Communities in Conversation is the signature public lecture series at Rhodes College. Featuring the insights of scholars, philosophers, historians, artists, thought leaders, intellectuals. These events are all free and open to the public.

For teachers who would like further information or to arrange a visit with a group of students, please call Jacqueline Baker: 901-843-3818.

September 17 - Sven Beckert, “Empire of Cotton”
Rhodes College, Location TBA
6:00 p.m. lecture | 5:30 p.m. reception
Dr. Sven Beckert, the Laird Bell Professor of American History at Harvard University, will be speaking about his book Empire of Cotton: A Global History. Winner of the Bancroft Prize, the most prestigious award for works on American history, the official announcement called it “a masterful achievement in the burgeoning field of the study of capitalism…an expansive global history that also helps us rethink the history of the United States, lifting our understanding of American slavery, cotton production, the Civil War, and Reconstruction out of the parochial confines of nation-centered history.” With Memphis and the Delta at the center of this story, this lecture will transform our understanding of how we fit into the modern world.

An Evening with Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court
Rhodes College, Bryan Campus Life Center
6:00 p.m. lecture | 5:30 p.m. reception
Justice Scalia, the longest serving current member of the Court, offers his perspective on the American founding, the Constitution, and the rule of law.

October 8 - Mike Davis, “Planet of Slums”
Rhodes College, Location TBA
6:00 p.m. lecture | 5:30 p.m. reception
Mike Davis, Professor Emeritus at University of California, Riverside, a MacArthur Fellow and the author of more than twenty books will be speaking about his book Planet of Slums, which investigates the increasing inequality of the urban world. According to the U.N., more than one billion people now live in the slums of the cities of the South. Mike Davis explores the meaning and the future of this radically unequal and unstable urban world.

November 4-5 - Memphis Reads What is the What
The Autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng by Dave Eggers
November 4. - Valentino Achak Deng in conversation with Rhodes Readers
Rhodes College, Location TBA
6:00 p.m. Q&A | 5:30 p.m. reception
November 5. - Memphis Reads book talk and book signing with Dave Eggers
Creative Arts Building, 2375 Tiger Lane S.
7:00 p.m.
Dave Eggers is one of America’s most renowned living authors. His book, What is the What, a finalist for the National Book Award, is the heart-wrenching account of a Sudanese refugee boy, who, despite the odds, journeys to America. The What is the What is an important book for all Americans to read.

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Dialogues across disciplines. Discussions that matter.

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http://wknofm.org/term/counterpoint | https://www.youtube.com/user/rhodescollege
Reflections on the big questions that we face globally, regionally, nationally, locally.

Continued from other side

Book Critics Circle Award, is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children—the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan as a young boy and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, What Is the What is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.

February 18-19 – Memphis Center Symposium on “Art and Place” Rhodes College, Locations TBA
The arts are central to Memphis’ identity—innovations in music, dance, performance, and the visual arts continue to define and shape our sense of this place. Increasingly, the arts are understood as having a key role in social change, community building, and urban development. The Memphis Center at Rhodes College will partner with local leaders, artists, and stakeholders to host conversations about the role of the arts in Memphis culminating in this February 2016 symposium.

Late January-Early February – Tournées French Film Festival Rhodes College, Blount Auditorium
Now in its 4th year at Rhodes, the Tournées French Film Festival features a series of 6 French films, all subtitled and introduced by faculty or local experts. Films this year will include Girlhood, Timbuktu, Because I was a Painter, and the classic Hiroshima Mon Amour.

April 21-23 – Pierce Shakespeare Endowment Symposium on “1616” Rhodes College, Locations TBA
The world of 1616 was a world of motion. Enormous galleons carrying silk and silver across the Pacific created the first true global economy, and the first international megacorporations were emerging as economic powers. In Europe, the deaths of Shakespeare and Cervantes marked the end of an era in literature, as the spirit of the Renaissance was giving way to new attitudes that would lead to an age of revolutions. Slave trading was relocating large numbers of people, while others were migrating in search of new opportunities. Women everywhere were redefining their roles in family and society.

With a keynote lecture by Thomas Christensen based on his 1616: The World in Motion, this three day symposium will use the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare as a way to think about how the world was transformed in this era.