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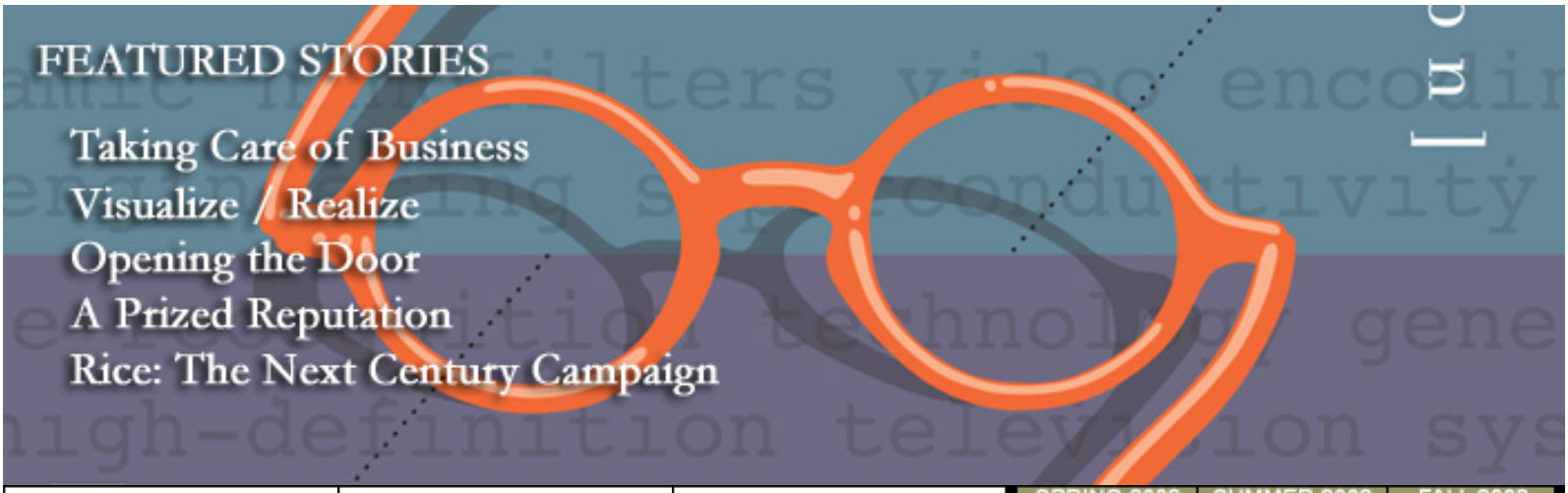
WINTER 2003



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The new Jones School building combines beauty and function in a top-notch facility for business education and research.

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Taking Care of Business

Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management
Rice University

In a building that combines beauty, function, and technology, the core values of teaching, learning, and collaboration are central to the thoughtful design of each venue.

It's a typical sunny day in Houston, and in the Woodson Courtyard of the new Jones School building, business students can be seen working on laptops while seated on benches surrounding the cascading water fountain. Whether completing course-related projects, checking e-mail, or planning the tasks of the day ahead, the wireless network available in the new building allows students to be continuously connected to network servers and the Web. Inside the Student Commons accessible from the courtyard, members of a student club huddle around a small conference table—laptops open—organizing upcoming events. Gathering in the hallway, students newly released from class discuss the day's topic with their professor. Walking toward the wide, tile staircase leading up to the Business Information Center, faculty offices, and classrooms on the second and third floors, a group discusses and plans its next team meeting.

In a building that combines beauty, function, and technology, the core values of teaching, learning, and collaboration are central to the thoughtful design of each venue. With more than 98,000 square feet of usable space, the building features advanced, scalable technology to facilitate the innovative teaching style of the school's faculty and large open spaces in which both faculty and students can mingle and learn from each other outside of the classroom. From hallmark facilities such as the El Paso Corporation Finance Center and the Behavioral Studies Lab to wired and wireless tiered and cluster classrooms that offer a wide, integrated set of tools for presenting course materials, state-of-the-art facilities in the new business school are second to none in delivering the breadth and depth of management education to future business leaders.

" As we went through the programming and then design process for the Jones Graduate School's new building, we examined, without constraints,

In a building that combines beauty, function, and technology, the core values of teaching, learning, and collaboration are central to the thoughtful design of each venue.

bronze tympanum above the doors

"As we went through the programming and then design process for the Jones Graduate School's new building, we examined, without constraints, all of our assumed needs for the next
10 to 25 years."

Gilbert R. Whitaker, Jr.,
H. Joe Nelson III Professor of Business Economics and dean of the Jones School

second floor colonnade

all of our assumed needs for the next 10 to 25 years," says Gilbert R. Whitaker, Jr., the H. Joe Nelson III Professor of Business Economics and dean of the Jones School, whose leadership and foresight have propelled the school to a stellar reputation and national recognition.

Best known for creating buildings that emphasize continuity of tradition and preserve the spirit of the places in which they are located, award-winning architect and dean of the Yale School of Architecture Robert A. M. Stern was chosen to design the new building. "At Rice, each building not only must be individually excellent, it must fit in with all the others. In an era of screaming me-tooism, Rice demands artistic unity," says Stern. "In designing the Jones School, we take our place in the orchestra that is the Rice campus, but we also step forward for an identifying solo turn as our building takes its place on Jamail Plaza across from the Baker Institute. The building for the Jones Graduate School carries forward the Rice tradition, interpreting and reinterpreting it to meet new and future needs. Comprising three distinct components that define an intimately scaled courtyard, the building cloaks myriad functions, including a library, dining hall, and auditorium, as well as classrooms and faculty offices."

Emphasis placed on providing facilities for networking and collaboration is evident in the new classrooms. Built to enhance case-study and interactive instruction, the six seminar rooms, two cluster classrooms, and six tiered classrooms boast the latest technologies and improved equipment, allowing instructors flexible modes of displaying a wide array of course materials, such as webpages, video, and multimedia presentations.

The two cluster "capture classrooms" are equipped with technologies that will record the entire classroom experience—student–teacher discussions, presentations, demonstrations, videos, slides, and other materials used—with minimal disruption. Conferencing technologies also are installed in the classroom, allowing broadcast videoconferencing that equates to enhanced opportunities for collaboration with others outside the Jones School. The two-level 450-seat Shell Oil Company Foundation Auditorium hosts prominent business leaders featured in the Dean's Lecture Series, but also doubles as a tiered classroom.

" The tools available in the classroom allow us to help students take advantage of the current and latest technology used in industry," says director of M.B.A. communications Deborah Barrett, who teaches effective communications and presentation skills.

While significant strides have been and continue to be made on the technology front, the classrooms also are designed to facilitate faculty–student interaction. The large teaching stage in each classroom gives faculty ample room to walk around and connect with their students. Breakout rooms adjacent to tiered classrooms allow faculty to efficiently integrate team coursework in their classes.

" The classrooms are suitable for case- and team-learning, enabling students to effectively work in groups and teams," says Wil Uecker, the Harmon Whittington Professor of Management and associate dean for Rice University Executive Education. Facilities in the new building allow students in the M.B.A. for Executives Program—the largest executive M.B.A. program in the Southwest—to conduct classes for the first- and second-year students on the same weekend.

" Our students are able to network not only with the students in their section and year but also with the rest of the class. Networking opportunities such as these enrich the learning experience by providing students the chance to share information about coursework, about their particular industry, about their jobs," Uecker says.

Outside the classrooms, large, open spaces are made available for students to conduct study meetings and work on assignments in between classes, including 24 breakout rooms and 12 group study rooms. "It's easy to find a place to study, either as a group or alone," says first-year student Tovi Abello. "You can tell that a lot of thought went into the planning of the building and its facilities—the needs of M.B.A. students were clearly important in its design."

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The friezes on the two large bronze doors depict the many contributions of Jesse H. Jones. A bronze tympanum above the doors prominently displays the Gulf Building, an enduring monument to Jesse H. Jones, along with a profile of some of Houston's most-recognized buildings.

Flanking the entrance on the right is a charging bull and to the left is a timid bear. Together, these two Wall Street antagonists keep watch over the entrance.

The two-story facade of the main entrance to the new Jones School harmonizes with the Baker Institute across Jamail Plaza onto which the main entrance doors open.

Above the bronze work, the colonnades on the second floor sport eight familiar, and not so familiar, faces. Each one has a special place at the Jones School: William Marsh Rice, Rice University's founder and a Houston business leader; Adam Smith, the father of modern economics; Irving Fisher, the founder of modern finance; Alfred Whitehead, a philosopher who showed great appreciation for the connection between the marketplace and professional education in a university setting; Oveta Culp Hobby, business leader and first U.S. secretary of education; John Maynard Keynes, the economist whose economic prescriptions are widely credited for mitigating business cycles; Joseph Schumpeter, an economist whose work initiated the appreciation of entrepreneurship; and, of course, Jesse H. Jones, the Jones School's benefactor.

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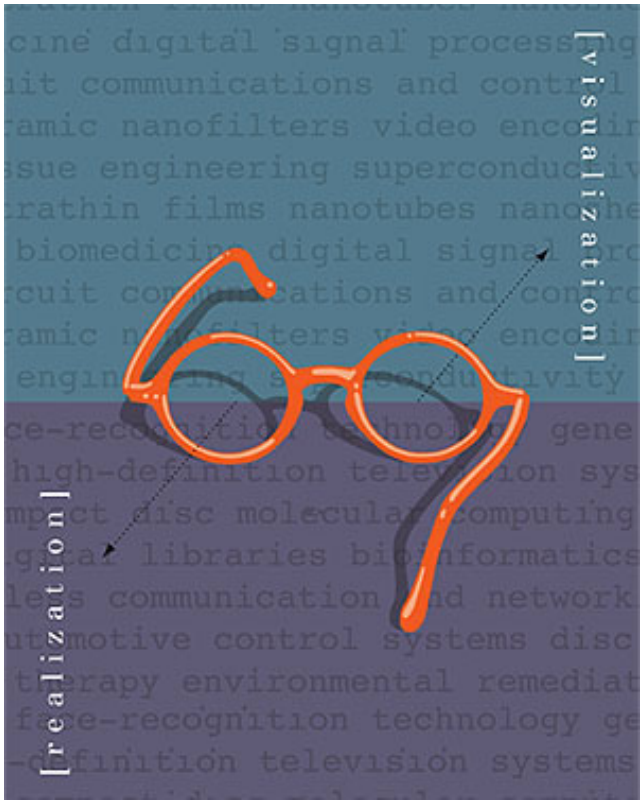

Can Rice do for Houston what Stanford did for Silicon Valley? Some say "Absolutely!"

—Peter Heyne

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Ruiz Flies High at AMD

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The Office of Disability Support Services helps make higher education at Rice accessible to all.

Opening THE DOOR

Most of us don't pay attention to getting around, especially in a bounded area like the Rice University campus. We simply calculate the most convenient route, then we walk off in that direction. Curbs, steps, and narrow or heavy doors, when we encounter them, are just parts of the journey and barely rate notice. For some people, though, impediments like these are barriers not only to the journey but to the services, benefits, and rewards that lie beyond.

Accessibility for students, employees, and visitors is important to Rice, and the university takes its lead in this area from the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). This civil-rights-based legislation was enacted to protect individuals with disabilities against discrimination in areas of employment, housing, education, transportation, communication, health services, and public services. In spirit, the ADA emphasizes dignity and inclusion, and its guidelines mandate particular structural features in new buildings and encourage the removal of "architectural barriers in existing facilities, including communications barriers that are structural in nature, where such removal is readily achievable, i.e., easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense."

It is Rice University policy, administered in part through the Office of Disability Support Services, to make reasonable efforts to accommodate anyone with disabilities who spends time on campus. Because Rice University serves a wide range of individuals, its staff has opportunities for collaboration in

Also See:
Tips on Service Animals

Rice is working to implement general improvements to facilities and make buildings open and usable by all members of the university community.

pursuing ADA compliance goals and meeting the individual needs of Rice community members. “We are working to better foresee and provide for the needs of students, employees, and visitors,” says Jean Ashmore, director of Disability Support Services. “We are trying to send the message that we are anticipating possible needs by preparing for near-time challenges.”

In addition to helping ensure equal access to education for individuals with disabilities, the ADA and other legislation, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 1997, have catalyzed an increase in postsecondary enrollment among students with disabilities. This fact is borne out by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Center for Education Statistics. In 1994, approximately 45 percent of people age 16 or older who reported having a disability either attended college or completed a bachelor’s degree or higher. In contrast, only 29 percent reported doing so in 1986.

An estimated 428,280 students with disabilities were enrolled at two- and four-year postsecondary educational institutions from 1996 to 1998. One quarter of the reported disabilities were mobility, sight, speech, or hearing related, and more than half were learning disabilities, such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorder. The majority of these students attended medium to large public institutions, perhaps due to the perception that larger public institutions are better equipped to handle the needs of students with disabilities. That perception does not necessarily reflect reality, however, and with the number of students with disabilities attending postsecondary institutions on the rise, work is being done at Rice to prepare for future needs.

“Rice has a relatively low enrollment of students with disabilities,” Ashmore says, “but we must continue to enhance accessibility on campus both to accommodate the students and to make ourselves attractive to all prospective qualified students.” Currently, only about 1 percent of the student population at Rice has a documented disability, but Ashmore says that the true number may be considerably higher. There are no requirements that students make such information known. In fact, asking about a disability during the application process is unethical, even illegal, although applicants are free to disclose that information if they choose.

Once accepted to the university, incoming students are invited to contact the Office of Disability Support Services if individual arrangements or modifications are needed. Many students, Ashmore notes, have developed their own coping techniques over the years to overcome situations such as dyslexia or attention deficit disorder and do not seek the university’s help.

For those who do choose to self -identify, Ashmore works to take every reasonable step to ensure that the student’s disability will not hinder his or her experience at Rice. In meeting the needs of students, the office takes

“Some changes are more visible than others, but we’re always doing little things. The general population benefits from the ADA. It’s a good law.”

Luiza Maal, staff architect, facilities and engineering dept., Rice University

into account many issues, including student living environments, classrooms, faculty contacts, and campus accessibility as it relates to each student's abilities. All these issues and more must be addressed in a way that covers the four or five years of the student's Rice experience. Modifications or arrangements include customizing a dorm room or changing a class location to meet the student's physical abilities, ensuring that visually impaired students have permission and equipment to tape class lectures, and giving extra time on exams to students who deal with certain types of learning disabilities.

University employees are another group that benefits from ADA legislation. Reasonable accommodations, if not an undue burden, are provided for job applicants and employees with disabilities so that they can complete the application process or perform their work.

"It takes a lot of attention and effort to design accommodations to meet all of the possible needs, but it is worth it," says Mary Cronin, associate vice president for Human Resources. "It takes some creativity, but solutions are possible." With healthcare privacy issues and ever-increasing levels of employee confidentiality, however, the conversation often must begin with the employee.

Once employee disabilities are known, Rice can offer a wide variety of options to assist qualified employees, including those with or recovering from short-term disabilities. For faculty and staff needs, planning is usually limited to the employee's work environment. More often than not, these arrangements are handled at the supervisory level and can be readily addressed once the employee makes the initial request. Some solutions are as simple as custom office chairs. Other more high-tech options include computer monitor enhancements, special software, or tailored tools.

