

RHODES WEEKLY

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Pohlmann Receives Diehl Award For Service

Marcus Pohlmann, political science department chair and coach of Rhodes' award-winning Intercollegiate Mock Trial Team, received the Charles E. Diehl Society Service Award at Founders' Convocation Sept. 10.

The award, which recognizes exceptional service to the college, is endowed by an anonymous Rhodes trustee and carries a \$3,000 honorarium.

Pohlmann came to Rhodes in 1986 as chair of the political science department. The next year he became adviser to the Mock Trial Team. Under his tute-

lage, the team won first place in the national competition two years in a row, 1993-94 and 1994-95. After the first win, then-Tennessee Sen.

James Sasser had the victory read into the *Congressional Record*, naming each team member and coach.

A faculty colleague said, "The success of our Mock Trial teams in national competition, bringing Rhodes national recognition and the highest reputation is due to the professionalism and commitment of Prof.

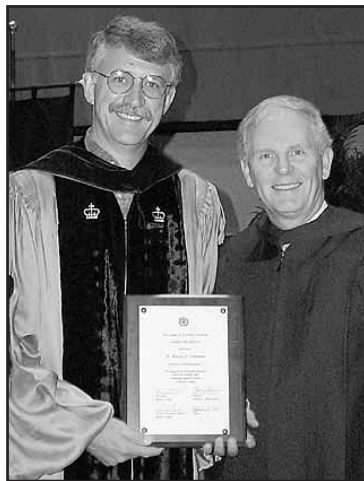
Pohlmann. It takes an incredible amount of time to coach such a team, not to mention

the weekends away to participate in competitions."

The 1991 winner of the Dean's Award for Research and Creativity, Pohlmann has also served as chair of urban studies. He is the author of four books. His 1990 work, *Black Politics in Conservative America*, was adopted as a text by 74 U.S. colleges and universities including Harvard, Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley. His latest, *Racial Politics at the Crossroads: Memphis Elects Dr. W.W. Herenton*, he wrote in 1996 with Michael Kirby, associate professor of political science.

Pohlmann holds a B.A. from Cornell University and M.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University.

Another colleague said of him, "For Mark, it's never been about a reward, it's always been about helping—helping students, helping his colleagues and helping the college." ■



Diehl Service Award recipient Marcus Pohlmann accepts congratulations from Spence Wilson, Rhodes trustee and immediate past president of the Diehl Society.

Paul Goldberger to Open Moss Lecture Series

Paul Goldberger, architecture critic and writer for *The New Yorker* magazine, will speak at Rhodes Thursday, Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. in Hardie Auditorium.

His talk, which opens the 1999-2000 Moss Lecture Series, will be free and open to the public.

For nearly 30 years, Goldberger was architecture critic and cultural correspondent for the *New York Times*. He joined *The New Yorker* staff in 1997, where he continues as one of the world's best-known writers in the field of architecture, design and urbanism.

Among his recent projects at *The New Yorker* are a series of essays on

Havana, the Millennium Dome in London and the collapse of Prince Charles' efforts to bring classical architecture back to England.

Goldberger contributes articles on architecture, historic preservation, planning and design to numerous publications. His efforts to bring an understanding and appreciation of architecture to the broader public have been widely recognized.

Goldberger is the author of several books, including *The City Observed-*



Paul Goldberger

New York: An Architectural Guide to Manhattan, The Skyscraper and On The Rise: Architecture and Design in a Post-Modern Age.

The annual Moss Lecture Series at Rhodes is funded by the Lillian and Morrie Moss Endowment for the Visual Arts. The series has been recognized

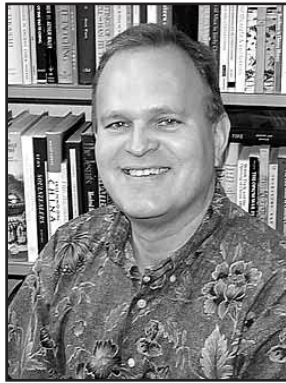
nationally for its roster of outstanding visiting speakers in art, art history and criticism. ■

History Professor Moonlights as Composer

On Friday, Sept. 24th, the Flint Hills Trio of Emporia State University, Kansas, will perform a program that includes a piece composed by Michael Drompp, associate professor and chair of the Rhodes History Department.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Payne Recital Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

Drompp's piece, "Variations on a Theme of Skryabin," was commissioned by the Flint Hills Trio and composed this year. The theme that it



Michael Drompp

uses as its basis is an early prelude for piano solo by the Russian composer Alexander Skryabin. In addition to Drompp's piece, the trio will perform works by Handel, Hindemith, Dubois, Foss and Ahrendt.

Drompp began taking piano lessons at about age 8, and soon after began to write

music. While studying history at Indiana University, he also took classes in composition. Drompp composed several works, including a clarinet sonata, a string quartet and a

piano suite that were performed during student recitals at Indiana University.

He joined the Mid-South Composers' Forum after moving to Memphis in 1989; some of his works have been performed at that group's concerts.

