

art@hendrix! 1980s

The 1980s was a decade of firsts for Hendrix College. The year 1980 marked the beginning of Arkansas Governor's School, a residential summer program which was held on the college's campus for 40 years. In 1981, Dr. Roy B. Shilling, Jr. stepped down from his role as Hendrix's president, and Dr. Joe B. Hatcher filled his position. That same year, Hendrix hired its first full-time Black faculty member, Dr. Alice Hines, as an assistant professor of English. Hines worked at the college for 36 years before retiring in 2017, and her classes on World Masterpieces and Zora Neale Hurston were campus favorites.

The 1980s also saw the emergence of new student events, including the first ever Miss Hendrix drag show in 1981. An expanded version of the annual Freshman Follie Contest, this event parodied the University of Central Arkansas's yearly student pageant. Leading up to the event was "Kampus Kitty Week," during which the college's philanthropic organization hosted events such as the Professor Pig Kiss, Bad Movie Festival, and Casablanca Casino Night.

Other memorable campus events from the 1980s include the Beans 'n Brew Blowout, a chili cook-off and party celebrating the opening of a new Hendrix apartment complex. The college's 1983 decision to allow alcohol in student dorms made parties rowdier, and this event was no different. Hendrix students also enjoyed musical guests like The Gun Bunnies, who played the 1986 Winter Formal, and the rap duo Taj Mahal, who played in the fall of 1988.