Dear Rice Families,

Welcome to the first edition of the Rice Parents & Families newsletter. It may seem counterintuitive to launch a newsletter at the end of the school year, but in education there isn't really an end, per se, to any year. The reality is that while classes have come to a close, many of our students' academic experiences are continuing this summer in the form of internships, research or travel abroad. And for the Class of 2011, there has certainly been a culmination, but a new beginning as well.

As you know, Rice students walk through the Lovett Hall’s Sallyport into the Academic Quad during matriculation and march out the opposite way into Founder’s Court during commencement. This tradition marks two transitions: the first into collegiate life and the second into alumni life. The superstition goes that you must avoid walking through the Sallyport at all costs between these two milestones, although at what penalty I am not sure. The tradition is part of the uniqueness — some would say quirkiness — that makes Rice the distinctive place it is.

When it comes down to it, this tradition is about marking how far we’ve come but, more so, it’s about looking ahead to the next stage, to life’s next challenge. Here’s how we look at it:

At Rice, we believe nothing is impossible. There is no “what if” that cannot become “what is.” It just takes radical thinking to get there and a community of brilliant dreamers and passionate doers to lead the way. It sounds like a lot from a small university, but that’s what makes us special. That’s what’s given us unconventional wisdom for nearly 100 years.

So, unconventional though it may be, this newsletter is about celebrating beginnings. Here’s to your students making the most of their educations. Here’s to our recent graduates and their future achievements. And here’s to you — parents, families and friends — and the new conversation we are starting in these pages. I hope you will find this newsletter useful and informative, and I look forward to keeping in touch with you throughout the year.

Go Owls!

John Hutchinson
Dean of Undergraduates

GETTING STARTED

While this edition of the newsletter is coming to you in the mail, we hope to transition to an electronic version that will be emailed. This will not only save trees, it will allow us to provide convenient access to our online resources. The first step is to make sure that we have your preferred contact information by visiting www.parentscontact.rice.edu.

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RICE UNIVERSITY
100 YEARS
1912–2012

www.parents.rice.edu
They call the stomach our “second brain.” Not only can it learn and remember, but its hundreds of millions of nerves are biologically linked to the “other bundle” in the head, proving something we already knew — a good meal really is brain food.

Many of Rice’s students eat three meals a day in Rice’s serv- eries, which underscores the importance of offering a diverse, well-balanced menu. Our chefs, 16 of whom are certified by the American Culinary Federation, emphasize organic, fair-trade and local ingredients and often serve the catch of the day from the Gulf, such as blue marlin and amberjack. Their culinary repertoire also includes award-winning Texas chili and seafood gumbo, tasty vegetarian and vegan fare, and crepes and other international dishes.

The chefs pride themselves on interacting with students and observing their dietary needs and preferences. They even teach cooking classes on making crepes, pecan pie and crawfish étouffée. “Students watch TV shows like ‘Iron Chef’ and the Food Network and become armchair chefs themselves,” said Brad Thacker, senior operations manager for Rice College Food Service. “They dream up some strange things and come up with interesting suggestions, and the chefs work with them.”

For more about Rice dining, visit www.dining.rice.edu.

Student Life

Highlights From 2010–11

On any given week at Rice, there’s likely to be dozens of campus events to attend, significant achievements in the lab or classroom, new art shows or debut theater productions. So it’s no easy task to summarize a full year of student life, but here are just some of the highlights:

• Last fall, the university officially inaugurated its newest residential colleges, McMurtry and Duncan.

• The Princeton Review ranked Rice No. 1 in the country for “best quality of life” and No. 2 for “lots of race/class interaction” between students of different backgrounds.

• It was a year of birthdays: Willy’s Pub celebrated its 35th, the Rice Coffeehouse its 20th, Fondren Library and Rice Stadium their 60th, and Lovett Hall turned 100.

• The Rice football team brought home the Bayou Bucket in October by defeating the University of Houston, 34–31.