The Flint Hills Trio is composed of Jan Parker, flute; Allan Comstock, bassoon; and Marie Miller, piano. All are faculty members at Emporia State University. When the trio performed at Rhodes a few years ago, their concert also included a piece composed for them by Drompp. Their performance this year is part of a tour that includes concerts at venues in several other states. ■

Rhodes College Students Take Initiative to Help Others

By Valerie Witte, Class of 2000

Rhodes has long had a tradition of service. Since the establishment of the Kinney Program in 1957, thousands of students have participated in a variety of service activities, from alternative spring break trips helping build medical clinics for the poor to the Adopt-a-School program at Snowden Elementary School.

Seventy-eight percent of the Class of '99 reported that they were regular and active volunteers in the Kinney program, according to Chaplain Billy Newton. But numbers don't tell the whole story, Newton says.

"Many schools are interested in getting volunteers to participate once or twice a year, and at Rhodes, we're



Rhodes College Volunteer
Action & Service
"Serving neighbors in need"

interested in regular and ongoing commitment, in a way that integrates service with academic studies and personal development," Newton says.

Rhodes' recent commitment to service learning perhaps best illustrates that integration of academics and service. Tom McGowan, associate professor of sociology, has been teaching a service learning course, "Life Histories: The Aging Self in Context," since 1992. Service learning, however, was not widely recognized as part of the Rhodes curriculum until 1997, when religious studies professors Joe Favazza and Michael McLain were awarded a grant to expand the program.

The grant and funding from the Bonner Foundation enabled professors to hold training sessions in which faculty members learned the ins and outs of service learning.

Since then, more than 20 faculty have received training in service learning, and as many courses have been offered.

Service learning strives to strike a balance between service and academic commitments, McGowan says.

"The key is to integrate the two in a seamless manner . . . when this is done, [service learning] is an exceptionally effective pedagogical strategy, especially for institutions such as Rhodes," McGowan explains.

Kinney Coordinator for Service Learning Trent Pingenot ('00) says, "Service learning enriches the connection for many students between academic material and real world situations."

Jessica Anschutz ('00), who has

Corrections

The Sept. 13 edition of Rhodes Weekly incorrectly stated that Tina Barr is chair of the Rhodes English Department. Barr is an assistant professor of English.

Gail Murray is an associate, not assistant, professor of history.

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Please submit news items

to Ginny Davis, editor,

136 Palmer Hall, or fax 843-3553, or e-mail weekly@rhodes.edu. Include complete information and a contact name and phone number.

taken a number of service learning classes, says the courses broadened her service experiences, enabling her to become involved with different service agencies.

"The agencies that we worked for have had a need, and we have fulfilled a need," Anschutz says.

Many schools offer service learning courses, but Rhodes is unique in its establishment of service learning fellows, the students who help coordinate the service side of the curriculum, says Joe Favazza, associate professor of religious studies.

Tiffany Meritt ('02), a fellow for history Instructor Russ Wigginton's "Civil Rights Movement" course, explains that

fellows act as liaisons between professors and students. Fellows handle logistical problems, because students may feel more comfortable telling another student about problems they may have. While a professor organizes the academic side of the course, the fellow can focus more on the service component, Merritt says.

The commitment to service is deeply ingrained in the Rhodes community, Newton says.

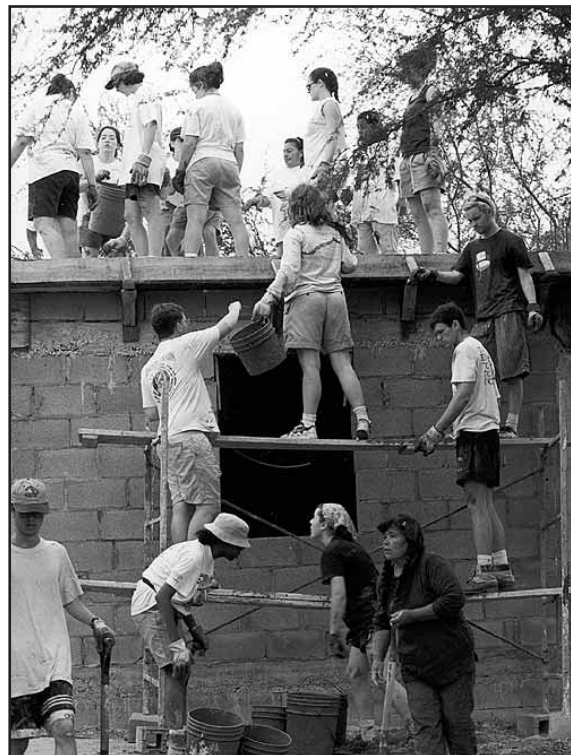
"Student leadership in the last ten years has been so outstanding that it has begun to develop a culture of service in the Rhodes campus, so that a new student arrives, and everywhere he or she looks, there is an opportunity and encouragement for service in the community," he says.

One example of the leadership Newton describes is Rhodes' association with the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA), where Rhodes involvement has become so significant that Rhodes, MIFA and the Bonner Foundation have created the new position of Rhodes-MIFA urban ministry coordinator.

Rhodes created and helped pay for a new meal route for MIFA Meals, a service that provides more than 3,000 lunches every weekday to senior citizens, according to



Rhodes Class of '99 members Greg Sims (left) and Elizabeth Land spent their last college spring break helping build a playground for a community school in Mexico.