Assistive listening devices to enhance hearing are available to students, faculty, and visitors through the Office of Disability Support Services. Braille embossers and graphic-raising technologies that use heat and special paper to create a raised tactile image for the visually impaired also can be found there. Additional adaptive technologies located in Fondren Library include large-print readers with zoom text and screen-reading software.

Making special accessibility arrangements for campus visitors, however, is one area that remains a challenge for Rice. A major hurdle is learning ahead of time that an accommodation is needed. Requests often come at the last minute, but the university attempts to handle each request promptly and compassionately. "Of course, if we can find out sooner, that's even better," says Russell Barnes, director of Equal Employment Opportunity Programs and Affirmative Action.

Disability Support Services advises departments that are planning programs or events to include statements in their promotional materials that encourage registrants who need physical accommodations to contact the office in advance. Disability Support Services also can help arrange necessary adjustments and provide disability-related information, including an online campus accessibility map.

But a map is not the territory, and real-world accessibility entails an understanding of needs, careful planning, and logistics. Rice is working to implement general improvements to facilities and make buildings open and

usable by all members of the university community. Many mobility-enhancing accommodations such as cut ramps and automatic door openers are not necessarily obvious in ADA-compliant buildings, but they promote integration and often become preferred features well beyond the populations they were meant to serve.

Luiza Maal, staff architect with the facilities and engineering department at Rice and also a mother, points out, “If you’re a parent pushing a stroller, you very quickly learn where the cut ramps are and which floors of a shopping mall have automatic door openers.” A patron carrying a stack of books into a library is grateful for the automatic door openers. Delivery people can appreciate ramps that replace stairs. People in noisy, crowded environments are helped by elevator signals that beep as well as light up when the elevator arrives. Moreover, the height of hooks and elevator buttons, for example, can be helpful to anyone, disabled or not. Rice’s efforts in this area also serve students and teachers with the Rice School of Continuing Studies, which draws a wide range of participants from the Houston area, especially senior citizens with age-related difficulties in hearing or moving.

“Some changes are more visible than others, but we’re always doing little things,” says Maal. “The general population benefits from the ADA. It’s a good law.”

New buildings are easiest to make compliant because enhancements for accessibility are not obtrusive structural afterthoughts but are integral to the design and aesthetics. Rice buildings constructed since the passage of the ADA have been designed to incorporate accessibility features noted in the law.

At Duncan Hall, for instance, a gently sloping sidewalk gracefully signifies the grandeur of the entry while offering an alternative to impassible steps. Automatic doors facilitate entry, and inside, acoustic-enhancing classroom architecture and new gadgetry, such as individually adjustable earphones and large-screen computers, serve people with hearing difficulties or visual impairments.

In the colleges, cost and space constraints prohibit making all rooms ADA compliant, but many rooms now exist to serve students with physical limitations. In the two new college buildings—Martel, which opened last spring, and Wiess, which opened last fall—a typical floor plan of a four-bedroom suite with an adapted room will have one larger bedroom in which a wheelchair can turn around and an additional bathroom equipped with a wheelchair-accessible shower and toilet. The front doors to all suites are wider than usual to ensure that students using wheelchairs can visit friends throughout the college, and all signage in Martel and Wiess are in Braille as well as in type.

The new wings currently under construction at Jones and Brown Colleges also will have improved accessibility for disabled users. Lovett College has an accessible commons area and student room. And other older residence halls, including Baker, Will Rice, and Hanszen Colleges, are being considered for renovations to make them welcome residential choices for students of any physical ability. Even the masters’ houses are getting some attention. The new masters’ houses for Martel and Jones Colleges have

wheelchair-accessible entries, common areas, kitchens, and bathrooms, making them suitable venues for college gatherings.

“As of fall 2002, five colleges out of the nine will have accessible rooms,” Ashmore says. “I feel that with the opening of these two new colleges we will have a good distribution of available rooms.”

ADA compliance is not always an easy goal given the practical matters and age of the Rice campus. Renovating existing structures, especially historically significant ones built long before accessibility needs were commonly understood, is difficult and can come at a high price in terms of dollars and assignable space. For example, a ramp allows for a maximum one-inch rise in height for every 12-inch run in length. This slope provides a far gentler incline than the usual one-inch rise to two-inch run of standard stairs but requires more room. Inside buildings, wheelchair-accessible classroom desks must be larger than their traditional-design counterparts, just as accessible bathroom stalls need more room than others.

Providing equal access to the main entries of some of the oldest buildings, where stairs are an integral facet of the design and space for ramps improbable, continues to be a challenge, but these difficulties are being addressed. Work is now under way on many older campus buildings, and by the end of 2002, Herring Hall met the same standards the ADA sets for new buildings. At Rayzor Hall, a better ramp has improved the exterior approach and entry. In older buildings, the best compromise is to leave the appearance of the exterior almost the same but to design innovative changes inside. At Keck Hall and Rayzor Hall, this approach has preserved the architectural character of familiar buildings, while allowing the interiors to better serve their users.

Building by building, renovations further improve entry by making accessible doorways and other features central parts of design rather than afterthoughts, adding accessible bathrooms where possible, and adapting more offices, classrooms, and residential college rooms for use by people with any range of physical ability. At present, most older campus buildings have at least one ADA-compliant bathroom, an elevator, and an entrance ramp.

The oldest buildings, the ones that most symbolize Rice, are proving to be the most difficult to make accessible. Lovett Hall, for example, which is probably the best-known and most-photographed building on campus, is unmistakably tied to the university’s image and iconography. Completed in 1912, however, it presents several obstacles to accessibility and provides the chief example of the conflict between reducing mobility restrictions and respecting the campus’s traditional architecture.

The central arch at Lovett, fondly known as the Sallyport, is an essential part of Rice’s history and culture. However, it divides the building in half; people who want to go from one wing to the other must exit the building and use a separate doorway to reenter. And that isn’t easy. Lovett’s narrow entries, heavy doors, and steep stairs are prohibitive to some and impassible to visitors in wheelchairs, and the building’s only elevator serves just one wing. Limited interior space further hinders plans to enhance accessibility. Most improvements will require a reduction in assignable space. However, viable options for solving these challenges are being reviewed.

Identifying and developing solutions to problem areas is a joint effort taken on by facilities and engineering, outside consultants, architecture firms, students, employees, and visitors. Manager of architecture and engineering John Posch routinely walks the campus with Maal and Ashmore to ensure that things such as failed sidewalks and foundation shifts do not become barriers or liabilities for the university. “It’s an issue of compliance and meeting the needs of the Rice community, in balance with budgetary and space priorities of the university” says Posch. “It’s not an easy task, but it is the right thing to do.”

Although the ADA regulation presents challenges to the university, those challenges are being met with a high degree of commitment to dignity and inclusion. Accommodating students, employees, and visitors with a range of abilities expands the background and life experience represented at Rice. And as the changes unfold on campus, Rice can open its doors to a more diverse community that makes a Rice education a more relevant experience for all members of its community.

—Roberta Kelley Henderson

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Tips on Service Animals

Service animals are not pets but highly trained aids to the people they serve. A well-meaning bystander can interfere all too easily with that partnership by not understanding the animal's need to focus its attention while on the job.

Sophomore political science and philosophy major Mark Guetzow suggests a quick hint about how to act around a service animal: Just look for a harness.

When you see his nine-and-a-half-year-old black lab Tory or any other service animal wearing a harness, you know that the animal is working. That's when to resist the temptation to pet Tory, call her name, offer food, or distract her in any way from her mission to help Guetzow get around the Rice campus in his wheelchair. Even when she seems to be resting at Guetzow's feet, Tory must stay alert to her master's needs.

But play breaks are as important to service animals as they are to humans on the job, and when you see Tory free of the harness, you can be assured she's off duty. That's when Guetzow's friends at Lovett College know that Tory appreciates a tossed ball or a scratch behind an ear, just like most other dogs.

The "harness signal" is not random. Throughout service animal's intense training, they are taught to identify a harness with duty. They, too, recognize that wearing the harness requires them to tune out distractions from their environment, including those from humans or other animals.

In addition to Guetzow's advice, here are tips from the Delta Society, a nonprofit organization based in Renton, Washington, that promotes the bond humans have with service and therapy animals:

- Always speak first to the person instead of directly addressing the animal, but don't be offended if your comments are not enthusiastically followed up. Some people welcome a chance to tell strangers about their animal; others are more naturally reticent.
- Don't touch either the animal or the person without permission. Petting the animal is distracting, and touching the person may be misunderstood as an assault.
- Never bark, meow, whistle, or make other noises. Besides potentially distracting the animal from its work, that behavior is impolite.
- If you are uncomfortable around dogs or other animals, position yourself away from the service animal. If you are at your job, ask a colleague to serve the person in your place.
- If the service animal barks, growls, or otherwise seems to forget its manners, find out what happened before you take action. The animal may have been doing its job. For example, some dogs bark once or twice to alert their owners to oncoming seizures.
- If other people complain about the animal's presence, explain that

Also See:
Opening the Door

Rice is working to implement general improvements to facilities and make buildings open and usable by all members of the university community.

the animal provides medically necessary assistance and that U.S. law protects the person's right to bring the service animal in public places.

For other information about service animals, see http://www.deltasociety.org.

— Sally Strong

"Some changes are more visible than others, but we're always doing little things. The general population benefits from the ADA. It's a good law."

Luiza Maal, staff architect, facilities and engineering dept., Rice University

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First Impressions of Lasting Loyalty: Rice's Outstanding Alumni!

Even before I stepped onto the Rice University campus for the first time last August, I was impressed by the reputation of the university. Anyone who knows Rice understands. Exceptional students and faculty, internationally hailed curricula and research efforts, and a pristine campus all contribute to a unique synergy second to none. Rice is an exceptional place.

I joined Rice to assist the effort to strengthen its relationship with alumni. Being the new alumni director is not unlike being a new student. Although I have not participated in Baker 13 or marched with the MOB, and Zen Camacho did not know three things about me before I got here, as with any new student, there is much to quickly absorb and embrace. And I know I will be tested by the university and, more importantly, by Rice alumni as we move forward in alumni programming.

I welcome the challenge as we build on the successes of 2002, which included the eighth annual Alumni College weekend, record attendance at homecoming, and the introduction of family-oriented trips into the Rice Alumni Travel–Study Program, among others.

The Association of Rice Alumni (ARA) Board of Directors continues to provide a strong vision for the future. Together with the alumni affairs team, we will find more ways to share news about the university, provide opportunities for lifelong learning, and encourage greater alumni engagement with their alma mater.

I was drawn to this university for many of the same reasons that alumni initially chose to attend Rice and now choose to give back to Rice. I look forward to the opportunities ahead and encourage your input and involvement along the way.

Also See:
Coming Back, Giving Back: Rice Alumni Set New Records

Reunion Rewards

"I know I will be tested by the university and, more importantly, by Rice alumni as we move forward in alumni programming."

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"The fact that there are alumni out there who realize the importance of new students and who care enough about their alma mater to donate money to future classes says a lot about them."

— Grant Thomas Offord '05

Coming Back, Giving Back: Rice Alumni Set New Records

Homecoming and reunion. Both bring to mind vivid images of lively football games and barbecues, handshakes and hugs with old college friends, conversations with professors and tours of new buildings, stories of college pranks and tight deadlines, and above all, a demonstration of unmistakable pride.

Rice alumni are among the most loyal supporters that any university could hope to have. From the volunteer help they give in a variety of ways to the financial contributions they make, alumni ensure that Rice remains the institution that they attended: an exceptional institution in a stimulating—and fun—environment for learning and growing.

Alumni involvement in homecoming and reunion is key to the success of Rice: The Next Century Campaign. Contributions to reunion class gifts presented at homecoming provide support to Golden Anniversary scholarships and the Rice Annual Fund. In turn, those contributions help us reach two campaign core priorities: increasing Annual Fund and unrestricted gifts, and enhancing education and student life. Once again, Rice alumni came through in a big way!

"I really appreciate all the hard work of the folks who worked on our reunion committee. Their diligent efforts, along with our $20,000 challenge for reaching 62 percent participation, helped us exceed our goal."

— Dick Wright '62

Reunion Giving = Campaign Support

•

Also See:
First Impressions of Lasting Loyalty: Rice's Outstanding Alumni!

Reunion Rewards

Coming back to campus

Homecoming Weekend 2002 was eventful for a number of reasons:

• Total attendance for the weekend was 3,489, up nearly 24 percent over 2001 attendance.

• Twenty-two percent of undergraduate alumni celebrating their reunions were on campus.

• More than 400 graduate-only alumni and students returned to Rice for the first-ever homecoming weekend events scheduled specifically for them.

Each year, the eight reunion classes raise a significant fraction of all money raised for the Rice Annual Fund. In 2002, $1,489,774 in cash and pledges was received, an increase of 80 percent over last year.

- 200 alumni volunteered in 2002 to contact classmates for Rice's reunion giving effort.
- **Class of 1962**
  64 percent participation
  $368,971 cash and pledges
  The highest participation rate ever for a reunion giving class; most money raised for a 40th reunion
- **Class of 1977**
  53 percent participation
  $586,045 cash and pledges
  The most money ever raised by a reunion, non-Golden Anniversary class; highest participation rate for a 25th reunion
- **Class of 1982**
  51 percent participation
  $121,472
  The highest participation rate for a 20th reunion
- **Class of 1997**
  37 percent participation
  $29,395
  The highest participation rate for a 5th reunion

To learn more about how you can volunteer for homecoming and reunion, go to http://alumni.rice.edu and click Get Involved.

Golden Anniversary Scholarship supports students

The Class of 1952 surpassed its $500,000 goal to raise $621,700 to create a scholarship in honor of its 50th anniversary. An impressive 69 percent of the class participated in this five-year effort.

As a result, four Rice students received Golden Anniversary Scholarships for the 2002–03 school year:

• Laura Dominguez, a Will Rice sophomore from San Benito, Texas

• Evan Hunt, a Jones sophomore from Houston majoring in art and English

• Grant Thomas Offord, a Will Rice sophomore from Laredo majoring in chemical engineering

• Rebecca Ann Villarreal, a Baker sophomore from Fort Worth majoring in psychology and religious studies

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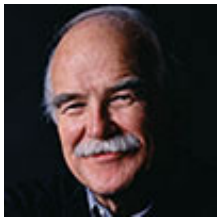



A Prized Reputation

If you remember the sociology faculty as some of Rice's best, their exceptional array of teaching awards proves you're not alone.

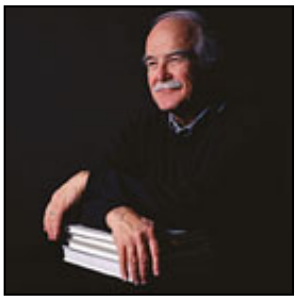
By David D. Medina

Bill Martin has a simple philosophy aboutteaching: Be prepared, be kind and courteous to students, make them feel comfortable in a classroom, and remember their names. Judging from his treasure chest of prizes, that recipe has worked well for the sociology professor throughout his 35 years at Rice. Martin has won 11 teaching awards, including seven George R Brown Prizes:four for Superior Teaching, two for TeachingExcellence, and the prestigious Lifetime Award, which precludes him from winning further Brown Awards. These prizes are based on votes by Rice alumni.

Martin is one of several sociology professors who have entered the pantheon of Rice's great teachers. Chandler Davidson, Elizabeth Long, and Stephen Klineberg also have won an extraordinary number of teaching awards. In fact, they have won so many that their combined efforts have made the sociology department one of the best-recognized teaching departments at Rice University.

