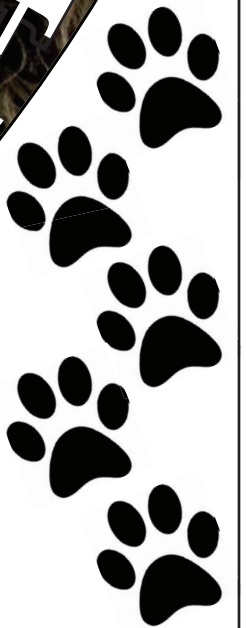


# Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

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## Rhodes' Top 5 Cutest... **PETS**



## NEWS

## Amanda Lucidon on Her Book "Chasing Light"

BY RUSSELL PALMER '21  
STAFF WRITER

Amanda Lucidon, former First Lady Michelle Obama's official photographer and author of "Chasing Light: Michelle Obama," kicked off her nationwide tour showcasing her book at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library on Poplar Avenue. Lucidon gave a presentation with a small slideshow of selected photos she wished to discuss.

Lucidon shared her favorite part of the photographs she took of Michelle Obama. They were not of the First Lady herself but the reactions of the people around her. In one photo specifically, taken of Michelle Obama speaking to Liberian school girls, you can find a smile on the face of every girl in the photo. Lucidon's experience allowed her to show the impact Michelle Obama had on people around the globe.

Lucidon went on to speak about how she took her photos of Michelle and the Obama family as a whole. She said she looked for spontaneous moments. One cue for her to raise the camera was when Barack or one of their two dogs Bo and Sunny walked into the room. Lucidon joked she always had to be on her toes since she never knew when the perfect opportunity was going to arise.

Being a mother was one of the most important things to Michelle Obama, as described by Lucidon. Once while in China with the First Family, Lucidon took the "protocol" two posed photos at the Great Wall of China but afterwards she managed to capture a spontaneous moment where the First Lady embraced her daughters.

Lucidon was asked what she learned from her time spent with Michelle

Obama.

"One of the things that I draw on most days is to be fearless," Lucidon said.

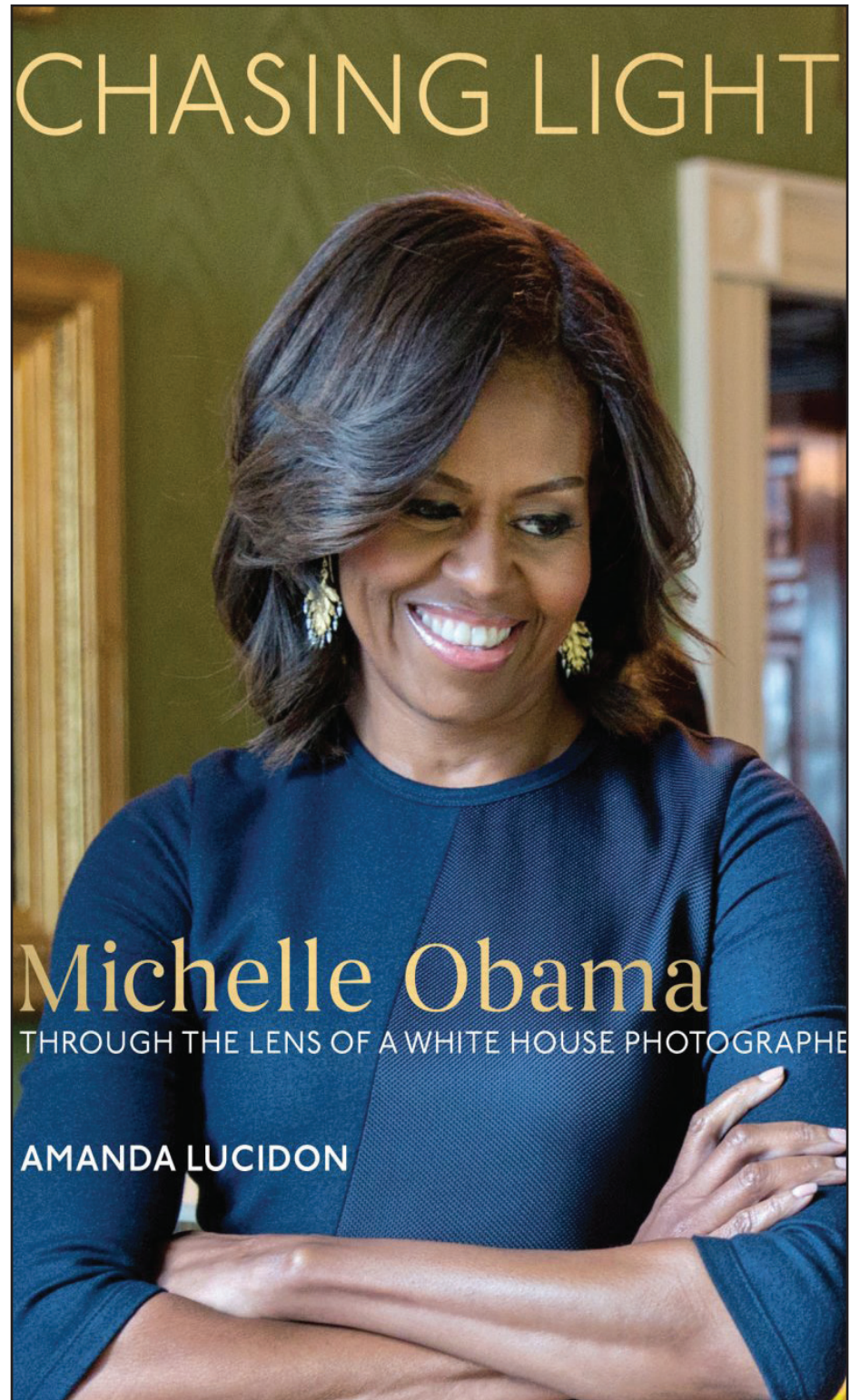
Lucidon also talked about fearlessness when she described her support and her work with artists around the country. After a performance by local singer Kevione Austin, age 15, Lucidon offered advice for upcoming artists—photographers in particular.

