Global warming chosen for common reading, discussion

Administrators hope topic will foster intellectual interchange and raise awareness of worldwide problems

by Beko Binder

When students from the class of 2013 received their PolitiSci 101 syllabus in early April, they were instructed to read several articles on global warming. The list of readings included a piece by Harvard professors on the implications of climate change, an article by Chilean physicist Noam Chomsky, and a book titled "Field Notes from a Catastrophe: M. Mushet, Annette Klapche and Climate Change," by this year's common reading for new students.

Written by Elizabeth Kiebler, "Field Notes..." is a collection of essays that demonstrates the existence and threat of global warming. The first essay focuses on the relationship between Chemistry Professor Stephen Timmerman and the students of his 101 class. The second essay is a series of interviews with students about the climate change and sustainable energy. The final essay is a diary of a student's experience with the course.

Adviser to the Undergraduates, Matt Taylor, said that the committee of faculty, administrators, and students approved the course to demonstrate the existence and threat of global warming. The course is designed to give students an understanding of the issue and to encourage them to make informed decisions about their future.

The course is also considered a book about medical technology and Afghanistan. According to the syllabus, the course will cover the history and current events of Afghanistan, including the impact of medical technology on the country.

The Dean of Undergraduates, Mike Taylor, said that students who have completed the course will receive a free copy of the book. The book, "Field Notes..." is available at most bookstores and online.

New SA Web site

The Student Association has a newly designed Web site. Visitors can now easily access SA documents, forms, election results, photos and clubs information.

Happy summer

Enjoy your time off and be safe over the summer. Special congratulations to this year's graduates and to everyone else for making it through another year. See you in the fall!

Parking fees up, seniors pay surcharge

by Alex Dinur

Parking and shuttle transportation will change during the summer and over the next few years for both students and employees. One of the most significant changes in parking fees is the creation of a surcharge for students and employees, including a five percent increase in almost all parking fees, changes in parking facilities, and new shuttle schedules.

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The Faculty Senate approved the proposal for a surcharge on July 2. Submitted by Assistant Vice President of Administrative Services Eugene Kowalski, the proposal will be phased in the rest of the summer and over the next two years to facilitate parking fees for undergraduate students.

Although the business minor faced concerns from the Faculty Senate about shared similarities with the existing management studies major, Gillick said there was not enough time to discuss the issue and each will cover a different part of business.

According to a memo from Jones School Dean William Gillick, three of the courses - MGMT 206: Business Communication, MGMT 301: Financial Accounting, and MGMT 343: Financial Management — will be similar to existing management studies courses, but will not teach a more applied knowledge approach. The other three courses - MGMT 206: Business Communication, MGMT 301: Marketing and MGMT 471: Strategy and Business Management — will be unique.

The business minor, which is under the administration of the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management, is expected to be offered one-half of the required classes this fall and will phase in the rest of the program by the next year.

There will be no issues over the break. The Student Association has a newly designed Web site. Visitors can now easily access SA documents, forms, election results, photos and clubs information.

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Enjoy your time off and be safe over the summer. Special congratulations to this year's graduates and to everyone else for making it through another year. See you in the fall!
Let GSA in Powderpuff
Powderpuff football is a residential college institution, and it is one of the most widely supported intramural sports at Rice. It is also the only non-freshman college sport from which members of the Graduate Student Association are denied participation, and as such does not count for President’s Cup points. Rumors circulated earlier this semester that IM sports administrators were considering allowing the GSA to play Powderpuff, which would allow it to be President’s Cup-eligible, and we support this idea.

Since Powderpuff is so important to Rice sports fans, it only makes sense for it to be a President’s Cup sport. But objections to the GSA’s inclusion on the female flag pulling field come in two main flavors: The first asserts Powderpuff belongs to the residential colleges more than IM sports, and second attributes Powderpuff’s success to student opinion to get other jobs done this well.

Adieu, Thrasher grads
As graduating seniors flapped their tassels, grabbed their tubes and stoles, and strode out the Sallyport May 12, five members of our editorial staff left with the crowd. Countless news reporters, photographers, reviewers and letter-writers left with them, and we thank every one of you for your support.

David Brown, our outgoing Editor in Chief, began his Thrasher career in the News section and ended it in softball and conspiracy (finding that the two are more closely correlated than you may have expected) — under advertising policies, Backpages, biased umpires and editorials, among other things — than any of us ever expected for him. We will miss his Commissioner, almost as much as we will miss Hootie, and we hope he takes some time away from teaching next year to come visit.

Risa Gordon edited the News section with Danzi last year, and she has been part of our editorial staff for most of Rice’s history. We cannot mention Risa without mentioning her husband, who is still drenched into whiteboards in the office to remind the rest of us to practice our paperwork. We hope consulting works better for her than did for Nathan Blake, and that someday, we get to role-play.