Since the sociology department was established as an autonomous unit at Rice in 1971, it has won 31 university-wide teaching awards. In absolute numbers, the department has won more Brown awards than all but three departments in the university—English, political science, and history. "On a per capita basis," Davidson points out, "sociology, with its current faculty of seven members, has done very well in terms of Brown prizes won since the inception of the award in 1967."

Although the sociology department may be small, it has taught more than 12,000 students over the years, and about 600 of those have majored in the discipline. In addition, the quality of many of those students has been superb. Since 1991, two have won Rhodes Scholarships, one has received a Fulbright scholarship, two have won Watson Fellowships, and two have been elected president of the Student Association—one in two successive years. Davidson notes a certain inexplicable symmetry in awards that he jokingly attributes to the department's good karma: "Our first major to win a Fulbright was Kathy Kobayashi '72. Our most-recent one, exactly 30 years later, was Jenny Kaya, like Kathy, a Japanese American with a last name beginning with 'K.'" Many more students have pursued doctorates at universities such as Harvard, Yale, Duke, Princeton, Berkeley, University of Chicago, and University of North Carolina. Some now teach sociology.



"Students like to be acknowledged as individuals."

Others have become doctors, journalists, lawyers, entrepreneurs, schoolteachers, and law enforcement officers.

But teaching is only part of what the sociology department is known for. Research has been an important concern for the department since its beginning. Department members regularly publish articles in the discipline's top scholarly journals as well as in popular magazines such as *Harper's* and *The Atlantic*, and they have written and edited numerous books, including three that won national prizes.

The Harry and Hazel Chavanne Professor of Religion and Public Policy, Bill Martin has written six books and about 150 articles and has given hundreds of talks about the sociology of religion and criminology. His book *A Prophet With Honor: The Billy Graham Story*, first published in 1991, will be reissued soon with four new chapters covering the last 10 years of Graham's career. A 1996 book, *With God on Our Side*, was a companion volume to the PBSseries of the same title.

Ever since he was a freshman in college, Martin wanted to be a teacher. "I had this professor who was so excited and involved in what he was doing, and he conveyed that to me. I thought, 'This is wonderful. I can go to college the rest of my life and have it count for work.'"

Martin is now passing that same excitement on to his students. He especially loves teaching introductory sociology and always volunteers to teach the course—a task usually reserved for junior members in many departments. "You have a chance to introduce them to a field that is infinitely fascinating," he says, "and for me, getting to start from scratch is a great deal of fun."

Martin takes extraordinary measures to get to know his students. In the first couple of classes, he shoots individual pictures of his students—sometimes as many as 120 in one semester—and by the end of the first week, he knows their names.

He also asks them to write on a 5" x8" card interesting or unusual things about their lives, such as having lived in another culture. He has them write a short paper about a subculture they belong to—for example, a swimming or music club. In his sociology of religion class, Martin has them describe their religious backgrounds and indicate the current intensity of their religious beliefs. In his criminology course, students write about their experience with the law. He uses that information to get to know the students better, which makes it easier to engage them in a discussion and share their knowledge with other students. "Students like to be acknowledged as individuals," Martin says.

Matthew Mendenhall '99, who studied medicine at Stanford University, certainly appreciated that courtesy. "I was amazed at the time he invests in learning every student's name; I was terrified because I could no longer hide in the crowd and blend in as a number," Mendenhall says. "Beginning with the first day, Dr. Martin was treating us as both colleagues and friends."

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Teaching, says **Chandler Davidson**, is just plain hard work, and if you don't love it, then you probably won't do a good job. Davidson chairs the sociology department, is the Radoslav A. Tsanoff Professor of Public Affairs, and has won six university-wide teaching awards. He has written several books and numerous articles, and his works on minority voting rights have been cited in eight U.S. Supreme Court opinions.

Among the reasons Davidson enjoys teaching, besides the obvious ones of seeing his students learn and grow as human beings, is that it helps him organize and analyze his material better, which in turn helps him with his research.

When he started teaching at Rice 37 years ago, he says, he often felt overwhelmed. But his demanding students have helped him learn. "I feel that any Rice classroom I walk into will contain some students who are smarter than I am," he explains."So I work hard to prepare good lectures."

Nancy D. Safer '69, now executive director for the Council for Exceptional Children in Arlington, Virginia, remembers Davidson as being an excellent instructor, one who gave her the opportunity to discuss social issues inside and outside the classroom. "Davidson was able to convey sociological principles that helped me see the multiple dimensions of civil rights issues," she says.

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"I feel that any Rice classroom I walk into will contain some students who are smarter than I am. So I work hard to prepare good lectures."

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In teaching her courses, **Elizabeth Long** always tries to show her students why the material she teaches is conceptually exciting and worth knowing and caring about. Long has won six teaching awards. She has written *The American Dream and the Popular Novel* and edited *From Sociology to Cultural Studies: New Perspectives*. She received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to write Book Clubs: Women and the Uses of Literature in Everyday Life, which will be published this spring by the University of Chicago Press.

"I try to get students to think critically for themselves," says Long. "Which means they must know enough about the material to be able to engage with it at a level above superficial knowledge." That way, she explains, they can evaluate what they are thinking about and consider how useful it is for them as they expand their understanding of the world.

Long says she discusses issues that matter tothe students. "I see sociological thinking as being in dialogue with the social world, so I try to make that come alive for people in the way that I present the material," she says. "I always try to empower students and make them think that they can be part of a broader conversation that has an implication in the world."

Most of her students who have majored in sociology have used their knowledge to expand on the social dimensions of their careers, Long says. "A lot of students who go into law and medicine are interested in serving underrepresented populations." Many of her students are doing social work, public health, educational policy, and education. More and more, she says, are entering the information technology business sector.

Rice alumna Laura Nghiem '92 received her master's degree in 1995 in international political economy and development from Fordham University. She lives in California, where she works in the business intelligence software industry. "I found Elizabeth Long's reading selections to be very good and relevant," Nghiem says. "She picked important articles and writings, she didn't just rely on some textbooks, and she put thought into balancing the load—the readings were there for a reason and not just busy work. Long exposed you to sociological articles and thinkers that were not only really discussed in the class but whose theories have made a mark on the field of sociology."

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"I see sociological thinking as being in dialogue with the social world, so I try to make that come alive for people in the way that I present the material."

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One reason the sociology department has won so many teaching awards, says **Stephen Klineberg**, is that the subject matter itself is so interesting. "It is so central to human experience, the coming together of biography and history, the whole sense of understanding your life through the sociological imagination," he says.

Klineberg has won eight teaching awards in his 30 years at Rice. In 1982, he initiated the annual Houston Area Survey to explore the way area residents are responding to social change. He also has conducted extensive research on Houston's ethnic communities and has directed the biennial Texas Environmental Survey since 1990. Klineberg is completing a book on his research titled *Making Sense of Our Times: A Study of Attitude Change in the Houston Area*. His research is in high demand, and he gives about a hundred talks a year on his findings.

Along with an interesting subject matter, you also need professors who are excited about their work and can convey that excitement, says Klineberg. In his teaching, he tries to connect his classroom to the central issues that are shaping the world. "There's a kind of mission in helping to enhance students' awareness and understanding of the world," he says.

Klineberg wants to make sure that his students appreciate that there are many distinct yet valid ways of seeing the world, invoking an adage from the mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead: "Every way of seeing is always a way of not seeing; every insight is a blindness."

"Different perspectives enable you to ask certain questions that are much more difficult to ask from another perspective," he explains.

Asking provocative questions is one way of stimulating interest in his class. He also listens carefully to what the students have to say, and he organizes his material in a way that is easy for students to grasp. Klineberg gives them a study guide that contains the most important quotes from the readings. "The study guide gives a coherence and focus to our discussions and connects the central ideas in the course, so that students can see how they hang together."

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"There's a kind of mission in helping to enhance students' awareness and understanding of the world."

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As some of the senior members of the sociology department approach retirement, there is great optimism that the high teaching standards set by the department will continue with its junior members. “We’ve hired some very interesting younger people,” says Davidson. He feels that the newer members—Associate Professors Michael Emerson and Katharine Donato and Assistant Professor Bridget Gorman—will soon be winning their share of the Brown prizes.

A snapshot of each member shows the diverse talents they bring to the department.Donato is conducting important funded research on the health consequences of Mexico–U.S. migration, and her affiliation with the University of San Luis Potosi, in the city where she recently spent time as a Fulbright fellow, helps her maintain close ties with scholars in both countries. She has published widelyin both sociology and demography journals and was the recipient of several teaching awards at Louisiana State University before coming to Rice.

Emerson’s recently published book, Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America, was the cover story of a national magazine, Christianity Today, and won the DistinguishedBook Award of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Gorman is the newest member of the faculty, arriving in 2002. Her research and teaching interests lie in the broad areas of social inequality, family, and health during the course of life. Gorman and Donato hold joint appointments at the University of Texas School of Public Health.
“When we hire someone in this department,” says Martin, “we expect them to do good research, and we expect them to take their teaching seriously.” And his assessment of the junior faculty is that they are destined for a bright future at Rice. As department chair many years ago, Martin started a procedure in which all teaching evaluations are made available to all members of the department with the intention of helping them improve their pedagogical skills. That tradition has continued, and he says he has seen “great feedback”from students about all the newer members.

It is welcome news as he and the other senior sociology faculty approach retirement from a depart-ment they have worked so hard to make a prized part of Rice’s academic landscape. “When I pull my hand out of the water,” he says, “it’s not going to leave a big hole.”

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One of the joys of attending a research university like Rice is the frequent exposure to The next new thing.

Ray Simar '83 vividly remembers the day he got an early peek at the digital revolution—today a multibillion-dollar market of high-tech products ranging from digital cell phones and camcorders to compact disc players and medical imaging equipment.

" I was pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering and sitting in my first graduate class with C. Sidney Burrus, then professor of circuit communications and control," Simar says. "Although it was more than two decades ago, I can still see him standing in front of the room and telling us, 'Imagine a technology where you can grab a piece of data—like temperature, pressure, a video image, or even the sound of a human voice—and hold it, and do whatever you want with it. Store it or erase it. Add to it or multiply it. You can even reorder bits of data and play them forward or backward instantly—anything you desire or can imagine.' This was all very theoretical work at the time, but we were pretty excited. We bought into his vision."

Burrus, now dean of the George R. Brown School of Engineering, was telling his class about the possibilities for digital signal processing (DSP), a huge, but often arcane field he and other Rice professors helped to pioneer. They employed mathematical algorithms to convert real-world analog sounds and images into the binary language of digital computing. When digital data was married to high-speed semiconductors in the early 1980s, largely at Texas Instruments (TI), the potential for integrating digital capabilities into everyday products suddenly became feasible. TI and Rice worked together to iron out numerous technical issues and develop some of the first practical applications of the technology, including hard disk drives, robotic controls, and voice compression and decompression used now in all digital cell phones.

By the 1990s, the digital revolution had exploded. Today, there's a bit of Rice algorithmic wizardry in virtually every piece of digital equipment on Earth. Simar, now a TI fellow and manager of the company's architecture team for advanced DSP chips, adds a philosophical note: "DSP is a technology people use almost every day, yet they will never know anything about it or even where it came from. It's just so esoteric."

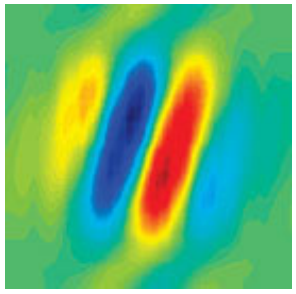
Although the science and engineering that produced DSP may never be fully appreciated by consumers, it certainly has made a lasting impression on TI and Rice. The benefits to both have been enormous. TI has become the world leader in the development and manufacture of DSP and analog semiconductors, its core business. In 2002, TI had operations in 25 countries and sales of $8.4 billion.

Scores of Rice graduates have interned at TI—mainly at the company's nearby Stafford plant or at corporate offices in Dallas—and joined its workforce. Many are now on the company's senior technical and executive

Also See:
Netravali Blazes Trails at Bell Labs

Ruiz Flies High at AMD

Rice researchers helped pioneer digital signal processing, and today there's a bit of Rice algorithmic wizardry in virtually every piece of digital equipment on Earth.



staff. TI, wanting to reward Rice for contributions to its success, made headlines in 1996 with a $7-million educational investment in the university's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The money enabled construction of the TI Wing in Duncan Hall, now hub of most DSP activity at Rice, and endowed the TI Visiting Professorship and TI Graduate Fellows programs. The financial support doubled the number of M.S. and Ph.D. candidates in DSP and continues to help Rice set the pace in the U.S. for DSP research and education. More than 500 Rice DSP graduates have become leaders worldwide in industry, government, and academia.

In 1999, and again in 2002, TI gave $1-million grants to Rice for its participation in the TI DSP Leadership University—a collaborative research program with Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Georgia Tech to advance the digital future. TI shares insights to market needs with the schools, then works closely with professors and young researchers to boost the performance of existing DSP products and develop cutting-edge new ones, such as face-recognition technology and wireless video transmission. The digital age, still in its infancy, offers years of research and scholarship ahead.

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Netravali Blazes Trails at Bell Labs

In June of last year, Arun Netravali '69 stood in the East Room of the White House and received from President George W. Bush the U.S. National Medal of Technology, the nation's highest honor for achievement in technology.

Extending his hand to congratulate him, President Bush smiled and said, "You look awfully young to be receiving an award like this." Netravali, 56, nodded politely and said, "Yes, sir." As chief scientist at Lucent Technologies and former president of the company's famed Bell Labs, Netravali had figured he might one day win the award, but not this soon in his career. "It was a big surprise," he says. "And very humbling."

The National Medal of Technology honors those who embody the American spirit of innovation and have advanced the nation's global competitiveness. Netravali was cited for his "pioneering contributions that transformed television from analog to digital, enabling numerous integrated circuits, systems, and services in broadcast television, cable television, direct broadcast satellite, high-definition television, and multimedia over the Internet; and for technical expertise and leadership, which have kept the Bell Labs at the forefront in communications technology."

Netravali led the development of high-definition television (HDTV) technology at Bell Labs in the 1990s. A video encoder based on his work is used today by hundreds of television stations for their HDTV broadcasts. In 1997, he received an Engineering Emmy Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his work on HDTV. His innovations in compression technology have enabled the development of video telephones, videoconferencing systems, streaming video over the Internet, stored compressed video at websites, and multimedia computers. He holds more than 70 patents in the areas of computer networks, human interfaces to machines, picture processing, and digital video and television. He also has authored more than 170 technical papers and co-authored three books on digital technology.

Netravali served as president of Bell Labs from 1999 to 2001. Under his leadership, Lucent dramatically improved its ability to move innovations from the lab to marketplace. Now as Lucent's chief scientist, he works with academic and investment communities to identify important new networking technologies, and he advises Lucent's senior management on technical and customer issues.

Growing up in India, Netravali never imagined he'd have such an impact on America and its communications technology. A bright student, he graduated with honors from the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay in 1967. The dictum of the times for engineering school grads was "Go west, young man," since jobs were scarce in India. He was accepted to Rice and stayed three years, earning his master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering.

