

## Educational Studies Department Developing Licensure Program

BY KATIE GABRICK '18  
STAFF WRITER

The Education Department at Rhodes added a major in Educational Studies to its offerings last spring and will now be adding an accompanying licensure program to the teaching and learning track of the Educational Studies major. This program will likely be offered to students next fall! Previously, students who graduated from Rhodes and were interested in teaching had to pursue graduate-level work in education or alternative licensure programs, such as Teach for America. Students completing the program will double major in Educational Studies and in an area that they would like to teach, like Spanish or Mathematics. The licensure program will also require that after passing state examinations in their particular content area, students spend an extra semester at Rhodes. During this additional semester, students will teach in two different middle or high school placements with-



Photo by Reem Abu Rahmeh

"Lynx Teacher": Emily Clark '15 (top) went all the way to Jordan to teach English at the King's Academy in Shelby County Schools.

One of the main goals of the licensure program is to build a strong partnership with Shelby County Schools. According to Dr. Zachary Casey, an assistant professor in the Educational

Studies department, the department is "particularly committed to responding to expressed needs from Shelby County Schools (SCS) and [...] building our program with them as partners: working together to produce the best

possible teachers for SCS." Hoping to produce exceptional teachers, the department has also built the program to have rigorous standards, such as the required double major. Casey added that molding the best teachers "starts with holding our students to standards that exceed the state and national minimums for teacher licensure."

The development of the program has also generated much excitement among students. Rebekah Barr '16, who is an Educational Studies major, hopes that the licensure program "will bring together a variety of perspectives, experiences, deep theoretical understanding (thanks to Rhodes' liberal arts courses of study) and practical knowledge to both Memphis classrooms, classrooms in the state of Tenn. and other classrooms where before high-caliber teachers could not be found." She knows that the Rhodes students who complete this program "will be the future of this Teacher Town."

## Summer Courses: Thinking in Advance

BY WARNER RAULSTON '19  
STAFF WRITER

What are you doing this summer? For many Rhodes students, they will be staying on campus to take summer classes. The College just ended their second pilot program during which they tested providing limited course offerings for enrolled and other students that would satisfy Foundation requirements. Students can participate in a number of ways, as the summer catalog breaks down into three, neat time blocks. The Maymester provides students the opportunity to enroll in internships and to study abroad from mid-May to mid-June. This is followed by two, five-week sessions in June and July where students can enroll in up to four credits of work, with the potential to petition faculty for up to eight.

Given the time constraints of summer classes, they have a propensity to be very intense when compared to their

fall and spring counterparts. Students meet in classes for two hours a day, five days a week to ensure that all content is adequately covered in such a short span of time. The majority of the classes offered are at the intro level and satisfy F Credits to allow students who have fallen behind, for instance if they had participated in a semester abroad or have taken a gap year, the opportunity to graduate on time. But now that the pilot programs have ended, the possibility of expanded summer offerings are likely to rise if demand is high enough among the student body.

For many students, there is also a financial benefit to enrolling in summer classes. During the fall and spring terms, one credit hour runs over \$1300, but during the summer, one credit only costs \$900. This decrease in price, however, is accompanied by a decline in the number of student services that the College is able to provide, though there is still plenty of opportunity throughout

the greater Memphis area for entertainment as well as numerous part-time job offerings. As for specific future courses, if you have a desire to see a certain class offered during this time period, reach

out to the respective department, and petition for it to be added. Slots for already offered classes are limited, so if you have an interest, be ready when registration opens online.



Photo by Sam Clark

"Summer Soon?": Will Summer 2016 look as busy as a the normal Semester calendar?

## NEWS

## Letter from the Editors

#prayforparis?

We at the Sou'wester would like to pray for Paris. For the 129 plus who were killed. For their families, for their friends, for their colleagues. For the 23 detained suspects - we don't pretend to understand why you did what you did. What we do understand is that there are many things that happen in this world we don't understand, things we must admit we can never understand but that we must acknowledge. Things that we must mourn; we may not understand but we can acknowledge.

Acknowledgement of the tragedy in Paris does not in any way diminish pain elsewhere.

Pain within ourselves, within our homes or our families, within our cities, within our states, within our countries and within the countries beyond ours. Pain exists, in the words of John Green, "That's the thing about pain. It demands to be felt." In other words, it deserves as well as requires our attention.