Although Risa joined the editorial staff about seven semesters too late, Tasha Chengmu found to be one of the most dedicated Arts and Entertainment editors we have ever seen. She learned the ropes of the office surprisingly quickly, and we hope Evan and Dylan find someone else to throw punch at next year.

Combat Carl Hammarsten, our faithful copy editor-math tutor—marshalled his section for so long, we are still trying to figure out how to do copy payroll without him. And Marshall, Marshall Robinson left at the end of last semester and strode out the Sallyport May 12, five members of our editorial reviewers and letter-writers left with them, and we thank every one of you for your support.

To the latter objection, we challenge sports enthusiasts to find an IM sport from which members of the Graduate Student Association are denied participation. As such, it does not count for President’s Cup points.

The Rice University Police Department was wholly professional yet clearly strikethrough, and the Rice Intercollegiate Medical Technicians’ efforts went beyond heroic. We salute Elizabeth, Black Chief William Taylor, Lieutenant Dianna Mitchell, Sergeant Tim McDall, Sergeant Christopher DeBlanc, and Office Peter Alvarez.

Letters and notes poured in from Parker’s friends and from their relatives, most of whom we’d never met. We heard from his rudders (including some who, long ago, had taught us), and from Rice students who knew or worked with Parker. Baker Masters Jr, Annemarie and Krista Conner stepped in to take care of many things. The RiceKomputer, the team that kept the organization of the distinctive candel有信心 as well as the establishment of the Parker Brown Leadership Rice Brown senior

Rice President David Leeson Brown had this to say about Parker: "For all we have lost, let not only shed a sick bastard approximating the spirit of the Baker Institute, but also arranged for us to borrow a huge banner of the Rice seal. On the day of Parker’s funeral, that banner — in the hands of an official one bearing the Baker College insignia — was tied to the funeral home foyer. A bright moment on that dark morning came from heartfelt, home-made, beautifully banners eluded from the hundreds of people who came to pay their respects.

Most of all, we are deeply grateful for the love and comfort shown to our son Phil Black and our niece, also a Rice student, Sarah Hildebrandt.

To no university and no other group of people could have shown more kindness, warmth, and grace.

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On April 4, the day of Parker’s memorial service in Austin, the Baker College community included many of Parker and Phil’s Rice friends, who joined the Rice-bred and Rice-classmates. That meant there were representatives from classes of the sixties, seventies, eighties and the twenty-first century. We hope — and profit — from this. It brings the stories of Caroline, Kate and other students at Rice still experience the timeless-linking support and friendship.

Look around your classrooms: people you will love and cherish for many decades to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rice community truly special
To the editor:

As graduates of the university, we have long been familiar with the rice that grows the campus, and report that bits the people of Rice. We are a part of the Rice community, and staff. Thus, we should not have been surprised by the results of the March 9 practice that followed the death of our son Parker Rodman, a Baker College senior, on March 9, 2007. But we were, and we continue to be.

The Rice University Police Department was wholly professional yet clearly strikethrough, and the Rice Intercollegiate Medical Technicians’ efforts went beyond heroic. We salute Elizabeth, Black Chief William Taylor, Lieutenant Dianna Mitchell, Sergeant Tim McDall, Sergeant Christopher DeBlanc, and Office Peter Alvarez.

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Look around your classrooms: people you will love and cherish for many decades to come.

— Anne Dingus

Gun control argument flawed
To the editor:

We agree in spirit with the majority of your comments, concerning Dr. Elwood, your treatise on the facts surrounding him and the community and towards Leadership Rice are disappointing and misguided ("Rice: New Era," April 30).

Yes, many students were first introduced to Dr. Elwood through UNIV 309, but he was just a single guest lecture to that course. However, that class no longer exists and it has since become LEAD 308, Leadership: Theory to Practice. To respond to the nature of this course and its "inherent intellectual merit," says equips our students with the knowledge, the skills, and the values that are necessary to make a difference in society.

Second, even if the information is under-existent and not exist, that is the nature of something prevented — it never comes into being. As a result, we can have no direct evidence of prevented harms. Schumann provides this type of information. But the harms that gun ownership from gun control must be studied. Schumann provides the only direct evidence of prevented harms. However, we do not want to see the common reading program die, but it must change if next year’s matriculants to a Friday publication date.

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Needle exchange programs can only help

In addition to supporting NEPs on an ideological basis, several religious leaders have also indicated that their churches would likely be willing to give financial support for the operation of an NEP.

Our legislators must hear from thousands of students across the country; the Student Senate, Student Government associations, and countless universities. For years, the Student Senate has been working to find solutions to the problem of student transportation and parking. In fact, in recent years, the Student Senate has been working closely with local government officials to help address parking issues.

