Dear Rice Families,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Parents & Families Newsletter. Inside, you’ll find some great stories about the start of Rice’s academic year. It has already been an eventful, educational and fun-filled semester so far, and we are looking forward to more of the same.

As I write this, we are already well into this fall’s classes, with O-Week now a fond memory. The first round of midterm exams is approaching, varsity and intramural sports are in full swing, and each college is ramping up for theater productions and other annual fall activities.

My great pleasure as dean of undergraduates is sharing in the incredible experiences of our students. I recently attended a presentation given by students who participated in the Center for Civic Engagement’s Fellows program. Students — freshmen to seniors — talked about their research internships, which took place throughout the summer in laboratories across the U.S. and the world. As I learned more about these experiences, I was amazed and proud to realize that these students chose to spend their summers immersed in study both domestically and abroad.

At Rice, we take pride in our philosophy of student self-governance, which is represented in the Honor Council, the colleges, the Student Association, the Rice Program Council and in numerous organizations devoted to service, research, culture and sports. The student leadership of these organizations is truly impressive, and Rice students are learning leadership by experience and working together to create new programs and solve problems.

I mention all of these activities because we like to set high expectations for our students. From independent creative work, to international study, to civic engagement, to leadership, we want our students to reach beyond themselves and use their time to grow as individuals and as scholars. At Rice, we provide them the opportunities, resources, advice and support to achieve these high aspirations and hope you join us in encouraging your student to find these opportunities for growth — inside the classroom and out.

I hope that you will be attending Families Weekend, Oct. 20–23, and look forward to seeing you there.

Dean Hutchinson and his wife, Paula, greeting incoming freshmen during move-in day at Rice

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, but also 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.

INSIDE

Student Life
Rice O-Week 2011
News Around Campus
Parents Giving
Important Dates

SAVE THE DATE!
Centennial Celebration
Oct. 10–14, 2012

Rice University
100 Years
1912–2012

www.parents.rice.edu
Rice Welcomes Its 100th Class

On Aug. 14, Rice University President David W. Leebron welcomed the Class of 2015 — the university’s 100th class. He called the group of 1,000 “the young immortals,” a phrase used by Rice’s first president, Edgar Odell Lovett, when he addressed the Class of 1916.

Lovett, along with about a dozen faculty members, welcomed Rice’s first class of 45 men, dressed in suits and ties, and 14 women, who wore hats and white dresses. The students, mostly from Houston and throughout Texas, looked as solemn as the Athenian owl, Rice’s mascot, which was chosen by Lovett himself.

Nearly 100 years later, Leebron spoke to the university’s biggest freshman class ever — and its most diverse. Ten percent of this year’s incoming freshmen are from outside the United States. Among those from the U.S., 8 percent are African-American, 21 percent Hispanic (mostly Mexican-American), 21 percent Asian and 6 percent mixed race, with less than 50 percent from Texas.

And solemnity no longer rules. A recent Princeton Review poll indicates that Rice students are especially happy. For the third year in a row, Rice ranks No. 1 for best quality of life and for the first time earned the No. 1 spot for happiest students.

While we can’t say for sure what Lovett would have made of today’s undergraduates, we think he’d be quite satisfied with the Rice of today — a place that is simultaneously just what he dreamed and beyond what he dreamed.

Rice O-Week 2011

During O-Week this year, Rice tried something new by turning the story over to the students. Through the unique service Storify, we collected photos, videos, tweets and more to share with the world. After all, no one knows O-Week’s story better than the parliament of Owls who experienced it. Here is a sample of the photos they posted. For much more, check out the website at www.rice.edu/oweekstory.shtml.
From Houston to Paris to Pune

Over the summer, 38 students participated in the 2011 Summer Mentorship Experience (SME), a program offered through Leadership Rice. The students, who interned with select companies, learned valuable leadership skills from company mentors and Rice alumni living in their respective areas and completed various assignments as part of LEAD 150, a one-credit course required for all SME participants. The nine-week program, offered to undergraduates, paired students with companies and organizations that best matched their interests and career goals. The demanding summer work experiences extended domestically from Houston to New York City and Washington, D.C., and internationally to Paris, France, and Pune, India.

One of the highlights of the SME program is cohort dinners with Rice alumni and other influential individuals. Leadership Rice facilitates several events for participating students to meet Rice alumni and ask questions about life and leadership. In Washington, D.C., Charles Landgraf ’75, a partner with Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, hosted a dinner for the D.C. interns and talked about taking advantage of the opportunities Rice provides that will prepare them for life after graduation.

