

# Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

**Sou'wester, September 8, 2017, Volume 101, issue 2**

Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : The Students of Rhodes College
Download date	2026-04-17 12:35:01
Link to Item	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10267/33771">http://hdl.handle.net/10267/33771</a>

# Presence: The Complete Campus Engagement Platform


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## Lynx Check



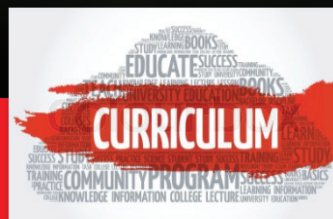
Allocations Board



Kinney Program



Rhodes Activities Board



Rhodes Lecture Board

Rhodes Student  
Government

BY JACLYN FLOOD '21  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to create a more inclusive campus environment, the Office of Student Leadership—in collaboration with student government groups—has prepared to launch a new campus engagement platform known as Presence. In previous years, Rhodes has struggled to find an event management system that met all of the functions desired by the student body, club leaders and faculty. After hearing about Presence through an event management conference, Director of Student Leadership Ira Lawson became intrigued by the prospect that students could communicate with other group members, track attendance and advertise their events all on a single

platform.

“I got together members of student government at the time, along with some other administrators, and they did a webinar to see how this worked and if they liked it. They all did, so we purchased the software and here it is,” Lawson said.

Presence boasts the title of a “complete campus engagement platform.” It not only allows students to organize and manage events and forms online but it grants faculty access to data tracking student involvement. The end goal is to engage a vast and diverse population of the student body. Lawson explains that this platform can help Rhodes assess the inclusiveness of programs at Rhodes and thereby enhance the overall community.

“If a certain population of students are not attending, then something is wrong,” Lawson said. “It allows us to know we are either not marketing well enough or we are not providing what those students are interested in. We need to then rethink how we are providing these opportunities because in order for us to create an inclusive campus, everyone needs to feel like ‘Oh, there’s something being offered that fits my interests or my curiosities.’”

The home page of Presence features tiles dedicated to various clubs on campus, upcoming events and the official Rhodes College Facebook and Twitter pages. Graduate Assistant Nicole Wallace describes some of the more intricate features of the program that will help student leaders stay organized.

“The beauty of this system is that it is management all in one place,” Wallace said. “It is not sending it out and trying to keep up with emails. If you have a roster you can contact everyone from your page, if you need a survey or a poll or to keep track of who is coming to your events, there is a specific piece on Presence to help you.”

The leaders of the clubs on campus have already begun the process of transitioning to Presence after a leadership forum last weekend. Lawson stressed the importance of understanding that this is a process and constructive feedback is more than welcome. The main goal now is to get the rest of the student body involved—namely through downloading the Rhodes specific Presence app.

## NEWS

# The Death of Trays

BY LEXI DEHART '21  
STAFF WRITER

The start of the fall semester brought many changes around campus. One of these changes occurred in the Catherine Burrow Refectory with the elimination of readily available trays. This transition to a tray-less Rat is due to the efforts of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, the Food Recovery Network and with collaboration from the Rhodes Student Senate.

Why take away trays? How are students supposed to balance all of their food without a way to carry multiple plates? Zachary Thornton '19, last year's Co-President of the Food Recovery Network, has answers to both questions.


"Not having trays," Thornton said, "does not mean that you are not still allowed to get as much food as you want. However, having to make multiple trips makes you think about whether you really want the food you are getting."

According to research conducted by the Food Recovery Network, the Refectory wasted 93,000 pounds of food each year due to trays. Last year, the goal of the Food Recovery Network was to "engage the student body in the possibility of going trayless and especially to raise awareness about the waste that having trays can lead to," Thornton said. "Ultimately our goal was to limit the number of trays in the Rat but we also wanted to help create an informed student body about the steps that could be taken to reduce food waste and Rhodes' environmental footprint."

The Food Recovery Network is a student-run organization at Rhodes.