So, #prayforparis. Put that filter on your profile picture. Don't be ashamed that you might not be French, that you may not know any of the victims or that other crises might matter more. For pain is not something to be compared, belittled or ignored.

Paix,  
AZD



## Unfiltered: A Review of the Instagram "LynxedTogether"

BY RACHEL FARLEY '18  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I would compare the newest Rhodes College feel-good Instagram account "Lynxed Together" to your grandma's social media use...but that would be an insult to your grandma. Instead I'll compare it to using that Rites of Spring photo from freshman year as your LinkedIn profile picture. The creation of the account is well-intended, but the execution is completely lacking.

We all know that potential grad schools, employers and ex-girlfriends can and will stalk your social media presence. Therefore we all abide by the unspoken rules of social media....

1. Find the best lighting
2. Don't post mirror selfies
3. Don't post pictures you're not cool with your mom seeing
4. Actually just block your mom
5. Use your liberal arts education to come up with a clever caption

I suggest LynxedTogether follow the basic rules of social media as well.

With 301 followers, 840 following, 3 posts and a cat emoji in its bio, LynxedTogether has the potential to be a positive addition to campus and the social media game. However, going forward, there are some changes that should be implemented.

The photos posted should be of the high quality reflective of our student body. Literally these photos need to be of a higher quality. The account is meant to shed light on the individuals of our campus - so the photographer should take the time to find the right lighting. Everyone at Rhodes College has a unique perspective that filters their world, and LynxedTogether should consider using filters. This school is full of great people with interesting stories; let's use the right picture to make sure the people of the Internet get the right picture of Rhodes College.

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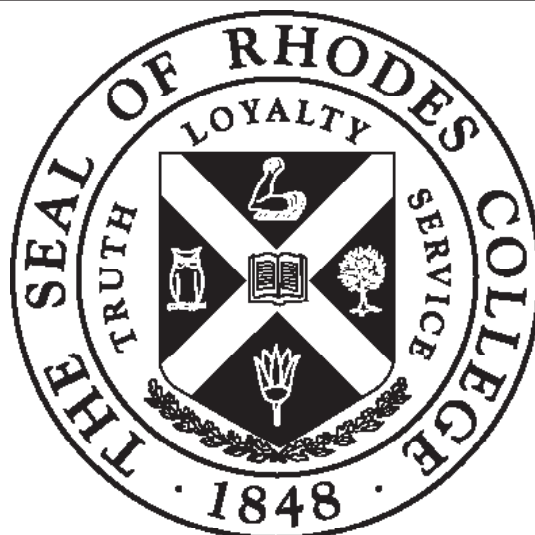
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Contact [rhodescnews@gmail.com](mailto:rhodescnews@gmail.com) for more information

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## WITHIN THE GATES

### Career Services: Get out your Planners, People

**Student Leadership:** Are you interested in becoming a student leader on campus? This includes International Peer Advisors, Kinney Coordinators, Peer Assistants, Ambassadors, Diplomats, Student Associates and Resident Assistants. To apply, click on "Student Leader Application" under the Documents & Forms tab on the Express Rhodes website. Applications are due by December 23!

**LinkedIn Workshop:** There will be a workshop on Wednesday, December 2 in Barret 128 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This workshop will cover how to create and improve your profile, how to search the alumni network and how to reach out to alumni and employers in the way most beneficial to you. Head shots will also be offered at 5:30 p.m. for those interested!

**Career Tracks:** First years, don't forget to sign up for Career Tracks. This program will take place on January 12 and is designed specifically to help you navigate your first year of college and beyond - assess your strengths and how to use them to your benefit in professional development. Learn how to network, brand yourself and interview effectively. Come to Career Services for an application today!

### Pics, Pizza and Pesos: The Annual Fund Scavenger Hunt

BY KIM MACHARIA '18  
STAFF WRITER

The funding that comes from tuition, room and board and student activity fees successfully covers 75% of the cost needed to keep Rhodes running. However, Rhodes is still able to function and maintain its excellent standards thanks to contribution from Alumni to the Annual Fund! The fund helps support every part of life at Rhodes. To bring attention to the wonderful things that have been facilitated by the Annual Fund, the Development team puts on the Annual Fund Scavenger Hunt.

To compete in the scavenger hunt, students created teams with two to five members and developed clever team names. After signing up, all team members received an email with a list of 20 items to photograph and post on their team's Instagram account. The teams had from November 11-13 to take and post as many pictures as they could. Whoever completed all of the tasks on the list in the most creative manner would win the competition.