"Follow your heart, do what you want to do and don't be afraid to fail," Lucidon said.

Lucidon then went on to share that the jobs and photos which she was most passionate about were often the least profitable ones. She emphasized that young artists must be resilient.

Lucidon believed these photos she was most passionate about were what landed her the job as Michelle Obama's personal photographer. After winning a few competitions, she received a phone call one day from colleague Pete Souza, personal photographer of former Presidents Barack Obama and Ronald Reagan, about an opening for the position.

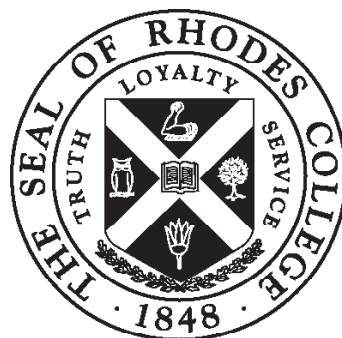
Lucidon repeatedly reminded the audience how lucky she was to have the opportunity to spend so much time with the Obama family. She insisted the family members off-camera were still very kind, genuine, humble and grounded people. Lucidon hoped her book will share what she learned from the Obamas during their time in the White House.



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## FEATURE

# Christmas Cheer: Memphis-Style



BY KATIE BREWSTER '18  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

With exams fast approaching, students will be tempted to spend their weekends huddled into the Middle Ground drinking large cups of coffee and complaining to their friends about how many pages they have yet to write for their finals. It will be all too easy to neglect the holiday spirit (especially as the leaves have only now begun to fall from the trees.) Here are some options for pulling out of the exam funk, giving the mind a well-deserved break and celebrating the upcoming holiday season.

### *The Peabody*

The Peabody Hotel has been decorated even more festively than its typical ornate decor. The famous lobby—known for the ducks which swim in its fountain—is now decked out with a massive Christmas tree, glowing lights and garland. A “Gingerbread Village” was constructed using 300 pounds of sugar and 400 eggs as well 50 pounds

of candy. Included is a gingerbread house fit for a (child-sized) king which will be playing a variety of Christmas movies through mini-televisions in its windows. The peabody bar will be the perfect place to grab festive cocktails like the Adult Hot Chocolate spiked with Bailey’s Irish Cream, for those over 21 years of age, or their classic tea which is accompanied by sugar in the shape of ducks. During December, the Peabody’s signature duck march will be accompanied by area high school choirs and bands at 11 a.m.

