Students will be in line to buy books at the Campus Store Tuesday. Last semester the bookstore received 400 textbook titles after the start of the semester, but by Tuesday, only 83 of this semester’s book titles were missing. Checkout lines were long during the first three days of classes.

Most books in to Campus Store, lines still long during peak hours

by Ian Everhart

New staff members and an improved computer system have made the bookstore a smoother operation. The Rice Campus Store reopened for the new term with some problems that it had last semester.

In January 2004, about 400 textbook titles were missing during the second week of spring classes. As of Tuesday, only 83 of this semester’s titles were missing, Campus Store Manager Michelle Vanderwater said.

Of the missing titles, about 50 were ordered by the professors only a week before classes started, Vanderwater said. The rest of the late books were out of stock, out of print, had difficulties with foreign publishers or had other problems, she said.

Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Neil Minkler, whose department oversees the bookstore’s operations, said he attributes the improvements to personnel changes.

"Last year’s had problems — our book buyer kind of flipped the ball," he said. "We essentially decided that we didn’t want any balls dropped, so we hired two people to do that job."

Minkler said improvements in the bookstore’s computer systems, both at the checkout line and in the inventory system, have also helped improve its performance.

Minkler said the bookstore seems to be consistently overloaded at peak times. Lines extended from the stairs at several points.

"It’s the same problem as at ID registration every year," he said. "They don’t provide for the inevitable rush."

Despite the growing popularity of online bookstores, Minkler said he has not seen a decrease in students shopping at the Campus Store.

"Monday was better than any Monday that..."
Backpack embargo comical, ineffective

We laughed when we heard the Department of Housing and Dining has decided to prohibit students from bringing backpacks into college kitchens this semester (See Story, Page 1). The sudden crackdown doesn’t make sense.

Most students come to lunch, and sometimes even dinner, directly from class — a place we usually bring our backpacks. Although some of us don’t mind leaving our belongings in the commons while walking in line, others — be it from worry or hurry — would rather keep books and valuables close at hand. Further, we do not think a ban on backpacks will stop students from leaving the kitchen with what H&D considers to be excessive amounts of food. Even if the backpack rule is properly enforced, it won't stop students from taking larger helpings to share with off-campus friends.

Our librarian probably won’t discourage us from saving snacks for later, either. Students who make off with an extra banana or a few additional milk cartons are making up for missed meals, not conspiring against H&D. Meanwhile H&D is trying to keep the cost of the meal plan from rising and trying to avoid going over their budget as they did last spring. But a backpack embargo isn’t the answer.

We do, however, support H&D’s decision to eliminate common breakfast and Saturday mornings at all locations except for the North College and Wiess/Hanszen Serveries. By eliminating a meal that few people attend, H&D will consider less money to be excessive amounts of food. Even if the backpack rule is properly enforced, it won’t stop students from bringing backpacks into college kitchens this semester.

LONGER HOURS COULD PREVENT LONG LINES

If there’s one thing that tells us it’s the first week of classes, it’s lines in the Rice Campus Store (See Story, Page 1). Very long lines, lines that go down the stairs. Lines in which we learn the name, course schedule and life story of the mechanical engineering major standing behind us.

To avoid these lines, the bookstore should further extend its hours during the first week of classes. We’ve held the store open past its closing times on the first three days of classes, but it’s not enough to reduce overcrowding during peak times.

The store should stay open past the dinner hour, even if it means a later opening time in the morning. Students are more likely to be awake at 8 p.m. than 8 a.m. and more likely to buy books. While some waiting is inevitable, shorter lines would mean a better first week for students and employees alike.

We were happy to see that, unlike last year, most of the titles on order in the store arrived in time for classes. However, we still see a little worry of relying on the Campus Store to fulfill our book-buying needs.

Next year the store should post accurate hours on its Web site (which currently lists normal closing time as 5 p.m. instead of 4:30 p.m.) and set a later closing time for the first week of classes. We come to the bookstore for books, not a 35-minute lesson in the art of small talk.

Letters to the editor must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday issue. Please contact our advertising manager at thescheroffice@rice.edu for advertising rates. The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Camacho will be remembered fondly

To the editor:

I speak for many Rice students when I say Dr. Camacho, we will miss you. We will miss the open door to your office filled with the memories and gifts of gratitude from students past. We will miss you always saying “hello” and checking on how we were doing. We will miss your genuine and great care for every student to walk through the hallways and pass your office.

For the new freshmen, who we hope will be fortunate enough to meet Dr. Camacho and be spoiled by his incomparable ability to recall every freshmen’s name — you had it good.

Last year, under Dr. Camacho’s guidance, student instructors created a new banner in the atmosphere, quiet in lesser and more prominent. Dr. Camacho might have been a tree house was gently attached to an old oak, with roots buried deep in the Texas soil. A better symbol could not have been built. If only building another would bring him back, you can bet students all over campus would be reaching for a hammer and nails.

