'MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR'

Panels Highlight Alumni Program

By MIMI MUNSON

During 1962, the Rice Alumni Association initiated several programs along intellectual lines in an attempt to offer its members a variety of areas of possible participation.

Instead of the traditional social picnic on April 22, an orientation program called "Rice Today" was held.

THE ALUMNI HEARD professor panels, made up of Rice professors, discuss their role on the campus. A question and answer period followed during which the professors reported on conditions at Rice as they saw them.

Lectures by members of the faculty such as Drs. F. R. Brotzen and W. H. Masterson, and Mr. W. W. Caudill were attended by alumni.

Another innovation is the Distinguished Scholar Lecture Series. The first lectures, Drs. W. V. Houston and R. A. Tsanoff, spoke to large audiences and, in view of this response, the program is definitely being continued.

THE RICE ALUMNI Assembly Program is an outgrowth of the American and Southwestern Assemblies, the latter being sponsored by Rice itself. This is the first venture into this field by an Alumni Association, and other schools are now showing interest in it.

Adopting its procedure from that of the original Assemblies, the Association invited two hundred alumni to meet at Rice to discuss a topic, and arrive at a consensus on that topic.

THE PARTICIPANTS were divided into four panels, each with a moderator and a reporter. After discussion in the individual panels, reports were drawn up expressing each group's conclusion on the topic. The Assembly then met in a plenary session to criticize and rewrite the four reports into a final expression of opinion.

The first Rice Assembly was held this fall, on a topic concerning outer space, (the latest topic of the Southwestern Assembly) and was followed by a second Assembly along the same lines, with smaller panels and younger alumni.

ENTHUSIASM FOR these two trials was overwhelming. Out of the two hundred alumni originally invited to the first Assembly, one hundred accepted so promptly that all remaining invitations had to be cancelled, and the planned panels of twenty were increased to twenty-five.

The Distinguished Scholar Lectures and the professor panels have been held not only in Houston, but also in such club areas as Kerrville and Beaumont. Three professors, Drs. Frank Hole, Louis Galambos, and A. V. Rimlinger, spoke in Kerrville on "The Role of Government in Ancient and Modern Times." Dr. Tsanoff repeated his Distinguished Scholar Lecture in Beaumont.

PLANS ARE BEING made to carry the Assemblies to club areas where alumni would serve as the nucleus for the program in which other members of the community would participate.

Mr. John Evans, Executive Secretary of the Association of Rice Alumni, praised Willoughby Williams, Alumni President, and the Executive Board for their interest and perseverance in widening the scope of the Association.

Evans feels that the new measures have been "so far successful, and promise to continue so." He expressed the desire of the Association to "work more closely with the students, and to benefit from their suggestions."