



# Rollins College

Florida's oldest college, Rollins has established itself as one of the best and most distinctive independent, comprehensive liberal arts colleges nationwide. For its commitment to academic quality and student-centered learning, Rollins has consistently been rated by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Colleges."

A member of the prestigious Associated Colleges of the South and Annapolis Group, Rollins enrolls 3,835 students in diverse degree programs through the College of Arts and Sciences, the traditional, residential undergraduate college; the Roy E. Crummer Graduate School of Business with its highly ranked MBA program; and the Hamilton Holt School, offering evening undergraduate and graduate programs. Rollins employs 185 full-time faculty and 433 regular staff members.

Rollins' endowment of \$143 million places it in the top 10 percent of the more than 3,600 universities and colleges in America. Set in the residential community of Winter Park, Florida, and just minutes from the city of Orlando, the 70-acre lakefront campus is often described as one of the most beautiful campuses in America.

## **HISTORY:**

Founded in 1885 with the support of the Congregational Church, Rollins was Florida's first college. From its inception, the College has been independent, nonsectarian, and coeducational, and has attracted students from the local communities of Central Florida and from the northern regions of the United States.

President Hamilton Holt (1925-1949) brought national visibility to the College and left a legacy that includes a distinguished tradition of "experimental" education. During Holt's administration, Rollins College established the Conference Plan, which emphasized close teacher-student contact. Under this plan, teachers and students shared the learning experience around a conference table, an activity that led students to develop clear standards by which to judge their work. The College retains aspects of this method, particularly in its program for first-year students.

The Holt years brought many national figures to campus including: Nobel Peace Prize winner Jane Addams, author Majorie Kinnan Rawlings, Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, Justice William O. Douglas, and Edward R. Morrow. Perhaps most notably, in January 1931, Rollins hosted a Curriculum Conference, with the distinguished educator John Dewey as Chairman. The resulting recommendations -- which emphasized "Individualization in Education" -- were implemented by Rollins in the fall of 1931. So provocative were these innovations, that Sinclair Lewis, in his Stockholm address accepting the Nobel Prize for Literature, listed Rollins first of all the colleges in the United States doing the most to encourage creative work in contemporary literature.

President Hugh Ferguson McKean '30 (1951-1969) continued President Holt's tradition of close relationships with students and, as a former professor, was a strong advocate for assembling a quality faculty. An immensely popular president, he once wrote that a Rollins education "begins with a deep

interest in and respect for the individual.” Under President McKean’s leadership, the College developed the Honors Degree Program for exceptionally well-prepared and qualified students; graduate programs in education and business, including the founding of the Crummer School in 1965; and the Hamilton Holt School, which provides evening education programs for nearly 1,700 adults annually. President McKean also introduced Fox Day, which has become a popular annual ritual whereby classes are cancelled by the president so that students, faculty and staff can come together “to celebrate a beautiful spring day.”

As Rollins celebrated its centennial, President Thaddeus Seymour (1978-1990) defined its goal of providing superior liberal arts education in a personal and caring environment. During his administration, Rollins successfully completed a fund-raising campaign that provided facilities and endowment to support quality improvement and enhanced reputation. During this time, the faculty also completely reformulated the College’s curriculum, based on the pioneering work of the well-known educator B.S. Bloom. Beginning in 1978, students pursued general education requirements in skills (composition, mathematics, foreign language, and decision making), the cognitive area (social, natural, and physical sciences), and the affective area (arts and literature). The framework of this curriculum remains in place to this day, although it continues to be refined.

Dr. Rita Bornstein was elected President in April 1990. Under her leadership, the College focused on strengthening its commitment to excellence, innovation, and community. Standards were raised for faculty evaluation, student selectivity, and all aspects of administration. Innovation was encouraged and rewarded, and programs were added in film studies, international business, and sustainable development, as well as the signature Rollins College Conference for first-year students. The College’s commitment to building strong communities was enhanced through programs of intellectual discourse, civic engagement, international study, and service learning. In February 1997, Rollins reaffirmed its role as a leader in the national conversation regarding liberal education, as President Bornstein convened more than 150 leading educators from 50 colleges and universities across the country for a conference entitled “The Rollins Colloquy -- Toward a Pragmatic Liberal Education: The Curriculum of the Twenty-First Century.”

