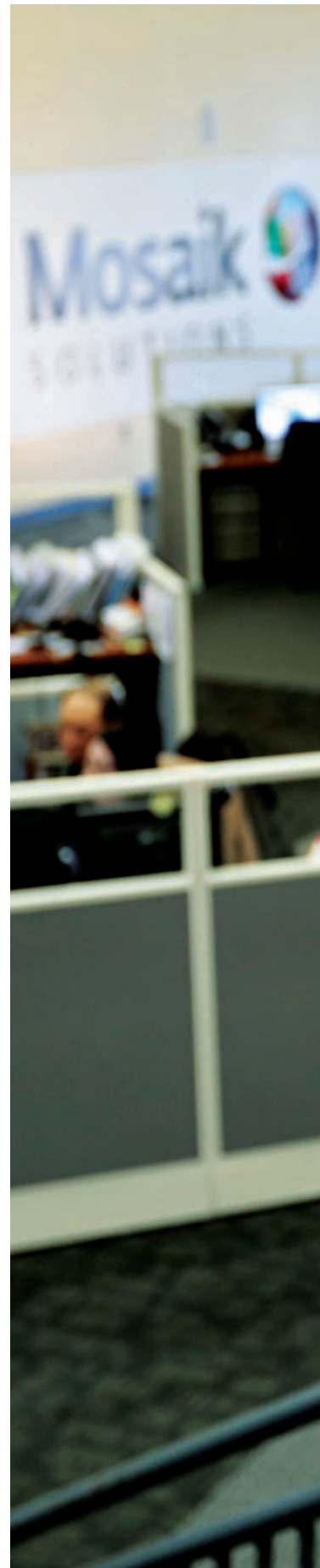
through the streets of Memphis. He speeds along I-240 East to the Airways exit, then south to his destination, a generic business park near the airport. Upon arrival, he relinquishes the car keys to a waiting technician. Within a few hours Darr is back behind the wheel, with the latest technology in hand: a car phone.

Ubiquitous today, but rare, pricey, and much larger back then, mobile phones were in their infancy when Darr began working as a salesman for Cellular One Memphis. The first cellular network in the world went up in Chicago in 1983. The first network in Memphis launched in 1985. Darr provided kid-glove service for his wealthy customers by driving their luxury cars to the installation facility and back. He was 24 years old and only a year out of Rhodes College.

Today, Darr serves as president and CEO of Mosaik Solutions, a company that provides

the largest mobile network coverage database in the world. "I was always a technology geek," admits Darr. "I was the first person to ever bring a Betamax to campus, and I served as DJ at the Kappa Alpha house almost immediately after pledging. I am fortunate to have found a job that is also a hobby. I love figuring out the complicated ways that one set of data relates to another set of data. That is critical to the core of the database we have built at Mosaik."

Thinking about data and the need for gathering and disseminating large amounts of data to assist his mobile customer base launched Darr on a new career path. Although the new technology was called "mobile" or "transportable," it was hard-pressed to live up to its name in the beginning. Not only were the phones big and bulky, but also the networks were few and far between. In mid-1985, Nashville; Jackson, MS; and Little Rock didn't have cellular networks. If Darr's







Mapping—providing an accurate visual of network coverage—is at the core of what Darr’s company is best known for today.

customers traveled beyond Memphis, they entered a black hole of cell phone service for hours. St. Louis, New Orleans, and Dallas were the next closest markets with service.

Once a mobile phone was outside of its home network, callers had to dial a “roamer access number” in order to place a call, and each network had a unique number. As more and more networks launched, roamer access numbers multiplied. Even dialing patterns for outbound calls could be a challenge. Some cities required that area codes be dialed and others didn’t. Keeping track of all this information while traveling—just to make or receive a phone call—was a daunting task.

“My time at Rhodes was very formative. I gained a lot of experience from my classroom work as well as socially. It provided opportunities for me to learn some leadership traits and to learn what traits weren’t leadership worthy.”

“Every city, even little towns, had their special access number for each network,” Darr says. “Originally there were over 700 markets with two operators in each market. That’s a lot of numbers.”

And, it was expensive to place or receive a call “out of network.” According to Darr, it

could cost up to \$3 per day *plus* 50 cents to \$1.25 per minute. Darr’s customers, wealthy business people who could afford this new technology—cotton brokers, lawyers, politicians, and construction company executives—traveled for business and wanted to easily communicate on their mobile phones when outside of Memphis. But how, when it was so complex and confusing to use them?

Darr, in only his second year with Cellular One, devised a “roaming guide” to aid his frustrated clients. On a legal-sized sheet of paper he listed 40 to 50 locations within the United States and Canada that had cellular service, along with the corresponding access codes/dialing numbers. “As far as I know,” says Darr, “that was the first one.”

Believing he had a valuable product to offer the budding telecom industry, Darr quit his well-paying sales job—he was one of the top producers at Cellular One when he left—and started publishing roaming guides. “I went to my boss and said, ‘I want to quit. I want to start my own company, I want you to be my first customer, but this market isn’t big enough by itself, so would you please introduce me to your boss in Nashville?’” Darr recalls.

In 1988, American Roamer was born. It produced travel-sized roaming guides that included useful information such as which locales had phone service, access numbers, customer service numbers, and dialing patterns associated with each network in each city. American Roamer tracked all of this information, constantly updating it as networks were bought and sold and customer






service operations were consolidated regionally and nationally.

As mobile phone service expanded through the years, so did American Roamer. In 1991, it began making coverage maps in addition to the roaming guide booklets. These colorful and often complex maps were produced for clients who wanted to market their growing roaming capabilities—and better rates—as they joined forces with neighboring networks. By providing an accurate visual of network coverage, American Roamer’s reputation for map-making grew, as did its client base. Mapping is at the core of what Darr’s company is best known for today.

After undergoing a rebranding in 2012, American Roamer changed its name to Mosaik Solutions to better reflect the company’s global geographic scope and suite of products. Mosaik tracks coverage patterns of more than 1,000 mobile operators worldwide and has coverage information on more than 900 of them. It tracks multiple technologies (2G, 3G, 4G, LTE, etc.) across multiple mobile network operators. The information benefits not just telecom giants such as AT&T, Sprint, and Verizon, but “anyone who is interested in knowing where the networks work and what technology has been deployed there,” explains Darr. “Like companies that are involved in telematics—tracking vehicle locations—like OnStar. Or businesses that handle machine to machine communications (M2M). Imagine a Coke machine that notifies the warehouse how many Dr. Peppers or Sprites to put on the truck in order to restock the machine. Any of these M2M communications are relying on the cellular network to

be able to get that information passed back and forth.”

Darr, originally from Chattanooga, TN, calls Memphis his adopted town. He set down roots in the Bluff City after marrying his college sweetheart (Leslie McCormick Darr ’87) one month after her graduation. Darr admits it can be challenging to recruit prospective employees, as the telecom industry has consolidated to a handful of cities (Dallas, Atlanta, Seattle, New York, and Washington, D.C.), but he believes Memphis has a lot to offer: a reasonable cost of living, quality of life, and an easy commute. “I can get on a plane and go anywhere,” says Darr. “There’s no one location that would be perfect, as our clients are spread out all over the place.” Mosaik works with companies around the globe: Asia, Europe, and South and North America, and Darr hopes to expand into Africa soon.

He partly attributes his business leadership acumen to his Rhodes education. “My time at Rhodes was very formative. I gained a lot of experience from my classroom work as well as socially. It provided opportunities for me to learn some leadership traits and to learn what traits weren’t leadership worthy. I loved my time at Rhodes and am very jealous of the kids starting there right now. If we had the Refectory of today—all those fabulous food options—I probably would have put on another 10 pounds.” 

Mosaik Solutions tracks coverage patterns of more than 1,000 mobile operators worldwide.



# Hanging Out with Sarah Lacy '98

In February, a group of Rhodes students and faculty attended a Google+ Hangout On Air question-and-answer session with Sarah Lacy '98, founder of *PandoDaily*, a website dedicated to

coverage of Silicon Valley. Moderating the event was Evan Katz '15. (For more on Katz, see page 35.) Below are excerpts from the Q&A session. For the full interview, please go to [rhodes.edu/magazine/Lacy\\_interview](http://rhodes.edu/magazine/Lacy_interview).

**Evan Katz:** Sarah, you visited Rhodes a few years ago and talked to students about your early career aim to write a book. Could you elaborate a little on that for our Hangout audience while also catching us up on how you started *PandoDaily*?

**Sarah Lacy:** Sure. So, I went to Rhodes—my Dad taught philosophy there—and it was a great place for me. Toward the end, like probably a lot of college kids, I felt lost and confused, so I took a semester off and got an internship with the *Memphis Business Journal*, which turned into a job with the *Memphis Business Journal*, which turned into an opportunity to move out to Silicon Valley to work for the *San Jose Business Journal* in 1999. This was the peak of the dot-com boom, when Silicon Valley was the most exciting place to be. I'd been covering finance at the *Memphis Business Journal* and really fell in love with start-ups and venture capital, and the opportunity to go to the epicenter was an amazing opportunity. Then I went to *Business Week*. I did a cover on the rise of the

consumer Internet again and Web 2.0, which was one of the first big national magazine covers about Facebook and Digg and LinkedIn and Yelp and YouTube. That turned into a book deal (*Once You're Lucky, Twice You're Good: The Rebirth of Silicon Valley and the Rise of Web 2.0*, Gotham Books, May 2008), so I quit *Business Week* to write my first book, and then I hosted a show for Yahoo Finance. I wrote a second book (*Brilliant, Crazy, Cocky: How the Top 1% of Entrepreneurs Profit from Global Chaos*, Wiley, February 2011) about entrepreneurship in emerging markets. About three years ago, I took my newborn baby fund-raising with me, raised \$2.5 million, and I started *PandoDaily*.

**EK:** What attracted you to business writing early on, first in Memphis at the *Business Journal* and, later, for *Business Week*?

**SL:** I majored in international studies initially, but I found what I really missed was studying and tearing apart and digesting literature. I loved just being able to digest and pick apart and read between the lines and see meanings behind things. And I think that really did prepare me to be a journalist—more than going to journalism school would have, because a lot of what I'm trying to do is see the truth behind what people are telling me, particularly as a



GEORGEY ELLIS

Sarah Lacy '98 interviews special guest Vice President Al Gore at the 2014 Southland Conference in Nashville.

business reporter, because things that we write regularly affect millions, if not billions, of dollars of market value for companies.

**EK:** We are talking in great detail in the Rhodes community this year about the value of a liberal arts education. What does that claim of value mean to you? How do you translate that into your daily life or work life?

**SL:** I do think that all industries are changing so rapidly. Who would have thought a couple of years ago that transportation would be a sexy industry—and, yet, the highest valued private company in Silicon Valley is Uber, a transportation company. Everything is getting completely remade, and you're seeing that a lot of people building these companies are people with a liberal arts education. Chad Dickerson, who is the head of Etsy, is a big believer in liberal arts education. I just interviewed Stewart Butterfield, who is the head of Flickr—a billion dollar company—and he was a philosophy major. I think Peter Thiel was a philosophy major. I always remember the philosophy majors because my dad taught philosophy. If they are not math-based engineers, I know more CEOs in the Valley that are liberal arts majors than not. I think there are a couple of reasons why. One is because these industries are changing so rapidly that if you study to be a lawyer, even go to journalism school—

something that is very vocational based—you're kind of pigeon-holed in that. Whereas, if you have a liberal arts degree, you know how to communicate with people, you know how to structure things, you know how to write.

**EK:** If you are coming out of college and you think you want to start a company, should you get a job before you start that company? Is that going to give you valuable experience and maybe some financial padding?

**SL:** It totally depends on the person, and it totally depends on the opportunity. If you have an amazing opportunity right now and you feel passionate about it, you should just go do it. The problem with getting a job is, if you want a job in the industry and get too invested in that industry, you can't see it through fresh eyes. And you go in and you think you're going to build a financial cushion, and that just never happens. So, if that's your reason, don't do it. If it's to get some experience, certainly, you are a better boss if you have worked for other bosses. But I think it depends on the industry. For me, there is no way I could have done this company right out of school. **R**

#### WEB EXTRAS

Watch the full interview:  
[rhodes.edu/magazine/Lacy\\_interview](http://rhodes.edu/magazine/Lacy_interview)

## In a Pickle? There's an App for That!

It started in a cold dressing room, as all great things do,” laughs Evan Katz '15. The admittedly not-so-snappy dresser texted a handful of female friends, asking them to weigh in on his choice of shirts. An app idea was born.