Also See:
Visualization/ Realization

Ruiz Flies High at AMD

" When I first arrived at Rice, I was just a kid," he recalls, "but the welcome I got from everyone there was absolutely extraordinary. In life, you always look at how you're enriching your experiences, what you're learning, and the quality of people that you surround yourself with. Rice was a wonderful step up. The electrical engineering faculty and the students I went to class with were at the high end of the spectrum."

Netravali finds a dramatic new openness at Rice nowadays and when asked if the school can do for Houston what Stanford has done for Silicon Valley, he responds, "Absolutely." He is impressed with Rice's focus on nanoscale science, information technology, biomedicine, and environmental science. "These are very hot areas," he enthuses. "This is where I believe the next generation of millionaires is going to come from. Businesses in these areas will be huge."

Netravali says he's "proud of being a Rice product" and has seen firsthand how Rice grads have benefited Bell Labs, with nearly 10,000 research-and-development employees worldwide. "At Lucent Technologies, there are quite a few Rice grads," he adds, "but not as many as I would like!"

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Ruiz Flies High at AMD

Hector Ruiz '73 is president and chief executive officer of Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), a global supplier of semiconductors, a Fortune 500 company, and Intel's chief rival in a brutally competitive industry.

So what's it like to go to work and sit at the helm of AMD every day? "It's a lot like flying an airplane," says Ruiz with a laugh. "Ninety-five percent of the time, it's fairly routine, but five percent of it can be sheer terror."

The routine part, he explains, is keeping an eye on the books and handling day-to-day business matters. The scary part is "the realization that you're responsible for the livelihood of 13,000 employees and that the decisions you make will affect not only the investors but the many communities where we build our products."

" Still," he adds, "we're creating technologies that make life better for us all. So it's an exciting industry to be in. I love the job." AMD's processors power everything from mobile PCs to new generations of servers, and the company's flash memory is critical to many of today's cell phones, pagers, and automotive control systems.

Ruiz has reached the pinnacle of his profession. But in his climb to the top, he had to make an astonishing journey from the Mexican border town of Piedras Negras, where he grew up poor, his father a ranch worker, his mother a secretary. Ruiz's early ambition: to be an auto mechanic. At age 15, fortune smiled on him, and he met a missionary, Olive Givin, who taught him English in exchange for housework. She also encouraged Ruiz to attend high school, which he did by walking 45 minutes each way daily across the border to Eagle Pass. He excelled in school, and by the time he graduated, he was named valedictorian of his senior class.

As if she hadn't done enough, Givin paid for Ruiz's first year at the University of Texas, where he received bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. Ruiz then pursued a doctorate in electrical engineering at Rice. Forever grateful to the missionary, he dedicated his dissertation to her.

Ruiz's experience at Rice was a happy one. The teachers and students felt like a family, and his sense of self-worth flourished. From the school's strong honor system, he learned the value of trust. "If you trust people," he asserts, "you get a lot more than you might expect."

After he graduated in 1973, Ruiz went to Texas Instruments in Dallas, where he worked for five years in research laboratories and manufacturing operations. In 1977, he joined Motorola as an operations manager in a semiconductor facility in East Kilbride, Scotland. He quickly rose through the ranks and became president of the worldwide Semiconductor Products Sector. While engineering a landmark technology-sharing agreement with AMD, Ruiz met the company's founder, W. J. Sanders III. Impressed with his technical savvy and leadership qualities, Sanders handpicked Ruiz as his company's new president and heir apparent in January 2000. Ruiz lives

Also See:
Visualization/ Realization

Netravali Blazes Trails at Bell Labs

in Austin and commutes regularly to company headquarters in Sunnyvale, California. AMD has about 25 engineers from Rice, and "they're all pretty outstanding employees," he says.

Ruiz stays in touch with Rice faculty and speaks periodically at the university. He enjoys being a role model for Hispanic students, and he applauds Rice's efforts to reach out beyond the hedges. "I would like to see Rice reach out even more and let people know what a great place it is," Ruiz comments. "It's still a well-kept secret." He thinks Rice has the potential of fulfilling a role very much like Stanford's in spawning new high-tech business ventures. "Stanford is filled with faculty who think that new ventures are good for students, good for the school, and good for the country," says the AMD president. "Rice might need a little more of that attitude."

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Gillis Plans to Step Down in Mid-2004

Consistent with a leadership characterized by planning for the future, Malcolm Gillis has announced that he will complete his term as the sixth president of Rice University on June 30, 2004.

"I have said for over a decade that the optimum period for a university president is 10 to 12 years," Gillis said. "June of 2004 will be exactly 11 years.

"I also have often stressed that an incoming president should have ample time to prepare for the job. By making an early announcement of my decision, I hope to give the university time to find my successor and to give him or her such time to prepare before taking office."

William Barnett, chair of the Rice Board of Trustees, said such thinking was much in keeping with the first nine and one-half years of Gillis's presidency.

"The strong consensus of the board is that Malcolm's tenure so far has marked one of the most productive periods since Rice opened in 1912," Barnett said. "We completed our first comprehensive strategic plan. We are near the $415 million mark of our first comprehensive fundraising campaign. We are completing the largest building program in Rice history.

"With all those things coming to culmination, Rice will enter a new cycle of planning for the next dozen years. We also will have another leadership transition, as my term as board chairman ends in the summer of 2005. Thus, it seemed appropriate to Malcolm and me that the new leaders be in place to participate in creating the plans they will be charged with carrying out."

The board chairman said that a search committee that represents the entire Rice community would be formed during the next semester. The goal would be to name Rice's next president by the spring of 2004, allowing him or her to prepare for a July 1 entry into office.

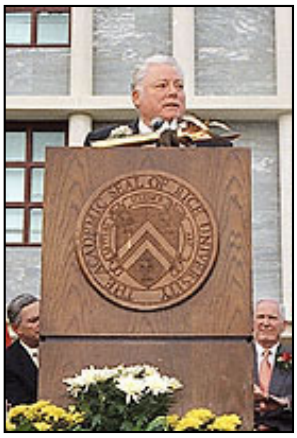
He also said the Board of Trustees had planned ahead on another matter.

"The board was greatly pleased to offer Malcolm the designation of University Professor," Barnett said. "This is the highest faculty designation we have—one that has been awarded only three times before—and it allows the holder to teach in any Rice department."

Gillis, expressing gratitude for the honor, said that suited him perfectly.

"It would be enough to resume my position as a full-time faculty member," he said. "I've always felt that was the best job on Earth, and I have worked to maintain my faculty status while serving as president of Rice by, among other things, teaching and continuing to publish in my field—10 papers in nine years.

"Now, I have a whole inventory of research topics and materials stacked up



Malcolm Gillis

"The strong consensus of the board is that Malcolm's tenure so far has marked one of the most productive periods since Rice opened in 1912."

William Barnett, Chair of the Rice Board of Trustees

—including an economic history of technology and a study of organizational effectiveness built around some very specific issues. I also hope to be an independent voice on future directions of higher education, nationally and internationally."

Barnett said that Gillis would be granted a sabbatical year after he steps down, something the demands of research and academic leadership had prevented for all his 35 years as a faculty member at three institutions. Gillis said it would be useful in three ways.

"One, it will allow me to retool for my teaching and research fields, old and new," he said. "Two, I've always felt that a new president should have the chance to get established without his or her predecessor hanging around. Three, it will give me blessedly more time with Elizabeth."

The Rice Board of Trustees in 2000 recognized the contribution of Elizabeth Gillis, Malcolm's wife of four decades, by creating in her name a university-wide award for exemplary service.

Gillis's successor will have a long list of accomplishments to build on, Barnett said.

"In addition to the strategic plan, the campaign, and the building program," Barnett said, "Malcolm guided an unprecedented period of collaboration with other institutions; a deeper and more fruitful involvement in the community; an enormous enhancement of Rice's international presence through such things as the Baker Institute for Public Policy, study abroad, and International University Bremen; a successful effort to maintain diversity under difficult circumstances; a very substantial expansion of the faculty; a foresighted investment in nano, bio, info, and enviro science and technology; the biggest expansion of humanities facilities ever; the first addition to the college system in 30 years; the rise of the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management; and on and on."

Gillis was born December 28, 1940, and earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1968. Before entering university leadership, he spent the first 25 years of his professional life teaching economics and applying economic analysis to public policy in almost 20 countries, from the United States and Canada to Ecuador, Colombia, Ghana, and Indonesia. His research and teaching have mainly been in the areas of fiscal economics and environmental policy.

His first faculty post was as an assistant professor of economics at Duke University, followed by a 15-year stint at Harvard University. He returned to Duke in 1984 as a professor of economics and public policy, was awarded a distinguished named chair, became dean of the graduate school and vice provost for academic affairs, and then was named dean of the faculty of arts and sciences. He came to Rice as president in July 1993, and he also has served here as the Ervin Kenneth Zingler Professor of Economics.

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We All Know that Desserts Are Brain Food

Pooja Bhatia, a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*'s "Weekend" section, paid an unannounced visit to the South Servery in early October. She was traveling around the country sampling college dorm food.

IT Research and Digital Library Benefit from Recent NSF Awards

Computer science researchers at Rice University have been awarded four grants totaling more than $3.5 million under the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Information Technology Research (ITR) program, and the School of Continuing Studies received $700,000 to develop an online digital library.

New Wiess, Same Old Wiessmen

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Suppose you could accurately predict serious militarized international conflict weeks, or even months, in advance, potentially impacting foreign policy?

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Rice, Brookhaven Physicists Unravel Basic Biological Mystery

Physicists at Rice and the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory have unraveled one of the most stubborn mysteries of basic biology—the structure of the initial stage of membrane fusion.

Growing Bone Outside the Body

A new study by Rice researchers indicates that bioengineers attempting to grow bone in the laboratory may be able to create the mechanical stimulation needed to grow bone outside the body. One of the greatest challenges tissue engineers face in growing bone in the laboratory is recreating the conditions that occur inside the body.

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We All Know that Desserts Are Brain Food

Pooja Bhatia, a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*'s "Weekend" section, paid an unannounced visit to the South Servery in early October. She was traveling around the country sampling college dorm food.

The chef in the servery, Roger Elkhouri, reported that Bhatia had heard from students about how good the food is on campus. Bhatia called Rice a "top performer" and was very impressed with the servery and the décor, saying it was much above all the Aramark cafeterias she had seen elsewhere. She noted the house specialty—smothered pork chops—and cited high-end desserts as one of the best features.

Her story appeared in the November 8 edition, and she awarded Rice three out of a possible four stars. Only Yale earned a four-star rating, while the University of Texas earned . . . well, we won't go there.

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IT Research and Digital Library Benefit from Recent NSF Awards

Computer science researchers at Rice University have been awarded four grants totaling more than $3.5 million under the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Information Technology Research (ITR) program, and the School of Continuing Studies received $700,000 to develop an online digital library.

"Rice is not a large school, so the fact that a department our size received this many ITR grants—covering such a broad range of topics—is a testimony to the quality of research we're involved in," says Keith Cooper, chair of Rice's computer science department.

Cooper and fellow Rice computer scientists Devika Subramanian and Linda Torczon received one of the grants, a $1.6-million award to develop adaptive compilers. A compiler is software that processes programming instructions written in a specific programming language, translating them into a binary set of instructions that can be run on the computer's processor. Two trends—the appearance of more specialized computer chips and the need to execute software differently in various situations in order to maximize elements like speed, battery power, or stability—have led to a need for intelligent, adaptive compilers that can optimize application performance. The researchers hope to develop the knowledge and techniques needed to make adaptive compilers practical within five years.

Subramanian and political scientist Richard Stoll are working together on a separate ITR project to develop a computer system capable of predicting when and where international conflicts will arise. Their $400,000 grant will fund the development of an automated system that will compile information from online news accounts of political events and compare those with records of past events in order to predict impending conflicts.

Another of Rice's ITR grants, led by computer scientist Peter Druschel, is part of a five-year, $12-million, multi-institutional program to develop a peer-to-peer framework that will support the deployment of large, distributed applications. The research involves a dozen teams at several universities, including the University of California–Berkeley, New York University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Druschel says the system could ultimately support user cooperatives dedicated to specific tasks like backup or content delivery.

Computer scientists Lydia Kavraki and Joe Warren were awarded $650,000 to develop algorithms and representations that computer programmers need to incorporate elastic, flexible objects into computer simulations. Such objects include cloth and fabric, human tissue and organs, cells and cell membranes, and large molecules. There is a growing demand to incorporate these and other virtual "deformable objects" into scientific simulations, computer games, and movie special effects. The mathematical complexity involved in modeling these objects requires novel computational tools. This grant is part of a $3.9-million ITR award that also involves researchers at

The Advanced Placement Digital Library will house a collection of Internet resources useful for AP biology, physics, and chemistry courses. These resources could include lecture modules, lesson plans, tests, new research, multimedia presentations, and much-needed career guidance.

Stanford University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Rutgers University.

Outside of the ITR initiatives, the NSF also has awarded a grant of $700,000 to the School of Continuing Studies to develop an online digital library for high school advanced placement (AP) teachers and students of biology, physics, and chemistry.

The AP program is accepted both nationally and internationally as a demanding undergraduate-level curriculum taught in high schools. Over the past eight summers, the School of Continuing Studies has administered professional development institutes for AP and pre-AP teachers. With nearly 1,400 teachers from across the country attending this past summer, the program has grown to become one of the nation's largest.

The Advanced Placement Digital Library (APDL) will house a collection of Internet resources useful for AP biology, physics, and chemistry courses. These resources could include lecture modules, lesson plans, tests, new research, multimedia presentations, and much-needed career guidance. The collection will be reviewed and validated by master AP teachers and college faculty across the country and will adhere to nationally accepted outlines and concepts for AP biology, physics, and chemistry as well as additional topics suggested as necessary inclusions by the National Research Council.

The APDL represents a significant contribution to the Rice Digital Library Initiative (RDLI). "Providing access to appropriate scholarly assets in digital form to support the Rice community is critical to the success of the teaching and research missions of Rice," said Geneva Henry, executive director of the RDLI. "The APDL will be an important resource for preparing students for their studies before they get to Rice, as well as providing background materials for Rice students to refresh their memories on concepts they learned in their AP courses." The APDL also affords those students who did not have AP courses in high school a chance to use these materials on their own as needed so they are not at a disadvantage when their professors expect them to have already learned prerequisite concepts covered only in AP courses.

When completed, the APDL will be made available online through the official College Board site at http://apcentral.collegeboard.com.

—Jade Boyd and Carol Hopkins

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More than 50 years after students moved into the original Wiess College, Wiessmen have a new home for the War Pig, tabletop theater, and pumpkin caroling.

Dedicated in a ceremony held October 5, the new Wiess College is a state-of-the-art, 163,500-square-foot building that can house 228 students, two resident associates, and one visiting faculty member. The new facility features classrooms and seminar rooms, an exercise room, kitchenettes with dishwashers, lounges, and more. Most important to Wiessmen, however, is that the new building retains many of the elements that made Old Wiess so distinct: motel-style suites, external balconies, and an enclosed courtyard or "Acabowl."

"These architectural elements are a permanent staple of Wiess life and will continue to define the social landscape of Wiess for years to come," said the college's president, Robert Morgan.

Wiess master Katharine Donato, associate professor of sociology, observed, however, that "Wiess's identity is clearly more than just physical spaces," adding that regardless of which building houses the college, Wiess is still Wiess. "Social scientists will tell you that cultural traditions don't disappear in a matter of months," Donato said. "As an institution, Wiess College will remain what it has always been: wise, different, and strong."