The results of the competition came in early Tuesday morning. Team Turnup For Dunkin came in third place and won a group trip to YOLO. Team WeLoveDarrenT came in second place and won a group dinner at Trolley Stop

Pizza. And coming in first place was team MonicaVeronicaAndHeatherBing who won a group dinner at Flight. This year's Annual Fund Scavenger Hunt featured some fierce competition including teams like Duck Line Bling who got exceptionally creative and featured a duck in each of their photos. As a whole, each participating team succeeded in celebrating and bringing recognition to gifts of funding that enable Rhodes to be as wonderful as it is!



Photo by MonicaVeronicaAndHeatherBing  
"Rubber Ducky, Joy of Joys": Duck Line Bling, the creative group of Instagrammers with their rubber duckies.

## From the Commissioner...

*Weekly update:* thus far, the Allocations Board has allocated \$82,625.24 to events of all shapes and sizes! If you ever have any questions as to whether or not your event can be funded, present your request to the Board. It can't hurt.

So your event has been funded... now what? Even those who seem to have mastered the Allocations Board process cannot seem to figure out how to go about actually purchasing their items. The method most highly recommended by both the

Board and the finance department is to borrow a Rhodes credit card to make the purchases.

The easiest way to obtain a Rhodes card is to approach your club's advisor or Ira Lawson on the third floor of Burrow. The card holder does not need to have ties to the organization, though. Once the purchase is made and the faculty or staff member receives their monthly statement, they simply write the SAF number of your organization next to the purchases, and the items will be charged to the correct account. (If your orga-

nization's leadership does not know your SAF number, feel free to contact either me or Ira Lawson.)

One other way to purchase items, and the method that I do prefer with smaller purchases, is to use a personal credit or debit card (or cash I suppose). Then, the purchaser submits this receipt with his or her name and the name of the organization to Ira Lawson for reimbursement. If the purchase is under \$100, the reimbursement will be in cash (down to the last penny). If the purchase is over \$100, a check will be

cut. In this case, the receipt must be submitted by 4 p.m. Wednesday in order to receive the check by Friday! If not, you will have to wait until the following Friday.

Hopefully this has cleared up some of the more practical inquiries regarding purchasing approved items! Do not hesitate to contact me if you still have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Ally Limmer  
Allocations Board Commissioner

## WITHIN THE GATES

# Powerful Performance at McCoy Theatre: Admissions Raises Questions



Photo by Rhodes College

"Haunted by Truth?": Admissions brought with its performance questions that many Rhodents want answered. A perfect play for our time.

BY CHRISTIAN WIGGS '18  
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Tony Vellela's play *Admissions* came to the McCoy. Directed by Lawrence Blackwell, the piece deals with weighty subjects like sex, race and class on college campuses. Not to be confused with the 2013 Paul Weitz film, the drama focuses on even students staging a sit-in in their university president's office; what they want, exactly, is the performance's central conflict.

First performed in 1995, *Admissions* doesn't really seem dated. Youthful interpretation on the actors' part and good direction allow for a more than watchable hour-and-a-half. This said, mostly snappy dialogue gives way, at times, to writing that acts more as squabbling filler than real substance.

Apart from the odd hiccup in the delivery of lines, the student-actors pulled off a considerably weighty, affecting performance. Somewhere between their passion, the play's subject matter and the aptness of a drama centered

on student life, few eyes survived rainless amongst the audience. On a level deeper than setting, this play is meant to be performed on college campuses. It raises questions that need to be, but too often aren't, asked. Who's got the right to feel marginalized? Whose voices need the most to be heard? Like any good work, *Admissions* left our campus without giving us easy answers.

While each cast member performed movingly, especially notable was the character of Julian, played by junior educational studies major Justice Franklin. Playing an LGBT student group leader, Justice's lines radiated from the well-designed set in powerful waves. His delivery was a shining example of the impassioned and—at the risk of sounding too enthusiastic—inspired.

If you missed *Admissions*, you've really lost out on something great. One hopes—probably expects—that the McCoy's productions that follow in early 2016 will be just as well done. Next this season is *Thirteen* on January 21, written and performed by Jazmin Miller '08. See you there.

## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. David Mason Goes to India

BY ALLY LIMMER '16 AND  
ZOE LAULEDERKIND '18  
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Professor Mason in the Theatre Department is India-bound! He along with Montana Pugh '18, Karissa Coady '18 and Emily Murphy '18 are heading to Delhi in pursuit of a more comprehensive understanding of Indian theatre, particularly the performance style Ram Lila, as well as a hands-on experience with the culture that inspires Indian theatre.

Usually when people think of theatre, they think Shakespeare. So where does India come into play? (Get it?) At the age of 18, Dr. Mason enrolled at NYU, where he "encountered a lot of theatre—including theatre influenced by India—that shattered the conventional thinking about theatre that [he] had been carrying around."

Whether he was studying Sanskrit or Hindi, on a Fulbright or taking students abroad, Professor Mason has

been to India for days to months at a time, studying theatre in a location "crucial to discourse about gender inequality, communal conflict, technology, international politics, agriculture, economics and so on." When cornered regarding his favorite play, he admitted that he likes "Bhasa's short Sanskrit play 'Urubhangam,'" but he cautioned us about the notion that "the best thing about theatre is dramatic literature." Dr. Mason's scholarship investigates more than the written works, keeping in mind that theatre is performance—"ways in which playing in a space in a given time can transform performers and audiences."

For the first time since 2011, off he goes again to India. He and these three students will be joining "a small cohort of global scholars for whom Ram Lila [a dramatic Indian performance style] is an important subject." He really means it when he says Ram Lila is an important subject, an important-enough subject that he hopes to author a book with

colleagues present at this conference, because "no collection of solid studies of Ram Lila performance in its varied and global manifestations" exists.

"So, a few Rhodes students will see a

part of India up close during this conference and will tell everyone on campus that India is the greatest place on Earth, and the college will move a little bit closer to India."



## BEYOND THE GATES



### Blue and Red, Left or Right: Fluctuating Frontrunners

BY WARNER RAULSTON '19  
STAFF WRITER

In a campaign cycle that has stretched for over one year, there have been numerous frontrunners for the Republican Presidential nomination. In the aftermath of Romney's defeat in 2012, the immediate frontrunner in seven consecutive polls was Florida senator Marco Rubio. Since then, Chris Christie, Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee, Jeb Bush and Scott Walker have all been ranked by Real Clear Politics as the frontrunner at some point over the past three years. But today, none of them

can claim to be the frontrunner; 2015 has been the year of the political outsiders.

When Donald Trump announced his candidacy, he captured the attention of potential primary voters with his outspoken nature and blunt language, flying right in the face of traditional political rhetoric. After only two months, every nationally recognized poll began to rate him as the frontrunner, leaving the remaining thirteen candidates struggling to hold their ground. Trump's surge was thanks in part to the generous amount of media attention he received, but this benefit came with a

cost. Trump's status as a political outsider pushed analysts to focus on similar candidates, namely Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson, the later of whom has provided Trump with some serious competition.

Carson is another candidate who seemingly defies all political expectations. He appears to lack the energy typically seen in presidential candidates, who must sway voters not only with their political agendas, but through their charisma as well. Ben Carson is a calm, cool and collected man who achieved significant notoriety in 2013 after delivering the keynote at the National Prayer Break-

fast. During said speech, he criticized President Obama, who was sitting only a few feet away. But his well-received performance in the first round of debates and willingness to make outlandish statements to appeal to the conservative base has pushed him to within a statistical error of the coveted frontrunner status. Although it is unclear who is the current frontrunner, what is clear is that the intensity of the campaigns is on the rise and observers can expect to see one of the liveliest campaigns in a generation.

### At What Cost: Homelessness

BY THOMAS MITCHELL '18  
STAFF WRITER

Tonight, there are roughly 600,000 people in the United States who do not have a home. A full third of them will not have any shelter, 50,000 are brave men and women who risked it all in defense of this country and 45,000 are unaccompanied youth. Furthermore, nearly half of those unaccompanied youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. In Memphis, according to the most recent "point in time"

count, there are 2,000 people who are homeless tonight. There will be 2,000 people without a home tomorrow, and the next day and the day after that. There will also still be 600,000 homeless people all across this country.

There is a plan though. Five years ago, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness established a plan to end chronic and veteran homelessness by the end of this year. In June, however, the agency recognized that the efforts of the federal government were not enough to meet their goal, so the

plan extended through the end of 2017. Even now, the outlook isn't the greatest. As the poverty rate rises, so too does the number of people who are only a paycheck away from homelessness.