### *The Zoo*

The Memphis Zoo, a simple walk from Rhodes, will be one of the easiest places for students to emerge themselves in the holiday spirit. Walking in, snow machines create a snow fall in the courtyard. The Zoo will be covered in an array of lights on selected evening 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Nowhere else will real, humanely-treated reindeer be found in Memphis. With the price of admission to Zoo Lights will include

rides on the tram and carousel for a celebration that harks back to childhood and a 90-foot Ferris Wheel will be featured for those who love to brave heights. In addition to the holiday light displays, there is an ice skating rink available every day from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on evenings concurrent with Zoo Lights. Skates are available to rent and treats like hot cocoa will be available for purchase as well. Zoo Lights admission is \$9 for nonmembers, ice skating is \$6 per person and the Ferris wheel is \$5 per person.

### *Shelby Farms Park*

Every year, Shelby Farms has hosted a “Starry Nights” drive-through tour of lighted displays as the largest event of its kind in the Mid-South. This year’s event will feature over 1.5 million lights throughout the large property. The light displays will create bright images ranging from animals—buffalo in tribute to the pack that roams the property—to the solar system to Santa Clause. Guests can drive through in cars, sign up for a

horse-drawn carriage or a classic hayride. The “Mistletoe Village” provides much-needed hot cocoa, a camel ride, a petting zoo and an artists’ market. Sunday through Thursday the event lasts 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and hours extend until 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Make sure to carpool with a group of friends, as you pay per carload. The cost is \$20 for car, truck or minivan. There is a \$5 discount for participating in theme nights including Dec. 7 “Decorate Your Car” night.

### *Rhodes College*

For some, the gigantic Christmas tree in the Paul Barret Jr. Library has been the only thing getting them through finals—a promise of what will come. For those looking for more (free) activities, Rhodes will be celebrating the official Last Day of Classes with a “Rhodes Central Park” themed event. It will feature an ice skating rink, free, games and music. To participate, go to the Diehl Statue on Dec. 6; the event will last 5 p.m. until 10 p.m.

## WITHIN THE GATES

# The St. Jude Marathon

BY KATIE BREWSTER '18  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR

The St. Jude Memphis Marathon Weekend will be the largest single-day fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital this year. Memphis will shut down Saturday, Dec. 2 as over 22,000 participants prepare to run in the 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles), half marathon (13.1 miles) or marathon (26.2 miles). Many of those runners will be members of the Rhodes community. Around 50 alumni and faculty are participating as part of the official "Team Rhodes" group. Rhodes students of all class years will also be running despite the race falling during exam crunch-time.

Lauren Marotta '21 will be one of the students running the half-marathon this year.

"While I haven't been training consistently this semester, I ran in high school and I've run this race before. It's really inspirational running through the St. Jude property and seeing these kids cheering you on. Seeing their struggle really puts everything—in terms of the race and in terms of life—into perspective," Marotta said.

A number of Rhodes sports teams, including the soccer and tennis teams, will be volunteering during the event.

"Volunteering at the St. Jude Marathon is a small opportunity for the Rhodes Women's Soccer Team to give back to the community," Katelyn Curtis '20 wrote. "We spend a day keeping

the runners hydrated, encouraged and fueled. It is so fun to be with teammates and cheer on the runners. This marathon is so important to the community, hospital, patients and families."

"We have a few girls that run every year and their determination and fundraising is inspiring! They train through season in preparation and run for a cause beyond themselves. We workout for our sport but the runners of St. Jude, whether it be the 3K or full 26.2 miles, run for the children. The runners are heroes. If handing them water on the go and cheering like fools contributes to the great work St. Jude does, it is all worth it (and it's even better with my teammates beside me) Curtis wrote.

