

RHODES WEEKLY

Campus News And Information

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December 13, 1999

Committee announces Troutt inauguration plans

The inauguration of Bill Troutt as Rhodes' 19th president will take place Friday, April 14, 2000 at Idlewild Presbyterian Church, the inauguration steering committee has announced.

The 10:30 a.m. inauguration will

be a formal academic occasion with representatives of other institutions nationwide invited to participate.

Rhodes classes will operate on a modified schedule on April 14 so that Rhodes students, faculty and staff can take part in the event.

An inaugural ball on the evening of April 14 will celebrate the inauguration and be open to the campus community and invited guests.

More details on inauguration events will be made available as arrangements become finalized. ■

Bookstore manager retiring after two decades at Rhodes

Jane Darr could write a book about her years at the Rhodes College Bookstore.

She can readily provide an anecdote for each of her nearly 23 years of nursing the bookstore through relocations, growing pains, remodeling ventures and ever-changing inventory. After December, someone else will manage the bookstore's daily operations, for Darr is retiring.

"What comes to mind when I look back at the things we've done over the years are the people and relationships,"

Darr says, citing how students, faculty, administration, sales representatives and her professional colleagues in college bookstore management all have combined to shape the identity of Rhodes' store.

In Darr's early days at Rhodes, the bookstore was located in what is now the mailroom lobby and office area. Darr not only managed the bookstore but also supervised the mail-sorting and organized summer conferences at the college during

those days. She recalls that the students' mailboxes had combination locks at the time.

"Given a good party on the weekend, the students would come in on Monday morning and not remember what their combinations were. They would holler back in the store and ask us to tell them their combinations," she says.

Sometimes the store's staff would open all the boxes early on Monday so they wouldn't have to do it individually each time a student asked. That routine set the stage for pranks, says Darr.

"One day we walked in and every single box had a crayfish shell in it," she says. "To reach in and put the mail in and see this huge crayfish is more than your stomach can take on a Monday morning."

Among Darr's other memories is a time when the upper floor of what is now the bookstore contained a pub.

"In the days when there was actually a bar in this space, we would have parties for faculty," Darr says. "We were always concocting ways to

get faculty to turn in textbook orders."

Another ongoing challenge was the lack of space for the bookstore, Darr says.

"I once threatened to back up an 18-wheeler to the loading dock, put all the textbooks in it and run the students through there. That idea was not practical, but it evolved into a double portable building that was located across the parking lot."

Dubbed as the Annex, the "temporary" building was in place for five years.

Finally, around 1990, remodeling in the Briggs Student Center was complete, and the bookstore and mailroom moved into their current locations. Darr helped lead a committee that obtained approval for what would become the college's first centralized mailroom. She also was instrumental in obtaining about 1,600 mailboxes donated to Rhodes by the U.S. Postal Service along with post office assistance in designing the new mailroom.

"I joked that we're probably the only college with a walnut-stained oak surround of the mailboxes," Darr says.

During the remodeling period, the bookstore converted to a point-of-sale system that uses scanners for inventory control, an achievement in which Darr takes pride.

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Jane Darr

Hatley named to CBHS Hall of Fame

Rhodes Campus Safety Director Ralph Hatley has been chosen for the Christian Brothers High School (Memphis) Hall of Fame.

Hatley, a 1971 alumnus of CBHS, was nominated for the honor for his contributions to the success of the school, according to Brother Chris Englert, CBHS principal.

"This is a most humbling experience to be among men who have accomplished so much personally and professionally," Hatley says.

As an athlete at CBHS, Hatley played football and baseball, lettering all four years. He received All State, All Conference and Tennessee State All Star honors in football during his senior year.

Hatley has served as both president and vice president of the CBHS

Parents Board and on other school committees. Since the opening of the new CBHS athletic complex in 1996, Hatley also has served as the school's official public address announcer for all home football games and other public events.

He consults often with CBHS administrators on security and safety issues.

Hatley and his wife, Miriam, have graduated two sons from CBHS, Adam and Kyle, now a Rhodes first-year student. A third



Ralph Hatley, director of Campus Safety at Rhodes

son, Matt, is a senior at CBHS.

Hatley is a graduate of the University of Memphis. His father, Ralph Hatley Sr., was head football coach at CBHS during World War II and was later head football coach at the U of M. Hatley's father nominated him for the honor.

"Daddy was voted into the CBHS Hall of Fame exactly 30 years ago," Hatley says. "To have my father nominate me makes me even more proud and even more humble."