Several years ago, Mark Johnston, Deputy Director for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, stated that homelessness could be completely eradicated in the United States, at a cost of 20 billion dollars per year. That is a full 10 times more money than is currently allocated to fight against homelessness. Twenty billion

dollars sounds like a lot; I'm not saying it isn't. However, for comparison, consider that Americans spend more than seven billion dollars on Halloween candy and costumes. Further the total cost of Christmas is more than 600 billion. Tonight, there are roughly 600,000 people experiencing homelessness in America, and for 3% of what we spend on Christmas each year, we could be saying that zero people are experiencing homelessness in America tonight.

## BEYOND THE GATES

## Restaurant Review: Knock Down Bar and Grill



Photos by Liam Coyle

"Close Eats": Knock Down Bar and Grill is just down the street from Rhodes, and the food looks damn delicious. I might have to check it out myself.

BY LIAM COYLE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Liam Coyle is a former Rhodes student who helped bring back *The Sou'wester*.

Does your gastrointestinal tract solemnly murmur "Why, God? Why me?" as it realizes it's about to suffer through another meal at the Rat? Have you first-years experienced the "freshman MINUS 15" unique to Rhodes students who opt for disintegration rather than consuming our menacing cafeteria options? More importantly, did anyone find Steve the Chef's band-aid in their lasagna last week? (It's his lucky band-aid and he wants it back.) If you answered yes to any of these exaggerat-

ed queries, then we want you to know there is hope.

If you take Jackson Avenue a few blocks south, you will find the recently opened *Knock Down Bar and Grill*. Once inside, the casual ambiance provided by the deep brown of the wooden decor immediately puts you at ease. Then Bert, the restaurant's owner, will greet you and tell you to sit wherever you like. As you head toward one of the many booths that line the restaurant's walls and sit parallel to the bar, you may have the audacity to ask Bert, "What's good here?" To which he will look you dead in the eyes and tell you bluntly, "Everything." And from what his customers and critics have been saying, he

is telling the truth.

When I asked Bert how *Knock Down* could succeed in a city already saturated with restaurants his response was simple: "talent." His mother, Francis, and best friend, Big Craig, provide the "talent" of which Bert speaks. It was these two culinary masterminds that inspired Bert to open *Knock Down* - "You see, I'm not in it to get rich off this place. I just want to provide an outlet for my mother and Big Craig to share their incredible food with the community."

*Knock Down's* menu includes a diverse array of American- and soul-food-inspired cuisine, but most notably, Bert says you have to try their pizza cones. Yes, that's right, pizza cones; cones of

perfectly prepared pizza encasing any topping that you can imagine, from shrimp and catfish to cheese-steak and peppers. Though if you feel you are unworthy of the prodigious pizza cone, you can't go wrong with one of their many burger options, which are so large that you may expect to have your picture taken and hung on the wall if you finish one in a single sitting, though this is not the case.

*Knock Down* is located at 2356 Jackson Ave, making it less than one minute away from Rhodes. Considering its proximity and quality, *Knock Down* is a necessary stop for any Rhodent looking for delicious food provided by exceptional people.

## Whoa! This Person You Hooked Up With at Rhodes Has Also Hooked Up With Someone Else You Know!

BY MEAGHAN PICKLES '19  
SATIRE WRITER

Get ready for your mind to be blown to bits: the person you most recently had a drunken tryst with has also been romantically or sexually linked to someone you know!

You might not be able to fully wrap your brain around something this wild yet, but hey, hear me out.

Let's look at the bare-bone facts, shall we? You spontaneously hooked up with someone thinking it would be

a drama-free affair, and then the atomic bomb was dropped that this person has also been involved with someone else you know at this small liberal arts college. The person may even be on your sports team, in your Greek organization, or in your anthropology class. Now, if that doesn't thrust you into the throes of existential crisis, what will?

And make sure you buckle your seatbelts, because the person you most recently knocked boots with not only got busy with someone of your ac-

quaintance, but something weird definitely went down between them and things are "awkward."

Are you still there, or has your concept of reality been shattered with no hope of repair?

Even wilder yet, the person you just hooked up with may have "screwed over" the person you know, or perhaps one of them might have "residual feelings." Can you imagine? I'm having a hard time grappling with this myself.

A year ago, would you ever have imagined things would get to this point? Of

course not, because you were living in a world where good things happened to good people!