As one of the world's premier pediatric cancer research centers, St. Jude has refused to place the burden of paying for cancer treatment on families. The families of those going through treatment will never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing or food from the organization. The Marathon Weekend will be just one of the events put on year-round to raise money. While registration fees will be a portion of the way St. Jude raises money through this event, fees range from \$40 for the 5K to \$140 for the full marathon, further fundraising will be a large source of the proceeds from the event. Those who fundraise while training are called "St. Jude Heroes." Though it is not required, all participants receive fundraising tools when they sign up. These materials include a training plan with



coaching videos, a personal fundraising website and fundraising support which includes weekly emails with tips. Fundraising through St. Jude Heroes will continue after the race is completed, through Jan. 5, 2018.

The course itself will be primarily flat and runners will tour through both downtown and midtown Memphis before crossing the finish line at AutoZone Park. Every race will run through the St. Jude campus where patients, their families and onlookers gather to cheer. The races are staggered at different start times; the 10K will

begin for early-risers at 7:15 a.m., the marathon and half-marathon will take off at 8 a.m. and the 5K starts at 8:50 a.m. All participants will receive a race number with timing tag so friends and family can follow their progress online. This will be the ideal way for interested Rhodes students to greet their friends as they run through Midtown. Rhodes will be perfectly situated within the race route as runners cross through Overton Park and North Parkway, down Jackson Ave and back down University St. Prepare for delays when exiting campus.

## Tiffany Ford: Bridging the Communities

BY NOAH MESA '21  
STAFF WRITER

Tiffany Ford is a Rhodes alum from the Class of '95 and has worked at Rhodes since 2011. She served as the previous Grants and Foundation Manager before becoming Rhodes's Director of the Bonner Center for Service. After majoring in philosophy at Rhodes and religious studies at Christian Brothers University, her graduate degree from the University of Tennessee was in social work with a concentration in management and community practice.

"What I learned to do was develop programs based on community need, assess those programs and raise money to implement those programs," Ford

said.

Before heading the Bonner Center, Tiffany Ford helped to implement the Gay Straight Alliance on campus, worked with refugee resettlement program, assisted in fundraising the new science building and volunteered with local dog rescues.

"When this position opened, I was excited about being able to get out from behind the desk [and] get back to my social work roots again," Ford said.

Her official responsibilities will include overseeing the Bonner program with its fellows, the City Lynx work study program and the Kinney program. In addition to this, Ford will coordinate the service-oriented Alternative Spring Break.

"My job is to help students who are interested in service in community to be linked with opportunities that fit with either what they want to do later in life or if they just have a passion for something," Ford said.

Director Ford has expressed keen interest with working with faculty who already engage in service, such as Charles Hughes, Kendra Hotz, Elizabeth Thomas and John Bass.

"I think [these efforts would] make sure that Memphis knows that we really are and want to be an important part of the community and try to provide some of the services that people need," Ford said. "It's exciting. There's so much to do and so much to learn about - what has worked well and where we can do

better to provide opportunities to reach out into the community."

Ford thanked Dean Davis, Dean Wigginton and Ira Lawson for offering support and welcome as she took on her new role.

"There are really great resources on campus," Ford said. "I think the thing I want people to know the most is that I am a Rhodes alum and I get what it is like to be a student here. As someone who has worked here for six years already, I have seen a lot of the power [that our students have]. I feel that momentum. I felt it even before I walked through that door."

## WITHIN THE GATES

# “Where Do Yci ‘Stay?’” and Why Students Should “Get the Hell Off Campus”

BY JUNIOR WALTERS '19  
STAFF WRITER

The Memphis Center wrapped up its programming for the semester on Wednesday evening with the final installment in the “Where Do You Stay?” panel series. Previous discussions had centered around specific neighborhoods in Memphis, such as Binghampton and Raleigh-Frayser, and this final panel broadened the scope to activism and organizing in the city at large.

The panel featured representatives of various organizations in Memphis, including Tami Sawyer of Teach for America Memphis and Rev. Earle Fisher of Abyssinian Baptist Church. Two Rhodes alumni, Iris Mercado '15 and Justin Davis '17, were members of the

panel representing Planned Parenthood and the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, respectively.

Karlynn Woods, a senior at Germantown High School, was a vocal member of the panel as well. Woods brought experience working with BRIDGES USA and organizing young activists. Through her work at BRIDGES and in her school, Woods has worked around her fellow youths' tendency to self-eliminate only because of their age.