*Pickle*, the app product that Katz and cofounder Morgan Steffy offer today, is a far cry from the dressing room idea, though, due largely to a series of successes and failures. Learning flexibility from these experiences, the duo adapted their idea until venture capitalists began to take notice. Their story is one of determination and fortitude, of growing a business in a technology field—with an appearance on the home page of *Buzzfeed* thrown in for good measure.

Predicting human behavior has always been tricky, but that's exactly what Katz found himself doing during the app's development, often correctly but sometimes not. Despite achieving some success with his fashion-based app, he soon realized that users weren't uploading enough images to keep his voters occupied. Downloads of the app waned. He also saw that users were doing other things with the app, such as loading selfies of friends and asking for crowdsourcing feedback on which selfie was the cutest.

After several product iterations, *Pickle* was, well, in a pickle, about to crash and burn. Katz uploaded some app mock-ups to Imgur, a site for uploading images to seek user votes. An up-

vote is good, a down-vote is bad. One mock-up was an app for uploading selfies. “I basically said, ‘If I get 50 up-votes, we'll build this app.’” Katz's mock-up got 5,000 up-votes, landed on the front page of the Imgur site, where the most popular images go, and had 2,000 people sign up overnight to get the app when it came out. “That was our first real hit of Internet traction,” he says.

By the time *Pickle* launched in December 2014, 6,000 people had signed up to receive the app. *Buzzfeed*, a highly popular news and culture website, featured it on its home page, describing *Pickle* as a new app that “lets you pit your selfies against total strangers” in a series of user-determined challenges such as “messiest car” or “best duck-face impression.” “We had 12,000 downloads that day,” Katz reports.

Still, the app business is a constant series of instant-gratification moments, and finding ways to attract capital and keep users coming back has Katz and his team continuing to find that flexibility is their best friend.

“With the app, we need people to use it every day—millions of people. That's been our challenge all along: How do we make this cool enough that you'll want to use it the rest of your life?” he says. Thus far, the app has attracted some small investors and, more recently, one large \$100,000 investment that will allow Katz and his team a 10-month window to further develop and market *Pickle*. **R**

— Lynn Conlee



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

# Meeting Student Demand Requires Contemporary Vision



JUSTIN FOX BLURKS

In a corner office on third floor Palmer Hall, Professor Marshall Boswell wears headphones and listens to a Sony Walkman while he reads John Barth. On shelves to his left, a turntable awaits an album, perhaps the copy of *Let It Be* that leans beside it. Behind John, Paul, George, and Ringo, rows of books ranging from fiction to literary criticism to Norton anthologies ribbon along the wall. A black stand cradles an electric guitar across the room.

“I’m recreating my graduate school apartment in this office, and it’s conducive for productivity,” he laughs, referring to his surroundings as 1990s ephemera. “I wrote a dissertation once surrounded by all these records, so they help me write the next article on John Barth.” But don’t let the throwback interior design fool you into thinking that the English department Boswell currently chairs is in any way looking back-

ward. Far from it. Instead, the words “energy” and “excitement” spill out when Boswell talks about the department’s growth and direction.

A lot of that excitement stems from plans to add a creative nonfiction professor to the department’s writing faculty, of which Boswell is a member, along with novelist Mark Behr and poet Caki Wilkinson ’03. Recent curriculum expansions in film studies, Asian literature, African American literature, and multiethnic literature have also broadened the slate of class offerings for students.

“We are updating to supplement the more traditional, Eurocentric and literary history kind of department that we’ve been by teaching newer work, more globally integrated work, in concert with the more traditional work that we’ve always taught. That’s our vision: for our English majors to always be steeped in literary history, well-read across the

canon, and, also, up to date,” Boswell explains.

The addition of another writer will free up faculty to add classes in fields such as screenwriting and journalism, for which there is already demand. And work is under way to create a film studies major to capitalize on existing talent and interest in what most likely would be an interdisciplinary option.

“The talent is here,” Boswell says. “We just need to harness it. And, you see, there’s a symbiosis here: If we could start out with screenwriting with this new position, screenwriting could go hand in hand with this new major. I think that’s where you can feel the energy and excitement.”

Certainly, Boswell knows the importance of reading both canonized and contemporary writers. His scholarly work *Understanding David Foster Wallace* (2003) was the first literary criticism of Wallace’s work, and has made Boswell a preeminent authority on the challenging writer, who committed suicide in 2008. Last fall, Boswell traveled to Paris to deliver the keynote address for an international conference on Wallace’s work.

In addition to his book on Wallace, Boswell has published the critical work *John Updike’s Rabbit Tetralogy* (2001); a collection of short stories, *Trouble with Girls* (2003); and a novel, *Alternative Atlanta* (2005). **R**

— Lynn Conlee

# ALUMNI NEWS

CATHERINE BURROW  
REFECTORY





COREY NOLEN

*“How can the expense of a liberal arts education be justified in a world of rising tuition costs and student debt?”*

*“Is a liberal arts education still relevant in today’s high-tech world?”*

*“Isn’t a liberal arts education merely a luxury for the privileged?”*

These are a few of the questions Rhodes community members have been contemplating since classes began in August. Faculty and students have studied essays and attended lectures by leading advocates for the liberal arts. The fall issue of *Rhodes* magazine was devoted to the ongoing debate over the value of a liberal arts education versus a vocational education that has raged since our nation was born. It was argued between Benjamin Franklin, who promoted apprenticeships and vocational learning, and Thomas Jefferson, who believed the life-long study of science, art, commerce, and philosophy to be vital for the growth of democracy.

Members of the Rhodes Alumni Association Executive Board (AAEB) have also joined the conversation. At the AAEB meeting held at Homecoming, members were assigned to read *Beyond the University: Why Liberal Education Matters* by Dr. Michael Roth, president of Wesleyan University. The topic led to lively conversation among the board members, who themselves shared the benefits of a liberal arts education—the chemistry major who is a patent and intellectual property attorney; the business major who owns a computer technology business; the English major who directed Nashville’s Historic Arts Commission; and the history

major who worked in the White House Office of Public Engagement. Everyone present had firsthand experiences to share as to the positive impact their Rhodes education has had on their own lives and businesses.

The AAEB planned to debate time on the issue of why liberal arts matter at its March meeting, with the goal of narrowing the common themes to a set of talking points to articulate to alumni and share with prospective students and their parents, potential employers, and others who question the value of a liberal arts education.

Join the conversation! After our last issue, I received lovely messages from alumni expressing their gratitude and appreciation for the exceptional liberal arts education they received at Rhodes, an education that has instilled in them a life-long love of learning that has served them so well in their professional, personal, and spiritual lives. If you have a personal story or anecdote about the benefit of your liberal arts education from Rhodes, please share with me via e-mail at [patterson@rhodes.edu](mailto:patterson@rhodes.edu) or mail your thoughts to me at Rhodes College. Your stories will be presented to the AAEB to help shape our discussion. I look forward to hearing from you!

—Tracy Vezina Patterson ’84, P’17



# CLASS NOTES

Rhodes College  
Alumni Association  
President  
Kelly Ensor '99  
Memphis, TN

## 1955

### ✘ 60th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion  
Weekend: Oct. 23-24  
Reporter: Betty Carol Johnston  
Germany

[bcgermany@usa.net](mailto:bcgermany@usa.net)  
[bcgermany@gmail.com](mailto:bcgermany@gmail.com)

When **John Turpin**, Rhodes' registrar for 25 years, died in 2014, he left behind the manuscript of a novel titled *Eli, Sometimes*. **Anna Olswanger '75** had promised John before he died that she would get the novel published. She solicited the help of Rhodes graduates and faculty (**Cheryl Anderson '73**, **Dr. Milton Brown**, **Neville Carson '81**, **Aaron Foster '67**, **Virginia and David Garrett '73**, **Candace Keirns '73**, **Charles Kinslow '72**, **Dr. Robert R. Llewellyn**, **F. Clark Williams '73**, and **Jay Wills '75**), and *Eli, Sometimes* is now available on Amazon.com, BN.com, Kobobooks.com, and iTunes. Described as "charmingly old-fashioned, funny, and heartwarming," the novel takes place at the end of the nineteenth century in the small town of Trinity, KS, on the edge of the West. Fourteen-year-old Eli is newly orphaned. With his mother's funeral barely concluded, the judgmental Reverend Mr. Ellis and his congregation of Trinitarians turn him out of his home. But Eli quickly

discovers that he is not all alone in the world, as a group of kind townspeople help him find a new home and build a prospering business, becoming not just his friends but his "sometimes" family. John said he wrote *Eli, Sometimes* because he wanted to write a novel about a town in a period of American history that wasn't all "shoot 'em up and bang bang."

## 1957

Reporter: Mary Frances Files  
Siltich  
[siltich@gmail.com](mailto:siltich@gmail.com)

**Jim Eikner** is still marketing manager for WKNO-TV and FM public broadcast stations in Memphis. As president-elect of the Memphis Rotary Club, he will be attending the Rotary International Conference in São Paulo, Brazil, in June. The Memphis Rotary Club in November held its first annual Spark Awards for organizations and individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the community, and Rhodes College won the Spark Award in the college category.

Your class reporter is overwhelmed by the incredible honor of being named the Rhodes 2014 Distinguished Alumni of the Year! Thank you!

## 1958

Reporter: Lorraine Rayburn  
Abernathy  
[LAbernathy04@comcast.net](mailto:LAbernathy04@comcast.net)

We received seasonal news from **Bob** and **Melissa Booth** in Colora-



## The Charitable Annuity: The Gift That Keeps Giving

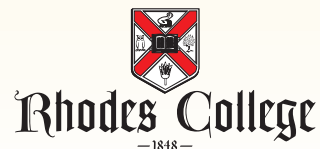
The charitable gift annuity is an increasingly popular way to make a planned gift to Rhodes while enjoying fixed income for life and possible tax benefits. In exchange for a contribution of \$10,000 or more, in cash or appreciated stock, Rhodes can offer you a fixed annual payment for life based on your 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  
Nicki Soulé '93, Director of Golden Lynx Programs  
901-843-3740 [soulen@rhodes.edu](mailto:soulen@rhodes.edu)  
[rhodes.edu/plannedgiving](http://rhodes.edu/plannedgiving)



## CLASS NOTES

do: “Melissa and I plan to head into the mountains, which guarantees us a white Christmas. The Broadmoor near Colorado Springs should do the trick.” Bob is hoping to get together in the spring with old chums **Mike Cody**, **Richard Dortch**, and **John Quinn** to “solve the world’s problems.”

**Jack Biedenharn** writes from Vero Beach, FL, that he’s “still hitting tennis balls at a very nice club and getting paid for it.” He and his wife, **Jane Alexander Biedenharn ‘59**, feel fortunate to live in the same town with son Joe; his wife Debbie; and two of their granddaughters, both of whom are excellent athletes. Jack and Joe get to play tennis together quite often. Jack says, “I plan to live forever, or die trying.”

A frequent traveler is **Mike Cody** of Memphis, giving speeches within two weeks in Nashville, Chicago, and Dayton. He has also had working trips recently to Providence and Charleston and gave a speech in Ft. Lauderdale celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 50-year anniversary of the Civil Rights Act.

**Sue Robinson McLean** in Mobile, AL, has retired as a Realtor Broker after 37 years, the last 26 with the same company, Roberts Brothers. She is enjoying her free time and “not being on call.”

We heard from **Nan Schaeffer Graham** in Wilmington, NC, with the sad news that Ernie Graham, her husband of 52 years, died Nov. 30, 2013, after a long battle with congestive heart failure. She was grateful for the loving support of friends and relatives. Nan is working

on her third book. She sends her best to her “Southwestern friends.”

**Martha Sigler Guthrie** in Metairie, LA, writes: “I just finished a semester of oil painting at the New Orleans Academy of Fine Art. It was a gift from the head of the academy following my son Robert’s death.” Martha will fly to Silver Spring, MD, as she did last year, to spend the Christmas holidays with youngest son, John, and his family. After returning to New Orleans, she and another artist are going to Cuba on a Road Scholar program. “In March I’m scheduled to teach a workshop to one of the art guilds here. It will be on how to represent metallic objects using only the colors in watercolor . . . no metallic paint. It’s amazing how that works.”