Unfortunately, medical dra-\nmas are the best of my problems. As the roles of the 'Simpons' 'Aqua, Harl and Kos-\ngrants in White Castle: Stam-\nwith the help of the city council, the University has been working to help address parking issues. In fact, in recent years, the University has been working closely with local government officials to help address parking issues.
Rice student allegedly assaulted in village area

by Beko Binder

A Rice student was allegedly physically and possibly sexually assaulted in the Rice Village in the early morning May 9.

Rice University Police Chief Bill Taylor said a group of students had met in the Village area, and one of the students allegedly went back to an apartment with a non-Rice individual.

"The [student] kind of lost track of what was going on," Taylor said. "The next thing [he] knew, [he] was in a vehicle heading back toward the campus, woke up and just really wasn't certain what was going on. But it turned into an altercation between the person [he] was with and the victim."

According to a RUPD crime alert flyer, the student was allegedly assaulted in the suspect's vehicle and apartment and on the outer loop by Rice Boulevard and Sunset Drive.

Taylor said RUPD has an investigative lead but is pending laboratory tests. No charges have been filed.

According to the flyer, the suspect is a six-feet-tall male Hispanic with a muscular build. The suspect was also reported as driving a dark green Dodge pickup truck.

Taylor said students can stay safe by traveling in groups when off campus late at night and being careful about who they hang out with.

"Don't drink beverages given to you by someone if you don't know what's in them," he said. "Buddy up and stick together."

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Put 'em up

Baker College sophomore Barron Stone boxes with larger-than-life gloves at the President/Dean's study break April 29. The superhero-themed event featured hero sandwiches, a green screen and performances by various student singing and acting groups.

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Want to be a SUPERHERO? 
Turns out all you have to do is be a journalist first.

Thresher is accepting applications over the summer for writers in all sections, photographers, designers, and editorial staff. For an application, e-mail threshers@rice.edu.

FRESHMEN ARE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR ALL POSITIONS.
Work-study funding completely distributed

Rice has exhausted most of the federal work-study allocation for the 2006-07 academic year.

Work-study, part of the Self-Help portion of financial aid, allows students to work on campus and contribute their pay directly toward tuition and fees. Federal rules pay 75 percent of work-study salary, while the hiring department pays the remaining 25 percent.

Student Financial Services' Assistant Director for Awards, Sara Scales said about 250 students participate in work study, and each student can earn up to $2,000 annually. The federal government allocates funding based on student enrollment, and Student Financial Services is responsible for making sure a student does not move beyond her award amount.

Additionally, Scales said when students choose to decline a work-study award, the money goes back to Rice's federal work-study budget, but leftover money from the budget cannot be rolled over to the following year. Although work-study is available to both undergraduates and graduate students, the majority of participants are undergraduates, and most students exhaust their work-study funds during the year.

"There are very few students who aren't enrolled in summer sessions who are eligible for work-study," Scales said. "There are lots of Rice work jobs available so there shouldn't be a reason why a student couldn't find a job for the summer."

Lowell College junior Dom Marzullo, who had a work-study position at the Center of Education in the spring, said she continued to work through the summer.

"Work-study jobs are a nice way to have extra money to cover costs," she said.

Houston Program Student Staff

The Houston Program Scholar (HSP) is a local boarding, mentoring and tutoring program for high-performing secondary students. The goal of this program is to give underserved participating students, the tools necessary to increase their success and satisfaction in local college preparatory schools and HSP funded programs. Critical to this process is to provide them with a competitive education. HSP partners with KIPP Academy. Rice University Office of the Dean for high-performing secondary students. The goal of this program is to give underserved local college preparatory schools and HISD gifted programs. Critical to this process is to provide them with a competitive education.

The Resident Staff position requires a flexible schedule. Resident Staff receive a stipend for the academic year. Responsibilities include delivering of educational services to Program Scholars including supervising students in their parents' plan.

All applicants must submit to criminal background and motor vehicle record checks, and make recommendations for changes. Changes to the 2007-08 plan include increasing the percentage of the insurance company pays from 70 percent to 80 percent and decreasing the dependent premiums.

Doran said it is necessary to take Rice's location in the U.S. into account when estimating the cost for insurance premiums.

"One of the things I hear from students is that the costs were high," Doran said. "It is natural to compare plans between students studying elsewhere to the U.S., but here, medical insurance costs in general are often higher in the Houston area because the medical costs in general are higher than in many other U.S. cities.

Rice subsidizes the cost of the premium for graduate students. By contributing $2,102 to the $2,193 yearly cost, Graduate students receive subsidies because most are financially independent, while most undergraduates are still covered by their parents' plan.

Electrical engineering graduate student Chintayu Hegde said the increase in insurance premium is trivial, but the overall cost of Rice-sponsored insurance is too high.

"I've never used the plan," Hegde said. "Rice is paying for most of it, it is fine, but I have friends who think it is a little too high."

