

RHODES WEEKLY

Campus News And Information

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Five to receive honorary degrees at commencement

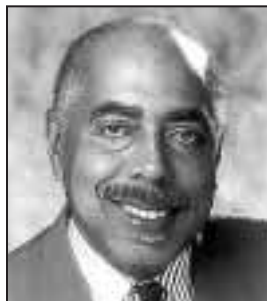
Rhodes College will hold its 151st commencement at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 13, in the campus' Fisher Memorial Garden. Some 304 candidates are expected to receive bachelor's degrees, and six will receive the master of science in accountancy.

Presiding over the ceremony will be William E. Troutt, who was inaugurated recently as Rhodes' 19th president.

Rhodes will confer honorary doctorates during the ceremony on James L. Barksdale, financial investment executive, doctor of humanities; Dr.

Walter E. Massey, president of Morehouse College, doctor of science; Frank M. Mitchener Jr., outgoing chairman of the Rhodes board of trustees, doctor of

humanities; and Dr Arthur W. Nienhuis, director of St. Jude



Top row, from left: James L. Barksdale, Dr Arthur W. Nienhuis. Bottom row, from left: the late James A. Thomas III, Dr. Walter E. Massey, Frank M. Mitchener Jr.

Children's Research Hospital, doctor of science.

In addition, Rhodes will award an honorary doctor of humanities posthumously to another member of the

Rhodes board of trustees, James A. Thomas III. A 1962 Rhodes graduate, Thomas was a longtime supporter and benefactor of Rhodes who was elected to the board in 1986. He died last summer.

Thomas' service to Rhodes included chairing the college's annual fund and serving as president of the Red and Black Society and the Charles E. Diehl Society. Thomas was a member of the Rhodes Benefactors' Circle.

Thomas was co-founder and chair of New South Capital Management Inc. and chairman of the Memphis Redbirds AAA baseball team. He was active in numerous business, academic and civic organizations

during his life.

James L. Barksdale of Aspen, Colo., is managing partner of The Barksdale Group, an investment

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Dell, Apple and your office

By Bob Johnson

As summer approaches and the Computer Center staff replaces office computers, Dell may be more prominent than Apple in some offices for the first time in 10 years. The reasons for this shift



are numerous.

For some staff, the change in administrative computing from the Datatrieve system to Banner has

required a change in the desktop computer as well. For staff members who have intensive data



entry to perform, the use of a Mac is problematic.

Oracle, the database that runs under the Banner system, performs much

more quickly and reliably when a user accesses it from a Windows machine than a Macintosh. Consequently, for many office

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Mortar Board taps twenty-five for membership

Mortar Board, a national honor society, has tapped 25 students from the junior class for membership in the Rhodes chapter. Mortar Board selects initiates on the basis of scholastic achievement, leadership and service. The Rhodes chapter was established in 1964.

The following students have been invited to join Mortar Board:

Julia Auwarter, Laura Bauer, Rebecca Beach, Kalman Bencsath, Amanda Brewer, Christie Brewer, Claire Chambers, Lauren Davis, Ashley Diaz, Amanda Flaim, Brooke Foster, Jennifer Gammill, Bradley Hearne, Jason Hughes, Susan Hughes, Kevin Kinlaw, David Merriman, Shawna Miller, Amit Mirchandi, Lauren Mize,

Keely Pitts, Thomas Rivers, Daniela Seminara, John Starling, Dorothy Weir.

New officers are Claire Chambers, president; Rebecca Beach, vice president; Ashley Diaz, secretary; Zack Kinlaw, treasurer; Amanda Brewer and Drew Hughes, co-historians; and Jenny Gammill, membership selection chair. ■

Nonagenarian philanthropist visits with Bonner scholars

Corella Bonner, 91-year-old co-founder of The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, visited Rhodes April 26, ending a yearlong tour of 17 colleges with programs supported by the national philanthropic organization.

Accompanying Bonner was Wayne W. Meisel, president of Bonner.

Rhodes hosted a coffee for Bonner and Meisel, during which several Bonner scholars and faculty members shared their experiences with the Bonner program at Rhodes.

Sophomore Tiffany Merritt spoke of her volunteer work with MIFA and the Catholic Charities refugee program in Memphis

"My Bonner scholarship at



Corella Bonner

Rhodes has affected my life," Merritt told Bonner. Merritt has decided to major in urban studies because of her experiences in the Bonner program.

Bonner told the gathering that she had been volunteering all her life.

"There's so much good you can do and so much that needs to be

done," she said. "I'm glad that most young people today want to get out and help.

"I like visiting because I like seeing what all my kids are doing. And you are all my kids," she said.

Based in Princeton, N.J., the Bonner Foundation was established by Bonner and her husband, the late Bertram F. Bonner, in 1980. The foundation supports programs at 25 colleges and universities, mostly in the South. Mrs. Bonner grew up in rural Appalachia.

The Bonner Foundation provides 51 Bonner scholarships at Rhodes. It also supports these projects at Rhodes: the Rhodes-MIFA Urban Ministry Partnership, service-learning workshops for faculty, the Micah 6 program, the School of Servant Leadership, Servant Leader Summer 2000, the Kinney S-T Series and Service Learning Fellows. ■

Staff award nominations due May 1

It's not too late to nominate a Rhodes staff member for the 2000 Outstanding Staff Award.

Students, faculty and staff are eligible to make nominations. Nominate someone online by going to the Rhodes home page on the Web and clicking on "Outstanding Staff Awards." You

can also nominate someone by using the ballots that are available in Admissions, Campus Safety, Physical Plant or Human Resources. Please submit nominations by Monday, May 1, and turn in your ballot to the Human Resources department. ■

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Spring refresher covers ongoing issues, servant leadership

By Lori Von Bokel-Amin

The following is a summary of topics covered during the staff spring refresher held April 20.