I had a great time in November joining my daughter **Alison ‘87** in Tucson, AZ, for the national finals of the USTA tennis tournament. (She played on the Rhodes women’s team in college.) Her Jacksonville team was the Florida champs for the 40+ women. We were at the courts most of the time but did fit in one day of sightseeing at the Desert Museum and drove to Phoenix to the Heard Museum, where Barry Goldwater’s kachina doll collection is housed. It was lovely to be with younger folks!

We thank those who sent in news and hope we’ll hear from more folks next time.

## 1959

Reporter: Sara Jean “Shiney” Jackson

[sjj1022@earthlink.net](mailto:sjj1022@earthlink.net)

4000 Purdue St., #149

Houston, TX 77005

713-748-4025

Last year marked our 55th reunion year. Yep. And, those of us who attended the events on a damp and rainy weekend enjoyed the campus, the memories, and especially visiting with friends. Among those in attendance were **Betsy Sloan Barrett**, **Mary Farish Sharp**, **Princess Hughes Van Hooser**, **Lynn Jaseph Jones**, **Sally Dame Roberds**, **Shiney Jackson**, **San Andrews Robertson**, **Ed Stock**, **Larry Lacy**, **Tim** and **Thirza Mobley Sloan**, **Mike Lupfer**, **Bill Hackleman**, **Diane McMillan Wellford**, and **Walker Wellford**. We were proud of our school and glad to be back to sing the Alma Mater in the auditorium, second floor of Palmer, one more time. A good weekend. Lots of memories. We know many friends could not be present. You were missed.

## 1960

☒ **55th Reunion**

Homecoming/Reunion

Weekend: Oct. 23-24

Reporter: Kim Baxter Henley

[kbaxhen@comcast.net](mailto:kbaxhen@comcast.net)

427 Colonial Rd.

Memphis, TN 38117

901-761-1443

## 1964

Reporter: Mary Lou Quinn McMillin

[maryloumc1@comcast.net](mailto:maryloumc1@comcast.net)

What a fabulous time we had celebrating our 50th Reunion!! The following notes seem to capture the sentiments of all who were there:

From **Dossett Foster**: “What a near-perfect 50th Reunion Weekend! Big thanks to **Mary Lou Quinn McMillin** and the Reunion Committee (**Margaret Rowe Fancher**, **Mary Lou Carwile Finley**, **Dossett Foster**, **Ann Clark Quinlen Harris**, and **Emily Holloway Walker**) and especially to **Nicki Soulé ‘93** and her staff for their excellent guidance in our planning for this wonderful celebration. Some of the many highlights for me were **Howard Edington’s** beautiful prayer at the banquet, housing lifetime civil rights leader **Howard Romaine**, and trying to figure out how **Dale Ledbetter** fooled us all with his magic act. Nicki told me that she would still be at Rhodes to help us plan our 55th. Here’s hoping so.”

From **Ann Clark Harris**: “It was so great seeing all who came at any time during the reunion. We had so much fun! At the brunch on Sunday, we decided we needed to do it again next year, especially the Golden Lynx brunch, just ‘cause we all always have fun with each other! The evening before the reunion began, a whole bunch of us (who did not have family obligations) got together for burgers and brews on the patio at Patrick’s

on Park. It was more darn fun. **Hayden Kayden, Butch and David Sanders, Dale Ledbetter, Bill Wilson, Tom and Thuy Lappage, Margaret and Doug Fancher,** and I caught up with each other's news! BTW, Clay Harris is not the class baby. Bill Wilson's son is eight months younger! Told Clay that he had had his position usurped!"

From **Howard Romaine:** "It's hard to summarize the highlights—sitting at Coach Marr's table at the Athletic Banquet, seeing him look so great in his 80s; seeing a young (to me) woman be honored for expanding women's sports at Rhodes; staying with **Dossett Foster** and his wife, Linda, still in love after all these years; **Liz Currie** reaching out and touching my hand during Steve Haynes' presentation; talking to young students so full of energy and hope; visiting the fantastic new library and getting Starbucks coffee there; seeing the (old) Lynx Lair relocated; seeing **Larry Lacy '58** striding up the stands at the football/soccer/etc. games; seeing how the fraternity houses are still rank with drink, dance, and probably illicit romance; presentations at the banquet so full of MAGIC, fun, and tears of years; and a coordinator with a wonderful French name like Soulé who hopped on the porta-bus for carrying us and brought me up to date on growing up in Meridian, MS. I mean what a trip, what a grand, fun gathering . . . let's do it again, UNTIL WE DIE!"

Before leaving the "reunion reports," a big thanks to **Eleanor Geiger** and **Tommy**

**Lappage** for entertaining us with wonderful memories of our four years and to **Dale Ledbetter** who mystified us all with his magic tricks!!

**Jim Bullock** wrote: "We had a great time at the 50th reunion seeing old friends, catching up on everybody. After that weekend I came back to Memphis, working on Dr. Stephen Haynes' committee on reconciliation. Our committee stayed down at Beale Street. We sought to help a church in Memphis in paths of reconciliation. In St. Augustine, the church Ervin and I attend is meeting with St. Paul AME Church to get to know each other and to pray for each other. We have been exploring the fear of African Americans for their adolescents. We also have a book group half-African American and half-Anglo studying *The New Jim Crow*. Ervin and I continue mentoring. I mentor a fourth grader in elementary school, a 16-year-old at a group home, and a 15-year-old at Hasting's Academy (a juvenile justice program). Ervin mentors a second grader in the elementary school. We are both involved in organizing the third Interfaith Thanksgiving Service in St. Augustine. All our seven children are doing well. We are expecting our fourth grandchild in the spring, when our daughter-in-law is graduating from Princeton Seminary. Our son, her husband, became the head of a vegetable ministry in the church she does field-work in. Our youngest twin got his airplane mechanic license. His twin brother entered community college in engineering. I could go on

and on about family news. I have written too much, but enjoy sharing it."

**Scott Hallford** was unable to join us at the reunion but sent an update. He and his wife, Dana, have been married for 51 years and now live in Jacksonville, FL. They have two children: son, Gregory, who lives in New York City, and daughter, Stephanie, who lives with her husband, Matt, in Hong Kong. Dana and Scott have three grandchildren. Scott's career has included six years in the USMCR, 31 years with the U.S. Department of State, and 16 years working with FedEx, most recently as a consultant. Scott enjoys reading, traveling, golf, his grandkids, and swimming with his golden retriever. He added this poignant note: "We all lost a good friend last year when **Joe Howell** passed. We were together since high school, where we lived within a half mile of each other; college years together and fraternity brothers; and ended up the past 12 years living within a half mile of each other in Jacksonville. I miss him."

Also received an update from **Bob Orr:** "I am working part-time as an associate for pastoral care at Christ Presbyterian Church, Ormond Beach, FL. I have been married 47 years to my wife, Carol. Both Carol and I are ordained ministers (retired) in the Presbyterian Church (USA). We have two children: a daughter, Elizabeth Orr Wade, and a son, Robert Orr. We have two grandchildren: Ross Wade, 16, and Anna Wade, 12."

**Challace McMillin** was

honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by James Madison University, where he has worked for the last 43 years. The award was presented during the JMU vs. Elon football game on Nov. 22. Nearly 200 of his former players, students, and coaches accompanied him onto the field for the recognition and then several carried him off on their shoulders. It was an exciting day filled with affirmation and warm hugs!

On a more somber note, we are saddened by news of **Ronnie Splann's** death on Nov. 24, and extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Diane, and their entire family. Also, news of **Carl "Buddy" Gilmer's** sudden death in early December, the victim of a choking accident in his home. Our deep sympathy is extended to Carl's family as well.

As 2015 unfolds, remember to keep in touch with one another and let us know the happenings of your lives.

## 1965

### 50th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion

Weekend: Oct. 23-24

Reporter: Virginia Lowry Ives  
[ivesvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:ivesvirginia@gmail.com)

**Lou Ellyn Hindman Griffin** writes: "We (Lou Ellyn and Gerry) are planning on being at the reunion and are talking to **Patty George** about coming with us. Just returned from visiting Lou's sister in Scottsdale, AZ. Celebrated Christmas at home. Our daughter from Pennsylvania arrived Dec. 13, 2014, for a week visit. Our first grandchild, Sarah Kim, is a freshman at Temple Univer-

## CLASS NOTES

sity in Philadelphia, PA, and thriving.”

**Teri Tidwell Hornberger** reports: “It has been an interesting and rewarding year! 2014 will always be remembered as the Memorial Year for Jim; the anniversary of his death was Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014. I had six memorials for Jim, more than he would have ever requested! My sister, Marijane, said, ‘No one has six memorials for their spouse!’ Guess I probably started something!”

As a last note, I am looking forward to our 50th Reunion next October! Plans are already starting. This is usually the biggest reunion of all! So, whatever you are doing, plan on being there with us for a large amount of fun and sharing our life stories!

Contact any of our Reunion committee members for information: **Blanche Buckingham Deaderick, Lou Elyn Hindman Griffin, Teri Tidwell Hornberger, Virginia Lowry Ives, Janie Stone McCrary, and Frances Phillips Potts.**

## 1966

Reporter: Sammy Primm Marshall

[sammyannmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:sammyannmarshall@gmail.com)

**Mary Jane Howard Brandon** writes: “After graduation I earned an MSW from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work and a JD degree from Loyola Law School in New Orleans, LA. I also obtained my credential as a psychoanalyst. I later trained at the Harvard Law School and obtained certification as a legal mediator. I am licensed to practice

both social work and law and have been a practicing psychotherapist and analyst with particular expertise in personality disorders. I have also worked in and directed large programs for children and adolescents and done extensive work with women who have been the victims of childhood sexual abuse. I have practiced commercial litigation and corporate work mostly, with a lot of work also in wills, trusts, and estate planning. I also practiced immigration law for three years in New Orleans, where I prepared and argued asylum cases in the immigration and federal courts as the immigration attorney for Catholic Charities there. I have done a lot of pro bono work in the juvenile courts representing children in need of care.

I married Arthur Cryan, who died in 2001. In 2005 I was involved in Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. I lived in Lakeview and lost my home and car and office in 15 feet of water, also all of my possessions and some rental property. That has been slow go in rebuilding it all, but it is almost back to where it was pre-August 2005. I evacuated to New Roads, LA, with some friends. I began working in Marksville, LA, and have gotten to know Pointe Coupee, LA, and West Feliciana Parish and Avoyelles Parish inside and out, which has been a good thing that came out of the hurricane. I divide my time now between New Orleans and New Roads. I am very active at St. Mary of False River Catholic Church and am on the Arts Council Board and Hope Ministry Board. I also have

been very active with St. Vincent de Paul Society, both hands-on and on the Archdiocesan Central Council. I have just begun volunteering with the Friends of the Cabildo in New Orleans as a walking tour guide. I am fortunate to have been able to travel over the years all over Europe and to India and Sri Lanka and China and the Caribbean.” Mary says that she would love to reconnect with friends from her years at Rhodes. Get in touch if you can. Mary Brandon at [branddonlawfirm@yahoo.com](mailto:branddonlawfirm@yahoo.com).

**Mary Lydick Rogers** writes: “Keith and I had a wonderful Silversea cruise to the Baltic with **Nelle Casburn Percer ‘67** and her husband, Joe. In St. Petersburg, Russia, we went non-stop day and night and loved every minute. Finland, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium were all so interesting. Our last days were in London. A tour of Buckingham Palace was a high point.”

**Joyce Wilding** writes that she is beginning her 70th year by doing something new: “For the next two years I am participating in Richard Rohr’s Living School. The Rohr Institute’s Living School for Action and Contemplation provides a course of study grounded in the Christian mystical tradition.” You can go to [cac.org](http://cac.org) to learn more about the program.

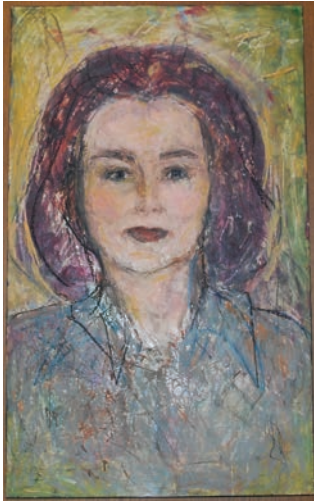
**Ray Bye** and Kathy have their first granddaughter—Charlotte Katherine Haga—who was born in early September in Alexandria, VA. She joins two grandsons—Jackson and William Bye of Washington, DC. Ray

says: “All three grandchildren are under four years old, and we are having great fun being doting grandparents.” To create more free time, Ray retired from Florida State University on July 1, 2014, but he is continuing to do his consulting work, which takes him back to Washington periodically on behalf of his clients. He and Kathy are spending more time at their cottage on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and find more time for gardening, refinishing furniture, golfing together, and reading. After each relaxing visit there, they return home to Tallahassee for the company of friends, the warm weather, and the many sporting activities.