In October 2001, *The Campaign For Rollins* concluded with President Bornstein’s announcement that the Campaign had raised \$160.2 million, far surpassing its \$100-million goal. Widely considered to have transformed the College, the Campaign financed six new or renovated buildings and much-needed property acquisition; furnished significant financial-aid resources and support for new academic programs and centers; and added 14 endowed chairs, including a chair of distinguished presidential leadership as part of a \$10-million gift to create the first endowed college presidency in the country. Thanks in part to the Campaign, and to astute financial management, the College’s endowment nearly quadrupled in the last 13 years, providing long-term financial stability. Two successful commercial ventures added important new sources of income for educational programs.

Building on its strong traditions, its growing reputation for quality, and its greatly improved financial position, the College is striding forward boldly to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **FACULTY AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:**

The College’s unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching has been integral to the College’s mission since 1885. Ninety-two percent of faculty members possess the Ph.D. or highest degree in their field, and the College of Arts and Sciences has a student/faculty ratio of 11 to 1. In the Higher Education Research Institute’s 2001-02 survey of Rollins Arts & Science faculty:

- 66.9% reported winning awards for teaching, compared with 39.1% nationally;
- 32.8% reported teaching honors courses, compared with 19% nationally;
- 92.2% reported having developed a new course, compared with 76.4% nationally.

Rollins College has a long history of outstanding faculty scholarship in the arts, sciences, business, and education. Faculty regularly author peer-reviewed articles and books, present their work at national and international conferences, and publicly exhibit works of art. Several faculty serve on editorial boards of journals in their field, and all faculty are expected to exhibit a continuing pattern of scholarship throughout their tenure.

Faculty in the Arts and Sciences regularly include students in their scholarly pursuits through participation in the *Rollins College Student-Faculty Summer Scholarship Program*. This program, funded by sources both internal and external to the College, provides funding to students and faculty who wish to collaborate on original scholarly work. During this past year, the program's fourth year of operation, 49 students collaborated with 18 faculty members in 12 different subject areas including: literature, music, theater, environmental studies, religion, library sciences, archaeology, foreign language, psychology, chemistry, biology, and physics. Through this program several students have coauthored articles in peer-reviewed professional journals; developed software, reports, and curricular materials as a public service for state and local agencies; created publicly displayed works of art; written original music; and participated in internationally funded archaeological field work. Rollins has 149 full-time faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences and a total of 185 full-time faculty overall. There are 24 endowed chairs, allowing approximately one in eight faculty to hold a chaired position.

The institution is composed of several divisions: the core program is the traditional, residential undergraduate College of Arts and Sciences; the Roy E. Crummer Graduate School of Business offers a highly ranked MBA program; and the Hamilton Holt School offers evening undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Special programs include the Honors Degree Program and a variety of international study opportunities, including Rollins programs in Sydney, Australia; London, England; Münster, Germany; and Asturias, Spain.

A unique experience of the College of Arts and Sciences is the Rollins College Conference, a seminar class for first-year students in which fifteen students meet with a member of the faculty to explore a topic in the faculty member's area of expertise. The faculty member teaching this seminar course also serves as the student's academic advisor. In keeping with the College's mission to educate students to think critically across disciplines, the general education curriculum exposes students to the ways different areas of knowledge may reinforce and enrich each other. The most popular majors are international business and psychology.