Located south of Old Wiess and west of Hanszen College, the new building marks an enhancement in the residential college system not only because of its many amenities but also because its completion marks the attainment of one of the goals of the Rice: The Next Century Campaign: housing no fewer than four-fifths of the undergraduate students in on-campus housing.

"The demand for on-campus housing has exceeded supply for several years," Rice president Malcolm Gillis noted at the dedication ceremony. "This building—along with Martel College and the expansion of Jones and Brown Colleges—allows us to house 80 percent of our undergraduates. Before these improvements, we could house only 67 percent."

Ground for the new Wiess building was broken at a ceremony held exactly three years earlier, when John Hutchinson, assistant vice president for student affairs and professor of chemistry, and his wife, Paula, were Wiess College masters. They handed their duties off to Donato and her husband, Daniel Kalb, in 2001, but the Hutchinsons remained interested in being personally involved with students, and this spring they accepted the position of masters at Brown College.

At the Wiess dedication ceremony, Hutchinson said, "We shared in the dream that, as Wiess evolved into the future, we would be able to preserve those things about Wiess that were always so important to us. A united college, undivided into cliques or factions, where all parts of the community live as one unit. A very inclusive college where students are drawn out of their rooms and into the rich activities of the community. A

The old Wiess building, above, was demolished in December, but for a nostalgic look, check out the **website** by Colin Delany'91.

very supportive college where the new students become comfortable and at home due to the mentoring of the juniors and seniors who live amongst them. A progressive college where students can test the edges and challenge themselves but where the backing of the college government is self-correcting. And a very compassionate college where the students care for each other, watch out for each other, and stay close to one another. We are here today to celebrate that the dream we shared has in fact come true today. We are now surrounded by a new Wiess College building, which will indeed preserve this wonderful sense of community that is in fact the essence of Wiess College."

Built in 1949, Old Wiess was one of the original five dormitories that made up the college system created in 1957. It was originally called North Hall until being renamed Wiess Hall in 1950 in honor of Harry Carothers Wiess, the founder of Humble Oil Company who, at his death in 1948, was vice chairman of the Rice Board of Trustees.

—Jennifer Evans

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[Living and Leaving a Legacy to Rice: A Memoriam]

When Cy Johnson entered Rice in 1927, he couldn't have imagined how his future would be molded by the experience—nor could Rice have anticipated how this brilliant young man would influence his alma mater for years to come.

After working in the West Texas oil fields for a number of years following high school, Cy took on a new challenge—working his way through Rice during the Great Depression. Even though he ran out of money part way through and took a year off to work full time, his determination to study at Rice was unwavering.

So was his interest in another student, Charlotte Ann Collins '32, who became Mrs. Johnson following graduation. Together, they enjoyed a life full of adventure, travel, and exceptional experiences—and financial success that today benefits the university that brought them together. "Cy was a genius and an inventor," Mrs. Johnson said. "But he was a little reserved. He wouldn't have succeeded as well if he hadn't attended Rice. No other school could have prepared him the way Rice did."

What did she mean by that? "Well, Rice gave him that little extra push," she said. "The excellent faculty made sure he had the education he needed to be successful. That was what allowed him to make the money that he did," she said, citing dual completion of oil wells, one of his inventions.

Those same fond thoughts of Rice were evident in how Mrs. Johnson handled her financial affairs. Upon his death, Mr. Johnson left all financial decisions for her to make. "We both felt so privileged to go to Rice," she said. "So I give back to Rice because I'm able to."

Mrs. Johnson established a scholarship in memory of her mother-in-law, a published author with works in Fondren Library. Mrs. Johnson requested that this scholarship be awarded to working students.

In addition, she made gifts to the university that benefited her during her lifetime and funded an endowment in her husband's name that took effect at her death. This endowment is designated to repair and replace machinery, lab equipment, and computers in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science in honor of her husband's career as an engineer.

Although none of her gifts are in her own name, she, too, was a loyal Rice alum. "Oh, I had a lot of fun at Rice," she said. She then quickly added with a chuckle, "I also made decent grades."

Following graduation, the couple visited campus often and stayed in touch with many of the good friends they made here. "I've had a wonderful life. It's not one I ever expected to have when I was growing up. But it was exciting. And so was Cy. I ran to keep up with him!"

"Cy was a genius and an inventor," Mrs. Johnson said. "But he was a little reserved. He wouldn't have succeeded as well if he hadn't attended Rice. No other school could have prepared him the way Rice did."

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Mrs. Johnson died in November 2002.

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Leaders Convene for Space Summit

If your image of space exploration is people boldly going where no one has gone before, you might want to slow down a bit. Space exploration is a marathon, not a sprint, say world space leaders who attended the Space Policy Summit hosted by the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy October 11 through 13. They recommended that space exploration be pursued as a step-by-step progression that involves sustained, systematic improvements in scientific understanding and enabling technologies, such as advanced in-space propulsion and power-generation systems.

The 39 international leaders, representing government and industry of 16 nations and five international organizations, discussed space commerce, space exploration, and space applications and identified key policies and initiatives aimed at bringing the benefits of space activities to humanity through international cooperation. They also discussed obstacles to taking full advantage of the benefits of space and explored ways to surmount those challenges. Organized by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and sponsored by the Lockheed Martin Corporation, the summit was held in conjunction with the World Space Congress taking place in Houston.
"As government and private sectors pursue the use of space for everything from satellite communications to human spaceflight, a coherent and effective policy to regulate such activities will be of paramount importance," commented Edward Djerejian, director of the Baker Institute. "The Baker Institute was pleased to host the first Space Policy Summit in coordination with AIAA and Lockheed Martin. We think it is a very promising start for future deliberations with a view toward policy recommendations to decision makers."

The summit discussion was influenced by the renewed emphasis on national and international security concerns and the significant downturn in commercial space markets. Participants emphasized that space technologies and capabilities have a unique ability to address many of the challenges facing the world. "In bringing together key space leaders from around the globe for a cooperative dialog," said Brian Dailey, vice president–international of AIAA, "the Space Policy Summit has provided the framework and path forward for addressing the most compelling challenges facing world space endeavors."

George Abbey, visiting senior fellow for space policy at the Baker Institute, noted that a number of crosscutting issues emerged from the summit. "Cooperation in space, for example, can provide a foundation to expand relationships among nations in many areas," he said. "Space organizations should make a more concerted effort to engage and make the world public more aware of space activities and the specific benefits and impact on their lives. Space also has a unique power to inspire youth to study math and science, which will have long-term workforce benefits."

Participants in the session on commercial space issues noted several issues. First, today's commercial satellite market is not sufficient to sustain current

space launch systems or justify industry investment in new technologies. Government support is needed to meet national objectives in security, civil, and commercial sectors. In line with that, in many cases, government funding or requirements lead to the development of new technologies and applications. Once the development is mature, industry develops commercial products and services based on those applications.

They also thought that while export controls on space-related technologies reflect legitimate national security and nonproliferation concerns, they limit international cooperation and inhibit growth of the commercial sector. Governments should harmonize export control requirements according to true national security needs and create timely, predictable, and transparent systems for licensing space technologies. And finally, dual-use space systems can efficiently and reliably serve users in both the public and private sectors.

Leaders in the space exploration session pointed out that discoveries to be made through space exploration are inexhaustible. Space exploration is a global endeavor and a vision is needed that looks beyond the space station and involves robotics, human exploration, and the search for life. They also affirmed that the International Space Station program represents an unprecedented technical achievement, and despite current problems, it will be successful and provide a model for international cooperation.

The space applications issues session resulted in the observation that data access is still a problem in certain circumstances, although the cost of the raw data itself might be a minor contributor to the overall cost of value-added products. If requests for data are for specific needs rather than blanket demands, it might enhance data availability from providers. Also, remote sensing programs increasingly are being defined by user requirements, rather than by space data providers, which is a welcome trend.

In addition, the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Partnership is a first real step toward a global Earth-observing system and is providing a foundation on which to build. It is important to use and strengthen existing activities such as IGOS rather than try to create new mechanisms.

For more information on the Space Policy Summit, see http://www.aiaa.org/spacepolicy or http://www.bakerinstitute.org.

—B. J. Almond

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Project Might Predict Serious Conflicts, Wars Weeks in Advance

Suppose you could accurately predict serious militarized international conflict weeks, or even months, in advance, potentially impacting foreign policy?

That's just what two researchers at Rice hope to do in an unusual collaboration that mixes political science with computer science.

For several years, Rice computer scientist Devika Subramanian and political scientist Richard Stoll have worked together using ideas, data, and theories from both their disciplines to address this problem. Their research project utilizes the most recent advances in computing facilities, including a supercomputer that can perform a trillion calculations per second, and takes advantage of the vast expansion of computer networking to compile information about political events in various countries over a lengthy period of time.

"We want both to develop new techniques and to adapt existing ones to create the extensive sets of data about events between countries and to apply models of international conflict to predict the outbreak of military action," says Stoll. The proliferation of news in electronic form has made such an ambitious goal possible, he says, citing worldwide news sources that can be accessed online, such as Reuters, Associated Press, United Press International, cnn.com, and the New York Times. Advances in technologies that can rapidly search these databases on the Internet and mine them for the relevant information also have made the study feasible.

The researchers at Rice plan to develop computer programs that gather large sets of current and archived electronic information sources. They then will use techniques that already are available to extract data about events between countries. Event data consists of an action such as a military strike or threat, the country that initiated the action, the country that was the target, and the date of occurrence. The actions are scored on a scale that indicates how cooperative or hostile the country was that initiated the action. The extracted information will be coded so that it can be analyzed in a variety of fashions, employing techniques from both computer science and political science.

Subramanian will apply and extend existing algorithms for machine learning and signal processing to analyze the event data and search for patterns that would predict the outbreak of serious conflict. One of the key issues is how to aggregate, or group, the data so it can be analyzed effectively. The researchers want to develop new conflict-prediction techniques that correlate event data streams across time and geographic regions. They also want to develop models that can track the evolution of conflict over time.

"We seek to predict, with a lead time of four to eight weeks, the outbreak of serious conflicts, even though they might not reach the level of war," Stoll

If the project is successful, it could prove useful to policy-makers. Theoretically, the information could be made available online, where officials could consult it and possibly intervene to avoid conflict.

says. Analyzing why the conflict occurred will help the researchers develop models for predicting conflict.

The researchers are well aware that event data sets can become quite large. They estimate that a global data set spanning the time period of the Cold War is likely to encompass some 200 million events.

Because of the large volume of data required for this project, the researchers will take advantage of the Rice Terascale Cluster, a supercomputer being built at Rice with funding from the National Science Foundation and Intel Corporation, who also are funding the conflict project. This supercomputer should be able to perform one trillion calculations per second when it becomes operational next year.
For preliminary results, Stoll and Subramanian are studying event data from 1979 to 2001 on eight countries in the Middle East. “We know where and when the serious conflicts occurred, so we can get a reality check on our predictions,” Stoll says. Using a signal-processing technique called wavelet analysis, they have discovered discontinuities termed “singularities” in the event data that are associated with the outbreak of serious conflict.

If the project is successful, it could prove useful to policy-makers. Theoretically, the information could be made available online, where officials could consult it and possibly intervene to avoid conflict. “Access to aggregated event data over a long period of time can have a major impact on policy-making by providing an additional source of information on which to base foreign-policy decisions,” Stoll says.
“But first we have to address the core scientific question,” he notes. “How well can an objective, data-driven approach to modeling the genesis and evolution of conflict in various regions of the world work?”
The database of event information will be made available to the research community.

—B. J. Almond

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Modeling Cancer Metastasis

Cancer researchers know the disease spreads from organ to organ in a nonrandom pattern, but they are unable to predict exactly how cancer will spread, in part because of the limited tools available to study cancer-cell migration in a controlled laboratory setting. That could all change.

In groundbreaking new research, Rice University scientists have designed a computerized system that can track the movement of individual cancer cells growing in a three-dimensional culture of model living tissue. The system can be used to categorize the metastatic patterns of different cancers and to help test the effectiveness of cancer-slowing or proposed cancer-prevention drugs.

Described in the September 15 issue of Cancer Research, the Rice study involved experiments on two types of cancer cells—a strain of breast cancer and a variant of skin cancer. The researchers placed cancer cells from each strain into two types of simulated soft tissue. Using computer automation, the researchers tracked and analyzed the movement of individual cells as they migrated through the tissue.

The skin cancer migrated faster, spread further, and penetrated deeper in both types of tissue. However, the research also revealed similarities between the strains. For example, both types of cells showed a tendency to oscillate, burrowing into tissue, reversing briefly, and burrowing back along a slightly different vertical path. This suggests that both types of cancer invade tissue by seeking or creating a path of least resistance.

"The most important element of this work is not the differences we observed in the metastatic patterns of these two types of cancer. It's the methodology we developed to study the movement of cancer cells in living tissue," says study co-author Larry McIntire, chair of Rice's Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering. "Studying tumor-cell invasion in live cultures in real time is a significant advance."

Only with in vitro studies of three-dimensional cell migration can scientists gather data on critical factors that influence metastasis, including the percentage of mobile cells in a specific cancer strain, the speed of cell movement, the direction that cells move, how long cells move in a particular direction, how often cells turn and in which direction, and the way movement changes in reaction to chemicals or obstructions.

McIntire's co-author on the article is Zoe N. Demou, now a postdoctoral fellow at the Steele Laboratory for Tumor Biology at Harvard Medical School in Boston. Cancer Research, published by the American Association for Cancer Research, is the most frequently cited cancer journal and is among the world's 15 most-cited scientific journals.

—Jade Boyd

Larry McIntire,
Chair of Rice's Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering

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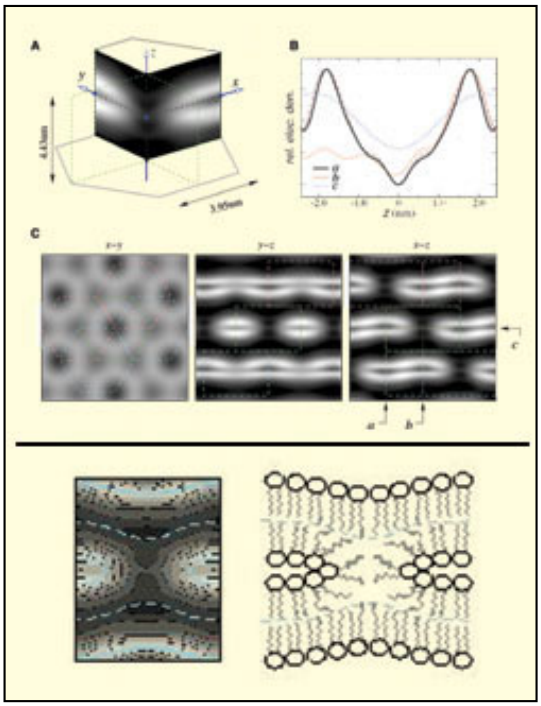
Rice, Brookhaven Physicists Unravel Basic Biological Mystery

Physicists at Rice and the Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory have unraveled one of the most stubborn mysteries of basic biology—the structure of the initial stage of membrane fusion.