## 1967

Reporter: Sam Highsmith  
[shighsm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shighsm@sbcglobal.net)

**Mildred Bates** writes: “I retired Jan. 1, 2015, as professor of social work at Rhode Island College School of Social Work after a 34-year career. My plans are to continue to develop my meditation practice and in mindfulness, to continue my small private practice in clinical social work, and to continue to work out five times a week, which I began in earnest a year ago after a surprising heart attack. How have I found the time to work?! I also plan to do some peace and justice work now that I will no longer be teaching peace and justice. Just not sure where to go with that, there are so many issues I am drawn to. Maybe some classmates have some ideas for me!!”



A portrait of Anne Marie Caskey Williford '52 now graces the lobby of the residence hall that bears her name. This original artwork, in oil and acrylic, was painted by her daughter, Beth Williford Carson, who donated the painting to Rhodes. Anne Marie served Rhodes College as Dean of Women from 1968–1975 and Dean of Students from 1975–1979. Her devotion and dedication to the students and the loyalty she exhibited to the college make her an enduring figure.

**Mimi Mehrle** reports: “**Mary Ann** and **Clarkson McDow**; my husband, **Robert**; and I spent two weeks in France and Switzerland in late August and September 2014. We stayed in St. Remy for a week and used that delightful town as a base to explore the area, then went to Interlochen for a week. We enjoyed hiking and seeing all the beautiful scenery around there. Robert and I then went to the Amalfi Coast for a few days—while Mary Ann and Clarkson explored Rome and met friends in Lucca. Robert and I just welcomed our seventh grandchild. Can it be possible that we are that old! My mom just celebrated her 100th birthday. I’m sure she feels the same!”

**Ketti McDonald Tyree** had

an exciting trip in November 2014. Her nephew had a destination wedding in Scotland, which was a great excuse for her to visit a country she had never been to. She stayed at Ackergill Tower in Wick, Scotland, in what was once the stables—now a five-bedroom cottage right on the North Sea. In addition to horseback riding for the first time in 40 years (and suffering from it for a week), she was entertained with a bonfire, ghost stories, bagpipers, many varieties of Scotch, and great food. Scotch still tastes like dust floating in alcohol, she says—she is a Long Island Iced Tea gal. Her son, Greg, who is still in the Middle East, treated her to business class flights. She says “I was born to fly business class—I guess it is best that this was my first time—but I recommend it highly! Champagne, anyone?” She says she was born to live in a castle, also, but would want it all on one floor.

**Jim Whittington** notes: “Sam, not much I can add. This year has been a struggle for Annette and me. But I would like all the members of our class to know how much we appreciate your support in the death of our second son. The communications from all provided the strength we so desperately needed at the time.”

**Bo Scarborough** has completed his first year as Interim Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Mid-South.

**Rose “Rosie” Gladney** writes: “Marcia and I will celebrate 30 years of commitment to each other in March, and five years of legal marriage as of May 21,

2015. Still hard to believe those numbers! Perhaps I’ll have more news for a later publication.” (I take that as a promise, Rose!)

Your reporter and his wife celebrated new grandchildren in ’14. Daughter Sheena Pitchford and her husband, Tyler, welcomed a daughter, Maisie Casey Pitchford. Daughter Kathleen Lee and her husband, John Robert, welcomed a son, Samuel Thomas Lee. Additionally, Beth and I celebrated the 20th anniversary of our marriage with a December trip to Williamsburg, VA. We very much appreciated the many good wishes we received on all three occasions. While there we also had the pleasure of a short but meaningful visit with **Anne Thacker Leuke**. We enjoyed catching up, learning more about her family, and hearing of Charlie’s relatively new passions for photography and art.

**Eleanor Howe** claims: “Alas, no news fit to print.” (Your reporter replied to Eleanor that he has great skill in making unfit items palatable to the masses. Eleanor did not accept the invitation.)

## 1968

Reporters: **Bob Morris**  
[bmorris68@comcast.net](mailto:bmorris68@comcast.net)  
**Drue Thom White**  
[drueboo@aol.com](mailto:drueboo@aol.com)

**Carol Ann Colclough Strickland**’s latest book, *Masterpieces of Art: Impressionism*, was released in December as an enhanced eBook by Erudition Digital of London. Available for tablet readers or from the publisher’s website at [eruditiondigital.co.uk](http://eruditiondigital.co.uk), the

book traces the history of the French Impressionist movement with high-resolution, full-color images of paintings, as well as text and clickable hotspots for more information. “I’m hoping this electronic format will catch on as a way to learn more about art,” Carol writes. “It’s certainly less expensive and more portable than a coffee-table book.”

## 1970

**45th Reunion**  
 Homecoming/Reunion  
 Weekend: Oct. 23-24  
 Reporter: **Hud Andrews**  
[hud.andrews@srvs.org](mailto:hud.andrews@srvs.org)

## 1973

Reporter: **Margaret Lawson Headrick**  
[margaretheadrick@comcast.net](mailto:margaretheadrick@comcast.net)

**Cherry V. Falls** was awarded the Gold Cross Award for the Most Outstanding Faculty Member at St. Mary’s Episcopal School in Memphis. The Gold Cross Award is St. Mary’s oldest and most prized annual award.

## 1974

**Larry Rice** was selected by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys as a Nationally Ranked Top 10 Attorney in 2014 for excellence in the field of family law.



In the summer 2014 issue of *Rhodes* magazine's Alumni News section, we brought you an image of these six members of the class of 1985. From left: Margaret Bryan French, Brigid Elsen Galloway, Kathleen Albritton Fittro, Kelley Ashby Paul, Sevgi Curtis, Meg Waters Lambert, and Blair Gatewood Norman. Paul has written a book about her six classmates and the 30-plus-year friendship they have kept alive by making certain to get together nearly every year. *True And Constant Friends: Love and Inspiration from Our Grandmothers, Mothers, and Friends* showcases the special bond of close female relationships, focusing especially on Paul's Rhodes' classmates and the women who have inspired them.

Paul, the wife of Senator Rand Paul, says of her friends, "We met in the autumn of 1981 as freshmen at Rhodes College, and despite living all over the country, we have faithfully reunited for a long weekend nearly every year since graduation. Raising a family amidst the contact sport of American politics, I have had to call on reserves of strength that I didn't realize I had, and I've leaned hard on my friends. I have sought guidance and courage in my faith, my family and even my history. So this year, I asked each friend for a favor before we met for our reunion. Tell me about a woman in your family who has influenced you, guided you, and fostered your sense of joy, of possibility, of courage. I had an unshakeable feeling that their mothers and grandmothers would have experiences and histories that were fascinating and inspiring. I was right, and that is the genesis of this book."

## 1975

### 40th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend: Oct. 23-24

## 1976

**Sandra Shelton, PhD, MBA, CPA**, is the 2014 PhD Project Hall of Fame Honoree. She has been involved with the PhD Project since its inception in 1994, when she served as a panelist on the Investment/Sacrifice Panel during the annual

meeting. She is the KPMG Distinguished Professor of accountancy and the faculty coordinator of the Internal Auditing Program in the School of Accountancy & MIS, Driehaus College of Business, at DePaul University. She received a PhD in accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, MBA (Finance) from Indiana University, and BS (Economics) from Rhodes. She is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (IL).

## 1977

**Dr. Alexander Wilds** has been appointed professor of art at the new International College of Liberal Arts in Kofu, Japan, where he will teach sculpture, Japanese art history, and aesthetics. As one of the founding professors, his principal work is to design and build a new sort of college for the future in Japan.

## 1980

### 35th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend: Oct. 23-24

## 1985

### 30th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend: Oct. 23-24

Reporter: Julia Weaver  
[julia.weaver@att.net](mailto:julia.weaver@att.net)

**Kathy Woodson Barr** was named head of school for Catherine McCauley High School in Portland, ME.

**Christina Weir** reports: "Still loving life at Make-A-Wish! Seeing a child receive a wish . . . priceless!!! I am honored to be serving on our 30th reunion committee. We have already had a meeting and ideas are flowing. I encourage everyone to join the Rhodes College Class of 1985 Facebook page. The committee will be posting updates and asking for suggestions. Please reach out to the friends you have stayed in touch with and make sure they have contacted the alumni office with current information. Can you believe it has been over 30

years since we stepped foot on that beautiful campus? Let's make our celebration HUGE since we are the first graduates of Rhodes College!"

## 1986

**Phaedra Hise** writes that she and Eric Lindquist were married Nov. 29, 2014, in an outdoor ceremony overlooking the James River in Richmond, VA. Wedding guests bundled up to enjoy a clear day and a perfectly timed sunset highlighting the river, city skyline, and mountain bike trails that they ride frequently. "Our newly combined family includes four children—Christopher (26), Hannah (22), Lily (19), and Ethan (16). Lily was maid of honor and Ethan best man at the ceremony. Christopher is a graduate of VCU's commercial art program and works in marketing and design. Hannah recently graduated from Radford University with a degree in public relations. Lily is enjoying her first year at Boston University in the BFA acting program. Ethan is a high school junior, soccer goalie, and active Air Force ROTC member. I am hard at work with freelance magazine, corporate, and book writing. Eric is a former chef, now working in food sales for Sysco and cooking amazing treats for his new family. We live next door to each other but we have dinner together every night!"

# 1987

Reporter: Mimi Swords Fondren  
[mimifondren@bellsouth.net](mailto:mimifondren@bellsouth.net)

**Bisha Harrington** sends this note: "I have been living in Knoxville, TN, since fall of 2011. I retired from directing the Fellows Program at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis when we moved. I have put miles on my car traveling down to Athens, GA, to watch my daughter Lauren (22) compete for the Lady Bulldogs swim team. They have won the national championship for the past two years and are hoping to three-peat in March. I run into fellow Rhodes graduates **Lex Coleman '86, Lori Guth McCaghren '88, Nate Phillips '84, Susan Sorocak Swing '89, Mike Matthews '84, Andy '87 and Kim Chickey MacQueen '83, and John Barnes '85,** among others, as I travel the southern states to watch my high-school-aged son, Caleb, compete in swimming, also! Rhodes makes it a small world amongst us swim parents!"

**Katherine Bres Ware** is thriving in her new role at TCU, and writes: "Am sitting here procrastinating . . . I should be putting the finishing touches on the next draft of a course syllabus. Who knew I'd wind up one day proposing new curriculum at TCU? The thing is, it's not a lecture course. Nor is the new center we're proposing just another office. There's this whole interdisciplinary, active learning thing going on that makes me feel like I've found a new tribe. I'm among my people. And we wear a lot of

purple. With pride. (Who knew I'd become an ardent college football fan, either? Football, basketball, baseball too. Go Frogs!) TCU—like Rhodes—has got it going on. I'd enroll for classes again at either school in a heartbeat." I'm with you, KB—so with you! - MSF

**Laura McKinney** has good news! She has been named director, Finance and Legal, for Tropical Tango, LLC, a Little Rock-based multi-unit franchisee of Tropical Smoothie Café in Arkansas and Oklahoma. She oversees the accounting functions, serves as in-house counsel, and works with developers and contractors to open new cafés. In her free time she volunteers with the Chenal Civitan Club.

**Brian Mott** got to spend Thanksgiving 2014 on the beaches of sunny Malibu. He says he doesn't care if you hate him for that. We could never hate you, Brian. Sweet heavens. - MSF

# 1988

Reporter: Brooke Glover Emery  
[brookegemery@gmail.com](mailto:brookegemery@gmail.com)

**John Cox** writes that they have been living in Franklin, TN, for the past eight years. "My wife, Martha, is in medical sales and I am a commercial real estate appraiser and consultant. John, Jr. is 8, and William turned 6 in January." John attended our 25th anniversary homecoming last year and enjoyed seeing everyone.