Dr. and Mrs. Camacho, we wish you all the best in retirement. Please know our college experiences were better because you were there. We hope your impact on the Rice campus and this community will not be forgotten, and we hope whoever follows in your footsteps strives to fill the example you left behind. We miss you, and we thank you.

Jose Sifuentes
Fall 2003

Article neglects to mention staff members

To the editor:

I would like to take issue with the article “The President and His Game” (The Rice Thresher, Aug. 20). In describing the constituents of the committee, you forgot me.

Or rather, you forgot the staff. Approximately 60 administrative staff and all research/technical staff members, who help the School of Engineering accomplish and fulfill its educational and research goals. I am proud and honored to serve as the staff representative on the search committee.

We will be fully comple- mentary when the newly appointed student representative joins the important work of the committee.

Jo McEntire
Senior Associate Dean
Mechanical Engineering
and Bioengineering

CONTACTING THE THRESHER

Letters

Letters to the editor should not exceed 250 words in length. Letters must be sent to the Thresheridrice.edu. Please contact our advertising manager at thescheroffice@rice.edu for advertising rates. The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

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Practicality loses to presidential politics

Most of the debate on the upcoming presidential election has centered around the type of extremist positions or non-issues on which the candidates have been forced to take stands. Some have mused about why this is so. The White House has been criticized for failing to polarize the electorate and thus lose their political base. 

But the question is not really about the candidates. The tactics employed by the Bush administration in this presidential campaign are those of a man who is willing to sacrifice the well-being of America to win the 24-hour news cycle. A tendency to lead through action-oriented initiatives instead of true wisdom is also evident. This seems to suggest a form of presidentialism where the president's will is the only one that counts.

The issue of marriage equality is an issue that should be decided by the judiciary. Whether it is a right or a privilege, it must be protected. The legal frameworks of states that would not only preserve the domestic, but also enforce the need for such a union, are currently being prepared.

However, I have come to the conclusion that the interest in marriage equality is not a choice. Some engineering programs would be missing out on pursuing the most from college cannot always be measured in terms of quality over quantity. The Bush administration has failed to formulate a balanced decision-making process. The White House has continually refused to make a decision on the issue.

Laura Szarmach

The White House has stooped to unprecedented lows to polarize the electorate.

A concern for biologists at all times is guiding scientific research. However, not always are ethical considerations taken into account. The Bush administration has failed in this regard.

Even after the 14-hour news cycle, a tendency to polarize the electorate has been observed. The center of the political spectrum has moved away.

The intensifying plight of married couples, sons, and daughters—especially newly infected with HIV each day—has become a national crisis. At such a desperate time, the world cannot afford to waste precious resources on prevention initiatives without proper funding and consistent use.

Kim Swanson

Guest column

Abstinence-only education leaves all wondering

It is time for the Bush Administration to get their act together. They must take steps to increase the number of people who are actively trying to educate their own children. The White House should lead by example, and they should do so as quickly as possible.

Nothing is more important than education, and if the Bush Administration is serious about this issue, they must take action now.

Larry Heflin

Get more out of life with fewer credit hours

When asked about my course load, one Rice student, Paul, said, "I'm a junior. I have 24-hour news cycle. A tendency to lead through action-oriented initiatives instead of true wisdom is also evident. This seems to suggest a form of presidentialism where the president's will is the only one that counts.

But the issue of marriage equality is an issue that should be decided by the judiciary. Whether it is a right or a privilege, it must be protected. The legal frameworks of states that would not only preserve the domestic, but also enforce the need for such a union, are currently being prepared.

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Kim Swanson
Study of the origins and implications of the American Revolution, with emphasis on the history of labor, women's history and race relations. Through the Civil War and Reconstruction, with emphasis on industrialization and surveys of American social, political, and economic history from the early republic to the present. Special attention given to the difficulties of forging ties between "Eastern" and "Western" feminist experiences.

THE UNITED STATES, 1776-1877
HIST 117
Thomas Foster (new instructor)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

HIST 457/WGST 457/ANTH 657
Monday, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Course examines effects on women of transitions to capitalism and democracy in Eastern Europe, with special focus on labor, childcare, political participation, and gender. Special attention given to the difficulties of forging ties between "Eastern" and "Western" feminist experiences.

GENDER AND POST-SOCIALIST TRANSFORMATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

Technology Jack Hardcastle said it was worth the extra cost, but it's easy." With that, "it's probably not worth the extra cost, but it's fine," he said. "I need to keep up with that," student said. "It's probably not worth the extra cost, but it's fine." A Student Association Director of Technology Jack Hardcastle said the SA's textbook-swapping service, the eCoop, has been popular and will continue since Tucker-Huth is away from Rice for the semester. Matthews said he will run the position.

