Dear Rice Families,

Greetings from Rice University. Summer at Rice is a wonderful time, full of reflections on the successes from the year just completed but similarly filled with planning and anticipation of the upcoming year. To all of our families with students matriculating in August, we are excited about our entering class and anxious for them to join us. Preparations for Orientation Week began in January with the appointment of student director of orientation Katherine McConachie, a senior at Lovett College. In February, O-Week coordinators were named, and they will work throughout the summer to create a rewarding and successful orientation.

During this past year, we continued our strong efforts to create opportunities for our students to reach the highest levels of achievement. Several students received prestigious honors, which include two Marshall Scholars, a Mitchell Scholar, three Fulbright Scholars, two Watson Fellows, three Goldwater Scholars, 18 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellows, two Truman Scholars and a Udall Scholar. During the academic year, students working in the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen conceived and created such devices as the LinDi, which automates correction of bone deformities in children; the Babalung, an apnea monitor, which helps premature infants restart their own breathing or alert parents and medical personnel if they do not; and a design process for extracting shale gas into methanol and hydrogen gas with low environmental impact. Each semester, students travel to study and work across the globe, with urban research projects in London and Istanbul; global outreach projects in Guatemala, Belize and Peru; and international education in Turkey, Singapore, France and India, amongst many others.

In October 2012, Rice will celebrate its centennial with a four-day series of academic, cultural and social events commemorating our 100 years and highlighting the achievements of our faculty and students. Please be sure to follow the emails and postings about the schedule for these events, as you are welcome to join us for the festivities along with your students. There will be TED-style lectures, concerts, an academic procession, research presentations and a spectacular event to cap it all off.

Rice continues to be the home for students who share in common a Culture of Care and a Culture of Expectations. I am looking forward to another year working with such extraordinary students in such a supportive community.

Best wishes,

[Signature]

Rice CAN

Alumni, faculty, students, parents and other friends of Rice University are needed for a new outreach and advocacy effort called the Rice Community Action Network (Rice CAN). Through Rice CAN, the Office of Public Affairs will share information about Rice’s priorities and provide talking points and other tools for members to use to communicate with friends, co-workers, elected officials and others. To join the Rice CAN team and help raise the university’s visibility and impact, go to www.rice.edu/CAN.

Rice Centennial Goes Global in Istanbul

Rice’s founding president, Edgar Odell Lovett, went to Istanbul as part of his global tour to learn from the best universities around the world. More recently, approximately 120 Rice alumni, officials and students from Houston and all over the world gathered in Istanbul, Turkey, June 8–10 for the major international event of the Centennial Celebration. For more information about this special event, visit http://news.rice.edu/2012/06/15/rice-centennial-goes-global-in-istanbul/.
Celebrating Rice Traditions

This year marked the 54th annual Rice tradition of Willy Week and Beer Bike. Willy Week, a celebration in honor of founder William Marsh Rice, included a number of college and campuswide events. Willy’s birthday was commemorated with Cupcakes on the Quad, Beer Debates, International Beer Night and, of course, water-balloon filling in preparation for the annual pre-Beer Bike water balloon fight.

Perfect weather conditions made for one of the best years of weather in recent Beer Bike history. After a hard-fought, two-stop balloon fight, students headed to the track to see their beloved racers and chuggers compete for the glory of Beer Bike champion. While Will Rice had an incredible showing, winning both the alumni and women’s race, they were forced to succumb to the ferocity of the Graduate Student Association for the men’s race, losing by only nine seconds. Students, alumni and bike-day volunteers all enjoyed a day of fun and friendly competition.

Spotlight on Colleges: Hanszen and Wiess College

The college system is one of the many things that sets Rice apart from other universities. In the next several issues, this column will explore different colleges to see what gives them their individuality and character as described by one of the college masters.

For more information about the residential college system, visit www.students.rice.edu/students/colleges.asp. For a virtual tour, visit http://rice.edu/collegetour.

Hanszen College

Hanszen College, named after Harry Clay Hanszen, a member of the Rice University Board of Governors from 1946–1950, recently celebrated its 55th anniversary. As one of the four founding colleges, Hanszen is rich in history — including establishment of the foundation of what became KTRU and the Coffeehouse. Hanszen is known as the Family College because of the sense of belonging it instills among its members.

“Our favorite thing about Hanszen is reflected in our unofficial motto: Tradition and Novelty. While we care about our history and show that through many customs, Hanszen students are always looking to create something new.”

Rob Griffin and Ann McAdam Griffin
Hanszen College Masters

Wiess College

Wiess College was one of the original four colleges created when the residential college system was implemented in 1957. It is named for Harry Carothers Wiess, elected as a life member of the Rice Board of Trustees in 1944. Male and female members of Wiess College are known equally as Wiessmen. In 2002, Wiess became the only college at Rice to relocate from one building to another and is currently the southwesternmost residential college, located adjacent to Hanszen and the South Plant. Wiess considers itself to have an intense community spirit, signified by the slogan and cheer “Team Wiess,” which has been used consistently since the 1970s.