SME students also completed a variety of assignments to further personal growth, including two executive interviews. This assignment challenged students to meet with senior executives and learn about how they rose to positions of influence and what they believe are the keys to leadership in their fields.

One student commented: “I think the executive interviews especially enhanced my development as a leader. They required me to take initiative in connecting with others, ask the right questions and utilize what I’d learned to achieve an end goal.”

Applications for the 2012 Summer Mentorship Experience will be available Nov. 21. For more information about the Summer Mentorship Experience and an application, visit www.leadership.rice.edu.

Unique Opportunities

By Philip Tarpley ’12

This past summer, I met a man who was a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War, carried the nuclear football for presidents Reagan and Carter, flew Marine One and devoted 25 years of his life to the U.S. Marine Corps. And it was because of my Rice connection that I met this man — U.S. Congressman and Rice alumnus John Kline ’69.

Rice is known for providing its students with life-changing opportunities. As a Rice student, the diversity of those experiences makes campus life endlessly fun, inspiring and interesting. As proof, Rice University was recently ranked No. 1 for best quality of life by Princeton Review for the third year in a row.

Last year, I became involved with Leadership Rice, a leadership development program that offers students valuable internships within their areas of interest and covers the affiliated costs. As a participant in the program, I joined 37 other students who represented Rice across the globe, from Texas to France to India.

My summer experience landed me in Washington, D.C., where, for the first time, Leadership Rice students were afforded the opportunity to work on Capitol Hill. Tom Boyd ’12, Teddy Grodek ’13 and I all worked together and learned how the U.S. government is run.

Across the city, other Rice students worked for think tanks and nonprofit organizations. Graham West ’12, for example, worked for the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress, and Kathleen Barker ’13 worked for Ashoka, a nonprofit organization that supports social entrepreneurs and their efforts around the world.

Together, we marveled at the unique opportunities we were given and the amazing people we met along the way. Tom Boyd and I had the honor of meeting two Rice alumni in Congress — Rep. Pete Olson ’85 from Texas and, as noted earlier, Rep. John Kline ’69 from Minnesota — as well as other influential alumni, including Charles Landgraf ’75, a lawyer and lobbyist.

At summer’s end, I reflected on my time in Washington, D.C., and realized that my experience was made possible by the contributions of Rice alumni. This reality struck me when my mother, Gloria Meckel Tarpley ’81, placed the official Rice ring on my hand. Wearing that ring while working on Capitol Hill was a constant reminder that I had Rice to thank for the experience and now has inspired me to one day give back as much as I have been given.
It was a pleasant surprise to Mark and Leann Schumann when their eldest son, Jonathan, proposed to leave their home state of Connecticut to attend Rice University. They had lived in Houston briefly when Jonathan was younger and were aware of Rice's excellent reputation, but they hadn't realized the school was on his radar. “We’ve always encouraged our boys to be independent thinkers,” Leann said. “So we were thrilled when Jonathan saw something unique in Rice. He knew, from the moment he stepped on campus for a tour, this felt like home.” Before long, their young Schumann was looking more like a shaman — turns out, Rice wasn’t just the perfect place for him, but also for his twin brothers, Matthew and Garrett.

While the three siblings shared a passion for Rice, they each carved out their own creative niche. Jonathan ’06, who earned a B.A. in English, was a skilled journalist and the entertainment editor for the student newspaper, The Rice Thresher. Garrett ’10, a music composition major at The Shepherd School of Music, composed and directed an original musical comedy for Hanszen College Theater and co-founded a new outdoor music event with funding from the Shepherd School's Sviatoslav Richter Fund for Music Outreach. Matthew '10, a religious studies major, served as the inaugural publisher of The Rice Standard, an online publication covering travel, culture, society and more.

To honor their sons’ experiences, Mark and Leann Schumann established an endowed fund that speaks as much to their sons' shared passion as their individual personalities. The Schumann Brothers Endowed Fund for Creative Expression provides three distributions, each awarded annually and dedicated to a specific purpose:

1. The Schumann Brothers Grant for Written Expression is awarded to an undergraduate who has published in a Rice publication.

2. The Schumann Brothers Grant for Travel Journalism subsidizes a student’s travel domestically or internationally.

3. The Schumann Brothers Grant for Summer Music Festival Program Participation is awarded to a music composition student.