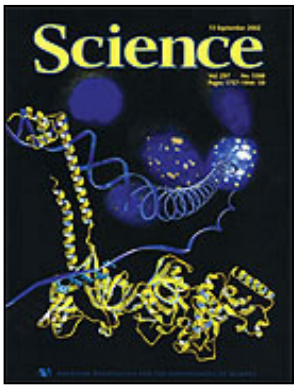


Described in the September 13 issue of Science, the findings open the door for studies that could improve the effectiveness of gene therapy and drug delivery. While we commonly think of cells dividing and multiplying in our bodies, it is also possible for two cells to join together. In fact, invading viruses commonly fuse with healthy cells in order to inject foreign genes, and cellular fusion is the basic process by which sperm and egg share genetic information. Since most cells in our bodies touch one another without fusing, scientists are keen to understand what starts the fusion process and how it occurs.

One reason cell fusion is little understood is because bonding begins at the membrane, the ultra-thin envelope of molecules around each cell. All biological membranes consist of two layers of lipid molecules, called a bilayer, that have a large population of proteins embedded in them. As two-dimensional liquid films, membranes remain one of the least-understood components in cells because the most powerful techniques in biochemistry —X-ray crystallography and high-resolution nuclear magnetic resonance— are difficult to apply.

"Membrane fusion is governed by a group of large, complex proteins, but scientists have no idea how these proteins work," says Huey Huang, the Sam and Helen Worden Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Rice and senior author of the Science paper. "Our research will help scientists who are studying these proteins."

Scientists know cellular fusion begins when cell membranes form an initial junction, a tiny hole between the two cells. This junction widens over time until one single, continuous membrane envelops the contents of both cells. Huang and co-author Lin Yang, a former graduate student of Huang's at



Understanding the basic structure of the initial molecular connection between cells is critical for isolating the energy barriers that fusion proteins need to overcome in order to initiate cell fusion.

Rice and now a postdoctoral physicist at Brookhaven's National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS), used a variant of X-ray crystallography called X-ray diffraction to experimentally confirm a long-standing theory about the initial bridge that forms between membranes. Understanding the basic structure of this initial molecular connection is critical for isolating the energy barriers that fusion proteins need to overcome in order to initiate cell fusion.

To reveal the structure of the fused cell membranes, Huang and Yang first produced small crystals composed of stacks of membranes made of phospholipids. Then they projected X-rays produced by the NSLS toward the crystals. By looking at how the X-rays scattered off the crystals, Huang and Yang were able to create diffraction patterns, maps of the atomic structure of the phospholipid layers in the membranes.

By dehydrating a stack of membranes, the scientists were able to induce membrane fusion. Analysis of the diffraction patterns of these samples confirmed that the two membranes were caught in the act of fusing. These diffraction patterns showed that membrane fusion begins with the formation of an hourglass-shaped structure called a stalk, which theorists had predicted.

"Now that we know what the structure is, we can calculate the free energy pathway, which is a sort of map that will show where the energy barrier is for membrane fusion," Huang says. "Ultimately, medical researchers working on gene therapy and drug delivery would like to find out how two membranes fuse, because they'd like to be able to activate the fusion process in order to deliver new genes and drugs to patients. Currently, fusion is the bottleneck to nonviral gene delivery."

The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Welch Foundation, and the Department of Energy.

—Jade Boyd

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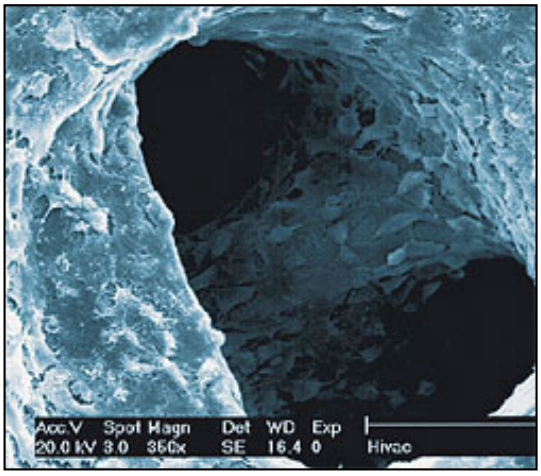
Growing Bone Outside the Body

A new study by Rice researchers indicates that bioengineers attempting to grow bone in the laboratory may be able to create the mechanical stimulation needed to grow bone outside the body. One of the greatest challenges tissue engineers face in growing bone in the laboratory is recreating the conditions that occur inside the body.



The recipe for growing healthy bones includes not only a precise biological mix—bone cells called "osteoblasts" and several growth factors that osteoblasts use to build the mineralized matrix of bones—but also mechanical stimulation. Astronauts whose bones become brittle after months in orbit are a testament to the importance that mechanical stress plays in bone growth. In orbit, their skeletons aren't subject to the everyday stresses of gravity.

Tissue engineers at Rice placed bone marrow-derived osteoblasts from rats into centimeter-wide plexiglass chambers containing a thin stack of titanium fiber mesh. The samples were covered with a liquid growth medium—a bath of chemicals that promotes bone growth—and sealed in an incubator. After letting the cultures sit overnight to give the cells time to attach themselves to the mesh, a growth medium was pumped through the cultures for 16 days. Bone cultures were subjected to a range of three different flow rates to provide mechanical stimulation, and another set of cultures was grown in a motionless bath.

"Researchers have used fluid flow to stimulate bone growth before, but no one has looked at its effect on three-dimensional cultures that have been subjected to continuous stimulation for several days," said Antonios Mikos, the John W. Cox Professor of Bioengineering. "We found that even the lowest flow rate produced a significant increase in the formation of mineralized bone. Moreover, the mineralized bone that formed in samples subjected to flow was thick and well-developed—similar to what we find in natural bone—while the bone matrix formed by the static samples was thin and brittle."

Mikos said more studies are necessary to determine the exact flow rate needed to produce the best amount of bone matrix with the optimal three-dimensional structure. For those who have lost a segment of bone to cancer or injury, the technology isn't expected to result in clinical treatment options for several years. Ultimately, however, artificial bone could be

"Researchers have used fluid flow to stimulate bone growth before, but no one has looked at its effect on three-dimensional cultures that have been subjected to continuous stimulation for several days"

Antonios Mikos
John W. Cox Professor of Bioengineerin

substituted for donor tissue or surgical implants made of synthetic materials.

The research was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and NASA, and the results were presented in an article titled "Fluid Flow Increases Mineralized Matrix Deposition in 3-D Perfusion Culture of Marrow Stromal Osteoblasts in a Dose-Dependent Manner," which appeared in the October 1 issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, available online at http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/99/20/12600.

—Jade Boyd

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Nader: Crusader, Spoiler, Icon

When a Princeton undergraduate driving a 1949 Studebaker nearly ran over Albert Einstein, he wondered, "What if the brakes had failed?" That undergraduate was Ralph Nader, and his question eventually lead to his book Unsafe at Any Speed, a searing indictment of automobile safety.

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Nader's crusade against the automobile industry resulted in higher safety standards and the saving of millions of dollars and millions of lives, earning him public accolades. Years later, though, his third-party candidacy in the 2000 elections very likely cost Al Gore the presidency, causing many to bemoan his public involvement.

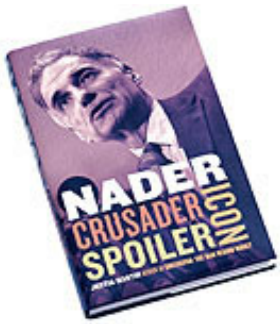
Nader still drives that 1949 Studebaker, but what drives this complex and elusive reformer who has perplexed, and even infuriated, nearly everyone with whom he has ever worked? In *Nader: Crusader, Spoiler, Icon* (Perseus Publishing, 2002), Justin Martin '87 gives a balanced portrait based on extensive research and interviews with hundreds of associates, friends and family, and Nader himself.

Nader was born in 1934, and his interest in auto safety began at an early age—his father was employed by Maxwell Auto Works, later Chrysler. Nader graduated from Princeton in 1955, and following law school at Harvard, he worked as a freelance journalist before moving to Washington, D.C., in 1964. He paid $85 for a spare little room in a boarding house and was highly secretive, giving his phone number and address to few people. The following year, he published *Unsafe at Any Speed*, establishing his reputation as a reformer. That reputation was further cemented when he subsequently won a lawsuit against General Motors, which had hired spies to dig up dirt on him.

Throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s, he hired groups of young people, dubbed "Nader's Raiders," to investigate corporate malfeasance and government corruption. His attitude toward his youthful army provides an insight into Nader's own personality. When asked how he chose his workers, Nader once responded: "You start off by saying they have to be bright and hardworking, the usual traits. But the one key probably is how willing they are not to be loved."

Nader has flirted with politics since 1972, when he declined both a third-party candidacy and an offer to be running mate to George McGovern. His thinking clearly changed by 1992. Since then, he has run for the presidency three times, twice as the Green Party candidate even though he is not a member of the Green Party—or any other party, for that matter.

But even Nader's critics have to admit that he has left a substantial legacy—safer cars and successful battles on a vast array of issues, such as nuclear power, drug labeling, access to government information, antitrust policy, global trade, utility rate increases, nursing home conditions, fair credit practices, and more. That seems like a lot of territory, but Martin says, "He has never gotten married, has never had kids, has few real friends. This lack



The toughest challenge in writing the book was the sheer amount of material Martin had to deal with.

of attachment has left him free to be incredibly focused on his life's work. And his energy tilts into Thomas Jefferson territory: He works seven days a week, sleeps four hours a night."

Martin says that the toughest challenge in writing the book was the sheer amount of material he had to deal with. "Ralph Nader has been working nonstop for going on 40 years now," Martin says. "He has accomplished a huge amount, rubbed shoulders with thousands of people. It was tough to boil it all down." Will Nader be pleased with the results? "He can be very thin-skinned," Martin says. "And he is very assiduous about the crafting and maintenance of his public image. I think he will probably be displeased by some of the negative impressions contained in the book. But I've tried to create a fair and balanced portrait of an extremely complex man. Nader has always put a premium on veracity. While he may not like certain portions of the book, I think he will respect the accuracy and thoroughness of my research and reporting."

What does Martin think is next for Nader? "I would lay 90 percent odds that he will run for president in 2004. I would also lay 0 percent odds that he will win. Even so, he may well continue to run, again and again."

Martin is the author of the national bestseller *Greenspan: The Man Behind Money*, and his work has appeared in such magazines as *Newsweek*, *Fortune*, *Travel & Leisure*, and *Worth*.

—Christopher Dow

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Navigating a Middle Path

Quick. Who was the most prolific African American filmmaker of the 20th century? If you're thinking Spike Lee or John Singleton, you better think again.

Many years before *Boyz in the Hood*'s Singleton was born or Lee became a household name, black filmmaker Oscar Micheaux had written, produced, directed, and distributed 43 feature films, several of which can be considered "answers" to the incredibly influential and notoriously racist first American blockbuster, *The Birth of a Nation*. Never heard of him? That may be because Micheaux's creative legacy was in critical dispute after the passing of time. His production quality has been considered shoddy, his emphasis on racial uplift and middle-class values has been derided as quaint, and his supposed fondness for lighter skin and use of racial caricatures and stereotypes has been debated as evidence of his own self-hatred and internalized racism. But in his book *Straight Lick: The Cinema of Oscar Micheaux* (Indiana University Press, 2000), Rice alum and associate professor of film studies at Ohio State University J. Ronald Green '67 argues compellingly against the assumptions behind the negative critiques. Green's scholarship is an ambitious effort to place Micheaux among other important, creative American filmmakers, and he argues convincingly that his body of work still has much to teach independent filmmakers and scholars of the genre.

"Micheaux's work reflects in its style the dilemmas of African American community and class mobility in a white-dominated world."

Micheaux wrote, self-published, and distributed seven novels before he moved on to film. And as with any independent filmmaker working during the years 1913 through 1951—especially a black filmmaker—money was in short supply. One of the criticisms of Micheaux's work is that it suffered greatly due to the low production quality. Green argues that such criticism not only does not take into account Micheaux's circumstances but also ignores his vision, purpose, audience, and sense of integrity. Says Green, "His style is . . . appropriate to and worthy of his situation and themes and issues. That in itself indicates that his accomplishment may have been greater than has been recognized."

According to Green, "Micheaux's work reflects in its style the dilemmas of African American community and class mobility in a white-dominated world." Micheaux believed strongly in the American Dream and in helping his people find their way to achieve it. The American Dream is, essentially, a dream to achieve the values and material success of the middle class. Green believes that Micheaux's low-budget production style is one of many ways that the filmmaker's work illustrated the recurring theme of blacks striving to create a "middle way" in navigating their route toward racial uplift and the American Dream. Micheaux's use of a "middle way"—utilizing middle-class tools and moderate capital—helped him create movies whose form reflected their content, a concept that he believes many scholars and critics have ignored in critiquing the filmmaker.

Green argues that those who see the low production quality of Micheaux's films as a hindrance to their overall artistic quality are mistaken. In fact, he

states, “the inexpensive production values . . . reflect and also represent, adversity,” which allows Micheaux to remain true to his audience—people who were struggling with adversity as well. He goes further to say that grandiose Hollywood-style film budgets often do their film’s subjects a disservice and compromise the integrity of the filmmaker and his or her efforts. According to Green, Micheaux’s “middle way” allowed him to create art that more closely conformed to middle-class American ideals. He believes that Micheaux used the imperfect tools he had, a “crooked stick,” to achieve his goals and “hit a straight lick,” hence the title of the book.

Just as Green makes strong, meticulous arguments in favor of Micheaux’s production style, he also takes on all of the additional criticisms of the filmmaker, each time finding Micheaux worthy of further scholarship and respect. He is following his own lead here and, in 2003, will publish another book on the subject, but apparently, he isn’t alone. Kansas’s Oscar Micheaux Film Festival has become increasingly popular, so it seems that perhaps the 21st century is paying more attention to a filmmaker that the last 50 years almost forgot.

—M. Yvonne Taylor

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Staff Mentoring Program Creates Atmosphere of Camaraderie

When Sharron Kinnaird reflects on her first few days working at Rice, she says she was lucky to have someone like Nancy Letness in her life.

Kinnaird, building coordinator and staff assistant at the George R. Brown School of Engineering, says Letness, assistant to the dean of the school, helped her adjust to her new home at Rice, showing her the ins and outs of the university. So when Kinnaird was approached to join the Staff Mentoring Program, created four years ago, she knew being able to help other new employees was essential to making Rice an enjoyable place to work.

" Even though Nancy wasn't officially a mentor through the program, that's the role she filled," Kinnaird says. "I thought if I could do that for someone and help them like Nancy helped me, I would feel really good about that."

The Staff Mentoring Program is designed to provide Rice employees with a network of peers who can answer procedural questions or simply lend an ear to someone having a hectic day. New employees, for example, don't always know what services are available or which offices to turn to for information, or there may be times when they have questions but are too embarrassed or intimidated to ask. Having a mentor who is familiar with the university gives the employee a comfortable solution.

" We don't want our new employees to reinvent the wheel," says Ellen Butler, chair of the Staff Mentoring subcommittee and executive assistant to the Faculty Council and to Scientia. "Most information is somewhere in some document here at Rice, but how much easier is it to call another staff member?"