Alex and Jeanette Byrd
Wiess College Masters
Commencement 2012

The grass was still soggy and clouds covered the sun May 12, but the rain had passed just in time for Rice University’s 99th commencement to be held outdoors in the Academic Quad. Salman Khan, founder of Khan Academy, provided the commencement address. Rice awarded a total of 1,665 degrees to 1,609 students, including 881 degrees to 832 undergraduates and 784 master’s degrees and Ph.D.s to 777 graduate students.
Parent Engagement

10 Great Ways for Parents and Families to Get Involved

Okay, so there are probably 100 ways for parents to get involved — one for every year the university has been in existence — but we had to get things started somehow. Truth is, Rice parents are always surprising us with their generosity of time, resources and genuine enthusiasm, and we wanted to showcase some of your favorite ways to engage with the university while offering a few new suggestions you might find exciting. If you have questions about any of the options listed below, please contact Kathy Duplessis, director of development for parents and families, at 713-348-4619 or kdup@rice.edu.

1. **Join a summer send-off party.**
Send the incoming students packing in style by joining (or hosting) a send-off party in your area this summer. It’s one of the best ways to show your support while connecting with local parents and Rice alumni.

2. **Watch the sun set ... like you've never seen it.**
Rice’s newest outdoor installation, “Twilight Epiphany” Skyspace, the Suzanne Deal Booth Centennial Pavilion, by celebrated international artist James Turrell, is a pyramidal grass berm with a floating canopy roof and interior seating on two levels. Free reservations for sunset are now being taken at [http://skyspace.rice.edu](http://skyspace.rice.edu). Your reservation will allow you to grab a seat just before sunset to experience how the artist’s signature use of light and indeterminate space extends and enhances perception. Learn more at [http://skyspace.rice.edu](http://skyspace.rice.edu).

3. **Celebrate Rice with Rice families.**
Join us for Families Weekend Sept. 20–23, 2012, for a variety of events geared just for you: attend classes or have lunch with your student; experience art debuts, lectures and recitals; or simply wander in, grab a coffee or glass of wine and chat with other members of the Rice community at the Brochstein Pavilion. See a complete list of events at [www.rice.edu/famweek](http://www.rice.edu/famweek).

4. **Take a course from Rice’s best and brightest professors.**
For one weekend every spring, Rice alumni, parents and friends are invited to expand their intellectual horizons at Alumni College on campus. Hosted by the Association of Rice Alumni, the program features courses for just about everyone, from physics and architecture to nanoscience and Shakespeare. Learn from legendary professors and rising stars while mingling with fellow classmates from all over the country. Learn more at [http://alumni.rice.edu/alumnicollege](http://alumni.rice.edu/alumnicollege).

5. **Host a student intern through Leadership Rice or Gateway.**
Rice programs such as Leadership Rice and the School of Social Sciences’ Gateway program help facilitate short-term, summer and year-long internships for Rice undergraduates seeking to apply their classroom learning to real-world situations and gain valuable work experience. Parents have hosted students all over the U.S. and abroad in London, Istanbul, Dubai and Pune, India. Contact Kathy Duplessis at 713-348-4619 or kdup@rice.edu for more details.

6. **Catch a ‘show’ by world-class musicians and athletes.**
At Rice, our musicians and athletes aren’t just some of the world’s best thinkers and entrepreneurs in the classroom — they also are world-class performers on the stage and the field. In fact, Rice’s Shepherd School of Music rivals the top music programs in the country, and our scholar-athletes go toe-to-toe with the nation’s best. Any way you look at it, Rice is one of the best shows in Houston.

7. **Meet national and international dignitaries.**
Did you know that Rice is home to one of the world’s top-ranked nonpartisan think tanks? In addition to producing cutting-edge scholarship on some of the most important public policy challenges of our time, Rice’s Baker Institute for Public Policy hosts several membership events with national and international leaders and dignitaries. Visit [www.bakerinstitute.org](http://www.bakerinstitute.org) for more details.

8. **Make a gift online.**
What does it take to keep the quality of student life and learning so excellent? Is it (A) small class sizes; (B) conversations with professors outside the classroom; (C) amazing college coordinators, RAs and masters; or (D) a real sense of community and friendship? If you answered “all of the above — and then some,” then chances are you’re one of many parents who support the Rice Annual Fund, the university’s most powerful source of current-use funding. Make your gift of any size at [http://giving.rice.edu](http://giving.rice.edu).

9. **Network with other proud parent and family volunteers.**
There are several ways to get involved, from hosting a parent gathering in your region to interviewing prospective students to joining the Rice Annual Fund’s Parents Leadership Committee. To learn more about these exciting volunteer opportunities, contact Kathy Duplessis at 713-348-4619 or kdup@rice.edu.