Hatley will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Feb. 6, 2000. ■

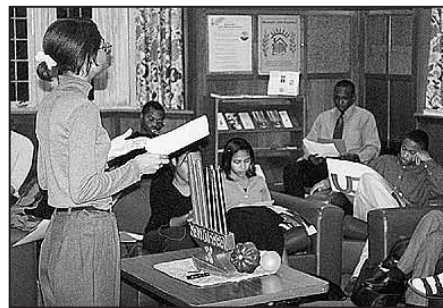
Ring in the spirit



Holding candles, the Rhodes community sings a carol at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.



Enjoying a Christmas lunch and entertainment at Snowden School are (from left) Snowden volunteers Katie Franklin '02, Jeremy Smith '01, Claire Chambers '01 and Stephanie Cox '03.



Ebony Woods '00, president of BSA and a member of the Interfaith Council, opens the Kwanzaa celebration on campus.



Cristina Michta's Spanish students tutor Hispanic patients of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at Target House. Pictured at a Christmas party for the patients are (back row, far left) Michta and (seated, far right) Sally Self '03 and Emily Barko '03. Meg Parker '03 and Ross Levine '02 also tutor the patients.



Melissa Park '03 and Wes Brooks '01 help bag Christmas presents donated to Rhodes Salvation Army Angel Tree recipients.

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or e-mail weekly@rhodes.edu. Include complete information and a contact name and phone number.

Rhodes Equestrian Team rides again

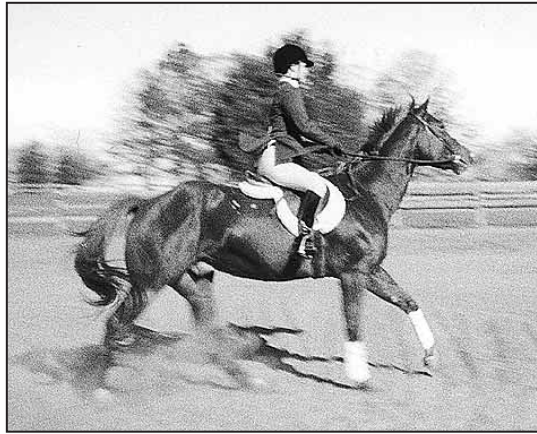
The equestrian sport is thriving at Rhodes again.

Almost defunct in the fall of 1997, the Rhodes Equestrian Team now boasts close to 50 members and is winning at Intercollegiate Horse Show Association competitions. The team competed in shows at Murray State and Southern Illinois University in November, winning a total of more than 25 ribbons.

"We have 22 members on the showing team, the group that travels to horse shows," says Kristin Kleber '00, president of the team and the person responsible for reviving it. "The team has grown tremendously since I got it started again. We usually have eight or nine riders attend each show – a great improvement over two in 1997."

The equestrian team is a club sport, but members can earn physical education credits for partic-

ipating. Membership is open to all students, faculty and staff. Some members join just to share in the joy of riding horses on weekends.



Astride Ed the horse, Kristin Kleber '00 shows good form in competition.

Members who travel to horse shows pay their own overnight expenses. The team owns most of the equipment and clothing needed for competition, according to Raven Babcock '01, who has been riding for most of her life.

Most members show in the hunt category, or English-style riding, but competitions also include Western-style riding.

"I have ridden Western style most of my life, but I always wanted to learn to ride English and jump," says Babcock. "When I came to Rhodes, I was very excited about the possibility of getting to do so, and I signed up for the team. Ann Ford Upshaw, our coach, is wonderful, and she has helped me move up and really get into riding."

Upshaw trains team members at Forest Hill Farms in southeast Shelby County. Forest Hill provides the horses for lessons, which cost about \$20 each. Members schedule their own lessons on their own time, and can ride as often or as little as they like, Kleber says. Members who show are encouraged to ride at least once a week.

In intercollegiate competitions, there are six classes for flat English riding: walk/trot, beginning walk/trot/canter, advanced

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Darr retires

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"As a full-service college bookstore, we've always been on the cutting edge of what was offered to the students," Darr says.

Another milestone came in 1994, when the college "outsourced" the bookstore and awarded a contract to the Follett Higher Education Group.

Through the past two decades, Debbie Jordan has been Darr's partner in running the Rhodes Bookstore.

"Debbie has been the personality of the store, the one who has chosen the goods for the store all along," Darr says. "You cannot have success in the store if you don't have quality merchandise that wows the customer. Wowing the customer becomes the challenge of your staff who know how to merchandise and who know how to relate to your dif-

ferent constituents." Darr says.

Darr, who came to Rhodes in 1976 after serving as executive director of the Memphis and Shelby County chapter of the American Cancer Society, says she didn't have any retail experience when she took the bookstore job. She did have experience in getting people to do what she wanted them to do, she says.