The senate voted to suspend Julia Tucker-Huth as SA elections chair. Since Tucker-Huth is away from Rice for the semester, Matthews said he will run the Homecoming Elections in place of an elections chair, since Tucker-Huth is away from Rice for the semester. Matthews said he will run the position.

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Did you miss our recruiting meeting?  

**Come visit.**

Just fill out this form and bring it to the Thresher offices on the second floor of the Student Center.

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**What section(s) are you interested in?**
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The evenings of Oct. 1 and 2 will feature private events for delegates, trustees, faculty members and university officials. Patrons will attend an evening reception at the Rice event center, the Great Hall, followed by dinner at the Inn at Rice. These events will be accompanied by a host of other activities, including a dinner and dance for delegates, a reception for students, and a banquet for faculty members and university officials.

Differences between the two inaugurations are expected to be minimal, according to Dreyfuss. "It's to do the formal installation to introduce Rice to Houston, and to give [Leebron] an opportunity to speak about his vision for the future of the university," Dreyfuss said.

Student Association President Derrick Matthews, the undergraduate student representative to the Inauguration Committee, said there will be a student-oriented reception immediately following the investiture. Matthews plans to give a brief address during the student reception.

"It's a really good chance for us to tell our story," Matthews said.

"It's a tremendously exciting moment in which we [tell the world], 'Hey, look me over.'"
'So we’re thinking about how to ... address this sense that people are paying more than they actually are for their meal plan.
— Mark Ditman
Housing and Dining director

"Either we underpriced the meal plan ($8.28 per person) or we overpriced, and there’s ways you deal with overspending," Ditman said. "But one of the things we don’t want to do is lower the quality of the food. We’ve worked really hard to get it where it is."

One of the causes of the overspending may be that people who are not on a meal plan are eating at the servery without paying or that students are taking large quantities of food with them when they leave, Ditman said. Housing and Dining determined that 10 people are daily at each server without paying, the additional food consumption would be enough to explain last year’s overspending.

The biggest problem that we had last year was that we didn’t have real effective access control. So the flow line aspect of the dining rooms makes it challenging to limit participation to people who have a card, and when people who haven’t paid come in and cut, it drives your cost up," Ditman said. "So we’re going to work pretty aggressively to minimize that this year."

Backpacks and Tupperware containers will not be allowed in the servery, and managers and chefs will be stricter in requiring that students have cards to enter, Ditman said.

"The real problem in people that lose their card, and we talked about, ‘Do you want to put in a biometric system? Do you want to do retinal scanning?’" Ditman said. "Nobody’s really interested in that. You can either pay me to provide a lot of security or we can keep all the money oriented to food."

Robert College junior Aern Subhawong said many students think the meal plan overcharges them and feel cheated.

"Either we underprice the meal plan ($8.28 per meal) or we overprice, and there’s ways you deal with overspending," Ditman said. "But one of the things we don’t want to do is lower the quality of the food. We’ve worked really hard to get it where it is."

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FREE STUDENT ADMISSION

The Athletic Department would like to familiarize you with the procedures related to athletic events and student admission.

Undergraduate students are admitted free to all home sporting events by presenting their valid Rice ID. Graduate students (and their spouses) may pay the athletic fee at the cashier's office. Visit www.RiceOwls.com for all athletic schedules. All student ID's will be swept to enter Rice sporting events.

Football at Rice Stadium: Students may purchase two guest tickets at HALF PRICE IF PURCHASED IN ADVANCE ($11 per ticket) in the Autry Court/Reception office. Student guest tickets may also be purchased on game day at Gate 4 of the football stadium at full price ($22).

Football at Reliant Stadium: Student tickets for the September 5 University of Houston game at Reliant Stadium will be available for pick up at the Rice Ticket Office in Autry Court starting Monday, August 30th through Friday, September 3rd. Student guest tickets will be full price ($17).

NO STUDENT TICKETS WILL BE IssUED DAY OF GAME FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON GAME AT RELIANT STADIUM.

FREE SHUTTLE FOR RICE STUDENTS TO RELIANT STADIUM

The shuttle will start at 2:30PM and will depart from the East side of Rice Stadium, near the regular student entrance at Gate 4. Return shuttles to campus will run after halftime until after the game.

Your loyal support is greatly appreciated by the players and coaches. We want you to be a part of the Owls' football season. Bring your Rice ID to the cashier for the athletic fee at the cashier's office. Visit www.RiceOwls.com for all athletic schedules. All student ID's will be swept to enter Rice sporting events.