169<sup>th</sup> Student Government

Spring Session, 2017



*A Resolution to Dine Tray-less at Rhodes College*

Sponsor(s): *Faber, Sen., Thornton, Sen.*

1 WHEREAS, the Rhodes Student Government is vested with the power to "make studies, reports, and recommendations advocating student rights, needs, and interests to the college community, administration, Board of Trustees, and the public in accordance with the Rhodes College By-laws;"

2

3 WHEREAS, it is an important aspect of any governing body to record its position, in writing, on issues of importance to its constituents;

4

5 WHEREAS, Rhodes College cites that "environmental sustainability is a fundamental part of our mission, guiding how we operate";

6

7 WHEREAS, Rhodes College states that it has been a tray-less institution since 2010 on its dining services website ([www.rhodes.campusdish.com](http://www.rhodes.campusdish.com));

8

9 WHEREAS, on average, the Rhodes Refectory wastes 93,000 pounds of food per year by using trays;

10

11 WHEREAS, on average, students waste 28% more food when using trays;

12

13 WHEREAS, dining tray-less reduces food waste, conserves energy, conserves water, and reduces the use of cleaning products;

14

15 WHEREAS, most colleges and universities are tray-less, including peer institutions such as Sewanee: The University of the South, Millsaps College and Berry College, as well as Princeton University, Georgetown University, John Hopkins University, University of Virginia, and Tulane University;

16

17 WHEREAS, Food Recovery Network has been engaging students, faculty, and staff with issues of food waste for the past two years through 'Weigh-in Wednesdays' and 'Trayless Tuesdays';

18

19 WHEREAS, in a survey answered by 878 members of the student body, 73% of students voted, on average, 4 out of 5 when asked their level of comfort with dining tray-less at Rhodes College with 5 being "very comfortable";

20

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the members of the Student Senate, in collaboration with the Environmental Sustainability Committee, the Food Recovery Network, and The Bridge Street Newspaper recommend the elimination of trays available in the Refectory by the beginning of the 2017 Fall semester with special circumstances merited for people who specifically request them or who need accommodations;

22

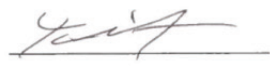
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the resolutions, when approved, will be communicated through External Communications.

24


25 Adopted by the Student Senate of Rhodes Student Government on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

26

27 12 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain, 13 Members Present



Thomas A. Mitchell  
President, Rhodes Student Body



James S. Beckman  
Vice-President, Rhodes Student Body

It is part of a larger national group of colleges and universities dedicated to reducing hunger and food waste across the United States. Currently, the Food Recovery Network community at Rhodes has over 50 members. They spend an hour in the Rat every Tuesday

and Friday, packing unserved food to be taken to local partner sites in Memphis. Soup kitchens at the First Congressional Church, St. Vincent DePaul Food Mission and St. John's United Methodist Church all receive unserved food from the Refectory. However, Thorn-

ton acknowledged that with change comes resistance.

"I know some students have opposed the move, but I have seen a great deal more support for going trayless, especially after providing information regarding why we wanted to push for the change," Thornton said. "Once people are given information about food and water waste associated with trays, they are much more receptive to the idea of not using trays."

To those who still feel as though they are unable to cope without trays, they are available by request at the card swipe stations. This year, the Food Recovery Network will aim to continue educating the student body about the unfortunate statistics surrounding food waste at Rhodes College and across the country.

"I had never really thought much about it until joining FRN but it has opened my eyes to the amount of food that is wasted in this country. In the face of immense hunger in Memphis and nationally, raising awareness about the resources we are wasting makes a lot of sense to me," said Thornton.

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& Will Morrow '19

*Chief Design Editor*, Zoe Laulerkind '18

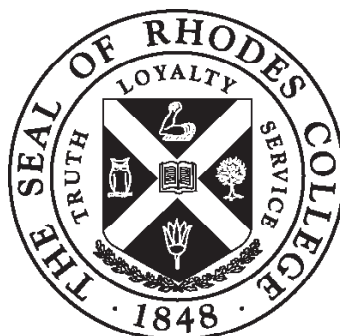
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# WITHIN THE GATES

## Facial Recognition Applications: Good or Bad?



BY JACOB SUTTON '19  
COLUMNIST

Last week, I wrote about hand implants with the ability to grant you access to doors and allow you to pay for things. This technology is similar to what modern smartphones have started doing in the last few years. Your opinion on this development is dependent on your comfort level with “Big Brother’s” access to something implanted inside your body.