I know it's a little psychologically tormenting, but you need to hear this: you will probably pass your questionable hookups when walking to class or the Rat, and they will sidestep you a little bit and bow their heads in order to indicate that they haven't seen you. Wow: first the Syrian crisis, and now this!

## MUSIC AND MUSINGS

## Evening at Elvis: PreauXX



Photo by Sam Clark

By SAM CLARK '17  
DESIGN EDITOR

On Friday Nov. 13, PreauXX (pronounced "Pro") performed for roughly 50 students, faculty, and Memphians at Elvis' original Memphis home. This was part of the Mike Curb Institutes Evening at Elvis' concert series. Each month or so, they host local and national artists to interview and perform in front of an intimate crowd primarily comprised of students. All this happens in one of the coolest venues in Memphis.

After the success of Heartbreak Hotel, Elvis Presley bought the house on Audubon Drive in 1956, living there with his parents more than a year before moving to Graceland. The house itself is

amazing. The walls are covered in photos of Elvis at the time of his ownership of the house, and you can even see where he wrote his name on the wall. Unlike museums such as Graceland, nothing at this house was off limits.

John Bass, Director of the Mike Curb Institute, began the show by acquainting us with the house and the program at large. Finally, he introduced us to PreauXX and the two interviewers, Ashley Dill '17 and Dr. Charles Hughes. PreauXX, who grew up in Memphis, dropped out of U of M to pursue a career in rap only a few years ago. He cited Kanye West as his initial inspiration, with Kendrick Lamar and Chance the Rapper as new influences.

Once the music started, it was easy to see why. His lyrics were

just as poignant and catchy as Chance the Rapper's, and he sampled "Money Trees" on his song "Whatevers." The first half of the performance, the crowd remained seated, unsure what to do as PreauXX dominated the stage. Soon, however, he encouraged us to stand up, and the party really started. He had us jumping up and down and embracing the music that is truly Memphis.

After the show, refreshments were served and PreauXX mingled throughout the crowd. The entire night was amazing, and a must-do for any Rhodes student. Keep an eye out for the PreauXX episode of the Evening at Elvis' web-series (filmed and produced in part by Rhodes Students!), as well as the next edition of Evening at Elvis'.

## Fantasies of Identification

By DOUG FETTERMAN '16  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Ellen Samuels visited campus this past week in part to give her lecture titled "Biocertification and Racial Identity from Salome Müller to Rachel Dolezal." Additionally, she hosted a lunch on Monday for students and professors to meet with her in a more informal setting as well as visited classes in various departments (I saw her three separate times!). Her research touches on issues of race, gender and disability using biological, sociological and historical contexts, so she was brought to campus as part of the Africana Studies Department's theme this year - "Race Across the Disciplines." It also helps that she had studied with Rhodes professor Charles Hughes while they attended the University of Wisconsin.

In her lecture, she discussed three different ways we define race: socially, legally and biologically. Social definitions entail ascribing to an individual a certain set of cultural, political, spiritual and communal identity based on interaction. Legal definitions in the U.S. have typically focused on benefiting certain power structures of the state and from early on attempted to base their definitions on science. This authentication of legal identity through biological

claims is what Samuels calls "biocertification." From measuring nose width, hair texture or lips to the entire field of phrenology, scientists were continually seeking ways of supporting the idea that race had biological underpinnings. By showing that different races were created differently, they could then support the idea that their own race was superior. This made for some interesting research papers, in which the scientists found inconclusive quantitative results and then exclaimed "but I can see a difference!"

Biocertification is not just a product of the racism rampant in the Antebellum South, however. While it was at first used as a justification for black slavery, it was also used to classify the Native American population. To this day, in order to access certain funds allocated from the U.S. government, members of different tribal nations need to procure a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood. This is supposedly a measure of "blood quantum," but the lack of any genetic or other biological markers means that certification is instead supplied with documentation of ancestry rather than an actual blood test.

Samuels also sat in on my "Narrative Perspectives on Religion and Medicine" course taught by Professor Kendra Hotz. Here the focus of the conversa-

tion shifted from race to disability and how it affects one's experience. Because disabilities are not always easily visible, people with them are subject to scrutiny from the wider public. Some see it as their social duty to question people parking in a handicapped space about the validity of their disability. People expect an elderly, crippled, visibly-miserable person in a wheelchair to exit the vehicle, not someone in their mid-thirties with an invisible genetic disorder that causes joints to spontaneously dislocate. Because of this unfair surveillance, people with less visible disabilities are more likely to be attacked or harassed (especially if they dare to smile). Even if they are not attacked, people with disabilities are often asked inappropriate personal questions about their disability. The individual is then faced with the challenge of narrating their bodily experience to a person who likely cannot relate or of choosing to avoid the question and risk seeming irritable or rude.

