• Welcome back! As we begin a new semester and a new calendar year we look forward to stimulating classes, exciting research, and dynamic creative expression. We have many initiatives underway—the Burrow student services center, the Scholarships to Fellowships initiative, fully implementing our new curriculum—and they involve all of us working together to help us realize the Rhodes vision. I look forward to a productive and exciting year.

• The Board of Trustees—26 of the 27 of them—are gathering in retreat this week to focus their complete attention on how we continue our progress in making Rhodes truly extraordinary. This is the third such gathering since President Troutt came to Rhodes and each has resulted in significant progress. We hope to leave the meeting with a set of specific agreements and action steps to continue the momentum.

• Rhodes has been invited to participate in a blue-ribbon panel that will tackle the issues that surround the racial divide in Memphis. Summoned by Commercial Appeal editor Chris Peck and columnist Wendi Thomas, the group includes such notables as National Civil Rights Museum executive director Beverly Robertson, Temple Israel rabbi Micah Greenstein and our own Dr. Russ Wigginton. The Crossroads to Freedom archive was part of the inspiration for this initiative. I will report further developments as they occur.

• In an effort to keep the Web site fresh and dynamic, the news items on the home page are changed several times a week. If you did anything college-related over the December break that would be interesting to our visitors please send it to news@rhodes.edu.

Charlotte G. Borst, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Rhodes College
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112
Phone: 901-843-3795
Fax: 901-843-3291
email: BorstC@rhodes.edu