This week I would like to discuss a new software developed by a Chinese company, called Face++. Face++ is a startup company set on developing a way to use your face to do a variety of things. The software takes a picture of your face and maps around 83 “data points,” in other words your facial features. When it is finished, it is able to distinguish exactly who you are from anyone else in the world with 99% accuracy. It is currently only used for the company’s employees to gain access into their building and buy things in the cafeteria but it is being talked about as a way to essentially keep track of everyone in China. It can be used alongside current security cameras to recognize anyone within the camera’s view.

In a way this is cool. The fact that the technology exists seems like something out of a futuristic movie. The listed reasons for its use include verifying legal drivers and identifying criminals who are caught in the act. I, however, fear its use will be more sinister. It can become a way to track whomever the Chinese government wants and if the technology moved over to the United States. I fear we would lose even more of our privacy. Take the time to look up what this company does and see if you agree with me.

## Eid al-Adha

BY SANEELA TAMEEZ '20  
STAFF WRITER

The holiday Eid al-Adha, the “Feast of the Sacrifice,” was celebrated by Muslims across the city last Friday. For Muslims all over the world, Eid al-Adha is a day that consists of celebrating the good in life, enjoying time with loved ones, giving to charity and praying with the entire community.

To clarify, Muslims celebrate two Eids: Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. Eid al-Fitr is more commonly known amongst non-Muslims as it falls right after the month of Ramadan, the month of fasting. Eid al-Fitr’s purpose is to commemorate all of the good one has accomplished during the holy month. Eid al-Adha, on the other hand, celebrates a story in Islamic tradition recognizable to followers of the Abrahamic faiths.

Eid al-Adha commemorates how Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son to obey God. In the story, Abraham did not sacrifice his son but rather ended up sacrificing an animal. Muslims celebrate this devotion by sacrificing an animal and serving one third of the meat

to the poor and friends and family. It is a requirement on that day to give some form of donation, if able, to the less fortunate.

Other practices during Eid al-Adha include a mandatory morning prayer. This prayer is specific to the Eid holiday as opposed to the five daily prayers Muslims pray. Muslim from every community come together to pray as one. This Memphis community is a diverse one, consisting of people from all over the world. There is a range of cultures, clothing, and food handed out to all who attend. Eid prayer is a way for Muslims from different cultures to have a common understanding of unity.

Although Eid it is not recognized as a holiday in a majority of states, there are a few exceptions. New York City officially recognizes both Eids as holidays, so public schools are not in session for either Eid al-Adha or Eid al-Fitr. The state did not want children to have to decide between spending the holiday with loved ones or at school.

Many students on campus celebrated the holiday this year.

“Eid is special because all of the folks

that I spend time with at different masjids come together in one space to celebrate family, community and the bounties of God. This is the most evident after the Eid Salat, when friends and family flock to each other’s homes to enjoy massive feasts as well as the company of loved ones,” Warren Socher '20 said.

“I love how Eid showed me how strong the Muslim community in Memphis is, and how much they’ve done for the community. Also, not gonna lie the food is always a plus,” Farah Ibrahim '20 said.

Although Muslims fall under a minority category in the United States, celebrations like Eid have a large impact on every Muslim-American life. It is a time to be reminded of the importance of community. Learning about the holiday can also be beneficial for Rhodes students of all faiths, learning about religious traditions is an important part of the Rhodes academic experience.

## Ryan Rasmussen Opens at Fathom Gallery

BY MEAGHAN PICKLES '19  
STAFF EDITOR

Assistant Professor of Art and Art History Ryan Rasmussen presented a world of his own at “Fathom”—an opening at the Clough-Hanson Gallery on Friday. American innovation and the way “nature erodes artifact,” was the inspiration of his work. His sculptures met a crossroads of the industrial and the ethereal—a playground for abstraction. Rasmussen likened his installations as akin to Alice in Wonderland. They belong to an alternate universe just beyond reach.

His work captured an “anti-aesthetic” that he hoped will provoke thoughtful inquiry.

“We can talk about big things with humble materials and humble forms,” Rasmussen said.