This same principle applies to race, gender and sexuality - anything that appears to deviate from the norm. People living at such "intersections of complex identity" are confronted with society's fantasy of identification on a daily basis: the idea that people must fit into a certain subset based on the way they

## Ellen Samuels

**Biocertification and Racial Identity from Salome Müller to Rachel Dolezal**

**Monday, November 16th**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Blount Auditorium, Buckman Hall**  
(Reception and book signing after talk)

Ellen Samuels is Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies and English at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the author of *Commons of Desecration: Disability, Gender, Race* (NYU Press, 2014). Her critical work has appeared in numerous journals and collections, including *Signs*, *Journal of Women's Culture and Society*, *Queer Disability Studies*, *GLQ*, and *MLQ*. Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, and was awarded the American Historical Association's Distinguished Career Award in 2012. She is working on a new book, *Double Heritage* (University of Wisconsin Press).



**W**hile the recent media explosion surrounding Rachel Dolezal has tended to focus on her appropriation of Black identity and culture, the story being told was as much about whiteness as Blackness. Over the past two centuries, the boundaries between white and nonwhite identity have been claimed to be both natural and unchangeable. Yet the reality of racial mixing and crossing constantly undermines the supposedly clear lines between whiteness, Blackness, and other nonwhite racial identities.

**B**iocertification, the claim that racial identity can be clearly located and validated through scientific testing and state documentation, has emerged in modernity as a powerful mechanism to enforce the fantasy that racial identity is both immutable and located in the body. In this talk, Samuels explores how biocertification functioned in the nineteenth-century trial of Salome Müller, the so-called "white slave," and in the recent media coverage of Rachel Dolezal, to expose the fictions of racial certainty that function to shore up the privilege of whiteness even when it is being apparently denied.

Co-sponsors: Gender and Sexuality Studies, Department of Biology, Department of Anthropology/Sociology, Academic Affairs, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

**Rhodes College**  
—188—

look or behave. Disabled people should limp. Boys should like girls. If you look white, how can you be black? But all people do not fit nicely inside of boxes. And when they do, it is likely because they were forced there. The only boxes people routinely fit in are coffins. When you try to fit them inside a box by conforming to a sexuality, a gender, all you do is kill what makes them fundamentally themselves.

## #RHODES

## A Day at Cajun Fest 2015

BY EMILY FABER '19  
STAFF WRITER

It's 6:30 a.m. on an icy morning at Rhodes College, and the sunrise still perches above the treetops as I lumber from my dorm to the patch of grass next to the football field. The congregation of people hovering over kettles, fire pits and cutting boards welcome me with coffee and introductions. Some of them have been here since the night before, devotedly tending to the three enormous pigs smoking in the pits; others, like me, have just arrived and are beginning to assemble ingredients for the dishes that will feed over 1,200 people in less than five hours. The spirit in the air is electric. Excitement for the 11th annual Cajun Fest, a Rhodes tradition, warms our bodies because the weather politely declines to do so.

I begin frying beignets for breakfast with the high-school daughter of one of the cooks as well as fellow Rhodes student Mitchell Smith '19. As I offer breakfast to each of the cooks, they share their special techniques. "For a rich, golden color, cook the onions for two hours," says one cook; "Never, ever stop stirring the roux," says another; "Rub everything with oil," says special guest chef Mr. Sonny Reese, the maker of Sonny Salt, a regional favorite seasoning.

Almost all of the cooks hail from Louisiana. On the menu for today are

three types of gumbos, sautéed shrimp, Sonny's Red Beans, white beans, Low Country Boil, three types of jambalayas, whole hog and a crawfish and corn chowder by celebrity chefs from Mardi Gras Memphis.