The gift was sparked when Mark and Leann looked for a special way to celebrate the unique experience of having all of their children attend, and thrive, at the same university. "The more we thought about it, we realized this was an excellent way to honor all of our sons," Mark said. "Rice provided each of our sons the opportunity to explore their creative selves. We hope that, with each of these awards, more students may do the same. Each year, and for the foreseeable future, our sons will have the chance to connect with the recipients of their grants. And that's what it's about — creating a lifelong connection to their alma mater and the creative opportunities it offers."

Applications for the Schumann Brothers Grants for Written Expression and Travel Journalism are currently being accepted and are due by Oct. 21, 2011. Instructions can be found online at www.ricestandard.org/schumann-brothers/. For more information, students may contact Kelley Callaway, director of student publications, at 713-348-5828 or kcallaway@rice.edu.

For more information about giving to Rice University, please contact Kathleen Duplessis, director of development for parents and families, at 713-348-4619 or kdup@rice.edu.
Rice’s Career Expo Hits It Big

Each fall, employers from national, international and local organizations come to campus to recruit Rice students for full-time positions and internships. This year, the Career Expo Fall 2011, sponsored by the Center for Career Development (CCD), saw a significant increase in participating employers. The one-day event also welcomed a record-setting number of students.

Students from all classes are encouraged to attend each career expo, and this year the CCD offered a pre-expo session that provided students with information on everything from what to wear to what to say to recruiters. To start the day, the CCD hosted a networking breakfast for employers, faculty and student leaders. During the expo, students were given the opportunity to have a professional head shot taken for use on their LinkedIn profiles and with other networking opportunities.

The expo is just one of many ways that organizations and companies partner with Rice to recruit students. Through RICElink, where more than 700 jobs and internships are posted online, students can apply for professional positions, internships and on-campus interviews. Currently, more than 80 on-campus interviews are scheduled for students seeking employment following graduation.

Throughout next spring, the CCD plans to conduct more targeted, industry-specific events for students interested in learning more about an industry, career paths and internships.

For more information about the CCD, please visit http://ccd.rice.edu.

Colleges — A Microcosm of Campus Culture

The nation’s happiest students with the best quality of life are at Rice University, according to the 2012 edition of the Princeton Review’s “The Best 376 Colleges.” Much of that is due to the quality of academics and the residential college system that is the foundation of the university’s vibrant undergraduate experience. Our 11 colleges are a microcosm of campus culture, academics, governance, entertainment, competition and diversity and will likely be the hallmark of your student’s life at Rice.

While every college has its own traditions and distinct personality, one thing is the same — students govern them all. These elected bodies help the colleges manage budgets, plan social events, direct theater groups, coordinate athletic competitions, and enforce rules based on university policy and student concerns. In addition, every college sponsors for-credit courses, the majority of which are taught by students. By creating these individual communities, opportunities for fellowship — both academic and social — abound.

The college master, a tenured faculty member chosen by students, further strengthens that sense of community. Masters live in a residence adjacent to the college and are joined by resident associates who are either faculty or staff members and live amongst the students. This team provides academic and social support and organizes events that promote camaraderie within the college.

Meal times are an integral part of the college experience. All serveries across campus open at approximately the same time so the entire college eats together. Meals become an important social aspect of college life, where students celebrate birthdays, make announcements and promote college spirit.

The college system is one of the many things that sets Rice apart from other universities. In future articles, we will explore the different colleges and what gives them their individuality.

For more information about the residential college system, visit www.students.rice.edu/students/Colleges.asp.
Important Dates

**Oct. 20–23 — Rice Families Weekend**
Residential college events, the Amazing Rice reception and tours, Rice families game-day barbecue, Owls vs. Tulsa football, arts and entertainment, and more. Register at [www.rice.edu/famweek](http://www.rice.edu/famweek).

**Nov. 4–6 — Rice Homecoming & Reunion 2011**
Tours, lectures, arts and entertainment, reunions, game-day barbecue and Owls vs. University of Texas at El Paso football. Register at [www.rice.edu/homecoming](http://www.rice.edu/homecoming).

**Nov. 13–18**
Spring semester registration

**Nov. 24–25**
Thanksgiving recess

**Dec. 2**
Last day of classes

**Jan. 9, 2012**
First day of classes

**Jan. 9–13, 2012**
Spring registration continues

**Jan. 16, 2012**
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

**Feb. 25–March 4, 2012**
Spring Break

**March 5, 2012**
Summer registration begins

**March 22–23, 2012**
Midterm recess