Members of the Chicago Chapter kicked off the holiday season by sampling gourmet chocolates at Vosges Haut-Chocolat, a local luxury chocolatier. Guests enjoyed a champagne reception followed by a wine and chocolate pairings program led by Chocolate Concierge Sophie Gatins '06. (First row) Wes Meador '00; (from left, second row) Danielle Lenz '14, Emily Nesler '11, Sophie Gatins '06, Jessie Pearson '11; (third row) Heather Bishop Troupe '11; Michael Portillo (fourth row) Noah Brown '14, Julia Price '14, Jeffrey Sulaka, Dustin Pappin.

# 1990

## 25th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion

Weekend: Oct. 23-24

Reporter: Rod White

[rodw@white-associates.net](mailto:rodw@white-associates.net)

**Margaret Berardelli** reports: "I am now the director of annual giving for the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts in Vienna, VA, working with individual and corporate donors to support a renowned arts and education organization. My husband, Joe, and our daughter, Nora (age 8), are definitely enjoying the perks of the position (performances under the stars, backstage access). In between Wolf Trap performances we are spending time cheering for the Washington Nationals (both in person and at home), and I am volunteering for the Girl Scouts

as a Brownie Troop Leader. We hope to attend the 25th reunion this fall."

**Dr. Stephen A. Montgomery** is now the director of Vanderbilt Forensic Psychiatry, where he focuses on the many areas in which psychiatry is applied to legal issues. This work ranges from insanity and competency evaluations in criminal proceedings to parenting and fitness for duty evaluations in civil matters.

# 1994

Reporter: Judy Brown

[judy.brown@borax.com](mailto:judy.brown@borax.com)

**Scott Covode** reports: "I am still firmly rooted in Atlanta, GA, with my wife, Jennifer, who is an RN pursuing her FNP. We have a great church home at Gwinnett Church, part of Northpoint Ministries. I still work for Tetra Tech as environmental

# CLASS NOTES



Stiles Rougeou '95, the "pit master"



A sampling of the feast



Joby Dion '99, one of the Cajunfest founders



Alex McWhirter '10

PAUL LAWLER

The 10th Annual Cajunfest, celebrating the last home football game of the season, took place on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2014. More than 800 alumni, faculty, staff, current parents, and prospective students and their families enjoyed a feast of *cochon de lait*, sautéed shrimp, red beans and rice, jambalaya, pastalaya, seafood gumbo, white beans, chicken gumbo, and King Cake decorated with Rhodes colors. The cooking team of alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and friends began preparing the feast the night before using authentic Louisiana ingredients and shrimp fresh from the Gulf. Making the meal even more delicious was the Lynx victory over the Hendrix Warriors.

scientist and have over 20 total years with active and reserve time in the U.S. Air Force. No retirement in our near future, though."

## 1995

### 20th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend: Oct. 23-24  
Reporter: Sarah Sears  
[sarahsears@live.com](mailto:sarahsears@live.com)

Did you know there is a Facebook group for our class in honor of our 20th (yes, 20th) reunion? You can find it under "Rhodes College Class of 1995." Thanks to **Tracy Adkisson** for putting it together (and making the icon a red Solo cup—that was a stroke of brilliance).

**Scotland Allen** completed an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2014. He works at Dell, leading a software development and engineering organization in Austin where he and wife, Leigh Wallace Allen, are

raising their 3 kiddos.

After 11 years at Indiana State University, **Brian Coldren** became the registrar at Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA, in September 2013. He and his family are enjoying the return to warmer Southern weather in Marietta.

It's a baby girl for **Sarah McVoy Moya** and her husband, Will. Eleanor Crews Moya joined them on Jan. 31, 2014.

**Hunter West** and his wife have welcomed their third child, Anson Charles West.

## 1996

Reporter: Jennifer Larson  
[larson\\_jennifer@yahoo.com](mailto:l Larson_jennifer@yahoo.com)

**Marcie Allen**, president of entertainment company MAC Presents, has been named to *Billboard's* list of successful women in music for 2014. *Billboard* notes: "Allen remains one of the most powerful forces in music branding, brokering

deals on behalf of clients Citi (Billy Joel, The Who) and Samsung (activations at Life Is Beautiful, Riot Fest, Music Midtown). MAC's 2014 revenue was the highest in its 10-year history, with earnings exceeding \$10 million for a second year in a row."

## 1999

Reporter: Leigh Powell  
Mayfield  
[powla99@gmail.com](mailto:powla99@gmail.com)

Henry and **Florence Stumb Chassaignac** welcomed their first child, Marguerite Grace, on Sept. 23, 2014. Florence writes, "She's a little angel!"

**Cliff Priddy** and his wife, Jessica, welcomed their first child, Everett Lancaster, on Oct. 17, 2014. Cliff continues to enjoy living in Austin, TX, and has been working as a physical therapist with Encompass Home Health for the past three years.

## 2000

### 15th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend: Oct. 23-24  
Reporter: Nicki North Baxley  
[nickinp@gmail.com](mailto:nickinp@gmail.com)

**Andy Whitten** recently authored three papers that were published in the ASTM *STP 1559 Fatigue and Fracture of Medical Metallic Materials and Devices*. Paper topics included literature discrepancies in biomechanical loading of orthopaedic devices, bending fatigue characteristics of orthopaedic biomaterials, and the effects of anodization on the fatigue performance of titanium alloys.

**Sheila Jacobson Purcell** had a baby girl, Isabel Ashby Purcell, who joined her siblings, Peder (3) and Sophia (2).

**Tyler and Tarah Penny Buckner**, along with their sons Rowan (9) and Connall (6), recently moved to



Denver, CO, after living in North Carolina for almost 15 years. Tyler will work as an assistant professor of hematology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center.

After six years as an instructor of English at Auburn University, **Tim Hayes** has gladly and gratefully accepted the position of assistant professor of English at Chowan University in Murfreesboro, NC. He lives just over the state line in Franklin, VA. Having finally made it onto the tenure track, he looks forward to a long career of teaching at a small, faith-based, liberal arts college with small classes where students and professors get to know each other quite well, a place a lot like where he spent four wonderful years of his life once upon a time in Memphis.

## 2001

Reporter: Elisabeth Meyers Yoder

[elisabethyoder@gmail.com](mailto:elisabethyoder@gmail.com)

**Cletus Brown IV** was married to Meaghan Renee Frazier at Mossleigh Farms on May 31, 2014.

**Anna Johnson Whittenbarger** writes: "My husband, Mike, and I are proud to announce the birth of our daughter, Cecilia Kate Whittenbarger, on Aug. 23, 2014, in Jackson, MS. After her birth, we moved to Shreveport, LA, where I continue to work in tax with KPMG, and Mike has started with a local insurance agency."

After a year in Houston, TX, **Jennifer Durovchic** has moved back to Atlanta, GA.

She was promoted in July 2014 to the curriculum/instructional support role at the corporate offices of Interactive College of Technology. She celebrated nine years with the company in September 2014. She is starting to settle back into life in Atlanta, but has spent most of the past five months in Houston, rolling out new curriculum and training managers there.

**Dr. Barrett Haga** and Eleanor "Ellie" Bye Haga welcomed Charlotte "Charlie" Katherine Haga to their family on Sept. 3, 2014. Charlotte is also the granddaughter of **Dr. Raymond Bye '66**. The Hagas continue to reside in Alexandria, VA, where Barrett works for the U.S. Department of Commerce, advising on domestic and international development.

**Amanda Flaim**, her partner, Daniel Ahlquist, and their son, Simon, have relocated back to the South! Amanda and Daniel are both teaching at Duke University—she at the Sanford School of Public Policy and he in the undergraduate program of Trinity College and in the Duke Sustainability Program. They are so happy to be done with the dissertations after too many years and thrilled to be making a life nearer to family and old friends.

**Shawn Carlisle Kefauver** and his wife, Meritxell Genescà Ferrer, are the proud parents of Emma Dell Kefauver Genescà, now just over one year old, born in Barcelona in September 2013. Shawn has also changed jobs and is now conducting scientific research and teaching at the University of Barcelona in the



Wine critic and oenophile Chris Matthews '84 lent his extensive expertise to New York City Chapter members at the recent wine tasting featuring Wines of New York vs. Wines of the World on Oct. 23, 2014, at the home of Marcie Allen Van Mol '96. If you are interested in joining the New York City Chapter leadership committee, please contact Megan McDonald '10 at [meganlmcDonald06@gmail.com](mailto:meganlmcDonald06@gmail.com). (From left) Debbie Reynolds P'10, Alison Jones '10, Meredith Martin '10, Marcie Allen Van Mol '96, Sarah Crowley '10, Logan Jones '08, Lexie Routh '10, Chris Matthews '84, and Clay Gregory '09.

Department of Plant Biology.

**Nhung Do Hurst** writes: "My husband, Tripp Hurst, has recently become the on-air radio personality for KHITs 104.5, a radio station out of Vicksburg, MS. And I have recently accepted a promotion to serve as a human resources professional for Samaritan's Purse, an international disaster relief organization headquartered in Boone, NC. I am currently serving as the northwest regional manager for Operation Christmas Child, which is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, and relocated with my husband and eight-year-old daughter, Lexi, from Tacoma, WA, to Boone, NC, in January 2015."

**Olivia Mayberry** and her husband, Greg, welcomed twins, Lucille Jane and John Webb Mayberry (Lucy and Webb) on May 9, 2014. They also relocated from Austin, TX, to Dallas, TX, in September, where Greg has taken

a new job.

**Rev. Tiffany Padgitt McDonald** has been appointed to Minnetonka United Methodist Church as associate pastor.

**Hannah Miller** writes: "I recently received the 2015 K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). It is a national award and given to 8 or 10 people a year in recognition of graduate students who show exemplary promise as future leaders of higher education; who demonstrate a commitment to developing academic and civic responsibility in themselves and others; and whose work reflects a strong emphasis on teaching and learning."

**Daru Lane** reports: "**Andy '02** and I welcomed our son on Friday, Sept. 12, 2014. Pearson Gage Ransford weighed a healthy 10 pounds, 2 ounces, having come two weeks earlier than

## CLASS NOTES



More than 70 students, alumni, and parents attended the Atlanta Chapter's New Year's Networking Reception on Jan. 8 at Tap Gastropub. The event provided an opportunity for current students to seek career advice from alumni and parents working in their field of interest. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Atlanta Chapter leadership committee, please contact Patrick Crouch '06 at [patrick.crouch@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.crouch@gmail.com). (From left) Karen McKenzie, Patrick Crouch '06, Kate Strother '05, and Barnett Edelon '01.

his due date! Pearson joins big sister Sophia, who just turned four. I'm working at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine as a senior manager of business operations for the UM Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI), while Andy is in year two of his five-year urology residency."

**Brent Robson**; his wife, Stephanie; and daughter, Priscilla, welcomed the arrival of Josiah James in December 2014.

**Dr. Kate Stakem** has been appointed director of studies at St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis. She begins her work with 7th grade through 12th-grade students in summer 2015.

## 2002

Reporter: Shannon Cian  
[shannoncian@gmail.com](mailto:shannoncian@gmail.com)

**Jonathan Russom** accepted the position as director of teacher recruitment at

KIPP: Chicago. If you know talented teachers who want to join an outstanding team of educators and impact social change, send them his way!

Has anyone seen **Ashley Quinn Sewell**? She still owes me \$20.

## 2003

Lindsay Levine Rouse  
[lindsayrouse@gmail.com](mailto:lindsayrouse@gmail.com)

Ellen and **Nelson Mabry** live in Houston, TX, and celebrated the birth of their second child, Elizabeth Grace Mabry, on April 8, 2014. Big brother William is two years old.

Lydia and **Ben Chastain** were fortunate to welcome twins, Adele McNair and Mark Benjamin, on Nov. 4, 2014. Mom and babies are doing well.

**Crescent Rowell Moore** married Jamie Moore on March 7, 2014, in San Francisco, CA. The couple resides in Nashville, TN, where Crescent is a pharmacy and



On Oct. 16, 2014, Dr. Tim Huebner, the Irma O. Sternberg Professor and Chair of the History Department, delivered his lecture on "Roger B. Taney, the Slave Power and the Meaning of Emancipation" in the Supreme Court Courtroom as part of the Supreme Court Historical Society's lecture series on the Court and the Civil War. Prof. Huebner was introduced by Justice Antonin Scalia GP'18. After the lecture, Prof. Huebner and some of his former students gathered in the lovely reception rooms off the Great Hall.