• Rice seniors earned a Rhodes Scholarship and two Marshall Scholarships, an achievement of academic honors never before received by a single graduating class. Congratulations to Rhodes Scholar Ye jin Kang and Marshall Scholars Anthony Austin and Jingyuan Luo.

• In January, the East Servery opened to serve Will Rice and Lovett colleges.

• In anticipation of Rice’s 2012 Centennial Celebration, the Student Association launched Rice in a Box, an annual archive project designed to collect and store the history of student life at Rice through photographs, T-shirts, programs and other memorabilia.

• The Rice baseball team won the Conference USA baseball championship and qualified for its 17th consecutive NCAA championship tournament. Coach Wayne Graham recorded his 900th career win on May 6.
Happiness was not only in the air at Rice University’s commencement on May 14, it was also the subject of New York Times columnist David Brooks’ keynote address to members of the 98th graduating class and their families. On a clear, cool Texas spring day, Rice awarded degrees to 1,550 students.

Describing himself as the Times’ “center-right” columnist and “the final blowhard, the last gasbag between you and your degree,” Brooks talked about the pursuit of happiness by previous generations and how that has changed.

Partying is a good start, he said as he looked over the packed Academic Quad, and another kind of happiness involves money, beauty and status. “You, as graduates, will not be happy with this level,” he said and then quoted Harvard psychiatrist George Vaillant: “Happiness is love, full stop.”

“You will fall in love and confront this problem: Is this the person you want to marry? It’s important to get it right,” Brooks said. “If you have a great career and a bad marriage, you will be miserable. If you have a great marriage and bad career, you can still be happy.”

While previous generations followed predetermined routes to happiness — get a degree, find a job, marry and buy a home — Brooks said things have changed. “You will spend the next 10 years wandering around American society looking for opportunities, finding challenges and finding yourselves,” he said, “and while you’re doing this, your parents will be going quietly insane.

“Life means taking responsibility for the tasks and the problems that are put in front of us,” Brooks said. “Put yourself in the path of many problems and tasks. The crucial tests are: Have you done enough reading and thinking so you will be aware of the summons around you? Do you have the ability to throw yourself against the currents of your culture?”

Brooks concluded with this advice: “The purpose of life is not to find yourself, but to lose yourself.”

Through the Sallyport: A Student’s Journey From Matriculation to Commencement

This year, Rice celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Lovett Hall, the university’s first building and the centerpiece of matriculation and commencement ceremonies. The most recognizable element of Lovett Hall is the arched entryway, the Sallyport. Adorning the innermost arch on both the Sallyport’s east and west sides are four iconic sculptures depicting a student’s journey through Rice.
As a Rice parent, you are already one of the university’s best advocates. Now you can play an even greater role in the university by supporting Rice’s historic vision for growth and advancement.

Rice Annual Fund

You’re probably aware that Rice is consistently ranked as a best value among private top tier universities, but did you know that tuition covers only a portion of the cost to provide Rice students with a world class education? Annual gifts from parents help bridge that gap by supporting the cornerstones of the student experience, including:

- A vibrant residential college system.
- Professorships to retain and support faculty.
- A state-of-the-art library with the latest research materials and technologies.
- Programs, such as the Center for Civic Engagement that build students’ leadership skills and connect them with local and global communities.
- Stipends for hands-on research and travel to conferences.
- Intramural and club sports.
- A beautiful and dynamic campus.

Because the Annual Fund provides current-use resources, your gift allows the university to seize emerging educational opportunities that might not be funded otherwise. Gifts also benefit students after graduation, since enhancing Rice’s excellence in turn raises the value of a Rice degree.

Centennial Campaign

The Centennial Campaign is Rice’s $1 billion fundraising effort. Launched in fall 2008, the campaign will culminate during the university’s centennial in 2012. Inspired by the Vision for the Second Century — Rice’s 10-point strategy for growth and advancement as one of the premier research universities in the world — the campaign to date has raised more than $720 million toward a range of exciting initiatives.