Rollins' fine and performing arts programs are among the best in the nation. The theatre department regularly wins awards for its professional-quality performances. The Annie Russell Theatre, providing seating for 375, serves as home for theatre and musical theatre productions. The Cornell Fine Arts Museum is recognized as one of the finest art museums in the southeast and houses the oldest art collection in Florida. Rollins College has recently created a program known as ARC -- Arts at Rollins College -- which brings together the Annie Russell Theatre, the Cornell Fine Arts Museum, the Virginia S. and W.W. Nelson Department of Music, the Community School of Music, the dance program, and the art department. Rollins also hosts the internationally renowned Winter Park Bach Festival, the nation's fourth oldest Bach festival.

In 1980, the Roy E. Crummer Graduate School of Business became one of only 13 accredited business schools in the U.S. to offer only an MBA degree. Since that time the Crummer School has grown from 50 MBA students to over 400. The Rollins MBA program was ranked 12th among America's Top 25 regional business schools by *Forbes* magazine and was the only MBA program in Florida included in the rankings.

Crummer's high-quality program, offered in a small-class setting with a collegial atmosphere, is case and application oriented. Crummer was the first business school in the country to give laptop computers to its incoming students; today, its classrooms have individual, high-speed Internet connections for each student's notebook computer, and new wireless technology has recently been introduced. The Crummer School's Bush Executive Center—offers non-degree training programs for the Central Florida business community. The Philanthropy & Nonprofit Leadership Center, which provides educational opportunities and resources for the not-for-profit sector, is also an enterprise of the Bush Executive Center.

The Hamilton Holt School offers evening courses leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree in 11 majors, as well as courses leading to master's degrees in education, teaching, mental health counseling or school counseling, human resources, liberal studies, and corporate communication and technology. Rollins evening degree programs serve a diverse population that includes mature adults, traditional-age students, and individuals who work while attending college full- or part-time. Support services are designed to ease the transition for returning college students and to ensure academic success. Small classes, taught by dedicated faculty sensitive to the changing needs of today's college students, especially the adult learner, provide personal attention.

#### **QUALITY OF WORK/LIFE:**

In addition to its 185 regular faculty, Rollins employs 433 regular staff engaged in a wide variety of student, administrative, and operational support occupations. Rollins is committed to promoting and sustaining a diverse, supportive, and caring work environment in which employees can work, learn, and grow. As an indication of this commitment, the College offers flexible work scheduling practices and family-friendly employee benefits, which extend to domestic partners. In recognition of its efforts, Rollins has consistently been recognized by the *Orlando Sentinel* as one of the Top 100 family-friendly workplaces in the Orlando area.

#### **STUDENT PROFILE:**

In the fall of 2002, Rollins' total enrollment was 3835, consisting of: 1723 in Arts and Sciences; 251 at the Brevard Campus; 433 in Crummer; 1079 in Holt undergraduate; and 349 in Holt graduate.

For the entering Arts and Sciences freshman class of fall 2002, more than 2,300 applications were received (1419 women; 888 men). The College accepted 63 percent of the students who applied and 32 percent of those who were accepted enrolled. The enrolled A&S freshman fall 2002 class consisted of 186, or 40 percent, men and 281, or 60 percent, women. The SAT scores of the middle 50 percent of students ranged from 530 to 620 verbal, and from 530 to 630 math; 71 percent of the Class of 2006 ranked in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating classes and 40 percent ranked in the top 10 percent.

Nearly half of the students are from Florida, and another one-third from the Mid-Atlantic or New England states. The total student body represents 42 states and 31 foreign countries. Approximately 18 percent of the A&S students are ethnic minorities, while 22 percent of Hamilton Holt (graduate and

undergraduate) students and 28 percent of Crummer students are ethnic minorities.

Rollins has produced Rhodes, Fulbright, Goldwater, and Truman Scholars. In 1987, Donald Cram, Class of 1941, received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. Nearly one-third of Rollins' graduates continue their education at top-quality business and professional schools. Others pursue career opportunities in Florida and across the country. Rollins College's excellent academic ranking was matched by the caliber of graduate schools accepting its students. Programs selected by Rollins graduates in 2001 and 2002 included: Columbia University, Duke University Law School, Harvard Divinity School, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Parsons School of Design, Purdue University, Temple University, Tulane University, and the University of North Carolina. In addition, a Rollins student won a Morris K. Udall Fellowship in National Environmental Policy for two consecutive years. In 2003, Rollins was one of only eleven liberal arts colleges to have multiple Goldwater Scholarship recipients.