“Until recently, I thought you had to be an adult to make change,” Woods said.

Much of the discussion centered around the role of young people in activism and community organization. The panelists were asked to share their beginnings in community work in

Memphis. Some began with internships and others began as a reaction to specific events, such as the death of Darrius Stewart in 2015 which spurred protests that shut down Elvis Presley Boulevard.

Sawyer, who recently kicked off her campaign for Shelby County Commissioner for District 7, spoke on the importance of young involvement in the local and national elections of 2018 and beyond. She pointed to a need for awareness of the issues facing Memphis and how to support the candidates looking to address them.

“We need all hands on deck,” Sawyer said.

Sawyer and Fisher suggested the revival of the concept of a “People’s Convention.” In 1991, Willie Herenton was elected as the first African-Amer-

ican mayor of Memphis. Much of his success was attributed to local people who gathered, discussed the platforms of the candidates and collectively endorsed Herenton. This strategy was one which the panelists suggested as a way to get more young people in Memphis involved in local politics.

The panelists stressed that political participation is not the only way young people in Memphis can make a difference. They listed organization after organization that actively seek volunteers and workers to promote equality and justice in the city and how students can begin their own activism.

Justin Davis had one piece of poignant advice for Rhodes students: “Get the hell off this campus.”

## Humans of Rhodes: Brandon Lever



I’ve been racking my brain trying to think about what to include in a 400 word bio. Should I include my past and discuss growing up in a less than accepting family with a less than pacifist father? Would it be pertinent to talk about my household’s annual income being just a few thousand above the poverty line? Maybe it would be most interesting to talk about how I was kicked out for a time when I was 16 and spent an entire summer couch surfing and sleeping on friend’s porches while also trying to study for the ACT.

Then my ideas began to dawdle on the future. “Oh, it would be really cool to discuss how you want to join Amer-

iCorps for a year and then the Peace Corps for 2 years after you graduate!” says one thought. “No, talk about how your dreams and aspirations to become involved on campus and how you really want to be a part of the process of Rhodes cultural progression,” says another.

Instead of reminiscing the past or getting tunnel vision for the future, I’ve decided I want to talk about a couple of things I’m doing now and why I’m doing them.

One of my current passions is to try and reinstate LGBT housing on campus. There seems to be a disconnect of the LGBT community on campus

and I’m hoping that LGBT housing will be a catalyst in strengthening those bonds. I’m also hoping to become more involved with other organizations on campus as a helping hand during event coordination. Community development is my dream career path.

I’m a born and raised Memphian. I went to middle school across the street which is where my sibling is currently going. I’ve always cared about Memphis and the people in it and this passion for community organization and activism is rooted in one of my core beliefs: “No one is equal until everyone is equal.” I suppose growing up experiencing suppression of myself during every waking

moment has lead me truly value the freedoms and opportunities we have and has motivated me to want to ensure as many people can experience those privileges as possible.

My most proud moment is hard to define. I’m proud of the GSA I founded at my school for still going strong and of the results of this international march I was the lead coordinator for where over 21 cities across the US and Canada helped to raise money for the Russian LGBT Network who were fighting the concentration camps in Chechnya.

Regardless, in the end it’s not about what I’m proud of. It’s about the work that was done.

## BEYOND THE GATES

# Exploring Memphis Through Food: Bangkok Alley



BY SAM BROWN '21  
STAFF WRITER

Last week, I ventured downtown in search of a post-class, relaxing lunch. What I found was a small Thai restaurant tucked away on Union Avenue in the heart of downtown Memphis called Bangkok Alley. After completing the nightmare which was parking, I sat down ready to enjoy a nice Thai lunch.

The restaurant itself was classy and comfortable. It has a nice bar area in-

fused into the dining area. The restaurant was filled with Memphis businessmen taking a lunch break from work, making it seem almost like my eating partners and I were out of place. The food, however, fell average in my opinion. I went with four other people and we all ordered different things (the best way to dine.) The meal started with complimentary soup for everyone. The Tom Kha soup proved to be best part of the meal for me as I downed my own as well as my friend's. Tom Kha is a coco-

nut soup with lemongrass, mushrooms, cilantro and some chili pepper to top it off. For a cold day, the soup was perfect and almost makes the adventure to Bangkok Alley worth it this winter.