Significant enhancements already include two new residential colleges, the Gibbs Recreation and Wellness Center and the Brockman Hall for Physics, as well as more than $70 million in endowed scholarship funds, student leadership development programs, study abroad assistantships and much more.

To learn more about the Centennial Campaign’s impact on Rice’s present and future and to discover how you can support Rice’s philanthropic priorities, contact Kathy Duplessis, director of development for parents and families, at 713-348-4619 or kdup@rice.edu.

Parents Leadership Circle

We are pleased to recognize parents who make gifts of $2,500 or more to the Rice Annual Fund as members of the Parents Leadership Circle. Leadership donors are recognized in Rice’s annual giving societies and are invited to a special leadership reception during Families Weekend every fall.

Commemorate Your Student’s Journey With a Gift to Rice

We invite you to make a gift to the Rice Annual Fund in commemoration of your student’s graduation or in honor of a professor, staff member or coach who has played a prominent role in your student’s education. Upon receipt of your gift, a special card will be sent to the honoree informing them of your contribution.

Make your gift online at http://giving.rice.edu/parents and in the special instructions box, note the person you wish to honor.
Rice Basketball Star Named ‘Most Courageous’

On the surface, McMurtry College junior Arselan Kazemi’s childhood dream to play professional basketball in the U.S. isn’t that different from millions of boys and girls who have watched NBA and WNBA games and idolized its stars. But his path to playing NCAA Division I basketball is different than — well, everyone’s.

When Kazemi joined the Owls in 2009, he became the first Iranian-born athlete to play NCAA Division I basketball, and it wasn’t easy. He traveled more than 500 miles just to obtain a visa and was warned that he might face anti-Iranian sentiment in the U.S. Still, the former captain of the Iranian junior national team was determined, so much so that he turned down professional opportunities in order to come to the U.S. to study at and play for Rice.

Why Rice? For several reasons, Kazemi explained: the small campus, excellent academics, coach Ben Braun’s reputation with international players and the kinship with assistant coach Marco Morcos, who broke ground himself as the first Egyptian on a D-I coaching staff. Houston is home to one of the country’s largest Middle Eastern communities, and Kazemi has close family friends here.

On the court, the 6 foot 7 inch forward has emerged as a team leader. This season, he pulled down Conference USA best 11.1 rebounds per game and was among the leaders in scoring, with 15 points per game, and field goal percentage of .522. For demonstrating extraordinary courage reflecting honor in the sport of amateur basketball, he was named a co-winner of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association’s Most Courageous Award.

“I am very happy about receiving this award,” Kazemi said. “Basketball is not an individual sport; it is a team sport. I would not be where I am today without my teammates and the Rice coaching staff who have supported me.”
Important Dates

**Aug. 1:** Tuition due for incoming freshmen.

**Aug. 8:** Tuition due for returning undergraduate students.

**Aug. 14:** Orientation Week (O-Week) begins. Move-in day and New Families Orientation, including an introduction to the college experience, college master’s receptions, lunch in the college commons, a welcome from President David Leebron and information sessions on academic advising, study abroad and more. [www.rice.edu/newfamilies](http://www.rice.edu/newfamilies)

**Aug. 22:** Fall semester first day of classes.

**Sept. 2:** Last day to complete late registration or add courses.

**Oct. 10-11:** Midterm recess.

**Oct. 12:** The 99th anniversary of Rice’s founding and one year countdown to the centennial celebration on Oct. 10-14, 2012.

**Oct. 20-23:** Rice Families Weekend featuring residential college events, coffee with the president, Rice Families Luncheon, football, film festivals and more. [www.rice.edu/famweek](http://www.rice.edu/famweek)

**Nov. 4-6:** Rice Homecoming & Reunion 2011.

**Nov. 13-18:** Spring semester registration.

**Nov. 24-25:** Thanksgiving recess.

**Dec. 2:** Last day of classes.