Kinney volunteers, service learning students, and Burch and Bonner scholars in the Tex-Mex program build a home in Reynosa, Mexico, during spring break 1999.

Kristin Fox ('97), MIFA's director of Urban Ministries.

In addition, four Rhodes students work with the Latino-Memphis Conexion, teaching Spanish to the staff at St. Michael's Church. The program coordinates agencies, institutions and individuals interested in building relationships between the

Memphis community and the city's Hispanic populations.

"They've made an incredible difference," says Fox. "The response I've heard from the priest has been phenomenal."

A number of students also serve as interns for MIFA. Claire Chambers ('01) works with MIFA's Handyman Program, which provides minor-scale home repairs to elderly citizens. Jenny Jordan ('02) coordinates MIFA Meals and works with Urban Ministries doing service projects with faith reflections aspects.

Jordan's work with MIFA's Urban Ministries Program serves as her Burch project as well. Begun in 1997 with a grant from the Day Foundation, the Burch Leadership Scholars Program exemplifies the relationship between leadership and service. In return for a \$10,000 annual scholarship, participants must maintain a cumulative GPA average of 2.67 and perform a minimum of eight-to-ten hours of service and training per week.

During the first year of the program, students participate in retreats, activities, and a variety of service experiences, learning about their own leadership styles and philosophies. Each student then chooses a community service project to lead while at Rhodes. Over the next three years, students continue to develop leadership skills while coordinating their service projects.

As her Burch project, Chambers coordinates 30 Rhodes volunteers in the Reading Renaissance Program at Snowden Elementary School. These volunteers visit the school once a week and read to kindergarten and first-grade students, though the program exists for all grades. The program is reward-based. Students read books, take tests on the books and receive a certain number of points for their performance. Eventually they receive rewards based on the number of points they have accumulated. "I keep track of the points for approximately 1500 students," says Chambers,

see **Students Take Initiative**, page 4

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar to Lecture, Conduct Forums

Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Ursula Goodenough will speak at Rhodes Monday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. in Frazier Jelke Science Center.

Her lecture is titled "The Sacred Depth of Nature: What Is the Religious Potential of the Epic of Evolution?" Admission is free and open to the public.

Goodenough also will participate in a faculty forum on aging and cloning Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 11:30 in the refectory's Alburty Room. Also on Sept. 28, Goodenough will meet with students to discuss "The Interface Between Scientific

Understanding and Religious Sensibility" at 4:15 p.m. in the Orgill Room of Clough Hall.

Goodenough, a professor of biology, has taught at Washington University since 1978. Previously she was on the faculty at Harvard University. She is the author of a textbook, *Genetics*, and *The Sacred Depths of Nature*. She is associate editor of *Cell Motility and the Cytoskeleton* and the *Journal of Psychology*.

Goodenough is past president of the American Society for Cell Biology. She has served on various committees of the National Research

Council, including its astrobiology steering group. She is past president of the Institute for Religion in an Age of Science, a member of the Center for Advanced Study in Religion and Science, and on the advisory committee for the AAAS Program of Dialogue Between Science and Religion. ■

By the Numbers

When Rhodes was known as Southwestern Presbyterian University and located in Clarksville, Tenn., it had a Robb Hall that served for a time as a dormitory for theological students. In 1896, Robb Hall became SPU's first residence hall to have a telephone installed. Today, Rhodes has 590 telephones in its dormitories.

Sources: Rhodes Archives, Bursar's Office, *Southwestern at Memphis 1848-1948*



Rhodes News Notes ...

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is hosting AfterMath, an informal weekly get-together complete with snacks and friendly conversation.

AfterMath is open to all students and meets at 3 p.m. Fridays in Room 219-N of Ohlendorf Hall.

The agenda will expose the curious-minded to problems, techniques and mathematical disciplines they might not encounter in class. Occasionally movies with mathematical themes for problem-solving will be shown.

Problems that AfterMath participants tackle do not require any special or advanced knowledge of mathematics.

Director of Student Activities Joe Petri is seeking faculty and staff members to add to a roster of speakers who are available to speak to Rhodes student groups.

Speakers can choose from a wide array of topics or suggest their own. Topics need not be related to job functions performed by staff or subjects taught by faculty.

Possible topics can include unusual hobbies or pursuits, involvement in community projects and travel-and-learning experiences. For example, a staff member who is a published author of romance novels can conduct a workshop on breaking into the romance novel industry.

Contact Petri at extension 3552 with suggestions. ■



Photo by Ginny Davis

Leslie Jackson, a first-year student from Memphis, picks a quiet moment in the Bryan Campus Life Center to study for her "Search 101" course.

Students Take Initiative

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who also makes and distributes the rewards.

Other Burch projects include work at Caldwell Elementary School, the Hope in Healing clinic at the Church Health Center and Habitat for Humanity.

"There are ways to serve in your job, ways to serve through leadership positions," says Marie Lindquist, Rhodes director of Student Orientation and Leadership Programs. "We're trying to expand the meaning of service." ■