Additional Information:

The shuttle will start at 2:30PM and will depart from the East side of Rice Stadium, near the regular student entrance at Gate 4. Return shuttles to campus will run after halftime until after the game.

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Freshman parking confusion caused by computer error

by Aaron Heckelman

An error that resulted in freshmen being denied parking permits for the Greenbriar and South Stadium Lots will be fixed in the next two weeks, Rice University Police Chief Bill Taylor said. Staff miscommunication caused the error, Taylor said.

"They said the option wasn't available to freshman, I just assumed that was the rule," he said.

— June Liu, Lovett College freshman

Freshmen may trade their West Lot permits for less-expensive Greenbriar Lot permits for $30. Binford said students should be aware that shuttle service to the Greenbriar Lot stops at 4 p.m. daily and that the walk to Greenbriar is significantly longer.

"Every hundred people move to the Greenbriar Lot, we can't change the shuttle service," Binford said. "It's what it is for the year."

Lovett College freshman Junie Liu repeated a Greenbriar Lot permit during O-Week but was turned down.

"They said it wasn't available," Liu said. "I just assumed that was the rule."

Liu said she plans to change her permit to the Greenbriar Lot in order to save money.

Will Rice College freshman Frank Ko said he was unaware whether he would be able to trade his West Lot permit for one of the more distant lots, citing the long walking distance as his main concern.

"I might use my car a lot," Ko said. "I possibly wouldn't go, though."

There are no plans to limit freshman parking to the West Lot in the future, Binford said.

Taylor said he does not know how many students the mistake affected.
IT plans $10-$20 million improvements to campus network

by Katherine Corley

E-mail will be more reliable, downloads will be faster and students will be able to view videos and other multimedia on the campus computing network. At least, that is the hope of Director of Networking, Telecommunication and Operations, Will Deigaard, who envisions an improved campus network within the next two years, at a cost of more than $10 million.

"The biggest thing you see with the new network is faster performance," Deigaard said. "Also there will be much greater support for mobility, and remote access will be improved. Getting to your staff will be faster and easier, regardless of where you are.

SA President Derrick Matthews said he would like to see campus computing improved.

"I think the major impact of an improved system will be greater stability and a greater capacity to improve services in a deplorableness, not perceived like it has been in the past." Matthews, a Will Rice College senior, said.

Assistant Director for Networking Long Pham said mobility is being faster. The new network improves the way that classes are taught.

"This is one of those things that we absolutely need," Long said. "E-mail has to be shut down waiting to download e-mail or other things. They're re-sending messages, they're resending things, they're resending things, and they're just doing all this stuff continuously."

Deigaard said, "If you draw a chart of Internet growth and a chart of Rice growth in computing, it would look almost exactly the same. But the data processing rate, the kind of data that are being put into the systems, is getting multiplied every little bit.

"Technology refreshes itself every three or five years, so we have to..." Pham said.

"IT is finishing an eight-week consultation with IBM Global Services and they will discuss specific proposals and funding, estimated to be between $10 and $20 million."

"IBM is doing the heavy lifting — helping with the physical layout, getting all of this drawn and documented and helping us with how this all gets configured," Deigaard said. "We're going to work with our administration to share the proposal for the network, and we'll have an estimate of the rough cost, so we'll be receiving funding," Pham said. "As soon as it's finished for the year, then we're looking at 18-24 months to implement because with anything longer than three years, technology changes again," Pham said.

"We're trying to cast a wide net so possibly in terms of minor and..." Pham said.

Deigaard said the improvements will involve expensive internal network changes.

"This network exists for a family more than 10 years ago and is more technology-minded containing all the offices in the buildings, and more will be added," Deigaard said. "We're also going to add single-modem fiber, which is a higher grade, so all of the buildings will have new fiber connections between them."

Recent Internet outages at Hansen and Will Rice raised questions about reliability of the Internet activity going on," Deigaard said. "E-mail has to be shut down for a couple of days, but that got fixed pretty promptly," Yu said. "Some people have been unlucky and can't connect, but the majority of people have been OK."

Pham said it is necessary to project future needs when planning the new network.

"Technology refreshes itself every three or five years, so we have to..." Pham said.

"The network does a pretty good job on a regular basis, especially..." Deigaard said.

"We've had some summer renovations, and the contractors didn't hook up everything correctly, so all of the old wiring had troubles for a couple days, but that got fixed pretty promptly," Yu said. "Some people have been unlucky and can't connect, but the majority of people have been OK."

IT has also hosted an electronic equipment shares the wire in the buildings, and more of the buildings will have new fiber. Pham said that more people have been OK.

"Most people complain that it's slow when they're trying to view the Web, or trying to view things, or they're resending messages," Pham said. "IT has also hosted an electronic equipment shares the wire in the buildings, and more of the buildings will have new fiber. Pham said that more people have been OK.