Coke was a symbol of American idealism found in the exhibit’s installations. Rasmussen found Coca-Cola to be a particularly fascinating subject. He saw Coke as an enduring symbol of American progress while also having varying harmful properties.

“Why do we celebrate this thing that’s so damaging? It does horrible things but it holds our imagination and takes our dollars,” he said. “[Coke] only has this very short window by which you want to invite it into your body. It’s like this weird cultural hourglass.”

In a short video at “Fathom,” Rasmussen set up a makeshift camp in the American desert, with props alluding to the moon landing. As he sits in his tent, he eats an apple. Here, human innovation met the primal.

Rasmussen began his artistic career with sculpture, which he still considers

his purest love. While living in Wisconsin, he found abandoned wagon parts and “gave them new wheels,” combining the new and old—pairing the idealized past with the promise of the future.

Throughout his lecture in Buckman Hall on Thursday, Rasmussen delighted in asking more questions than he answered.

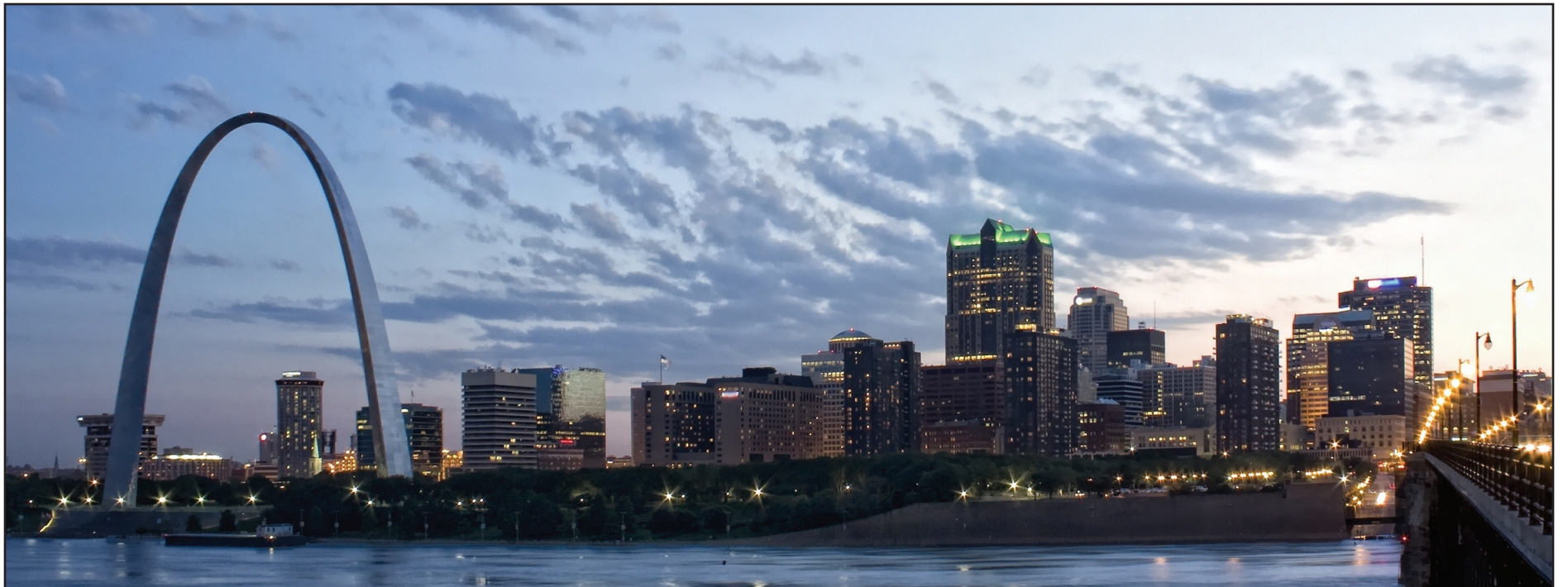
“In my work, I’m not trying to assert answers,” he said. “I’m trying to pose questions, pointing the flashlight and saying ‘What is this about?’”

Rasmussen emphasized his sustained curiosity and wonder at sculpting—peeling a raw material back to find what lies underneath.

