

art@hendrix! 2000s

Hendrix College underwent significant changes after President Die announced her retirement in 2000. Dr. J. Timothy Cloyd officially became the college's 10th president in 2001, and during his tenure, Hendrix undertook nearly constant construction projects. The Donald W. Reynolds Center for Life Sciences opened in 2001 and provided a home for Biology and Psychology courses. The Bertie Wilson Murphy Building opened in 2002, a new three-building Art complex opened in 2003, and the Wellness and Athletics Center (WAC) opened in 2007, providing students with an aquatics center, climbing wall, fitness gym, and recreational gym.

Under President Cloyd, Hendrix also established the Odyssey Program. Named after Homer's epic poem about adventures, leadership, and growth, the program provides funding for travel and experiential learning opportunities. Since the program's inception in 2005, the Odyssey office has awarded over \$4 million in competitive grants to more than 3,000 students and faculty members.

Student life in the 2000s started off with a push for racial equity on campus. In 2000, Student Senate established a Multicultural Development Committee, designed to broaden students' knowledge of non-white cultures. That same year, Students Promoting the Education of Asian Cultures (SPEAC) reformed and hosted an Asian culture movie marathon in celebration of Chinese New Year. Students for Black Culture also hosted a variety of events, including a Martin Luther King Jr. chapel service, Black history trivia, Black Voice (a presentation of Black authors and artists), and a Gospel Explosion, in which choirs from surrounding areas performed on the Hendrix campus.

A favorite event across the decade was Faux Rush Week, a celebration of Hendrix's Greek-free status at the beginning of each school year. In 2005, students attended a casino night, a slip 'n slide party outside Veasey Hall, and a performance by Ted Leo and the Pharmacists. In 2007, the week included inflatables, face painting, and a cookout behind Raney Hall. Regardless of the year, Faux Rush Week ended with Foam Party, when students filled the Brick Pit with bubbles and danced the night away.

Other favorite student events from the 2000s remain campus favorites, including Ghost Roast, an annual Halloween party descended from Goat Roast, and SoCo 54, a 1970's themed disco party with cage dancers and a light-up dance floor. Other enduring staples of Hendrix student life include the MDC Block Party, Winter Formal, Miss Hendrix, and the Toga party.