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SHARK THRILLER 'OPEN WATER' CHEAP ON SCARES

Jonathan Schramm
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Sometimes films at its most vin-
assassining and simple can offer the
best thrills. The new film Open Wa-
ter, a low-budget frightener about
a divorced couple stranded in
the middle of the ocean, attempts to
be a great minimalist thriller in the
tradition of Alain and Jules. Those
films failed somewhat in re-creating
moments even before their legen-
dary monsters appeared. Open Water
offers a few primal scares, but
ultimately it is nothing more than a
mediocre B-movie.

In fact, Open Water owes less to
the aforementioned Jaws— to which
it was constantly compared —than to
the similarly buzzy-budget but ul-
timately-frightless The Devil Wears
Prada. Both films emerged in mainstream
America after numerous premi-
ere at the Sundance Film Festival and
were released in late summer. They
display a similar visual sens-
fadle to take advantage of the
cultural moment. There is something to be said
for cinematic timing, and the shunning of Hollywood
special effects. Nevertheless, one wonders when
Open Water's home-style movie seems to stop at any
cinematic moment also seems to be
There is a potential discussion of social issues
presented. While there is somewhere, but let's not forget we're
talking about a shark movie, and
disappointing one at that.

Susan (Blanchett) and Daniel (Daniel Travis) are a
focused, very contemporary vacation
pair, in Hawaii. They are
oversized individuals who need
Susan's safety when a call
in the water forever before the dorsal
fins begin to emerge.

The film's first apparent flaw is
the time it takes to throw the couple
into peril. If the dialogue-heavy ex-
ploitation scenes were a bit less dull
or a bit more pertinent, this
would be less problematic. But it was
what you do not see that
most frightening. Unfortunately,
this invaluable tension is broken
when Susan and Daniel engage in
a title change regarding their
desertion. This quickly escalates
into an all-out verbal assault about
the shark. See SHARK, page 12
A different kind of summer camp

I don’t know about you, but my favorite movie moment of the summer was when a platinum-blonde Sharon Stone say, “I’m a woman, I’m used to doing a lot of things I don’t want to,” in the fabulous disaster that was Catwoman. Let’s be honest, with Joan Crawford, Bette Davis and Susan Hayward long gone, we need a new over-thetop queen of camp. Or at least I do.

I just can’t resist glamorous women slumming it in spectacularly awful films. No, I’m not talking about Angelina Jolie and her latest string of box office bombs — those movies are conventionally bad. What I love are the garish, campy delights of films that are not talking about Angelina Jolie and her latest string of box office bangers. These films demand audience participation. At the showing of Catwoman I attended, the entire audience burst into laughter when Berry began acting like a cat, performing such feline tasks as eating raw tuna and lapping up a glass of cream at a bar (or as she put it, a White Russian, hold the Kahlua). Even more hilarious that the action itself is the presence of Berry performing such on-stage tasks.

I just can’t resist GLAMOROUS women slumming it in spectacularly awful films.

But here lies the joy of camp. The action is ridiculous, implausible and wildly over-the-top. Of it would seem perfectly in the real world, or even a cinematic world attempting to be real. But the théé of the movie is that none of what we see on screen is real, nor do they try to be. And sometimes, all the jaded fringes like myself wants is the escape they deserve from the dull, boring, fictional places our world.

Jonathan Schumann is a Baker College supervisor and arts and entertainment editor.
Volleyball eyes first WAC championship

by Scott Selinger

With another Pazo, another coach and new outlook, the volleyball team hopes that it will make its first conference title since its last year, head coach Ginger Volo said. "When they close in their huddle every day in practice, they say, "VAC champ.'"

Volo, the Owls’ coach in as many seasons — came to Rice from Texas A&M University, where she was an assistant coach for three years. Though this marks her first full stint as a head coach, Volo has experience in the WAC, previously serving as an assistant coach at Southern Methodist University. Volo's interactive and positive coaching style has the team optimistic.

"She’s a perfect fit for Rice," senior co-captain Lindsey Carter said. "Our whole coaching staff is a really cohesive group, and they’re all going in the same direction.

Joining Volo last spring was assistant coach Melissa Ferris, who comes to Rice after two years as an assistant at the University of Wyoming. Earlier this month, John Blackwell completed the volleyball staff, coming to Rice from a similar position at Mississippi State University.

With seven returning letterwinners, including five starters, the team does not lack experience. Carter and senior Rebecca Pazo — in their second season as captains — will play outside hitter for the Owls. Pazo’s 5.76 kills and 3.33 digs per game both ranked second in the WAC last year, trailing only three-time WAC Player of the Year Kim Willoughby of Hawaii. With Willoughby departed, three-time first team all conference selection Pazo — the conference’s only one — has a chance to add a player to the honor of her own.