“I tell people I’m addicted to the third dimension, I’m just figuring out how to get there,” he said.

## WITHIN THE GATES

# Big Diehl Takes St. Louis



BY INDIA NIKOTICH '19  
STAFF WRITER

To kick off the fall semester, the Big Diehl hosted their annual student trip to St. Louis, Mo. over the Labor Day weekend. \$20 paid in advance to Rhodes Express made for an all-inclusive trip: meals, transportation, hotel and excursions.

On Saturday morning, students from every class year piled into a bus and headed to Lambert's, a Missouri restaurant famous for throwing dinner rolls

at their patrons. Emily Faber '19, a second year returnee, said sharing that first experience with strangers made friends out of peers. An hour after arriving in St. Louis, the crew visited the City Museum—another mainstay in Missouri.

"We got to be kids again," Faber said. "We had the chance to forget about school for a minute and just be there with each other, running around in this adult jungle gym. We got on a Ferris wheel overlooking the city and watched the sunset from the top of the industrial building."

Later that night, students split up for a free night—some stayed in, exhausted, while others took advantage of the time to explore the city or meet up with local friends. After a quick hotel breakfast the next morning, the bus rolled up to Six Flags St. Louis and students took advantage of the quiet, open amusement park.

"Six Flags was an excellent experience," Faber said. "On Sundays, most people are in religious services. We were able to ride whatever we wanted, however many times we wanted, and the

park didn't pick up until noon."

Faber insisted more students should take advantage of the opportunity to meet new people and explore a new city.

"It is a great value," Faber said. "I'm grateful that Rhodes offers a trip where you spend so little but the return is so great. St. Louis reminded me of the feel of Memphis in many ways. The Arch made me think of our own Pyramid on the Mississippi River."

# Rhodes Offers Support in Aftermath of Harvey

BY SAVANNA KURZ '20  
STAFF WRITER

Following a surge of torrential rain, violent winds and devastating floods, disaster has plagued the coast of Texas. Although the hurricane made landfall nearly 600 miles away, the Rhodes community has come together to lend support to those near and far who fell victim to Harvey.

Much of Houston and the surrounding area has been underwater after more than 50 inches of rain fell amid the storm. The effects of this record-breaking deluge have been reflected in the number of houses that have flooded,

the amount of people seeking shelter and the troop of National Guard members that has been activated to offer assistance. During this difficult time, many organizations have pledged to offer money and resources to contribute to the relief effort.

On campus, various clubs have placed donation boxes to collect clothes which will be sent to the affected areas. One such group, the Rhodes Athletic Program, has prepared boxes of gear to send down to Texas. Although a school-wide campaign has yet to be created, it will likely be initiated in the coming weeks.

"Right now, we have not established a donation plan, but in the spirit of

Rhodes service culture it will be underway soon," Dean of Students Russell Wigginton said.

More than 100 Rhodes students have been directly affected by this natural disaster. In the midst of moving-in and embarking upon a new semester, students from Houston were burdened with heavy hearts as their families struggled back home.

"Every student who lives in an affected zip code has been reached out to by a Student Life staff member (including myself) and, in some cases, we have spoken to their parents," Dean Wigginton said. "We have let them know we are here for any assistance they may

need now and in the aftermath."

As the storm subsides, a new challenge awaits the people of Houston. In the wake of Harvey, an estimated \$75 billion worth of damage has ensued. Much like past disasters, the generosity of the American people will likely allow the victims of this catastrophic event to be helped every step of the way. While the residents of Houston recover, President Hass has worked to reassure parents and students.

"Please know you, too, can count on Rhodes as a source of support as you work to heal and rebuild homes and communities," she said.

## BEYOND THE GATES

### Review: LYFE Kitchen



By KATIE BREWSTER '18  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

Paleo. Gluten-free. Celiac. Low-carb. Vegetarian. Vegan. Having a friend with a food allergy or restriction can make every casual outing feel like a chore. Luckily, in recent years Memphis has debuted some options that delight taste buds and sensitive stomachs alike.