(From left): Tracy Vezina Patterson '84, P'17; Ian Engdahl '13; David Tyler '06; Luke Archer '08; Prof. Tim Huebner; Katie Henderson Archer '08; Meg Chambers Campbell '04; and Kristin Lensch, wife of Prof. Huebner.

therapeutics clinical pharmacist for Humana Pharmacy Solutions and Jamie is a songwriter with BMG.

**Victoria Montgomery Cullum**; husband BA; and son, Montgomery, welcomed Jane Ellery Cullum on Sept. 17, 2014.

**Amanda Killie Curty** and her husband, Jim, welcomed their first child, Grant Oliver Curty, on Aug. 12, 2014.

**Jane Wells** writes: "In our second year as a fund-raising team for St. Jude through the Heroes Marathon Weekend program, we raised more than \$82,000 for the hospital! More than 120 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the college participated. I was one of the co-captains of the team, accompanied by **Miriam Dillard Stroud '03**, **Katie Walsh '04**, **Toney Walsh '09**, and **Emily Brueck '13** on the leadership team. Athletics Director

**Mike Clary '77** was the overall top fund-raiser, bringing in \$4,000 for St. Jude! Anyone interested in joining us next year as a fund-raiser and/or runner can email me ([wellsj@rhodes.edu](mailto:wellsj@rhodes.edu)). We finished fourth as a fund-raising team out of 20-plus teams!"

**Lindsay** and **Steven Rouse** welcomed baby Barrett Richard on April 26, 2014. Big brother, Jack, is adjusting to his new role.

**Amanda Taylor** writes: "After five years in D.C., I moved back West (I am originally from Fresno, CA) last August and joined the Career Development Office at Pomona College as assistant director of pre-health and career advising. It's been a wonderful transition, and in the move, I was able to drive cross-country and see fellow Rhodes alums and dear friends **Tamara Martin** and **Jessica Alley**. I love being at a small liberal

arts college like Rhodes and advising pre-health students is truly my dream job. Not to mention being in beautiful southern California and driving alongside mountains on my way to work. I encourage anyone to come this way.”

## 2005

### ✘ 10th Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion

Weekend: Oct. 23-24

Reporters: Brandon Couillard

[brandon.couillard@gmail.com](mailto:brandon.couillard@gmail.com)

Molly Fitzpatrick

[mhfitz11@hotmail.com](mailto:mhfitz11@hotmail.com)

On Oct. 25, 2014, **Rev. Taylor Driskill** married John Pafford, Jr. at Northside United Methodist Church (where Taylor serves as associate pastor) in Atlanta, GA. They are in the process of buying their first home together in Atlanta.

We are excited to report that our own **Katie Jameson** accepted the award for this year's Rhodes College Young Alumni of the Year at Homecoming in October. Katie also married Neil Phillips in October 2014 at Mint Springs Farms in Nashville, TN. **Carolyn Westfall '05** was maid of honor and **Brenna Ragghianti '05** was the officiant. Rhodes faculty Dr. Mary Miller and Dr. Robert Strandburg were also in attendance. In other news, she was also selected as the newest member of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Associate Member Council, where she will advocate for early-career scientists as a liaison to the AACR Board of Directors.

In addition to his day job, **Wes Lawrence** is now also

writing and podcasting for SBNation, covering the Dallas Stars hockey team. Check him out online at [defendingbigd.com](http://defendingbigd.com).

**John Bragg III** has been teaching English, journalism, TV broadcasting, and digital communications at Montverde Academy for the past three years. In addition to teaching, John publishes the school newspaper (*The Talon*); is the head coach of the MVA Academic Team; produces *MVA Today*, the school's nationally recognized award-winning weekly student news show; and also chairs Montverde's chapter of the The Quill and Scroll National Honor Society for High School Journalists. Recently, he presented "Breaking Down Walls: Building Culture with a Student News Program" at the 2014 Florida Council for Independent Schools annual convention, and over the past two years, his teaching has taken him from the Spanish Pyrenees to Shanghai, China.

**Evan Weinberger** shared that he and his wife, Diane, have a new baby boy. Samuel Alexander Weinberger was born on Aug. 17, 2014.

**Kristen Bach Smithson** and her husband, Garrett, are excited to announce the birth of their first child, Kelsey Alexa Smithson. She came into this world at 5:04 p.m. on Sept. 1, 2014, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces, and measuring 20 inches long. The family resides in Cordova, TN, and Kristen has begun her 10th year working at Collierville High School in Collierville, TN.

Next in line, **Grace Mitchell Neal** and husband, Matt,

welcomed their daughter, Eleanor DeWitt Neal, on Aug. 30, 2014. Baby Eleanor weighed in at 7.12 pounds and measured 21 inches long. The Neal family currently resides in Phoenix, AZ, but hopes to head back to the South soon!

**Emily Robbins Liverman** and her husband, Thomas, added a baby boy, Robert George, to their family on July 17, 2014.

## 2006

Reporter: Caroline King Willson

[Caroline.King.Willson@gmail.com](mailto:Caroline.King.Willson@gmail.com)

**Maggy Williams** got married this August to Nolan Carmack. They live in Asheville, NC, where Nolan is a PLS (Professional Licensed Surveyor) and Maggy teaches college while she is finishing a PhD in American History. They also bought a house!

**Alice King Sullivan** is completing her third year as a doctoral student in curriculum and instruction at the University of Texas at Austin, where she also teaches and supervises elementary school student teachers.

**Patrick Rhomey** was elected this November to a four-year term on the Lexington, VA, city council. In July, he led a study abroad trip on the politics of Central Europe to Hungary, Austria, and Germany, and **Katie Ackerman Rhomey** was able to join part of the trip, visiting Vienna, Salzburg, and Munich. All the students made it home alive, and another trip is planned for the summer. Since beginning work at Virginia Military Institute in fall 2012, he has

produced eight publications in the field of international relations, with topics including the politics of the Mediterranean, rising major powers, and the motivations for Olympic participation.

**Richard '04** and **Alice Turner Frost** are excited that he has accepted an interventional radiology fellowship at the University of Alabama Birmingham starting in July 2015. Alice is enjoying her career at Allscripts Healthcare and is approaching her eighth-year anniversary. Their son, James, turned 2 in October.

**Rob Gunn** is now living in Houston, TX, and working for Purple Land Management. He is enjoying life in the big city and running into Rhodes alumni around town.

**Captain Marni Green Prenell** is currently deployed to Iraq in support of President Obama's Advise and Assist program targeted at training the Iraqi military in order to defeat ISIS threats in Iraq/Syria.

**Caroline Ferrari** married David Cronin in Camarillo, CA, on Aug. 31, 2014, at Spanish Hills Country Club. Alumna in the bridal party included **Jennifer Todd McCaskill**, **Joelle Pittman '07**, and **Lindsey Cloud '08** as bridesmaids, and **Becky Wolfe** as a reader. Alumna in attendance included **Kayti Fan** and **Sarah Stevens '05**. Caroline is now working for CareerBuilder as a major account executive, selling advertising, software, and data solutions to Fortune 500 companies globally.

**Michael Hohos** married Paige Fernandez on May 24, 2014, at the Cuban Club in Tampa, FL. **Wheeler Graf**,

**Geoff Berkow**, and **Dr. Warren Boone** were groomsmen with **Brad Crawford** and **Adam deNobriga** also in attendance. Paige and Michael live in Houston, TX, with their pug, Einstein, and new puppy, Stella.

**Jenny Rogers** joined the Outlook section of the *Washington Post* as assistant editor. For the last two years, Jenny has been assistant managing editor at the *Washington City Paper*, where she assigned and edited pieces for print and web “on just about every conceivable local topic”; supervised production of the weekly newspaper; helped conceive special issues; wrote the occasional cover story; and was the talent-spotter behind the internship program. (She will, she points out, join two of her former interns at the *Post*.) She originally moved to Washington to intern for *Slate* with a scholarship from the White House Correspondents’ Association. After that, she spent time reporting at TBD.com and co-writing the *Washington Examiner*’s gossip column.

**Abigail Ray** and **Joe Doyle ’08** were married in Nashville, TN, on Nov. 29, 2014. They were surrounded by family and friends, including **Chris ’08** and **Meriwether Wofford Truckner**, **Billy** and **Caroline King Willson**, **Scott ’07** and **Colleen Forsyth Macmurdo**, **Laura Britt Locke**, and **Rachael South Bogema ’07**. Abigail and Joe live in St. Petersburg, FL, where he is in-house counsel at an insurance company and she is a pediatric critical care nurse.

## 2007

Reporter: Mollie Briskman Montelaro  
[mollie.montelaro@gmail.com](mailto:mollie.montelaro@gmail.com)

**Katina Papathopoulos Gifford** just celebrated one year with Fort Worth Can Academy, Lancaster Avenue, where she serves as the special education specialist and Licensed Specialist in School Psychology (LSSP).

**Katie Jardine** and her husband, Tim Van Coningsloo, bought their first house in Covington, LA. Katie also reports that she was recently able to help **Emily Tarr ’14** obtain a Latin teaching position at St. Scholastica Academy, where Katie teaches Spanish.

**Amanda Sakla** and Andrew Sullivan married Oct. 4, 2014, in New Orleans, LA. Amanda’s roommate of four years, **Jodi Malone Howe**, was a bridesmaid; other guests included **Lauren Von Drehle Killary**, **Daniel Killary**, **Meredith Lee**, **Helen Meaher**, **Lauren Neupert**, **Brittany Melvin Joslyn**, **Victoria McCullough**, **Lindsay Joe**, **Jen Brake**, **Margaret Tufton ’08**, and **Brad Romig ’05**. Amanda and Andrew are living in New Orleans where they both work as educators in the FirstLine Charter School Network.

On Nov. 8, 2014, **Tyler Smith** and Roula Zoghbi married in Houston, TX. Rhodes guys in the wedding were **Scott Bayer**, **Truett Horne**, **John Mowrey ’06**, **Alex Ramirez**, **Peter Hart**, **Elliott Taliaferro**, and **Justin Foreman ’08**. There were also a number of alumni that attended the festivities:

**Sarah Galpern Via**, **Margaret Works Yerkovich**, **Colly Scott Beecherl**, **Cassie Ortiz**, **Meredith Allison**, **Thomas Farris**, **Nick Westbrook**, **Lora Terry**, and **Julia Stribling Taliaferro ’08**. Mr. and Mrs. Smith currently live in Houston. Tyler is with an oil and gas drilling company and Roula works with Texas Children’s Hospital.

**John Garner** and Mary Parker married Oct. 4, 2014. In attendance were **Jon-Michael Osolnik**, **Justin LeBlanc ’06**, and **John Freeman ’10**. The two married in Murfreesboro, TN, and currently reside in Nashville, where John is a wine representative for Athens Distributing Company.

On Sept. 27, 2014, **Elizabeth Erny** and Mike Jett married at Maple Hill Manor in Springfield, KY. **Ashton Potter-Wright** served as a bridesmaid. Other Rhodes alumni in attendance included **Jonathan Wright**, **Alexis Davis**, **Hilary Mast McCart**, and **Jake McCart ’08**. The Jetts are also excited to celebrate their first baby girl, Margaret Rhea Jett, who turned one on Dec. 28, 2014!

**Britain Sterling Lenz** reported that her second child, Maxwell West Lenz, had quite the arrival. En route to the birthing center in O’Fallon, MO, Max made his entrance into the world and, as Britain tells it, he was actually caught by her best friend, **Anne Barenkamp**. Max was born on Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2014, at 6:46 p.m. and weighed in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces. Mom and Dad, Adam, and big sister, Ryan Elizabeth, are all enjoying their time with the new

addition.

**Allison Burris Six** and **David Six ’08** welcomed their son, Charles Addison Six, on May 14, 2014.

Double the fun from **Betsy Duckett Harris!** On Oct. 9, 2014, she and her husband, Robby, welcomed twins—Liza and Tripp—into the world. Betsy reports that the twins are “keeping me busy and are so much fun!”

**Jessika Morris Boles** and her husband, Steven, welcomed a sweet baby boy, Maddox Dale, on Aug. 14, 2014. According to Jessika, they are raising him to love San Francisco sports teams and all things Memphis, and they are surrounding him with fellow Rhodes alumni, like **Abby Walsh**.

## 2008

Reporter: Madoline Markham  
[madolinemarkham@gmail.com](mailto:madolinemarkham@gmail.com)

Apparently we’ve been out of college long enough for classmates to finish PhDs and welcome babies, too.