"I had always been told that I was a good salesperson, but it was usually selling ideas rather than things," Darr says. "I thought at the time, 'I will not have to be cajoling people into doing something they do not want to do. I'll just simply have to put wonderful things out there and people will come along and buy them.'"

"But you still have to cajole faculty into giving you text orders. You cannot talk about running a college bookstore without talking about

your relationship with faculty and their cooperation in telling you what they intend to use, so you can have it in the store."

Darr first met the college's president, Jim Daughdrill, in unexpected circumstances. First-year students were known as freshmen at the time. The freshmen had a colloquium, for which different disciplines would choose a book for small groups of them to read and discuss. An anthropology/sociology professor had chosen *The Joy of Sex*.

"We were shelving books and a group of professors was looking at the colloquium books and started passing around *The Joy of Sex* book," Darr says. "I told the professors, 'Yes, those are the colloquium books. All I know is that we have more than we can do than to show 12

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Prana to perform jazz at Evergreen

The Rhodes Chaplain's Office will present a program of Christmas Jazz Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Evergreen Presbyterian Church sanctuary.

The performance will feature Prana. The quartet will combine sto-

rytelling, liturgy and jazz to celebrate the Christmas season.

Chaplain Billy Newton and the late Edwin Hubbard originally designed and presented the jazz service six years ago.

Admission is free. ■

Darr retires

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freshmen how to find *The Joy of Sex*.

"At that moment, this tall man in a suit carrying a briefcase walked over, put out his hand to shake hands and said, 'Hello, I'm President Daughdrill. You must be the new bookstore manager.' My face got totally red."

Nearly 23 years later, Darr heads into retirement with an unflagging love for books.

"There's just something about holding a book and finding a place

to sit down and read, whether it's outside or in a corner, that I personally don't think will ever be replaced by sitting in front of a computer screen," she says.

Darr says she would like to learn how to teach people to read and to play the piano after her retirement.

"I think that would be a nice gift to the community," she says. "I'm just going to enjoy the next stage of my life."

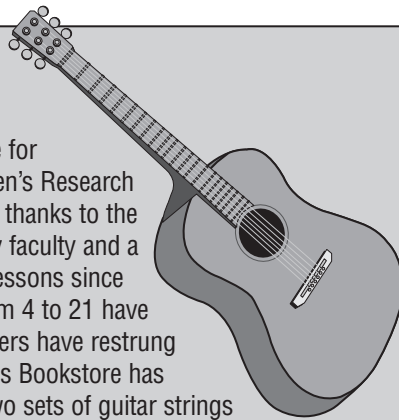
Editor's note: Judy Davis will join the Rhodes Bookstore as manager next month. ■



Margaret Love '03 steps through a freestanding portal behind Palmer Hall. Brook Bissinger '02 and Casey Cox '02 created the door for a sculpture class. Their assignment was to put the object in a place that people have to pass through, so that it would be a barrier and not be a barrier at the same time.

By the Numbers

Young occupants of Target House, a residence for patients receiving treatment at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, are learning to play guitar and piano, thanks to the Rhodes Music Academy. Four Music Academy faculty and a senior music major have been giving weekly lessons since Sept. 18. About 20 patients ranging in age from 4 to 21 have received lessons. The Music Academy volunteers have restrung seven guitars donated to Target House. Rhodes Bookstore has donated a footstool, three music books and two sets of guitar strings to the guitar students.



Rhodes rides

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walk/trot/canter, novice, intermediate and open. The latter three also have jumping classes.

Team members earn points to advance in the classes. Each class in a show usually has between eight and 15 people, and ribbons are awarded for riders winning first through sixth place.

During the horse show at Southern

Illinois, Kleber moved up to the intermediate division and won a first-place ribbon for intermediate jumping, which qualifies her to compete at the regional level. Regional winners go on to compete in zones; winners in zones will compete in the nationals.

Babcock says her best memories are of winning classes when she did not expect to, and "when the same thing happens for my teammates."

"It is very exciting to hear the announcer say your name and to be

the last one to leave the ring," Babcock says. She adds that staying overnight in hotels with teammates has been fun.

"It's like being in high school again; we stay up late and talk, then we have to help each other get ready in the morning. I really enjoy getting to know these people that I normally wouldn't know at all."

One of the humorous aspects of participating in intercollegiate shows has been the Western-style competition, says Kleber, who has been riding horses since she was 4. The Rhodes team focuses on English style.

"Our coach does not train us to ride Western, and consequently we have no idea what we are doing when we get out in the ring," Kleber says. "We try really hard, but just end up looking and feeling silly in a cowboy hat and sparkles, because it is not what we are used to."

"We usually win ribbons too, which makes the whole thing even funnier, because we have no idea what we are doing. We show Western for comic relief." ■