One of my personal favorites of these is LYFE Kitchen. While I do not usually promote chains, I consider the LYFE franchise an exception. They have built their brand with an emphasis on socially responsible practices and locally sourced food. LYFE Kitchen, which stands for Love Your Food Everyday, moved their headquarters from

California to Memphis in 2015. They have two locations, one downtown on South Main and one in East Memphis on Poplar.

The East Memphis location has a large outdoor seating area as well as a brightly illuminated indoors, reminiscent of its Californian roots. The South Main location is built into the Hotel Chisca, a prime location for the lucky residents of the newly-renovated apartments. Inside is the franchise's only standalone bar, and the outdoor patio is one of the largest in the entire downtown area. The gorgeous crown moldings and expertly decorated interior can make even a quick lunch date feel like a special occasion.

Contrary to what you may think

looking at the elegant decor, LYFE Kitchen's food is not overpriced. For \$10 you can be served a Chicken and Avocado Sandwich on ciabatta bread with a side arugula salad or some of the most delicious sweet potato fries in the city. Dishes like their \$11 Parmesan Chicken Sandwich and \$8 BBQ Chicken Flatbread somehow just manage to maintain the "healthy casual" vibe the restaurant group strives for.

LYFE takes care to mark everything on their menu with symbols to denote whether it is gluten-free, vegan or contains nuts. Although they do offer a wide range of salads, my vegetarian dinner companions have always been glad to hear that this is not their only option. Dishes like their savory Edamame

Hummus with multi-grain bread and Curried Rice Noodles in a sweet chile sauce are both gluten-free and vegan.

My gluten-free friends have also praised their tacos with organic corn tortillas, avocado smash, chayote slaw and a black bean relish. They can be filled with sweet chile chicken, line-caught wahoo, bbq shrimp, seared tuna or organic tofu. I have enjoyed their Penne Pomodoro with roasted zucchini, Asiago cheese and added turkey meatballs. The turkey meatballs manage to be flavorful in a way I unfortunately have found impossible to replicate at home.

So next time you are looking for an alternative to your usual Panera or Chick-fil-a run, give LYFE Kitchen a try.

## Midtown Mosque Fundraiser

By WARREN SOCHER '19  
CIRCULATION EDITOR

The Midtown Mosque on Jackson Avenue hosted their first large fundraiser last Sunday at Shelby Farms Park. The Mosque, which has only been open since June of 2016, has aimed to be "Memphis-minded." Their mission is to "improve people's relationship with Allah through worship, education, and community service." The mosque's leadership and congregation have dedicated themselves to serving the community, especially the neighborhoods surround-

ing the place of worship. The mosque is lead by Imam Hamza Abdul-Malik, assistant Imam Ashir Kirk, and masjid director Malik Shaw.

The mosque took over a former jazz club building and has since been transformed. One Saturday a month, Midtown Mosque does a food drive for people in the neighborhood who have requested assistance. Alongside the food drive, there is a new community garden behind the masjid that is beginning to supply people with fresh produce. Their main goals have been to strengthen the surrounding community spiritually and

structurally.

Two famous scholars/imams in the American Islamic community, as well as others Memphis community members, gave speeches at the fundraiser. Imam Zaid Shakir gave a captivating speech about his experience in the flourishing Islamic community in Memphis and the United States as a whole. Imam Siraj Wahaj made appeals to those at the banquet—asking attendees to financially support the Midtown Mosque and its efforts. His story of founding the Al-Taqwa mosque in Brooklyn paralleled the founding of Midtown Mosque. It

began with a struggling community that was strengthened through improved resources and the creation of a new spiritual scene in the surrounding area.

Memphis-minded places like Midtown Mosque, less than five minutes away from Rhodes, show how persevering Memphians can benefit this city. The mosque welcomes volunteers to assist with their upcoming projects. Contact information is available on their website.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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A JOINT STATEMENT ON DACA

September 5, 2017

We, the undersigned student leaders at Rhodes College, are deeply disturbed by the Department of Justice's announcement that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will be suspended. Aside from the estimated fiscal impact of this decision, there is also a deeply personal impact. Many of us know by name and by face the incredible contributions and vibrant spirit that DACA students bring to our campus, and although some may be unaware as to who specifically is under its protections, none of us can ignore the positive influence that they have within our community. DACA students are leaders in the sciences, humanities, and extracurricular activities. Their commitment to the ideals of the liberal arts and this nation cannot be called into question. Simply put, they represent a handful of the very best that both Rhodes College and American higher education have to offer to this country and the world. To reject their dedication and commitment, their hopes and aspirations, and their resolve to make the world a better place would be a rejection of the soul and substance of who we are and whom we wish to be. It would be a rejection of the ideals of higher education. It would be the rejection of the American values that we all hold dear.