**Nick** and **Barrie Gordon Cascella** welcomed their first child, daughter Lucy Grey, on Oct. 19, 2014. Barrie obtained a PhD in chemistry from Washington University in St. Louis in December and began a postdoctoral teaching fellowship at Washington University in January.

**Blair Lehman** graduated from the University of Memphis with a PhD in cognitive psychology in August 2014 and started a new job as an associate research scientist at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ, in September.

Two months after welcoming baby boy Asher Glen on

Oct. 6, **Ellie Hahn McBroom** and her husband, Charlie, took him on his first trip to Memphis.

**Alan Sun** is in his first year of medical school at Lincoln Memorial University Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Orrie Croft** is completing his fourth year working for St. Jude as a regional development specialist in D.C.

**Lauren Kennedy** became executive director of Memphis' UrbanArt Commission in January. She previously served as partnership manager for Ballet Memphis. She is also founder and director of Southfork, an alternative art space.

And now our wedding section will take you from Ireland to South Africa to the site of catfish noodling adventures documented in previous editions of class notes.

**Rachel Austin** and Caleb Rapiere married in Newtown Castle in Ballyvaughan, Ireland, on Sept. 2, 2014. **Danielle Mueller '07** was in the bridal party. Caleb and Rachel currently reside in Atlanta, GA, where she is the senior education budget analyst with the Georgia Department of Education, and Caleb works at Mission To the World while attending graduate school at Georgia Tech.

**Joe Cody** married Jackie Sherry on Oct. 11, 2014, on Daufuskie Island, SC. **Robert Purple** served as a groomsman. Rhodes alumni attending included **Christina Kelly, Dan Mathis, Barton Mallory, Dana Bartolomei, Jessica Adair, Sarah Brooks, Jared Katt, and Eric Stradley '12.**

On Aug. 23, 2014, **Sara**

**Haney** married Kelvin Stroud of North Little Rock, AR, who applied (and was denied entry) to Rhodes. Several bridesmaids also attended the college Kelvin couldn't get into, including **Rebekah Keller Stovall, Kelsey Knipshild, Mary Landon Downs, Staci Thomas, Catherine Sheridan, Leah Hirsch, Claire Tenore, O'Brien Wolff, Jenny Mueller, and Katie McClelland '09.** The couple currently resides in Washington, D.C., where Sara is an accountant and Kelvin is an attorney.

**Dr. Parker Long** married Josephine Crawford Phelps of Atlanta, GA, on Oct. 15, 2014. Several former Lynx cats were a part of the wedding, including **Dr. Bryn T. Meredith, Tyler Lake, John Hoggard, and Mark Young.** The couple travelled to South Africa for their honeymoon, and are living in Pensacola, FL, while Parker finishes up flight surgeon training for the Navy.

Last but not most certainly not least, on Nov. 1, **Rebekah Keller** and **Zack Stovall** tied the knot in St. Louis, MO. They got engaged October 2013 at the place on the Rhodes campus where they met 10 years ago, on a sidewalk adjacent to a drainage ditch adjacent to the Lynx Lair. Members of the bridal party included a bevy of Rhodes alumni and exactly zero catfish: **Staci Thomas, Sarah Haney Stroud, and O'Brien Wolff** served as bridesmaids, and **Kelsey Knipshild** was maid of honor. Groomsmen included **Peter Hart '07, John Jester '07, Lips Davis, and Justin Sealand.** A number of Rhodes grads attended, including **Catherine Sheridan, Mary Landon**



Pres. Bill Troutt joined the Rhodes Jazz Band during their performance of "Proud Mary" at Memphis' historic Levitt Shell in Overton Park on Sept. 21, 2014. Mark your calendars now for the 2015 Rhodes Night at the Shell to take place on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 3. (From left, front row) Jolie-Grace Wareham '17, bass; Mark Sellers '15, tenor saxophone; Abbey Judd '15, alto saxophone; Dr. Troutt, alto saxophone; Amanda Fuller '16, alto saxophone; (back row) Ethan Lawler '16, trombone; Matt Hicks '15, trumpet; and Brian Lenny '16, trumpet.

**Downs, Katie** and **Ethan McClelland '09, Maria Cowley Quinn '09, Rachel Thompson Davis, Tommy Orton '07, Joey Daly '07, Julia '08 and Elliott Taliaferro '07, Joe Thompson, Justin and Erin Long, JB Luken, Nick Cascella, Tom Mudd, Justin Foreman, Chris Pope, and Rob "Bob" Kneip.**

## 2009

Reporter: Kelsey Griffith  
[kelsey.dean.griffith@gmail.com](mailto:kelsey.dean.griffith@gmail.com)

As usual, the members of the Rhodes class of 2009 have been busy! They have earned higher education degrees, advanced in their careers, found true love, and even introduced a new Lynx fan to the world.

**John King** was featured in *Austin Monthly* as one of the city's most eligible bachelors! Congratulations, John.

**Stephanie Wilkinson** graduated from the University of Houston in May 2014 with

an MA in English. She is currently in her second year of teaching high school English at Incarnate Word Academy in downtown Houston, TX.

**Jonathan Cashon** was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He is a naval flight officer attached to Patrol Squadron Forty, where he is a tactical coordinator (TACCO) aboard the P3C Orion. His time with the Fighting Marlins of VP-40 has taken him to Guam, Bahrain, Qatar, Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan.

**Karolina Grabowicz** is now a CPA/ABV after earning her ABV accreditation.

**Rebecca Bates** is leaving Condé Nast after almost two and a half years to help build the editorial presence of Paddle8, an art auction start-up.

**Jennifer Gernon** got a promotion at her new company, BBP Sales! She is now in Inside Sales.

**Jacy Gentry** is now a family medicine intern at UT-Chattanooga.

## CLASS NOTES



Houston Chapter members gathered for a holiday party at the home of Melanie Lilienstern '13 on Dec. 7, 2014. Guests were encouraged to bring their favorite holiday treat to share. If you would like to join the leadership committee of the Houston Chapter, please contact Brittany Underwood '09 at [brittany.underwood1@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.underwood1@gmail.com). (From left) Matt Killary '13, Courtney Mallin '13, John Sanford '13, Travis Perkins '13, Austin Debeaux '12, Ian Todd '09, Josh Blount '13, Melanie Lilienstern '13, and Elizabeth Henrikson '13.

**Cord McLean** recently began his new role as the associate director for leadership development in the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He was also recently honored with the 2015 New Professional Award at the Southern Association of College Student Affairs' Annual Conference in Louisville, KY.

**Ian Todd** is now teaching leadership programs at the University of Houston while pursuing an MEd in Higher Education Administration and Supervision.

**Matthew Becker** repatriated back to the U.S. from Beijing, China, where he has lived for the past five and a half years. In China, Matthew studied Mandarin at Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) for two years, and afterwards, worked for Caterpillar as a business analyst and revenue analyst for over three years. He is now located in Atlanta, GA, working as a senior analyst in revenue management for Delta Air Lines. He

is in the transatlantic pricing strategy team, responsible for North America point-of-sale pricing for all flights between North America and Europe/Middle East/Africa. He is excited to be back in the U.S. and taking on the challenges of a new job in the airlines industry.

**Abby Wynne Leneberg** and her husband, Evan, welcomed a son, Wynne Thomas Leneberg, on Oct. 10, 2014, in Portland, OR. His aunt is **Stephanie Wynne Seay '07**, and his godmother is **Lucy Coolidge**.

**Mallory Raffensberger** married Samuel Podesta from Memphis, TN, at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens on Sept. 27, 2014. Bridesmaids included **Diana Moon** (matron of honor), **Jennifer Carter**, **Rebecca Nenon '07**, and **Cassie Ortiz '07**. **Mary Landon Downs '08** and **Jessica Harris** served on the house party. **Jase Moon**, **Justin Foreman '08**, and **Alex Mohler '07** served as ushers.

**Allison Squires** and Dan Treharne were married on



A bench near Frazier Jelke Amphitheater played a very important role in the courtship of Alison White Crawford '10. Her first date with Charles Crawford, son of Charles '80 and Alice Jarvis Crawford '81, ended on this bench with a long conversation and the discovery the two really enjoyed one another's company. After a lengthy long-distance romance, Charles proposed to Alison on the bench, almost four years to the day since their first evening together. When considering the perfect wedding gift for his bride, Charles asked Rhodes for the bench in exchange for his purchasing a new bench to put in its place. The original bench now sits on the front porch of Alison's and Charles' Louisville, KY, home as a daily reminder of their story and the role Rhodes played in it.

Sept. 27, 2014, at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX. The couple met in Memphis, and on their wedding day, were surrounded by friends and family who absolutely adore them, including many Rhodes alums. Members of the wedding party included **Elizabeth Baird**, **Amanda McElroy Middendorf**, **Kathleen Perniciaro**, **Emily Schildt**, **Marjorie Schwahn**, and **Ashley Zimmerman**. Other Rhodes graduates in attendance included **John-Robert** and **Jamie Glancy Bizzell**, **Alycia Hayne**, **Allie Henson**, **Gracie Wright**, **Suzi Van Sickle**, **Stephanie Wilkinson**, **Lauren Tull**, **Will Donnell**, **Austin** and **Jamie Grigsby**, **Allie Wombwell Wise '10**, **Kelly Kreigshauser '11**,

and **Robin O'Neil '11**. Ally is currently manager of strategy and analytics at PeoplePattern, an audience intelligence platform. She and Dan love their life in Austin and their adorable dog, Stanley.

## 2010

### Fifth Reunion

Homecoming/Reunion Weekend: Oct. 23-24  
Reporter: Emily Jenkins  
[emilyj@rhodes-alumni.net](mailto:emilyj@rhodes-alumni.net)

## 2012

Reporter: Kelly Parry  
[kparry1211@gmail.com](mailto:kparry1211@gmail.com)  
**Madeline Patterson** is starting her fourth year with Sullivan Branding. She and

roommate **Olivia Wells**, who is attending the University of Tennessee's medical school, live in the South Main area of Memphis. The budding horticulturists keep an impressive herb garden and enjoy frequenting their neighbor-

hood farmers market.

**Anna Reilly** is living in Birmingham, AL, and will graduate from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in May.

# 2013

**Adiha Khan**, second-year dental student at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, was among

the award recipients at the 20th annual Hinman Student Research Symposium. Khan's project evaluated the ability of dental stem cells to be converted for possible use in regeneration of tooth structures.

## IN MEMORIAM

**'41 Prentiss S. Leffler** of Memphis, Nov. 21, 2014. His family's residence at birth was in Buntyn, TN, a historical part of what is now Memphis and that was named after an ancestor of his. He was educated at Memphis University School and Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College). He left school in 1941 to volunteer for the U.S. Army, where he was assigned to the Air Corps, and served three years in the South Pacific theater of World War II. Upon his return to Memphis, he married Jean Likley, who also attended Southwestern at Memphis. He was considered an excellent baseball player, known for his fastball, and pitched for an Army team at a time when many of the best players were in the service. Leffler was invited to play in the Memphis Chicks' system. He spent his working career at International Harvester Corp (IHC) and was one of their earliest employees in Memphis, even before the construction of the plant located in Frayser, which became one of the city's most important and largest employers. He worked for IHC as a purchasing agent. He is survived by his son,

Ray Prentiss Leffler '69; a granddaughter; and two great-grandchildren.

**'43 Mary Louise Ingram Dale** of Beloit, WI, Sept. 20, 2014. She graduated from St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis and attended Rhodes College. She was employed by Fairbanks Morse for 25 years as a benefits advisor, retiring in 1984. She was very active with the Stateline Y.W.C.A and was a board member for several years. She also volunteered for Meals on Wheels. Mary was a member of the Beloit Intermediate Women's Club. She was also a member of the Junior League, the AAUW, and Atonement Lutheran Church. Survivors include four daughters, eight grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

**'45 Marion "Louise" Moran Atkins** of Rochester, NY, Sept. 15, 2014. She is survived by two daughters, three sons, 10 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

**'46 Louise Wilbourn Collier** of Memphis. She was a member of the Ralph C. Hon Society. She attended Sweetbriar College and graduated from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College),

where she honed her creative writing talents. Fifteen years of research and revisions resulted in the publication of her novel, *Pilgrimage: A Tale of Old Natchez*. Chronicling family history that began with stories told to her by great aunts Annie Brooks and Ernestine Walworth, the book is now in its third printing. She is survived by her children, 10 grandchildren, and a brother.

