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It is absolutely wonderful to have everyone back on campus. As we begin another exciting semester, I hope your summer was restorative and enjoyable. A great deal has happened at Rhodes over the summer, and I am pleased to share a few of these highlights with you.

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First, we have been busy admitting and welcoming the Class of 2027. This is an exceptional group of students. Out of our incoming class of 484 students, 46 percent ranked in the top 10 percent of their class, with 75% in the top 20 percent, and they have a median unweighted GPA of 3.77. They come from 37 states and 15 countries. Eighteen percent are first-generation students, and 34 percent will represent Rhodes on the athletic fields and courts. Forty percent of all incoming students, including international students, are students of color, with 34 percent of all domestic students being students of color. This is the most diverse group of students in the history of the College. We are also honored to welcome twelve new transfer students. We cannot wait to see all that these outstanding new students will accomplish during their time at Rhodes.

GR D I PG Q

We also welcome our newest distinguished member of the Rhodes family. We are excited to see how their expertise and talent will enrich our community and inspire our students.

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I am once again inviting students to meet with me during my student office hours, either individually or in small groups of up to five people. It's a great time to share your ideas with me or voice any concerns you have. You may schedule a time [here](#).

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Rhodes continues to shine nationally as rankings organizations and publications have once again recognized us in the following categories over the last few weeks:

- [Vanderbilt Magazine Best Colleges in America 2024](#)

commend RSC president Claire Kiernan and Dr. David McCarthy, recipient of the Clarence Day Award for Teaching, for their inspiring addresses to our new students.

**E E**

Rhodes was named one of the nation's most innovative national liberal arts colleges by . . . & prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and students were immersed in educational and mentoring opportunities related to entrepreneurship. We are excited to relaunch those initiatives, including the Rhodes College Student Entrepreneurship Club and the annual Rhodes College Business Plan Competition. To support these activities and ensure both educational and entrepreneurial excellence, Eric Mathews, a member of the Rhodes Class of 2002 and chief executive officer of Memphis-based start-up incubator [Start Co.](#), has been selected as entrepreneur-in-residence. You can read more [here](#).

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