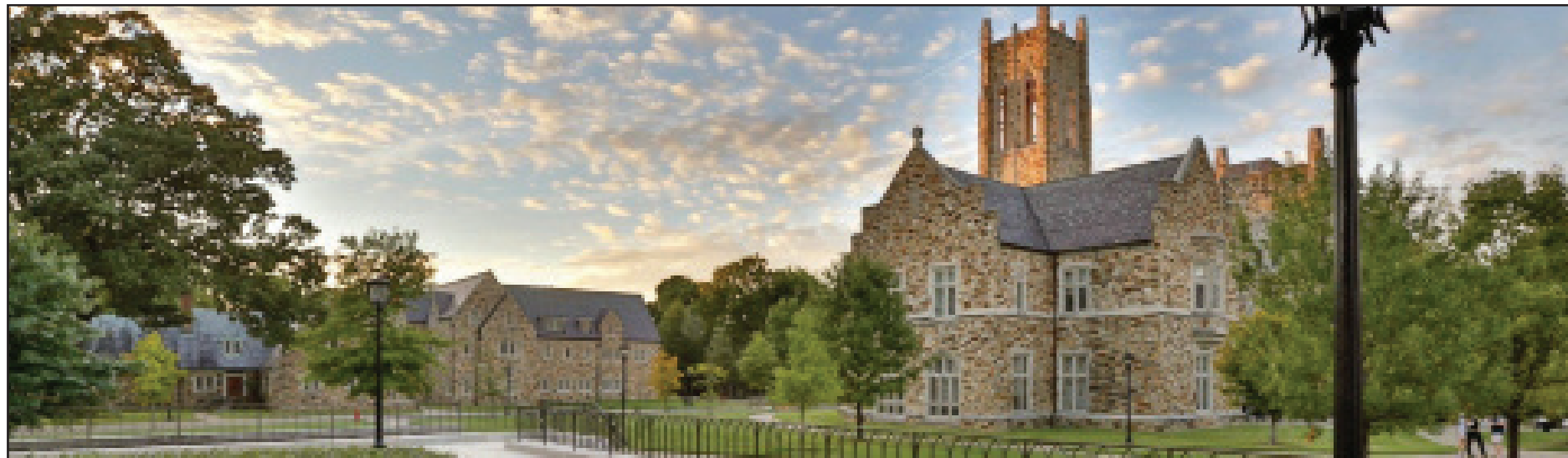
On this issue, it's pretty simple: We stand with our peers. We stand committed to the ideals of diversity and inclusion. We stand steadfast in our belief that diversity is our strength.

We now encourage Tennessee Senators Alexander and Corker to join Congressman Cohen and Tennessee Attorney General Slatery in their support of the DREAM Act of 2017.

In Solidarity with Our Peers,

Thomas A. Mitchell | President of the Student Body  
 Caleb L. Fowler | Chief of Staff  
 Savannah Webb | President, 2018 Class Council  
 Tony Eskridge | President, 2020 Class Council  
 Jill Stark | President, Rhodes Activities Board  
 Jamarr McCain | President, Black Student Association  
 Ben Laviana | Co-Director, Kinney Program  
 Leadership Team | Latinx Student Association  
 Caryn Hawkins | President, Panhellenic Council (NPC)  
 Merit Pinker | President, Rhodes Hillel

James S. Beckman | Vice-President of the Student Body  
 Kim Macharia | Student Trustee  
 JM Stodola | President, 2019 Class Council  
 Pooja Dave | Commissioner, Allocations Board  
 Leon Shum | President, All Students Interested in Asia  
 Lee Kezar | President, Gender & Sexuality Alliance  
 Atticus Wolfe | Co-Director, Kinney Program  
 Hamid Shirwany | President, Muslim Students' Association  
 Leadership Team | Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)  
 Arati Joshi | President, South Asian Cultural Advocacy



## SPORTS

# Row Lynx, Row!



BY INDIA NIKOTICH '19  
STAFF WRITER

Frequenters of the Bryan Campus Life Center indoor track are out of luck—starting next week, the over 40 rowers on the Rhodes crew team will be re-summing practice for the semester. As part of their workouts, Crew takes over the upstairs of the Mallory Gym three times a week for their famously intense practices.

