

# RHODES COLLEGE

## INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

May 2015

### A MESSAGE FROM DR. BOB JOHNSON

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#### FAST FACTS

- *Promote your event the easy way! Send announcements to [signs@rhodes.edu](mailto:signs@rhodes.edu)! to appear on television screens throughout campus.*
- *Faculty - please review your journal lists and subscriptions. It's renewal time, and we need your feedback by May 5th! For questions or concerns, please contact [Darlene Brooks](#).*

#### CONTACT US

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#### Pace Yourself!

As I write this, the signs of April are ubiquitous. Students are taking on that look that says that exams and papers are looming or that Commencement is rapidly approaching and the plan for next steps isn't firm yet. Some of those students are dropping by the Information Desk for research help. Others pass by more furtively, perhaps from confidence, perhaps in denial. The signs of fatigue and desperation are there, though, because we keep track of vending machine sales in the Middle Ground. First go the regular, caffeinated soft drinks, then the "energy drinks," leaving non-caffeinated drinks, like Sprite and water, for the truly thirsty rather than the truly exhausted.

Although the building will be open for twenty-four hours, we are dismayed when students use it all of those hours. We will, instead, encourage the students to go to their rooms, get some sleep, and come back refreshed. Their responses will range from a look of suspicion to a shrug of resignation. To my knowledge, no one has ever gone back to their room because we suggested it, but as much as the students feel compelled to pull all-nighters, we feel compelled to recommend sleep.

RSG will reinvigorate efforts to help students find space to study. In a twist of Honor Code irony, students will attempt to hoard space by leaving their books, notes, and laptops. RSG's plan, which has proved effective thus

far, is a system of "parking violations." When students have left their materials for two hours without returning, other students can put a parking violation on the materials for another hour before taking the space. When students hold other students accountable, the result is always better than when staff attempt to do so, especially when fatigued students are fueled by panic mixed with energy drinks.

We will also see large, study groups of classmates from different courses banding together as a tribe to work through problems on improbable timelines. For them, we provide bottles of Febreze, not as an alternative to hygiene but for simple room freshening. It works, but just barely. At the end of the exam period, the housekeepers will remove bales of debris from some rooms that suggest that students cram their faces as much as they cram their minds. The checked out books will come back in heaps at the very end, stacked on one end of the Circulation Desk. Interlibrary Loan will frantically call for books before people leave, since ILL is a network system that depends on good feedback from participating colleges in order to remain viable. The whirlwind of the semester's end blows in fast and ends as quickly. The pace of work moves from frantic, rapid demands to tackling the summer's projects in larger blocks of time. August's frantic pace is just around the corner. So, pace yourself!

# CHOICE

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## ITS and the Mellon Foundation

Last fall, Rhodes was awarded the [Mellon Grant Supporting Academic Innovation in the Liberal Arts](#) that will be implemented through summer 2017. The grant supports 3 aspects of innovation: **community-engaged scholarship, digital technologies and scholarship, and innovative pedagogies**. The grant is structured so that each year a co-hort of about 8 faculty members, 6 students, and a steering committee work together in a [community of practice](#) to share skills, offer support, and solve problems related to the various projects the grant is funding. This large co-hort will work on a variety of classes and out-of-class projects including e-portfolios, teaching chemistry in a public school, and working with local civil rights archives. Matt Jabaily and Wendy Trenthem of Information Services are part of the steering committee. Wendy and Matt are working with all participants to help them use the technology infrastructure already in place here at Rhodes and offer support with archiving, recording, and making accessible the variety of projects that are underway. ITS is pleased to be involved in this innovative teaching community of practice.

## New Library Catalog Coming Soon!



Barret Library will be moving to a [new online catalog](#) this summer! The catalog will be part of WorldCat, which connects and shares thousands of library catalogs across the country. The interface will be different and will also allow you to see holdings within other libraries as well. We will host training and information sessions before the Fall 2015 semester and provide online tutorials, so please stay tuned. We are very excited to offer this new service to our faculty and students!

## Summer Reading List!

Check out our summer reading list suggestions ([click here](#))! Fiction and non-fiction, depending on your preference. Inject your summer with a good dose of reading!



Information Services would like to congratulate all our graduating student workers! We have **25** student workers who will be moving on to the "real world" this summer, and we are very appreciative of your time and effort spent in the library and assisting our students, faculty, and staff. We wish you the best of everything as you start your new careers! [Click here for a list of students](#).