The program is open to any person on staff who could use some help or who would like to be a mentor. According to Butler, there are no official requirements to become a mentor. "Staff members don't realize how much they've already acquired," she says. "The thing about mentoring is that you don't need to know everything. You're going to have a network of people whom you can contact to provide answers." The program's success is sparking interest from other universities around the country. The subcommittee has received inquiries from universities such as Johns Hopkins, Pepperdine, the University of Arizona, and the University of Memphis about how the program works.

" The main purpose of the mentoring program is to provide a friendly face," Kinnaird says. "I think at Rice, there is a real feeling of camaraderie. It's a rather close-knit group, and it's genuine." And, according to Butler, the program also has the added benefit of giving employees ways to make new friends.

An important element of the program is its annual luncheon, where Butler receives feedback about the positive impact the program has had on the

"The main purpose of the mentoring program is to provide a friendly face. I think at Rice, there is a real feeling of camaraderie. It's a rather close-knit group, and it's genuine."

Sharron Kinnaird

Rice campus. “People tell me when they come to these luncheons or team meetings that they worked in other organizations, and they had so many friends there,” she says. “When they came to Rice, they felt completely lost. They didn’t know anyone, and, of course, Rice gives the impression of being so smart, so they felt rather intimidated. Then they joined the mentoring program, and they made so many friends so quickly.”

Butler got a chance to experience firsthand the strength of the bonds created among staff members who are a part of the program when Tropical Storm Allison ravaged Houston in 2001. The building Butler lived in was condemned, leaving her with little time to gather her remaining belongings and move out. “I get this knock on the door,” she says, “and these mentors come in and they start moving all my things, taking me to lunch, providing meals, giving me gifts of money—just endless encouragement. So instead of feeling sad about the flood, I have beautiful memories from it.”

For more information about the Staff Mentoring Program, contact Butler at **713-348-5630** or butler@rice.edu. Additional information can be found at the website www.ruf.rice.edu/~stafadv/mentor_program/.

—Greg Okuhara

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In the News

Athanasiou Next President of Biomedical Organization
Bioengineering professor Kyriacos Athanasiou was elected the 2003–2004 president of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) at the organization's annual fall meeting in Houston.

BMES is an international professional organization representing more than 3,000 bioengineers and biomedical engineers. Athanasiou's one-year term as president will begin in October 2003.

Athanasiou, who joined the Rice faculty in 2000, has been a member of BMES since 1991. He currently serves on the BMES board of directors and is chair of its finance committee and past chair of the membership committee. He also is faculty adviser to Rice's student chapter of BMES. BMES was incorporated in 1968 to increase knowledge of biomedical engineering and its use.

Killian Earns Prestigious Packard Fellowship
Rice University physicist **Thomas C. Killian**'s groundbreaking work adapting techniques developed in atomic physics to open up a new area of plasma research in the realm of the ultracold has earned him a place in the national spotlight. Last September, he was awarded a Packard Fellowship in Science and Engineering. The prestigious fellowships are awarded each year to just 20 of the nation's most promising young scientists.

The five-year fellowship, from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, includes $625,000 in unrestricted grant funds. Killian said winning the award was both surprising and overwhelming at first. "I am deeply honored to be selected because there were many deserving candidates," he said.

The foundation accepted just 100 nominations for the fellowships from a select list of 50 invited universities, and Killian is the first Rice faculty member to receive the award. "This really changes everything for me," said Killian, who's been at Rice about 18 months. "Before, if a piece of equipment cost $15,000, I'd have my students build it for $1,000 to save the money, even though that might cost valuable time. Now, I can just spend the money and move on."

New Acting Director of Asian Studies Named
Jeffrey J. Kripal, the Lynette S. Autry Associate Professor of Religious Studies, has been named acting director of the Asian Studies Program. Kripal's areas of special interest are 19th-century Bengal, modern Hinduism, and Tantric studies. His current research includes the history of Esalen, the countercultural and New Age mecca in Big Sur, California, that played such an important role in translating Asian religious traditions into forms and practices accessible to American culture.

Tapia Honored for Efforts for Minorities
Richard Tapia, the Noah Harding Professor of Computational and Applied Mathematics, was one of the guests of honor last November at the second


Richard Tapia


Moshe Vardi


Alvin Tarlov

Blackwell–Tapia Conference at the University of California–Berkeley.

The two-day conference honored Tapia and mathematician David Blackwell, the first African American named to the National Academy of Sciences and professor emeritus of statistics at UC–Berkeley, for both their academic achievements and their longstanding efforts to create, support, and maintain opportunities for minority scientists, statisticians, and mathematicians across the nation.

The conference, sponsored by Cornell University and UC–Berkeley's Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, included the awarding of the first Blackwell–Tapia Prize to Arlie O. Petters, professor of mathematics at Duke University. The Blackwell–Tapia Prize honors a mathematical scientist who is not only a noted researcher but also a mentor and a champion of efforts to overcome the underrepresentation of minorities in mathematics.

Vardi, Tarlov Elected Fellows of AAAS

Two researchers at Rice University have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) by their peers in the world's largest federation of scientists.

Moshe Vardi, director of Rice's Computer and Information Technology Institute and a professor of computational engineering and computer science, was honored for his distinguished contributions to logic and the verification of computer hardware and software.

Alvin Tarlov, a senior fellow in health policy at Rice's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, was chosen for his distinguished leadership in medicine and health policy and for helping to forge stronger ties between the social sciences and biological sciences.

Members and steering groups of AAAS can nominate candidates for AAAS Fellow, an honor that recognizes efforts to advance science or foster applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished. The association's policy-making council votes on each year's list of new fellows. More than 10 million members comprise AAAS, which publishes the prestigious journal, *Science*.

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Grad Student Eric Allen Books His Time Well

Most people in academia are familiar with the publishing standard: earn a Ph.D., obtain a professorship, and write a book somewhere down the line. Eric Allen has sidestepped that process by authoring a book, Bug Patterns in Java, while attending graduate school in the Rice computer science department.

"Eric's Bug Patterns provides compelling justification for the software engineering principles that I teach. If you fail to follow any of them, Eric's book provides a graphic illustration of the peril that ensues."

"I was amazed when I learned that Eric was writing a book in addition to writing a dissertation and working as a teaching assistant in my software engineering course," says Professor Robert "Corky" Cartwright, Allen's graduate adviser and leader of the Java Programming Languages Team at Rice. "Eric is extremely focused in organizing his time, which enables him to achieve levels of productivity that I have never seen before in a graduate student."

In Bug Patterns, published by Apress, Allen presents program developers with a method for diagnosing and debugging computer programs. According to Allen, the book is his response to the increasing need for programmers who are proficient at preventing, diagnosing, and quickly repairing bugs in computer programs.

" We need to educate new developers more quickly," Allen says. "By identifying common patterns of signaled errors with their underlying causes and teaching these patterns to new programmers, we can leverage the experiences of many programmers to improve the effectiveness of each."

Allen started writing Web articles for JavaWorld and the IBM developer Works "Java Zone" in January 2000. After the articles led to a monthly column, "Diagnosing Java," Allen attracted the attention of Gary Cornell of Apress. Cornell encouraged him to produce a book on common bugs and how to solve them, a recurring theme in Allen's online articles.

" Eric's book is another example of the culture in Corky Cartwright's group that seems to integrate research, teaching, and educational outreach, to the benefit of all three," commented computer science department chair Keith Cooper.

Cartwright intends to use Allen's book in the future for his software engineering course. In fact, students attending Cartwright's course this spring have the added benefit of having the author as their teaching assistant.

" Eric's Bug Patterns provides compelling justification for the software engineering principles that I teach," Cartwright explains. "If you fail to follow any of them, Eric's book provides a graphic illustration of the peril that ensues."

Allen views his book as a natural extension of his studies. "Graduate school is primarily about learning to communicate," he says. "Between publishing papers, giving lectures, designing posters, writing grant proposals, etc., a

researcher spends the majority of his time communicating his expertise. Being able to focus intensely on learning to communicate well—and to work closely with an adviser like Corky Cartwright, who is so renowned in his field—is not something you typically gain in industry."

Allen, who received a bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics from Cornell University in 1997, says his next challenge is completing his thesis. His thesis topic is focused on the design and implementation of first-class generic types for Java. "Basically, it's about performing much more powerful automatic checks on programs before they are ever run. We've been able to extend the Java language to include these more powerful checks without sacrificing the expressiveness or performance of the language."

Although Allen reports that authoring a book has not changed his life much, he finds it exhilarating to see his name on Amazon.com. Other exciting changes await Allen this spring, when he anticipates receiving his doctoral degree and he and his wife, Kori, expect the arrival of their first child.

Allen's postgraduate plans include looking for a research position in academia, government, or industry and spending time with his family. He does anticipate writing a second book to cover additional patterns and plans to include more discussion about the development process and the Rice Java Programming Languages Team's approach to developing software.

— Donna Jares

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RDA Celebrates 30 Years of Advancing Architecture and Urban Design in Houston

When David Crane became the dean of architecture at Rice University in 1972, he saw a problem. Houston was fixated on expansion, but hardly anyone discussed publicly what was being built, what ought to be built, or what the city as a whole should be. There should be a way, he thought, to encourage that discussion.

Bamboo Roof

Bamboo Roof, an installation at Rice Gallery, brought the work of noted architect Shigeru Ban to the city of Houston for the first time. The project was collaboratively executed by architecture students from Rice University and the University of Houston.

A Filmmaker's Presence

Viewers of Houston's PBS affiliate KUHT must have done a double take in 1978 when they tuned in to the locally produced film *Who Killed the Fourth Ward*?

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Crane's idea turned into the Rice Design Alliance (RDA), one of Rice's first community outreach organizations. RDA, which turned 30 this past fall, began as a group of academics and architects that sponsored public forums and lectures and addressed significant yet under-discussed issues: land use, mass transit, preservation, modern architecture, zoning, flood control, air quality, housing, and public art. Today, RDA is 1,650 members strong, and some of those discussions have led to obvious results. At a 1998 RDA symposium on mass transit, for example, Mayor Lee Brown announced his willingness to consider a rail system—a milestone for transit-leery Houston.

In 1977, RDA launched lecture programs featuring some of the world's brightest—and often most controversial—architects and critics. The lectures, often presented to overflow crowds, gave Houston its first opportunity to hear architects such as Frank Gehry, Cesar Pelli, Helmut Jahn, Steven Holl, and Rem Koolhaas before they became international superstars and Richard Meier, Aldo Rossi, Robert Venturi, Rafael Moneo, Renzo Piano, and Glenn Murcutt before any of them had won the Pritzker Prize, architecture's most prestigious award.

The following year, RDA began offering architectural tours of interesting houses in historic neighborhoods as well as themed tours that included "Tin Houses," "Rancheros Deluxe," "Lofts," and "Modern Landmarks." In 2000, RDA tours began taking off for architectural visits to other cities and even other countries.

RDA also began to directly promote high-quality public spaces by sponsoring design competitions. The first, in 1985, attracted 119 entries from across the country and resulted in a design for Houston's Sesquicentennial Park, north of downtown along Buffalo Bayou. In 1992, Houston's Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Hermann Park joined RDA to sponsor "Heart of the Park," held in memory of longtime Rice architecture dean O. Jack Mitchell. Designers were asked to consider improvements for the scruffy stretch between Hermann Park's Sam Houston Monument and its Grand Basin. Because of the competition, noted landscape architect Laurie Olin was commissioned to create a new master plan, and the Heart of the Park improvements will be realized next summer.

RDA created *Cite: The Architecture and Design Review of Houston in 1982*. In the first issue, the magazine—printed on tabloid-sized newsprint—announced its intention to be "a forum for the presentation and criticism of

issues unique to the developing city." Fifty-five issues later, *Cite* still presents articles on planning, architecture, the urban environment, and the city's past and preservation, now under the direction of editorial chair Danny Marc Samuels '71 and managing editor Lisa Gray '88.

William F. Stern, one of Cite's founding board members, recalls that the board settled on the title Cite because the word "reverberated with homonyms: 'site,' 'sight,' and 'cite,' not to mention how it works with an accented final 'e' as a continental version of 'city.'"

The photographer whose work has most defined Cite since the magazine's beginning is Paul Hester '71. In 1999, RDA and the Menil Collection exhibited Hester's photographs of Houston. A catalog essay by Doug Milburn '56 gave the show its haunting name: "Elusive City."

Houston, of course, remains elusive. The Rice Design Alliance has pursued it for 30 years, but the chase is far from over. The city still defies description, much less planning. The discussions that David Crane imagined 30 years ago have only just begun.

For membership and program information, visit the RDA website at http://www.rda.rice.edu.

—Linda Sylvan

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***Bamboo Roof*, an installation at Rice Gallery, brought the work of noted architect Shigeru Ban to the city of Houston for the first time. The project was collaboratively executed by architecture students from Rice University and the University of Houston.**

Shigeru Ban first received international acclaim for his visionary use of cardboard tubing as a building material. He saw cardboard as "improved wood," and his structures have proven the strength of ostensibly fragile paper; tubes that appear to be forms for concrete columns instead become columns themselves, while more slender, flexible lengths are used to form arching networks.

Ban has utilized cardboard tubing in everything from a gallery for fashion designer Issey Miyake to housing for the victims of the Kobe earthquake. The two projects are seemingly at opposite ends of the needs spectrum, one with high-end design as a priority and the other with basic shelter as the primary goal. Ban's work asks us why those things should be mutually exclusive.

Ban had been experimenting with cardboard tubes ever since he used them as a low-cost alternative to wood in his 1986 design for an Alvar Aalto exhibition. His first cardboard building appeared in 1989, a columned arbor for a Nagoya regional expo. In 1994, Ban began work as a consultant to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the housing problems of the Rwandan refugee crisis, becoming well-versed in the multidimensional needs of refugees. He formulated the belief that "refugee shelter has to be beautiful. Psychologically, refugees are damaged. They have to stay in nice places." Cardboard became a part of the solution.

Photo: Grant Suzuki, Shigeru Ban Architects, Tokyo, Japan

The earthquake that hit Kobe six months later gave Ban the opportunity to put his paper tube research into practice. A very poor area populated by

Shigeru Ban
Photo Courtesy of Shigeru Ban Architects, Tokyo, Japan

Photos: Laura Nesbitt and Shirat Mavligit

Vietnamese immigrants had been one of the hardest hit. The residents were living under leaky plastic tarps in the cold, and the neighborhood's church had been destroyed. The UNHCR's original solution for refugee housing was to send a plastic sheet, an instruction book, and an ax. Refugees deforested vast areas trying to crib together shelter. When the UNHCR considered sending substitute framing materials like aluminum poles, there was the all-too-real danger that the material could be diverted along the way and sold by the unscrupulous for scrap.

Ban's use of cardboard tubes was an ingenious and inexpensive solution because the materials often could be salvaged from industry. With student labor, Ban quickly built a community center and housing that had vertical tube walls topped by a plastic tarp. The final product was sturdy and functional—individual logs could be replaced if damaged—but it also had a clean-lined elegance. In Ban's view, traumatized people do not have to be limited to the grimly functional—too often we view aesthetics as a luxury only the affluent can afford. In his refugee projects, Ban creates the best of all worlds with structures that are cost-efficient, functional, aesthetically pleasing, and environmentally friendly.

Ban also has employed paper in the creation of large-scale public structures. Collaborating with German architect Frei Otto, he constructed a giant paper pavilion for the environmentally themed EXPO 2000 in Hannover, Germany. Created from a visible grid of cardboard tubing covered by a shoji-screen-like paper skin, Ban's Japanese Pavilion was dismantled and recycled at EXPO's close, in keeping with the theme. In 2000, the Museum of Modern Art in New York hosted the architect's 87-foot latticed arch of paper tubing in its sculpture garden.