I opted for the Pad Thai for lunch as it is my favorite Thai dish and I generally love it. After seeing my friend's Red Curry Chicken, I realized a different dish may have been the move. The Pad Thai was not bad but it was not worth the drive or the price. It does not differentiate from your average Pad Thai:

noodles, chicken, peanuts and a Thai sauce. The dish is also not served with rice and it costs extra to add it on the side. If you make the venture to Bangkok Alley, go for the Curry instead.

While downtown is only ten minutes from Rhodes, the parking situation does not warrant what you get from this particular restaurant. In short, you can find better food closer to Rhodes for a more affordable price. For this reason, I would pass on Bangkok Alley for Rhodes students. 2/5 stars.

## Art, Race, Violence

BY PRAMIKA SRIRAM '21  
STAFF WRITER

The second floor of Crosstown Arts is divided into large, gray rooms. For the past month, haunting displays have resided in the majority of these spaces. One room was filled with empty benches, while another had the word "slave" emblazoned on the wall in bold, black letters. Together, these exhibits compose "Art, Race and Violence: A Collaborative Response," a gallery organized by Dr. Earnestine Jenkins and Richard Lou of the University of Memphis.

On Nov. 29, the creators of the exhibits gathered in a panel to explain and address questions about their work. The panel discussion began with the introduction that the gallery was intended to commemorate lynchings that occurred in Memphis. Although the gallery addressed lynching, there were no pictures of horrific violence in the exhibits. The

artists collectively agreed not to utilize pictures of lynching because images of the act, as Dr. Jenkins put it, are "viscerally present." Not directly displaying images of lynching victims allowed viewers to appreciate "the humanity of the individuals" and the artists to "preserve the dignity" of the victims.

Jaimin Carter, a contributor to the project, explained how this project addressed issues that were a "part of public and national discourse" and how historical treatment of minorities is still reflected in the current treatment of minorities. Similar conversations about overt and latent racism are ones that will continue to take place within the Rhodes community. Instances of racism and xenophobia have recently been recorded on campus but the increased visibility of these events has fostered fruitful discussion about racial relations at Rhodes. These discussions align with the emphasis the panel placed on the

necessity of discussions about race.

The panel drew strong parallels between historical lynching and modern injustices faced by African-Americans. By pointing out how physical lynching has manifested itself in contemporary political and social oppression, the group of artists revealed how oppression has been normalized within American culture. Despite the acknowledgement of systemic racism, Dr. Jenkins maintained a hopeful tone, labeling the gallery as an attempt to "effect change on a significant scale."

At the end of the discussion, the panel analyzed the most influential quote to their individual pieces and to the gallery as a whole. The quote, written by the black intellectual James Baldwin, is "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." This idea was central in the creation of the Art, Race, and Violence project, as it was intended to

spark further discourse in Memphis.

The artists also described the therapeutic benefits of creating a deeply emotional and comprehensive exhibit. Dr. Jenkins explained her support for the project by describing the importance of sharing painful experiences. She specified that "activism behind scholarship" will be vital to addressing past, present and future issues. The panel agreed that art has the ability to unite and convey narratives unlike any other medium. Ultimately, the panel of artists concluded that race relations in the United States will fail to improve unless they are directly addressed and become a normalized part of discussion.

Art, Race, and Violence: A Collaborative Response addresses painful and historically significant events while also questioning the course of the future. The gallery will remain at Crosstown Arts until Jan. 14, 2018.

## SPORTS

## No Break for the Men's Basketball Team



BY AYALITA CROSTON '20  
STAFF WRITER

While the vast majority of Rhodes students travelled home over the Thanksgiving break to spend time with friends and loved ones, the coaches required the Varsity Basketball team to stay on campus for the duration of the holiday. The school hosted the Rhodes Thanksgiving Classic, sponsored by Four Points by Sheraton, over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The first few days were spent doing the usual drills and practice exercises, preparing for the weekend games. The tournament began Saturday with Illinois Wesleyan besting Millsaps 80

points to 59. The Lynx then took the court with a 141-107 victory over Howard Payne University. This brought the Lynx's record to 3-1 so far in the season. Bryce Berry '20 led for Rhodes with 20 points scored during the game.