Cajun Fest originated from a conversation over lunch between old friends, one of whom was Mr. Bud Richey, Associate Vice President of Rhodes College. While discussing Cajun cooking, one of the men from East Tennessee interjected, "I've been to New Orleans, and I'm kind of an expert on barbecued shrimp." The other guys laughed at his illegitimate claims of expertise, but the statement sparked the idea for a Rhodes festival that would serve authentic Louisiana cooking. At that first Cajun Fest on Rhodes' campus, the friends served a pot of beans, a gumbo and, of course, barbecued shrimp. Since its genesis, Cajun Fest has grown both in its size, participants and menu options.

"They key to any type of Cajun or South Louisiana cooking is low and slow," says Cajun Fester John Crifasi. He's cooked at Cajun Fest since 2009, about two years after his daughter initially attended Rhodes. He was born and raised in Baton Rouge, La., but he's spent the past 30 years in New Orleans. Today he's cooking red beans and rice. He tells me none of the food goes to waste; after they're finished serving the 1,200 or so prospective students and their parents, the football team eats. As



Photo from Dlynx

"Down Home Delicacies": Just a sample of the delicious food typical of Cajun Fest

we're talking, he calls out orders pertaining to his dish like, "You can stir 'em if you want!" Even though he's sat down for a moment or two, he's always attentive to his dish.

At 9 a.m., we gather to share in a powerful moment as we remember our suffering brothers and sisters in France. For many Louisiana folks, there is an affection held for what many regard as the "mother country." With three cheers of "Viva La France!" and a hoisting of the French flag over our cooking stations, we hold a moment of silence for those lost in the recent attacks.

Just as the cooks are adding their finishing touches to their dishes, the line emerges. We serve hundreds of people as they grab lunch to watch the last

Rhodes football game of the season. "It's great. I'm from Louisiana. Everyone was saying it was the best food this year," says Ms. Bryan Fox, mother of current Rhodes student and football player Hayden Fox '19.

To work at Cajun Fest is to peek into a unique world abounding with bizarre traditions, backcountry Louisiana storytelling and a general passion for the sport of cooking. Today I peeled crawfish, sautéed shrimp, taste-tested each dish and looked a massive pig eye-to-eye. Even though it's my first semester at Rhodes, I was welcomed into this peculiar Rhodes tradition and am honored to have been part of the 11th annual Cajun Fest "Crewe."

## Let's Get One Thing Straight Here

BY PALMER CAT  
TRANSCRIBED BY  
HAYLEY ROSENFELD '16  
SATIRE EDITOR

That's right plebs, it's me, the most pathetic deadbeat at Rhodes College! Yep, I heard everything you said about me last week. Pretty funny stuff! No, really. I would've laughed, but I just couldn't pull myself away from "the teat of Rhodes College's generosity" for long enough to do so!

There is so much to comment on from last week's articles, but where do I begin? Maybe with how I was repeatedly chastised for being a "freeloader," revealing the egregious assumption that the relationship between the stu-

dents of Rhodes College and myself is a one-way street in which THEY do not benefit. As if they aren't constantly clamoring for my affection. As if I don't hate all of you. Could The *Sou'wester* have been more wrong?

Yes. Because if I start there, I neglect the equally slanderous speculation about my origins! Allow me to appease the author of that article, a student who has been attending Rhodes for fewer years than myself, but is somehow entitled to this intel: I was born at the Shelby County Humane Society (but I made a quick stop en route at your mom's bedroom)!

Anyway, all of that just seems like way too much work to tackle. And you know me, the laziest motherfucker at

Rhodes College! So let's get back to basics and start with one little detail both articles blundered on last week: I am a woman. I am a woman, and I am damn proud of it.

I am not a "he," and certainly not an "it" (and frankly Donald Trump, you took your alienation of female voters to new heights with that one). I realize that this might be difficult for some of you to wrap your heads around, seeing as I wear neither duck boots nor an infinity scarf. Because of this, sometimes I even feel like I could give you all the benefit of the doubt and just let it go. Life's too short, right?

Then I remember how you accused me of being lazy whilst mistaking my easily verifiable sex in the same

sentence, and I get pissed off all over again. The hypocrisy is glaring! Just know that I am freaking done being pet by you idiots. I will not be coming out of the bushes again anytime soon.

I can hear the opposition already: "Can't you take a joke?" "Lighten up, Palmer Cat!" "It was satire!!!" The real comedians among you might ask "is it your time of the month?" To these folks, I ask that the next time you see me coming, you remember this: I am not declawed.

Wow, that was a ton of work! I'm wiped. If you'll excuse me, I'm going to get back to sitting on my furry bum-bum for the rest of the day.