"Our outside hitter position is probably the most experienced," Volo said. "Beth Lindsey and Pazo are very strong all-around players — we’ve got good ball control and they’re very tough blockers at the net.

The third Owl captain in junior Kristin Balass, who enters her second year as a setter after making the transition from right-side hitter last year.

"Kathya has really stepped it up," Volo said. "She’s absolutely stepped up her vocal role and is a lot more comfortable this season.

Following consecutive conference championships in 2001 and 2002, the women finished third at the WAC meet in Belmont, Calif., last year behind the University of Nevada and the University of Texas-El Paso. After finishing second in 2001, junior Anna Reeve—who redshirted her last year with the Owls—closed out her freshman in 2002. Katie Gorry took this time to excel: 17.20 — just 13 seconds behind then-senior Abigail McLaughlin of Nevada — and was the first to reach this level. Gorry’s fourth-place finish in the NCAA regional qualified her individually for the NCAA Championship.

"Not only are our top runners finishing among the top three, but our freshmen or sophomores, and hopes to add to its streak of six consecutive seasons finishing among the top three in the WAC."

Magenta, more prepare for season opener

The men also took WAC gold in 2001 but have finished sixth and fourth the last two seasons, respectively.

The men’s team has also seen its roster grow, adding four freshmen while losing none of its top returners from 2003. The incoming class will join an experienced squad that includes senior Adam Davis, junior Marcel Hewamudalige and David Axel and sophomore Pablo Solares, who were 18th, 23rd and 222nd, respectively, at the NCAA meet last year.

The men’s team last qualified for the national championship meet in 1999, when it finished last among 31 teams.

The competitive season will begin with the Rice Cross Country Opener Wednesday at MacGregor Park.

CROSS COUNTRY: RETURNED 2003 WAC CHAMPIONSHIPS TIMES

MEN (5K):

Kate Gorry: 17:20
Brandi Armstrong: 18:44
Megan Sandler: 18:58
Whitney MacAlpine: 19:10
Lauren Murphy: 19:47
Jamae Moroco: 20:18
Mein Fugate: 21:05

WOMEN (5K):

Steve Magnesia: 23:02
Marcel Hewamudalige: 23:13
Adam Davis: 26:24
Pablo Solares: 26:39
David Axel: 26:41
Lee Parrott: 28:02

"It’s a great time for us to bond as a group," sophomore Lari Glowen said. "We’re together over the next couple of years, and it’s important that we start off close.

Though we want to take it all the way to nationals," The men’s team last qualified for the national championship meet in 1999, when it finished last among 31 teams.

The competitive season will begin with the Rice Cross Country Opener Wednesday at MacGregor Park.
Ten seniors open final soccer season tonight at Houston

by Jonathan Voorley

With 11 returning starters, all 19 regular-season games winnable and a much-honored recruiting class, all signs point to a Western Athletic Conference championship for the soccer team.

"No pressure," head coach Chris Huston said. "We all expect so much out of our senior season — we've watched the program grow from day one."

— Ashley Anderson
Senior forward/midfielder

"We need to learn how to deal with that pressure, because that's what a winning team has to deal with," head coach Chris Huston said. "With the schedule we have for this season ... the pressure is high because we're expected to win most of the games we're playing early on."

Senior forward/midfielder Ashley Anderson said the pressure will help the team more than hurt it.

"If you're going to consider it pressure at all, it's definitely the positive pressure," Anderson said. "They see the passion in our work, and I think we're all on the same page. It's definitely a positive pressure."

Rice players and coaches expect both the conference title and NCAA tournament berth that eluded the Owls last year, but conference coaches elected to follow the more established pecking order, picking SMU and the University of Hawaii to finish ahead of Rice among the nine WAC soccer teams.

Despite its impressive late-season charge to the WAC championship game that included a stretch of nine wins in ten games, Rice finished just 11-8-1 last year due to a slow start.

"Senior midfielder Maria Fadool said the Owls are more prepared for their non-conference schedule, which includes a road game at Baylor University Tuesday, a road trip to play St. Louis Sept. 24, and a home match against North Texas Sept. 28.

"We had a slow start last year, and I think everyone's just so ready to play — that we're in the same league they are and not just scraping by with our teeth to beat a team they beat 6-1." Anderson said the game will be important in setting the season's tone.

"It's probably one of the biggest games for our senior class, let alone the program in general," Anderson said. "There's an obvious rivalry between Rice and UH."
SEASON OUTLOOK

Defense, team look to better record 2003 season

by Jonathan Yardley

The Owls hope their championship run will start with defense, where the back five — the four defenders and senior goalkeeper Lauren Stockley — started 56 of 60 games last year and allowed a Western Athletic Conference record-low 17 goals in 20 games, while finishing second in goals allowed in conference play. Moreover, Rice held opponents to one goal or less in 17 of its 20 games.