Over the past two years, membership has rapidly increased as a result of more

inclusive standards and strong leadership. Former captains Olivia Thomas '18 and Caleb Fowler '18 recently passed the baton to new co-captains Marilyn Long '18 and Connor Ross '18.

“In order for any group to be successful, there needs to be a constant flow of fresh opinions and input from new sources,” Long said. “This semester, we are focused on keeping Rhodes Crew a place for a wide range of people, like it always has been. We want Crew to satisfy those looking to be highly competi-

tive and those who just want to learn to love a new sport.”

Long, who has been a member since spring semester of her first year at Rhodes, insists that it is the familial element of the sport that keeps membership consistent and strong.

“Joining Crew wasn’t something I had ever thought about doing before Rhodes,” Long said. “All I had heard about was early morning practices, and that had deterred me. Luckily, I got over that fact. I can say with certainty it is one of the best decisions I have made

at Rhodes thus far.”

Just last year, during their annual Erg-a-thon fundraiser, the team raised money for a family in Baton Rouge who had been devastated by the Louisiana flooding in August of 2016.

“This year we hope to keep the money in Memphis,” Long said. “We know there is a need for sponsoring families who have to relocate here to receive treatment at St. Jude.”



CHEER ON FOOTBALL THIS SATURDAY,

SEPT. 9, 2017

AT CRAIN FIELD

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ROOM IN BRIGGS



## First Date Ideas That Will Positively Guarantee a "That Was Fun! Thanks!" Text

BY MEAGHAN PICKLES '19  
SATIRE EDITOR

- Take them to the Brooks Museum and show off what you have learned from your 100-level art history class. If you have not taken a 100-level art history class, read the description of each painting aloud and add a fun fact that you made up. Wear some sort of frustrating, culturally inappropriate hat.

- Take them to Central BBQ. Do not ask them if they have been there before. Assume you are showing them the heart of Memphis cuisine for the first time. Say "this barbeque is supposed to be the best in town."

- Pull a La La Land and take your

date to a dive jazz club. Ask your date if they like jazz. If they don't like jazz, tell them why they are wrong and jazz is the best. To pull a true, authentic La La Land move, make sure you and your date are both white.

- Go on a date to a freshman dorm room. Spend 35 minutes nervously scrolling through movie options and saying "this could be good, but I'm not sure" while refusing to make eye contact.

- Take your date to watch the sunset at Mud Island. After you look at the sunset, talk about the sunset and take a picture of the sunset, you realize you are now forced to fill the silence with idle chatter. You should have gone to see a movie.

- Go to a juice bar and get mutually nervous about contributing to gentrification.

- If you are on a Tinder date, the main goal is always to make sure your date is not a grad student. You will discover this based on whether or not your date starts/ends each sentence reminding you they are a grad student.

- Take your date to the Beauty Shop without looking at prices beforehand. Check your bank account balance under the table while telling them that Paul Giamatti is one of your favorite character actors.\* Tell your date that the appetizers are just as filling as the main courses.

- Watch the eclipse together. This is a special, romantic activity you can do

together only on August 21st, 2017. If you did not watch the eclipse with a date, looks like you're shit out of luck. You should have thought about this sooner. If you want a shot at watching the next eclipse with the one you love, ask yourself this: How confident am I that my current romantic partner will make it to 2024? If your answer is "not very" or "unsure," you might want to start exploring some new options.

\*this detail will ramp up your sex appeal. It asserts three things at once: you know who Paul Giamatti is, you know what a character actor is and Paul Giamatti is not the only character actor you know.