**'48 Dorothy B. Fuller** of Birmingham, AL. A talented artist, she was sought after by stained-glass studios in Chicago, IL. Some of her work is evident in the First Presbyterian Church and many other churches in Birmingham. She and her father, Luther, once delivered a calf to President Truman in the White House on behalf of the Alabama Cattleman's Association. A former beauty queen, her IQ was above 140, which gave her varied and eclectic interests. She attended Samford for a teaching degree and taught at Berry High School.

**'49 Cecil Eugene Evans** of Honea Path, SC, Oct. 23, 2014. He served four years in the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific and Japan during World War II. He flew 26 missions and was

awarded many military medals, including the Air Medal and the Purple Heart. After the war, he graduated from Rhodes College, where he met his wife of 60 years, Gale B. Martin. He was in the cotton industry for over 40 years. He was the West Coast Manager in California and later the National Sales Manager in the Boston, MA, area for Ludlow Corporation. He retired as the vice president for sales and marketing with Harper Company. As a young 89-year-old, Cecil fell in love with and married Betty Gammel. For three happy years they enjoyed traveling, spending time with each other's families, and entertaining on their screened porch. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his two daughters, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

**'50 Carlin Denton Stuart** of Memphis, Nov. 19, 2014. He attended public schools in Memphis and graduated from Tech High School. An active member of the Boy Scouts, he went on to become an Eagle Scout. During World War II he served in the Army Air Corps as a pilot. He attended Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) and

## IN MEMORIAM

was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He was the owner of Carlin Stuart Co., Realtors and Home Owner Real Estate Services. He was president of the Memphis Area Association of Realtors in 1973 and taught evening real estate courses at the joint university center (for the University of Tennessee and the former Memphis State University). As a long-time member of Second Presbyterian Church, he served as a deacon, elder, and elder emeritus, and he attended the chapel Sunday school class. He is survived by his wife, two sisters, a brother, a son, and a granddaughter.

**'51 Marilyn Green Briggs** of Memphis, Sept. 21, 2014. She was a graduate of Rhodes College and a member of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, where she was an elder. She is survived by a son, a daughter, a sister, and four grandchildren.

**'55 Sue Wallace "Wally" Kimmel** of Tupelo, MS, Nov. 27, 2014. She graduated from Monroe County High School in Monroeville, AL, and attended Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College), where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. An Episcopalian, she was an active member of the Order of the Daughters of the King, serving as diocesan president in Arkansas and Mississippi. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, three grandsons, and her sister, Mary Farish Sharp '59.

**'55 Beverly Jane Stigall** of Knoxville, TN, July 27, 2014. She was an active member of Fountain City United Methodist Church and the Christian Homebuilders Sun-

day School class, and she held many offices with the United Methodist Women. She is survived by her husband, a daughter, a son, two brothers, and five grandchildren.

**'57 Ann Fakes Gehlmann** of Cookeville, TN, Sept. 23, 2014. She was a graduate of East High School in Memphis and earned a bachelor's degree at Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College), where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and Psi Chi, the international honorary society in psychology. She received a master's degree from the University of Tennessee School of Social Work in Nashville. Additionally, she received the Rhoda O'Meara Award for outstanding achievement in the field of public service. Her many years of work with the Tennessee Department of Human Services focused on foster care, adoption, and residential care for children. Following her retirement, she began a 12-year career in interior decorating. She is survived by two daughters, two granddaughters, and a brother.

**'59 Paul Wayne Ivey** of Lawrenceburg, TN, Aug. 9, 2014. He was a native of Lawrence County and a retired school teacher, member of the First Presbyterian Church, past director of God's Storehouse, Salvation Army chairman, and member of the Retired Teachers Association. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

**'60 Katherine M. Eddings** of Germantown, TN, Oct. 28, 2014. She graduated from Central High School and Rhodes College with a B.A. in psychology and attended

graduate school at Indiana University. After briefly working at Miss Hutchison's School for Girls as a math teacher, she began a 43-year career in data processing and systems design. She was a computer programmer, project leader, database administrator, and systems designer at Agrico Chemicals, American Express, and Federal Express, and retired after a 25-year career with Methodist Hospital. During the 1980s and 1990s, she was the primary systems designer for the accounts receivable system at Methodist Hospital. She is survived by her husband; a daughter, Alex Eddings Walter '85; and a granddaughter.

**'62 Ralph Alton Foster** of Memphis. He graduated from Treadwell High School and received his bachelor of arts degree from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College) and his master's degree from the University of Memphis. He retired from State Technical Institute (now Southwest Community College) after teaching English, speech, and technical writing for more than 30 years. He was a member of Highland Heights Presbyterian Church for 50 years. He served as a ruling elder, Sunday school teacher, chairman of the building committee, and chancel choir member. He is survived by two sons; brothers Lewis Dossett Foster '64 and William Aaron Foster '67; sister Frances Ruth Foster '71; and five grandchildren.

**'64 Ronald Earl Splann** of Hot Springs, AR, Nov. 24, 2014. He graduated from Central High School in 1960, where he also played football,

basketball, baseball, and track. He attended Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College). He played football and was on the 1961 National Baseball Championship team. He was the baseball team captain in 1964. He was president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He continued his education at the University of Tennessee, School of Dentistry, from which he graduated in December 1967, and went on to open his own dental office in Hot Springs in 1971. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1971-1973, where he was assigned to the Public Health Service as an LCDR. During his years of active practice of dentistry, he was past president of the Garland County Dental Society, and was a member of the Arkansas State Dental Association, and the American Dental Association. He practiced the profession he loved for 29 years and retired in 1998. He was an active participant of the Hot Springs community. He was president of the Hot Springs Jaycees and served as judges' chairman for the Miss Arkansas Pageant for many years. He was a life member of the Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife; a son; two stepsons; his brother, Frank Splann, Jr. '59; and six grandchildren.

**'75 Judith Verlinda Rich Sliger** of Elizabethtown, KY, Aug. 30, 2014. She graduated from Southside High School in Jackson, TN, and from Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College). She was an educator for more than 30 years. She served faithfully in her church, the Kentucky Christian Writers Conference, and a ministerial



women's group. She authored the book *Take Heart—Prayers for the Terminally Ill*, which reflects her thoughts and prayers during her long illness, and provides encouragement and hope to others. She is survived by her husband, a brother, and a son.

**'86 Colleen Marie Grady** of Nashville, TN, Aug. 16, 2014. She attended Rhodes College and earned an MBA from the Owen School of Business at Vanderbilt University in 1992. She spent her life using all of her talents to improve the lives of children and adults, whether in student services at Vanderbilt, positions at Harpeth Hall Academy and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, or, most recently, as director of chapter relations for the Alzheimer's Association. She is survived by her mother, three sisters, and a brother.

**'06 Samantha Ann Rodzicz** of Pensacola, FL, Aug. 20, 2014. She was a student and soccer player at Rhodes College until May 2003, when she was severely injured in an auto accident. As a paraplegic, she learned to speak again and went on

to graduate from the University of West Florida. In May 2014, she also received a master's degree in strategic communications and leadership from the university.

**'12 Brendan Marshall Worst** of Richmond, VA, Dec. 8, 2014. Brendan's greatest joys were his music and his friends. He played many instruments, but his favorite was his Les Paul guitar. When he was playing, his smile lit up the whole room. He loved sailing and being on the water. He made many happy memories at Camp Sea Gull. In 2007, he became an Eagle Scout and an Order of the Arrow Inductee. He graduated from St. Christopher's School in 2008, as a 13-year Saint. He was proud of his work, serving as senior editor on *The Pine Needle*. In 2012, he graduated from Rhodes College. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Order. While living in Memphis, he fell in love with the Grizzlies and was a fan for life. He was also a long-suffering Redskins fan. He is survived by his mother and his grandparents.



## Friends of Rhodes

**Edward Allen Barnhardt**, of Bartlett, TN, Sept. 15, 2014. He was a retired associate professor emeritus of physics at Rhodes College. He is survived by his daughter, his son, and three grandsons.

**P '76 Betty Calandrucchio** of Memphis, Dec. 7, 2014. She was a graduate of Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia where she earned a BS degree in physical education, with minors in English and art. Her first teaching position at Larson Junior College in New Haven, CT, led to her ultimately serving as its director of health and physical education. It was in New Haven that she met Rocco A. Calandrucchio, a medical student at Yale who would become her husband. They married in Cooperstown, NY, in 1948, and moved to Memphis in 1949 so that he might begin his training as an orthopedic surgeon at the Campbell Clinic. In Memphis, she founded the physical education programs at the former Oakville and Capleville Elementary Schools and later was asked to serve as

the director of the Physical Education Department at Southwestern at Memphis (now Rhodes College). Additionally, she worked as counselor at the Happy Day Camp for Girls, was a constant referee for local woman's basketball games, and taught swimming to Army personnel families at the Army Depot in those early years in Memphis. She was a Cub Scout den mother, Mother's Club president, school board trustee, and member of Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where she served as chair of the bazaar and was active in the church vestry, building committee, and altar guild. She sat on the President's Council for Rhodes College, was a member of the Red and Black Society, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Margaret Hyde Council at Rhodes. The Betty Calandrucchio Scholarship Fund stands there as a living testimony to that devotion. She is survived by three children, including Peter Charles Calandrucchio '76; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.



# Provenance Puzzle Solved



JUSTIN FOX BURKS

as part of the museum's Nazi-era provenance research project, described on the museum's website as "the nationwide effort to identify works of art that may have been illegally confiscated from their rightful owners by the Nazi regime during World War II." The painting was a gift to the Brooks from Mr. and Mrs. Morrie A. Moss. The Moss family is also a ma-

major benefactor of Rhodes College.

"The goal is to fill the gaps, especially around World War II," Howell notes. History has well documented the thefts by Nazi troops of irreplaceable works of art during the course of the war. But often, tracing the provenance of a work proves difficult, if not impossible. The ability to do so ensures museums have clear title to the art object. And Howell's research did just that. Her only clue was a 1955 online auction catalog for Howard Young Galleries in New York in which the painting was listed. Through online database research, she then discovered an earlier auction by Frederik Muller & Co. on May 20, 1919. She turned to the Netherlands Institute for Art His-

tory for assistance in covering the intervening years.

"I looked around on their website and found a contact, and I emailed him in Amsterdam. He was very timely. The next day, I came in and he had sent me scans of the catalog of Van Goyen's work that they had of our specific painting and it filled in the gap," she says.

The information Howell found traced the ownership of the painting through the critical wartime period of 1933-1945. She proved the piece was not stolen by the Nazis. Additionally, she was able to pinpoint the original date of the painting to 1627; previous information indicated the work was created circa 1640.

"These sorts of discoveries are important not only for the Brooks Museum but also for the history of art in general," says Dr. Victor Coonin, associate professor of art at Rhodes. "It helps us understand the provenance of this painting and adds an element to studies of the history of taste, collecting, the art market, and the historical context of a painting over time. This is very exciting work."

While the Brooks internship piqued Howell's interest in provenance research as a possible career, she knows her first find is rare. "Unfortunately, it's the norm that you don't find anything." **R**

— Lynn Conlee

When art history major Lauren Howell '15 began her internship assignment at Memphis Brooks Museum of Art in January, she couldn't have predicted the speed at which she would succeed. Her assignment was to trace the provenance—the history of ownership—of works from the museum's permanent collection.

"There was a stack of files, and the five on top were all works by Dutch painters," Howell says. "I like Dutch painters, so I thought, 'Why not?' I started from scratch, looking at online auction catalogs and databases."

In the basement of the Brooks, she began her online investigation of Jan van Goyen's painting *River Scene*, also known as *Landscape with Figures*,

# 23,652 Thank Yous!

A heartfelt thank you to all 23,652 alumni, parents, faculty, staff, trustees, foundations, corporations, and friends who contributed to The Campaign for Rhodes and helped provide \$314 million of support for student scholarships, fellowships, faculty support, and campus enhancements.

Thank you, merci, danke, 多謝, grazie, спасибо! Thank you, merci, danke, gracias, спасибо! Thank you, merci, danke, 多謝, gracias, спасибо! Thank you

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*Goodbye Winter  
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PHOTOS BY CHARLIE KENNY

The month of March proved to be quite challenging for holding classes at Rhodes. Four snow days within three weeks gave students plenty of chances to enjoy the gorgeous campus. President William E. Troutt and special guest Trustee Dr. Charles Robertson (center inset photo) also shared in the fun. And now, on to spring!!!!