Rice Gallery director Kimberly Davenport had seen Ban's work and was struck by his ideas. "The beauty of the thinking captured me as much as the beauty of the forms," she explains. The humanism that inspired Ban's refugee projects also feeds his desire to involve students in the execution of many projects and made a Ban installation especially well-suited for a university gallery. Ban teaches architecture at Keio University in Tokyo and has his students physically execute real-world projects, continuing the tradition of the student volunteers who erected his Kobe housing projects. The installation at Rice University was realized through a dynamic collaboration between first-year undergraduate architecture students from the School of Architecture at Rice and first-year graduate architecture students from the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture at the University of Houston, led by their instructors: Nonya Grenader and Danny Samuels from Rice and Donna Kacmar and Bill Price from UH.

The *Bamboo Roof* installation at Rice University is Ban's second museum project in the United States. This time, instead of paper, he utilized bamboo, another pro-environmental material. Sections of bamboo flooring were fastened into a flexible, open grid held aloft by clusters of poles. Bamboo is an eminently renewable resource; in reality a grass, it grows at a far quicker rate than wood and is able to be harvested in five years. The floorboards are fabricated from narrow strips cut from the hollow bamboo logs.

Normally the design-to-build process for a project takes two years. For the Rice project the timetable was six months, with the final installation executed over a three-week period. In the end, the project involved more

than 50 students, five architects, and two engineers. Grant Suzuki of Shigeru Ban's studio worked tirelessly with the Houston team during the three-week construction period. Transforming the structure from drawing to reality involved numerous faxes, phone calls, and e-mails between three different time zones: Ban's office in Tokyo, the structural engineering firm Arup in London, and the Houston team. In moving from drawing to execution, the project entailed problem solving as well as construction as the plan had to be adapted to locally available materials while still holding true to Ban's aesthetic.

Rice professor Nonya Grenader described the process: "Our initial information from Ban's Tokyo office was diagrammatic, so we began constructing mock-ups, testing various overlapping patterns, and involving our freshman students so that we could better understand the system. This sort of investigation of a system—testing, examining problems and possibilities—was the real lesson for the students. In executing the work full scale, the students were able to see how a design idea moves from paper to three-dimensional space." According to Donna Kacmar, the project gave students an "appreciation of how difficult it is to fabricate something" and a first-hand understanding of things like "the weight of steel, the stress realized in the materials, and the physicality of them."

The process of working together as a group was another invaluable lesson. The project was successful because of the strong cooperation between students and faculty. Kacmar describes the collaboration as an intensely positive and productive experience for all involved. "There was no hierarchy. Everybody was a leader and a follower at different times."

Shigeru Ban's visit to the project and presentation of a lecture were the culmination of the installation. But perhaps the final measure of success is that after those epic weeks of hard work, the students are begging for another project.

—Kelly Klaasmeyer

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A Filmmaker's Presence

Viewers of Houston's PBS affiliate KUHT must have done a double take in 1978 when they tuned in to the locally produced film *Who Killed the Fourth Ward*?

Rather than finding the urbane Alistair Cooke, they saw a tall, somewhat rawboned "host" named James Blue, a handsome man who was dressed rather absurdly in a classic detective trench coat. What's more, the man was standing in a slum, and he seemed puzzled as he directed the viewer's gaze to the row of dilapidated shotgun houses that extended down the street behind him and then to the city skyline just blocks away. How, he wanted to know, was it possible for a neighborhood situated this close to Houston's celebrated downtown to be so impoverished? Blue wasn't angry, simply confused.

Blue, the Rice Media Center's founding director, had come to Rice in 1969, and over the years, his students and colleagues had learned not to be surprised by anything he did. In fact, his career had begun in a much more glamorous fashion, and if he hadn't been such a thoroughly unconventional character, he never would have wound up in Houston at all, starting a fledgling film program.

James Blue was born in Tulsa in 1930. As part of the great "Okie" migration west, the Blues wound up in Oregon, where James graduated from college in 1955. By this time, he'd decided to become a filmmaker, but few, if any, academic filmmaking programs existed in the U.S. So Blue applied to the acclaimed Institut des Hautes Etudes Cinematographiques (IDHEC) in Paris, and he arrived there just in time to catch the first crestings of French film's New Wave, a philosophical and aesthetic movement that would profoundly influence him. Surrounded by classmates such as Roman Polanski, Blue graduated in 1958, then moved to New York. He didn't have much luck there, so when another IDHEC alum called to ask if he was interested in making a film in Algeria, then in the violent throes of breaking away from France, he packed his bags. Working for only $250 a month but given a free artistic hand, the young American director shot the only French film actually made in Algeria during the war, *The Olive Trees of Justice*.

The film, which was recently screened at the Rice Media Center during a symposium honoring Blue and his work, kept the daily violence of the war mostly in the background as it told its story of an expatriate French–Algerian who returns to Algiers to tend to his dying father. But in fact, Blue

Following Blue's lead, Rice filmmakers were not interested in teaching Hollywood techniques or approaches. Rather the Rice Media Center was to be a laboratory for training students to make documentary films about the conditions and stories of their own communities.

and his crew experienced the war first-hand—ultraright French nationalists bombed their offices and facilities five times.

Even under these extremely difficult conditions, Blue demonstrated the qualities that would make him an internationally, if not exactly widely, recognized filmmaker. He worked very well with nonprofessional actors, an approach he would take to its ultimate conclusion in *Who Killed the Fourth Ward?*, when he literally turned his story over to the people he was filming and made no attempt to direct them at all.

In *Olive Trees*, Blue also showed his grasp of film poetics as he composed scenes of prewar Algerian farm life in a manner that would have made John Ford, who was one of his heroes, proud. The documentary was a surprise hit at the 1962 Cannes Film Festival and shared the Critics' Choice Palme d'Or. But the film was not widely distributed because the French public was simply not ready for a film about the still-raging war.

Blue returned to the U.S. and began making films for the United States Information Service. In artistic documentaries made for foreign audiences, Blue demonstrated the mastery of visual composition that he had learned in Paris. His films *The March on Washington*, documenting Martin Luther King's celebrated civil rights protest march, and *A Few Notes on Our Food Problem*, an examination of the possibility of an international food crisis, were both visually striking—especially the highly poetic *Notes*, in which images from one scene bleed into images in the next in a way that emphasizes the unity between the film's subjects, farmers in Brazil, India, and Africa who were falling behind in their efforts to feed local populations.

But now Blue had begun to interject himself into his films. Both *March* and *Notes*featured Blue as narrator, his rich, measured, voice sounding like a somewhat less-hammy Charlton Heston—that is, like the voice of a rather concerned God.

Notes was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary in 1968. With this honor and his Palme d'Or in hand, Blue took a short-lived crack at Hollywood. He taught filmmaking at the American Film Institute and directed the credit sequence for the big-budget film *Hawaii*. But just when it seemed that it was only a matter of time before he made his mark on Tinseltown, Blue had a radical change of heart. He said goodbye to California and, in 1969, accepted the invitation of Jean and Dominique de Menil to come to Houston and start a media center.

The call of the Menils—with their invitation to a well-funded aesthetic adventure—was notoriously seductive, but still, Blue was giving up potential fame and fortune to come to the cinematic backwater of Houston. He might have been a member of that group of early-'70s American directors—Scorsese, Altman, Spielberg, Bogdanovich—that for a few years, at least, made Hollywood a wide-open place to make personal movies. Why did he give all that up?

First of all, as even a cursory reading of the interviews that Gerald O'Grady, the former Rice medievalist and film professor who actually hired Blue on behalf of the Menils, put together for the symposium reveals, Blue was a true intellectual who felt comfortable lecturing on both film history and technique. But perhaps the more compelling reason is that Blue, for all of his good looks, voice, and charisma, was anti-Hollywood to his

very core.

Brian Huberman, associate professor of art, was brought to the Media Center in 1977 after his graduation from the National Film School of Great Britain specifically to help film *Who Killed the Fourth Ward?* He was immediately aware of Blue's charisma and generally larger-than-life qualities, and he remembers asking him why he hadn't stayed in Hollywood, where presumably he would have thrived. "I got the impression that he couldn't stand the people," Huberman says. "And he was not interested in formulaic filmmaking. As an artist, he was a free man."

At Rice, Blue began implementing what Huberman refers to as "Jean de Menil's vision" for the Media Center. At this time, there were only three film schools in the U.S.: the University of Southern California, the University of California at Los Angeles, and New York University. These programs all trained students to become commercial feature filmmakers. But Menil and Blue had a different vision for Rice. "It was supposed to be a 'media' center, but not in the sense that media is used today," Huberman says. "Instead the center was supposed to be the 'medium' through which filmmakers connected with people."

Following Blue's lead, Rice filmmakers were not interested in teaching Hollywood techniques or approaches. Rather the Rice Media Center was to be a laboratory for training students to make documentary films about the conditions and stories of their own communities. "Menil and Blue shared this democratic vision of film," Huberman says. In this vision, the purposes of filmmaking were more social than aesthetic. "For James, it was not about 'art for art's sake,'" Huberman says. "It was about art for society's sake."

That is, the social concerns that Blue had evidenced throughout his career had won out over aesthetics. So by the time the trench-coated Blue and his crew (including Huberman and Edward Hugetz, a colleague of Blue's who is now a vice president at the University of Houston) reached the Fourth Ward, Blue's highly controlled visual techniques had given way to a totally improvised portrait of a community that was in large part scripted by the community itself. Also, Blue had discarded 35mm filmmaking in favor of the cheaper, more accessible, and therefore more democratic, Super 8 camera—which simply couldn't produce as beautiful an image as 35mm. At the symposium, Hugetz remembered Blue saying, "This is going to be an ugly film." The statement was made, however, simply as a matter of fact, not of complaint.

After *Who Killed the Fourth Ward?* Blue went on to make *The Invisible City* with Rice architecture professor Adele Naude Santos. *Invisible City* went beyond its predecessor to look at the crisis caused by substandard housing throughout the apparent boomtown of Houston—a crisis that went unremarked by the city as a whole and was therefore "invisible."

Blue's approach in *Invisible City* was as democratic as ever, and ultimately Blue's social commitment caused problems for him at Rice. The administration felt he was spending more time with, and making equipment more available to, the community at large rather than with his students. Blue soon left to take a teaching position with SUNY Buffalo, and he was, in fact, already living in Buffalo when he returned to make *Invisible City*.

In truth, Huberman muses, Blue may simply have been too large and powerful a figure to fit comfortably into academia. "It was terrible that he left," Huberman recalls. "I was very angry with him for not staying and fighting." He adds, "It's a shame that he didn't have a chance to work with the current Rice administration, which is much more interested in working with the community."

After Blue left, many of the Media Center's actual filmmaking activities were taken over by the Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP), which was first directed by Blue's protégé, Ed Hugetz. Under current director Mary Lampe, SWAMP is still going strong today, as is the Media Center, which is directed by Professor Hamid Naficy, chair of the Department of Art and Art History.

As for Blue, he died suddenly of cancer just two years after leaving Rice. His time in Houston may have been relatively short, but it is a testament to the power of the influence he had on filmmaking here that, even a quarter of a century later, people still gather to discuss his philosophy and work.

— David Theis

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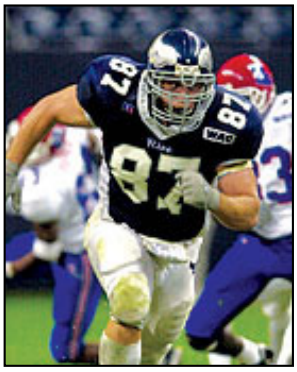
Players' Spotlight

Sometimes the scores don't stop even though the season is over. So far this year, a number of Rice athletes have racked up some impressive marks.



Brandon Green

Johnetta Hayes

Football

Senior defensive end Brandon Green earned a first-team all-WAC berth, not the least for ending his career at Rice as the Owls' all-time sacks leader with 25. He topped the defensive line with 71 tackles in 2002, led Rice with five forced fumbles, and had a 13-yard interception return for a touchdown against Louisiana Tech. It was the second consecutive first-team recognition for Green, who also was added to the roster for the Progressive Auto Insurance Hula Bowl. In addition, he ended the season with the James W. Glanville Award for Athletics and a Jess Neely Defense Award as the Owls' top defensive lineman.

Both senior offensive guard Keith Meyer and junior inside linebacker Jeff Vanover were named to the WAC second team on the honor squad. Meyer helped the Owls finish among the national leaders in rushing offense during each of his four varsity seasons. He also won a George R. Brown Award as Rice's top offensive lineman. Vanover was Rice's leading tackler in 2002, with 92 total tackles, including four sacks and 10 TFLs. He was another Jess Neely Defense Award winner, as top linebacker.

Basketball

January was a good month for women's basketball player Johnetta Hayes and men's basketball player Omar-Seli Mance. Each took home a WAC Basketball Player of the Week award for January 13–19 for helping propel their teams to outstanding wins over Boise State and the University of Texas at El Paso.

It was the second career Player of the Week award for Hayes, a junior. The center averaged 25.5 points and 10.5 rebounds during the two matches. Her season averages are 14.2 ppg and 8.4 rpg. She also set a career best going 9-of-121 from the free-throw line against the Miners. In the two games, she was 18-of-26 from the field and 14-of-16 from the free-throw line.

Mance, a senior, averaged a team-best 21.5 points per game during the week leading to the wins over Boise State and UTEP. He shot a composite 55.6 percent from the floor, converting on 15-of-27 attempts. He hit 8-of-17 three-pointers and was a perfect 5-for-5 from the free-throw line. It was his first Player of the Week award.

Track-and-Field

Rice sophomore Allison Beckford once again made her name known on the track as she set a new record in the 400 meters at the North America, Central America, and Caribbean Under 25 Track-and-Field Championships in October with a time of 51.21 seconds. She is the reigning NCAA indoor and outdoor 400-meter champion and holds the school record in the outdoor 400 meters with a time of 50.83.

In the men's division, the Owls' Adam Davis was named to the second-team academic all-America track-and-field/cross-country team. He helped Rice take the WAC cross-country championship in 2001 and had the third-fastest 800-meter time in 2002. He is a two-time NCAA all-American in the indoor and outdoor 800 meters.

Soccer

By season's end in November, the soccer team had produced a couple of top players. Sophomore defender Caitlin Currie was named to the WAC all-tournament team. She is Rice's first-ever WAC all-tournament selection. Sophomore forward Sarah Yoder was named to the 2002 Verizon Academic All-America District VI second team. Yoder was only one of four players from the WAC chosen for the elite group.

Volleyball

Rice may have lost the volleyball game to Butler at the Albaturkey Thanksgiving Classic in Albuquerque last fall, but Rice's Rebeca Pazo single-handedly rewrote the Rice record books. For the match, Pazo hit .397, and her 35 kills marked a new career best. Her 13 digs—her 20th double-double of the year—made her the WAC leader, and she had 73 swings, also a new career record. Pazo ends the season with 562 kills, the second-best single-season mark in Rice history.

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Déjà Vu: Lovett Hall, above, in 1912, and the Jones School Building, below, in 2002. A lot of things have changed at Rice in 90 years, but not the mud that surrounds new construction.

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