10. **Join us for the celebration of Rice’s century.**
Rice is rolling out the “blue carpet” for alumni, parents and friends during its historic Centennial Celebration Oct. 10–14, 2012. Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of Rice’s first 100 years — and set the stage for greater achievements in Rice’s second century. Visit [www.centennial.rice.edu](http://www.centennial.rice.edu) for more details.

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**Welcome, Class of 2016**

Congratulations to parents and families of the Class of 2016. You’re joining Rice’s community at an exciting point in its history. We look forward to meeting you soon and getting to know you over the coming years.

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**Parent Giving Sets New Record**

Thanks to 1,369 proud supporters, Rice parents and families surpassed their goal of $450,000 for the 2011–12 academic year, setting an all-time high in annual parent giving. Our deepest thanks go to Kathryn and Damir Vrcek for their leadership and enthusiasm as parent co-chairs. We wish their daughter, Maria ’12, all the best as she pursues her master’s degree in English at Georgetown University.
Rice’s Award-winning Art Car

Centenni-Owl, an art car designed and built by Rice undergraduates and their instructors as part of the spring semester class Art Car 101, took home a third-place trophy in the 25th annual Houston Art Car Parade May 12. In honor of Rice’s centennial year, the Centenni-Owl was the 100th entrant in the parade.

Art Car 101 was a collaboration between the visual and dramatic arts department and the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen. The course provided a way to involve the entire Rice community — including students, staff, faculty and alumni — in a project celebrating Rice’s centennial.

News Around Campus

George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching
Mark P. Embree, professor of computational and applied mathematics

George R. Brown Awards for Superior Teaching
Michelle R. Hebl, professor of psychology
Steven J. Cox, professor of computational and applied mathematics
Roberta H. Anding, lecturer of kinesiology
James M. Tour, professor of chemistry
Z. Maria Oden, professor in the practice of engineering education
Bridget K. Gorman, associate professor of sociology
Alma M. Novotny, lecturer of biochemistry and cell biology
Paul M. Stevenson, professor of physics and astronomy
Jose F. Aranda, associate professor of English

Nicolas Salgo Distinguished Teacher Award
Brent Houchens, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and materials science

Save the Date!
Oct. 10–14

This year marks the centennial of the Rice Institute’s opening and the matriculation of its first class of students. Please save the date for Oct. 10–14, when we will commemorate Rice’s first 100 years and celebrate the remarkable journey that has transformed Rice from a bold little institute on the edge of the prairie to a thriving international university on the cutting edge of education and research.

The Centennial Celebration promises to be one of the most vibrant events ever held at Rice. But you need not wait until October 2012 to take part in the festivities. For the calendar of upcoming centennial events, please visit http://centennial.rice.edu/calendar.aspx.

The actual week of celebration will include not only the centennial, but Homecoming and Reunion 2012 as well. Over a period of five days, events will include an academic procession, a statue dedication, the Centennial Lecture Series, performances, exhibits, receptions and parties, and a nighttime spectacle on Saturday and Sunday evening.

An UnConvention-al Open House

Thousands of visitors ventured to campus April 11–15 for the UnConvention, an open house designed to let the public explore Rice’s “unconventional wisdom.”

The event was a centennial-year reinvention of the old Rice Engineering Show, which debuted in 1920. The UnConvention — with more than 120 scheduled events illustrating the wonders of engineering, science, art, music and dance available at Rice on a regular basis — offered modern-day marvels for a 21st-century audience. Guests young and old rubbed shoulders with Rice students and professors eager to share their research and inventions.
Important Dates

Aug. 1
Tuition due for incoming freshmen

Aug. 10
Tuition due for returning undergraduate students

Aug. 12
Move-in day and new families orientation, featuring an intro to the college experience, college masters’ receptions, lunch in college commons, a welcome from President Leebron, and information sessions on academic advising, study abroad and more

Aug. 12–17
Orientation Week (O-Week) for new students

Aug. 20
First day of classes for fall semester

Aug. 30
Rice football season opens against the UCLA Bruins at Rice Stadium. For information, visit www.riceowls.com.

Aug. 31
Last day to complete late registration or add courses

Sept. 3
Labor Day — No classes

Sept. 20–23
Families Weekend, featuring residential college events, coffee with the president, Rice Families Luncheon, Rice vs. Marshall football game, film festivals and more. For information, visit www.rice.edu/famweek.

Oct. 10–14
Centennial Celebration. No scheduled classes Oct. 11–12. This will also include Homecoming and Reunion 2012 weekend. Events will include an academic procession, statue dedication, Centennial Lecture Series, musical and theatrical performances, exhibits, receptions and parties, and the Rice Show, an evening spectacular.

Nov. 11–16
Spring registration

Nov. 22–23
Thanksgiving recess

Nov. 30
Last day of classes

Dec. 5–12
Final exams for undergraduate courses