"There might be somebody who's not in the starting lineup, but we know if we put her in the game in a certain situation, she could make the difference," said coach Chris Huston.

Stockley will start in goal for the second consecutive year after stepping in for then-injured junior Amanda Garrison last August. Second team All-WAC selection in 2003, Stockley recorded six shutouts last season and was named the 2003 WAC Player of the Year. She will start at outside back along with senior sweeper Caitlin Currie, who started 59 of the 55 games in school history and was a preseason second-team All-Central Region honoree by Soccer Buzz magazine.

Seniors Lauren Shockley and Betsy Huete complete the back four as the energetic and strong defense. Shockley and Huete are both former U-21 international and two-time WAC Player of the Year winners.

"It's just [a] strong defense," Huston said. "They can shift and shut down players 1 v. 1. They know if we put her in the game in a certain situation, she could make the difference."

Junior captain Erin Droeger is a physical presence who often marks the opposition forwards. Rice's all-Central Region and a 2003 second-team all-WAC selection in 2003, Droeger was a preseason second-team All-Region honoree by Soccer Buzz.

"It's just [a] strong defense," Huston said. "They can shift and shut down players 1 v. 1. They know if we put her in the game in a certain situation, she could make the difference."


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VOLLEYBALL

From page 13

We have our opportunities to prove ourselves against some of the nation’s best, … If we can pull some of these upsets, we can start getting national recognition.”

Genny Volpe
Head volleyball coach

Senior middle blocker Rebecca Kaine enters her third season as a starter for Rice as one of the heels of a pair of second-team All-WAC selections in 2002 and 2003. The conference’s coaches picked Kaine as a member of the preseason All-WAC team along with Pazo this season. Joining Kaine at middle blocker will be upperclassmen Amber Wiedemann and Tessa Kuykendall.

"Tessa improved a great amount since the beginning of the spring," Volpe said. "She’s learning more every day, and I expect great things to come. Amber’s really quick too, and every day she does something better than the day before.

Senior outside hitter Kristina DuPont, who has seen significant action throughout her three seasons with the Owls, has become a key player for a team that has high aspirations to win this coming season.

"Catherine was probably the most improved player over the course of the spring," Volpe said. "She’s got great fundamentals, and she’s got to be one of the best blockers in the league.”

With junior Erica Scott rehabilitating her swing to rehabilitate a shoulder injury, junior Yvette Kirk — who transferred to Rice last year from the University of Texas-Arlington and sat out last season in accordance with NCAA regulations — will join Carter and twin sister Rebecca Pazo as a primary offensive option for the Owls.

The Owls will look to replace departed libero Rhonda Sigman (Sid ’04) with freshman Yvette Kirk, who comes to Rice with abackground as a defensive specialist.

"Yvette Kirk is really an amazing libero, and that really adds to our team," Carter said. "Some of the underclassmen, like Tessa Kuykendall, are stepping up, and I think our lineup this year is actually stronger.”

Before beginning WAC play, the Owls will play tournaments at the University of Miami, the University of Texas-San Antonio and the University of North Carolina against opponents such as fifth-ranked University of Minnesota and 19th-ranked University of Illinois in a season designed to turn some heads around the country.

"The schedule is strong enough to where we have our opportunities to prove ourselves against some of the nation’s best," Volpe said. "The WAC is going to be tough this year, so we need to prepare with a lot of strong non-conference opponents. If we can pull some of those upsets, we can start getting national recognition.”

The season begins Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Autry Court against Texas Southern University.

"We’re going to play them just like we’re playing anybody else, ” Carter said. "We’re going to go out there, we’re not going to let our conference title hurt us, and we’re going to dominate the whole game.”

VOLLEYBALL: KEY HOME MATCHES

9/14, 7 p.m. UH Owls look to continue recent success against Cougars.
9/23, 7 p.m. Fresno St. WAC opener. Owls picked second to Cougars third in pre-season coaches’ poll
10/9, 2 p.m. SMU Mustangs won WAC’s Eastern Division in 2003, Owls took the same title in 2002.
Right-hander Kenny Baugh (Sid '01) has amassed an 8-8 record pitching for the Erie SeaWolves, the Detroit Tigers' AA affiliate. His 3.72 earned run average ranks 10th in the Eastern League, and he has struck out 107 batters in 142.2 innings while walking only 41.

Outfielder Chris Kolkhorst (Brown '04) was promoted from the Rookie-level Peoria Padres of the Arizona League to the Short Season Class A Eugene Emeralds of the Northwest League in the San Diego Padres organization. Had he been with the Emeralds all season and had enough at-bats to qualify for league awards, Kolkhorst's .496 on-base percentage and .352 batting average would lead the league.