The next day Howard Payne came out victorious over Millsaps 97-73. Coming in undefeated so far this season, Illinois Wesleyan's winning streak continued as they beat the Lynx with 123 points to the Lynx's 104. This brought Rhodes' record down to 3 wins and 2 losses.

Although some viewed it as an inconvenience to not be able to go home for the break, especially when the results turned out to be a mixed-record, some players were still able to see their fami-

lies for the holiday. Colin Minx '20 was glad to be able to play on the Varsity team as a freshman, even if it meant putting in extra hours.

"I was happy to stay over the break because my family said they would come visit me while I was here during the break and they could watch me play," Minx said.

The break was not all work and no play as players were able to spend quality time with one another and would get meals off campus together after practice ended.

"We bonded because we all spent a lot of time with each other and got to know more about each other," Minx said.

In fact, there were benefits to staying on campus over break. It allowed for even more team bonding experiences without the added stress of travel.

"Staying on campus was nice because we didn't have to travel and stay in any hotels so I got to go back to my dorm room at night and sleep in a comfortable bed and it was easy to go hang out with the other guys on the team," said Minx.

The Rhodes Men's Basketball team will, however, travel to Texas this weekend for games at Austin College on Saturday and the University of Texas at Tyler Sunday. The Lynx will host a tournament in Memphis again for their Holiday Classic Dec. 18-19.



## ADS &amp; SATIRE

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Tuesday - 7-10 pm  
 Make Stress Balls in Middle Ground

Wednesday - 8 pm  
 Insomnia Cookies in Barrett 051

Thursday - 8 pm  
 Food Truck in front of the Library

**December 3 - 7**

## God Bless Uncle Gary for His Fridge Full of Busch

BY WARREN SOCHER '19  
 SATIRE WRITER

It's that time of year again. The time where your mom harasses you to purchase a plane ticket for a half-week vacation to your Uncle Barry, Larry or Cary's family's house in Valparaiso, Indiana, for whom your ambivalence is woefully ostensible. After barely squeezing into the driveway next to Aunt Lynn's 1998 Toyota Previa, walking into the house and giving half-assed hugs and greetings, several questions arise:

- Why does every wall in this house have a floral design? And if it isn't, why is it wood?
- Why are the stars and bars hang-

ing above the china set in the dining room? This is the Midwest?

- Why does the house look like the set of a John Wayne Gacy documentary?

After making these initial observations, your Aunt Lynn tells you to go say hello to your cousin Brady who you have not seen in at least a year. From what you remember of Brady, he was a goofy and pretty annoying dude who wore poorly fitted khakis, striped polos and always kept his crusty Nintendo DS on him at all times. You walk into his room and find him with headphones on, obviously listening to some heat. However, it appears Brady has traded his tacky Sunday service casual for a wave cap, a Fubu jacket, an oversized Project Pat T-shirt, Dickies

jeans and some crisp white Air Force Ones. The pièce de résistance? His ostentatious Jesus piece.

You should have known that Valparaiso was fifteen years in the past when seeing the minivan and the wallpaper but cousin Brady and his response to your question about modern hip-hop perfectly illuminated your suspicion: "What's a migo?"

Now it's time for what ought to be a feast of biblical proportions but you haven't seen any trace of turkey, cooking materials or spices. All of a sudden, your Uncle Gary walks in with dozens of Jimmy John's sub sandwiches. Your family is then even more taken aback when Aunt Lynn begins to deconstruct each of the 20 turkey subs, putting the

turkey meat on its own serving platter, mixing the lettuce and tomatoes in a bowl to make a salad and chopping up the buns to make dinner rolls. Your family is horrified yet seriously impressed with Lynn's ingenuity. Now Lynn is staring at the presentation like something is missing. She proceeds to reach into the refrigerator and grab an Ocean Spray cranberry juice cocktail. She pours it in the blender, adds some Welch's grape jelly and mixes it up to fabricate a makeshift cranberry compound for the turkey. It is a culinary performance which impresses the on-lookers even more.

Also God bless Uncle Gary for his fridge full of Busch. Happy Thanksgiving.