Rollins has 21 varsity athletic teams and is a member of NCAA Division II and the Sunshine State Conference. Eight athletic teams competed in National Championships during the 2002-2003 school year, with Rollins winning national titles in women's golf and water-ski. Rollins also finished 25th of 283 Division II schools in the NACDA Directors' Cup All Sports standings, marking the fourth time in the eight years of the award that Rollins has placed in the top 30. Student-athletes at Rollins also are recognized for their excellent academic achievements. Four student-athletes were honored as Verizon Academic All-Americans during the 2002-2003 school year and Rollins student-athletes posted a cumulative grade point average above 3.0 for the third straight year.

The College opened the Harold & Ted Alfond Sports Center in 2001 to provide facilities for personal fitness and intramural and competitive sports. The Norm Copeland '50 Tennis Stadium, dedicated in May 2002, adds a venue in keeping with Rollins' championship tennis program.

Other student activities include intramural sports, student government, publications, radio and television programming, special interest groups such as the Rollins Outdoor Club, and numerous artistic, musical, dramatic, and social opportunities. Approximately 35 percent of Rollins' A&S students are members of a fraternity or sorority. Rollins students are active in community service, such as teaching adults to read, planning environmental projects, and building Habitat for Humanity homes. They also have helped rebuild villages in Central America and assisted with marketing projects in Bulgaria, France, and other foreign nations.

Sixty-five percent of A&S students live on campus; the goal is to house 75-80 percent. The College's residential options include traditional residence halls, special interest houses, Greek houses, and Sutton Place, an upper-class apartment complex featuring one and two bedroom furnished apartments.

## **CAMPUS & COMMUNITY:**

The Rollins campus is a beautiful 70-acre lakefront setting two blocks from downtown Winter Park. Designed in a distinctive Spanish Mediterranean style, Rollins is often described as one of the most beautiful campuses in America. World-renowned architect Ralph Adams Cram adapted this style in his design of the Knowles Memorial Chapel, which is a significant campus landmark. Both the Chapel and the Annie Russell Theatre are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Winter Park, a premier neighborhood in Central Florida, is a residential community five miles northeast of Orlando, one of the fastest growing cities in the nation with all the amenities of a dynamic city for residents and tourists alike.

The lives of the College and the Winter Park community are closely intertwined. An excellent town/gown relationship exists.

Recent campus enhancements include the Cornell Campus Center, Alford Sports Center, Bush Executive Center in the Crummer Graduate School of Business, Rice Family Bookstore & Café, SunTrust Plaza commercial building and multistory parking garage, Rinker Building housing undergraduate admission and financial aid, Olin Electronic Research and Information Center, Johnson Student Resource Center, Copeland Tennis Stadium, and the McKean Gateway. Construction will begin this year on the new Barker Stadium at the Cahall-Sandspur Field, and plans are underway for the renovation and expansion of the Cornell Fine Arts Museum and Keene Hall, which houses the music department.

The campus facility issues facing the College today, as outlined in the Campus Master Plan (June 2002), include the continuing need to upgrade existing buildings, particularly the residence halls and Bush Science Center, add faculty offices, and update existing classrooms. Three new projects include the design and construction of a 7,200-square-foot, lakefront "President's Home" on Rollins College property in Winter Park, and the renovation of the Cornell Fine Arts Museum and the music building, Keene Hall. Due to a limited amount of space, the College will continue to expand and/or replace existing buildings as well as pursue additional land acquisition.

#### **ALUMNI:**

The College has over 27,000 total alumni of record: 16,161 undergraduate (includes Arts and Sciences and Hamilton Holt undergraduate); 6,257 graduate only (includes Crummer and Hamilton Holt masters who do not hold an undergraduate degree from Rollins); and 5,205 without a degree. Fifty-two percent of all alumni are women.