After going 3-1 with a 2.54 ERA in three months with the AA Round Rock Express, the Houston Astros promoted Philip Barzilla (Hanszen '03) to their AAA affiliate, the New Orleans Zephyrs, where he has compiled a 5.92 ERA in 21 appearances.

In his first two months as a professional, right-hander Josh Baker has an 0-1 record and a 4.05 ERA as a member of the Rookie-level Helena Brewers. Baker has struck out 38 batters and walked 17 in 12 appearances, including 8 starts.

Outfielder Bubba Crosby (Will Rice '03) has split time between the New York Yankees and their AAA affiliate, the Columbus Clippers. With the Clippers, Crosby has hit .274 this season, but he has struggled while in the major leagues, hitting .184 in 38 at-bats.

Right-hander Jon Skaggs (Hamlen '03) is hitting .285 for the San Antonio Missions of the Texas League. On the strength of 18 doubles and 11 home runs, Brown has a .429 slugging percentage, which ranks 18th in the Texas League. The Missions are the AA affiliate of the Seattle Mariners.

Infielder Hunter Brown (Hanszen '03) is hitting .285 for the San Antonio Missions of the Texas League. On the strength of 18 doubles and 11 home runs, Brown has a .429 slugging percentage, which ranks 18th in the Texas League. The Missions are the AA affiliate of the Seattle Mariners.

Come Worship with Us!
West University Baptist Church invites you to worship, the study of God’s Word, and fellowship.

We have both contemporary and traditional Sunday worship services, as well as a college-level Sunday school class that is attended by many Rice University and Medical School students and taught by Dr. Jim Tour. Free breakfast is always served in the class, along with an opportunity to take the Lord’s Supper each Sunday morning.

We are located 2 miles directly west of campus, 6218 Auden between University and Rice. Free round-trip shuttle service is provided each Sunday morning leaving at 8:15 AM and 9:15 AM on the loop in front of Rice’s Allen Center. See www.wubc.org for more details, or call 713-668-2319.

Contemporary Worship: 8:30 AM
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Traditional Worship: 11:00 AM
Owls play crosstown rival University of Houston tonight at Robertson Stadium in their first game of the season.

Track/Soccer Stadium last Friday. Rice won the game 5-1, and Martin had a goal and an assist. Martin and the Freshman forward Clory Martin dribbles toward the goal against Sting Soccer Club in a scrimmage at Rice. 

The space-time theorems demonstrate time is without hope, purpose, or destiny. Yet, the view of the cosmos, and our unique biological drives argue for humanity’s ultimate purpose. The greatest cosmic fine-tuning appears to be the optimization of the physical laws so as to encourage us to turn from evil to virtue. The Bible exposes the fatal flaw in the dark energy theorem that declares humanity is bereft of hope or purpose.

For more information, see: www.jmtour.com
FRIDAY

The Student Activities Fair will be held today from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Grand Hall in the Student Center and the adjacent Ray Courtyard. Stop by the Thresher table. We are always looking for people to help out. If you have any questions, contact Holly Williams at (713) 348-5315 or thresher@rice.edu.

First Party of the Year. The first of many, many parties. Sigh.

This is half the reason everyone goes to basketball games. The Rice Owls dance team presents in Anderson Biological Laboratories' room 123.

Paleo?


Epoxy?

SWNT Epoxy Materials Science, will give a lecture entitled, "SWNT Epoxy. Composites From Functionalization to Practice." The lecture will be held in McMurtry Auditorium at 4 p.m. Please wear all black and be ready to dance! For more information contact Jenine Guanchez at jennine@rice.edu.

Today, International Programs presents an information session on the Gilman International Scholarship at 12 p.m. in the Miner Lounge of the Student Center. The Gilman Scholarship aims to increase diversity and expand participation in international study by supporting students who have been traditionally underrepresented in study abroad and with high financial need. For more information on the award, visit http://www.iie.org/gilman.

Testimonials

Your Add/Drop PIN expires today, the last day to add classes without a fee. To change your classes, you will need to get a new Add/Drop PIN. That will be a huge pain in the Martel. Oops, I meant ass.

Mia Hamm is in Athens. Come see the next best thing! The Rice soccer team hosts Jacksonville State University for its first home game. The game starts at 7 p.m. in the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium. Come to watch a good one.

THURSDAY

Gliman Scholarship

Today, International Programs will present an information session on the Gliman International Scholarship at 12 p.m. in the Miner Lounge of the Student Center. The Gliman Scholarship aims to increase diversity and expand participation in international study by supporting students who have been traditionally underrepresented in study abroad and with high financial need. For more information on the award, visit http://www.iie.org/gilman.

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