President Troutt, who led the refresher, thanked the staff for all the hard work in putting together the special events of the college. He was especially pleased with the inauguration ceremony and ball.

He noted that university and college representatives from all over the country came to Memphis for the inauguration ceremony and commented on the beautiful Rhodes campus and the great job the student guides did.

The president reviewed the topics that staff discussed during last fall's refresher: ensuring that Rhodes is a good place to work, that employees have a sense of purpose and belonging, and that they can make a difference.

Issues that have been addressed since the fall refresher are:

- campus communication
- working together to increase Rhodes' visibility in the community
- diversity committee
- more feedback on campus issues



Attired in 14th-century style garments, members of professor Sandra McEntire's 325 English class break bread together in a medieval meal at the Pi Kappa Alpha house. The students studied Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* this semester.

- performance evaluation – developing a better approach
- re-formation of the fringe benefits committee
- looking at the dental insurance offered
- granting extra time off at Christmas.

The president summarized his 10-step initiative for the future that he shared in his inauguration speech.

He also talked about the importance of "servant leadership,"

which is to lead by serving each other. This includes having clear, honest and straightforward conversation with the people you work with and serve.

Attendees then had group discussions about how Rhodes can be an environment that practices servant leadership. ■

(Editor's note: Lori Von Bokel-Amin is employment manager for the Rhodes Human Resources department.)

Dell, Apple

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personnel, the Banner system means that this summer brings with it a new PC.

For staff members who are not going to be using Banner much, using a Mac is still possible. However, we find that taking administrative offices through platform conversions together has great benefits. If the majority of an office needs to switch to Dells in order to use Banner, then we will try to move the entire office to the same platform.

Unless one works in one of the rare places where the business case does not make sense, such as graphic art design, changing platforms with the rest of the office will make working collaboratively easier. To help with this transition, we are recommending and providing software training from Productivity Point for Windows NT, Microsoft Word and Excel, and Netscape to help new users adjust to their PCs.

We are trying to work into a routine of replacing any computer before it gets beyond three years old. Our aim is to keep every machine on campus through its basic three-year warranty, but not beyond that point.

The PCs that the campus is

buying are Dells. We like the Dell machines because the service to the business machines has been exemplary. We are able to buy the Dells at a much deeper discount than Apples, making them attractive for that reason as well. With large monitors and extra memory, we are still paying only around \$1500 per machine, which is a wonderful deal. That level of discount enables us to purchase more computers for the campus.

When a faculty computer is up for replacement, we're asking those faculty members if they would consider a new PC rather than a new Mac. In astonishing numbers, we are getting positive answers. In many cases, the reasons have to do with the software available for PC users. Not everyone on the faculty wants a PC, however, and we are doing everything that we can to support both platforms.

Supporting both platforms is not without its own difficulties. We have only one full-time employee dedicated to desktop computer support, and he cannot be a specialist in both platforms. We will eventually need to hire more desktop support personnel. ■

(Editor's note: Bob Johnson is Rhodes' dean of information services and chief information officer.)



Victor Coonin and Brad Pendley's interdisciplinary art and science class created religious icon paintings now on display in Clough Hall. Standing, from left: Wesley Moore '01, Michael Smith '01, Pendley. Front row, from left: Jenny Kjerfve '00, Bambi Roberts '00, Maegan Leith '00, Melissa Statom '00, Sarah Biram '02, Thaler Cassibry '00. Right: Bambi Roberts' depiction of the Madonna and Child.

Honorary doctorates

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advisory firm he founded in April 1999. Before starting The Barksdale Group, he was president and chief executive officer of Netscape Communications Corp., an Internet software company. Barksdale joined Netscape in 1995 after having served on its board since 1994.

Previously, Barksdale served as CEO of AT&T Wireless Services and as president and CEO of the McCaw company. Before McCaw, Barksdale spent 12 years with Federal Express Corp., where he served as chief information officer from 1979 to 1983, when he became executive vice president and chief operating officer. Under Barksdale's leadership, Fed Ex became the first service company to receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Dr. Walter E. Massey is the ninth president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, the nation's only historically black, all-male four-year liberal arts institution. Massey is a 1959 graduate of Morehouse and holds a doctorate in physics from Washington University in St. Louis.

Massey is a former director of the National Science Foundation and former provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of California. He also served as vice president for research at the University of Chicago, as director of the Argonne National Laboratory and as dean of the college and professor of physics at Brown University.

Massey has served in leadership positions for numerous organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society and the National Science Board. He is a member and past chair of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board.

Frank M. Mitchener is president of Mitchener Planting Co. in Sumner, Miss. A member of the Rhodes board of trustees from 1980 to 1990 and its chair from 1981 to 1987, Mitchener returned to the board in 1991 and was re-elected chair in 1993.

A graduate of Davidson College, Mitchener is former president of the Cotton Foundation and the National Cotton Council, which he now serves as chair of the operations and

nominations committees.

Mitchener is an executive committee member of the Charles E. Diehl Society and a member of the Heritage Society and the Benefactors' Circle at Rhodes.

Dr. Arthur W. Nienhuis has been director of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis since 1993. Before joining St. Jude, he was chief of the Clinical Hematology Branch at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health. He was instrumental in organizing the NHLBI's initial bone marrow transplant program.

Nienhuis is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, and the UCLA School of Medicine. He has authored more than 230 published scientific papers.

In addition to overseeing St. Jude Hospital's scope of clinical and basic research endeavors, Nienhuis supervises an experimental hematology program within the Department of Hematology/Oncology. In this area, he and his staff conduct research on hemoglobin synthesis and potential gene therapies for disorders related to blood cells. ■