The Alumni Association, which is represented by a 30-member Board of Directors consisting of diverse class years, geographical locations, and backgrounds, is devoted to providing programs and services that connect alumni with alumni, alumni with the College, and alumni with the Association. The Association is a central point of contact for alumni networks and organizes Regional and Young Alumni events as well as Reunion. The Young Alumni Program was developed to involve recent graduates with Rollins and is supported by the Young Alumni Council, composed of 27 young alumni. Prominent alumni include Fred Rogers '51, creator of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, Anthony Perkins '54, actor, Donald Cram '41, 1987 Nobel Prize Recipient, and Raymond Hickok '40, Founder of Young Presidents' Organization.

#### **BUDGET AND FINANCE:**

Rollins is a financially healthy institution. Its endowment of \$143 million places it within the top 10 percent of colleges and universities nationwide. The budget has been in balance for ten consecutive years. The annual budget is approximately \$66 million net of \$15 million in financial aid. Student income accounts for 85 percent of fund revenues, reflecting record enrollment in all programs. The College's commercial properties, SunTrust Plaza and the Samuel B. Lawrence Center, continue to generate net income in support of Rollins' educational program.

*The Campaign For Rollins*, concluded in October 2001, raised \$160.2 million, exceeding the original goal by more than 60 percent. The Campaign provided support for capital projects, current operations, and the endowment. Rollins alumni contributed more than half of the total funds raised.

## **FOX DAY:**

Fox Day is a 46-year-old tradition at Rollins. Each spring, the President cancels all classes, providing students with a surprise day off. A statue of the Rollins fox appears on the Mills lawn early in the morning, and the Chapel bells ring to alert students, many who immediately head for the beach. The three-foot-high, 300-pound statue, with its knowing air, the hint of a smirk playing at its lips, contemplates the campus all day, watching students, faculty and staff enjoy their brief respite.

The tradition of Fox Day, like so much Rollins lore, is rich and fascinating. In January 1934, Hamilton Holt, who served as Rollins' president from 1925 to 1949, acquired statues of a fox and a cat from Senator Murray Sams. These statues were permanently placed on the walkway of Rec Hall – a structure the pool has since replaced.

Inspired by the two statues, Holt founded a “Cat Society” for women and a “Fox Society” for men. According to the Rollins Archives, these societies were exclusive groups made up of four women and four men each. Members were elected by an annual vote of the student body. The women elected the foxes and the men elected the cats.

These privileged members were the only people permitted to touch the statues. But occasionally, the fox and cat were taken and hidden as practical jokes. Unfortunately, in 1949, the cat statue was smashed beyond repair. To this day, the crime remains unsolved.

On May 17, 1956, President Hugh McKean (1951-1969) started Fox Day. The grief-stricken, lonely fox was placed on the horseshoe, and the day's classes were canceled. After a brief assembly, activities began at 5:30 a.m. with a treasure hunt, and ended with a square dance and an evening picnic.

The students enjoyed the tradition so well that in 1958 when President McKean discarded it, they resurrected Fox Day themselves. This initiated an agreement between the students and Dr. McKean, who granted them freedom for the day on the condition that they return in the evening for a picnic and a choir performance in the Knowles Chapel.

When President Jack Critchfield (1969-1978) came to Rollins, he discontinued the tradition due to the turbulence of the sixties. The fox was given back to McKean, and the welfare of Rollins, its presidents and its traditions.

The savvy fox found his way back to campus in 1979, during Thaddeus Seymour's administration (1978-1990). Seymour said, “When I was president of Wabash College in Indiana, we had a similar day called ‘Elmore Day.’ It was very natural to me, and I believe any sensible college should have a day like this.” So the popular Fox Day was reinstated and continues today.

This profile was last updated January 2004. Any updates to statistics can be found at the Institutional Research section of the Office of the Provost webpage, located at: <http://www.rollins.edu/provost/ir/quickfacts.html>.