Although international students are eligible for the Rice plan, many choose an alternate plan through the Office of International Students and Scholars, a plan which meets U.S. immigration requirements for their visas, Doran said.

"Even more so, we are not truly aware of the benefits of the insurance because we have not actually used the health insurance here," computer science graduate student Sashikumar Ram said.

The Chillingworth Group's Rice plan does not cover preventative care. Students may use the Student Health Services for such care such as annual physical exams. SHS is open year round and has expanded its summer hours over the last few years.

Ram said the plan should provide preventative care because in general, students did not use their health plan.

Next year, the premium for a student's spouse or domestic partner and children will decrease from $105 to $100.

For a spouse or domestic partner, the premium for next year will be $2,217, down from $2,288. Rice provides a $500 per annum subsidy to the payment of the spouse, domestic partner and child premiums.

Gary Johnson

ENGL 103 to become COMM 103

Next semester, students who did not pass the English Composition Exam will be required to take Communication 103, instead of English 103. There are two distinct changes to English 103. One change is to Argument Design and Academic Writing to the new course, the course will now be known as COMM 103. Introduction to Academic Writing and Argument Design will be handled by the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Office of the Dean also manages Leadership Rice classes.

COMM 103 will not be a prerequisite for other courses. There will be no additional work-study requirement for students who take either the new course or the old English Composition exam. There will be no changes made to the exam. Communication professor Dan Barrett said because the Office of the Dean handles the English Committee, it does not make sense for the office to administer the course.

The decision to change ENGL 103 was made by the English Department and Dean of Undergraduate Rochelle Forman. An initial survey showed that many degree candidates wished to take the course and they had more opportunities to improve their communication skills.

The change name to COMM 103 reflects faculty and administration's desire to stress the importance of writing in all disciplines, not just in English. The curriculum and exams will not really change, Barrett said. In the future, Rice administrators hope students will take more classes on center on communication, primarily. For students who find the LEAD 321 "Leadership Communication" course will be offered as an option.

There is a university-wide, as well as a communication center on Rice campus. Barrett said "We want Rice students to become better communicators. Universities are doing by allowing students the opportunity to develop their communication capabilities.

COMM 103 is open to all students who do not take out students who did not pass the English Composition Exam. In the past, some students who did not pass the exam preferred to retake the course in a different semester because they were not required to continue to take the course.

Discussion about the change first arose last fall, but the decision was not made until about a month ago. However, the decision was not made in time for the course to be listed on EISTR right now, it is still listed as ENGL 103. Students currently enrolled for ENGL 103 will be automatically transferred to COMM 103 if the fall semester is made. The time slots will remain the same, and the course will remain open. There should be enough space for current students to take the class and those who want to take the class. Barrett said. However, there will be 172 seats available for the course.

The small class sizes are to ensure that each student receives individual attention. The faculty who teach COMM 103 will for the most part be those who taught ENGL 103. Barrett, formerly Director of Marginal Communications, will remain on the position of Composition Exam Director as well.
Evaluation responses up by over 50 percent

by Lily Chun

After the response rate for on-line course evaluations fell to 37 percent at the end of last semester, the Registrar's Office decided to pull out their secret weapon — a Playstation 3. The console was given away to a drawing to one student as a reward for filling out their course evaluations.

As of May 16, the response rate for course evaluations overall was 86 percent with over 50 percent of undergraduates completing the online forms. This percentage is not final and there are still two weeks left for students to fill out evaluations. In the past — before course evaluations were moved to ESTHER—the average response rate was between 50 and 60 percent.

Registrar David Tenney said while a PS3 may be one reason response rates have increased, it certainly isn't the only one. He said he believes a newly designed online course evaluation form was another reason more people responded.

"Everyone told me how much they appreciated a one-page form instead of a one-page-per-question form," he said. "The form made it much easier to fill out."

Tenney said asking students to fill out the evaluation forms in order to see their grades and keep course evaluations open for six weeks were also important factors that contributed to the increased response rate.

"We had learned in the past that the time frame was too small, and it was at the busiest time of the year when everyone had finals," he said.

This year, students were allowed to submit a blank evaluation before viewing their grades, but Tenney said hardly anyone used that option.

"I have to believe that made a big impact for the success, too, because students — now having the ability to see the results — actually took this seriously and gave a lot of good constructive feedback," he said.

Of the 86 percent who responded, only four percent submitted a blank form.

He said the current one-page format of the evaluations will be used again, and he hopes the Office of the Provost will continue to fund prizes.

Sid Richardson College sophomore David Kim said the prize giveaways did not motivate him to complete the evaluations. "There was no chance I was going to win the Playstation 3," he said.

MINOR

From page 1

with a broad application of interdisciplinary theories.

Economics department chair Herve Moulin said his department is largely supportive of the new minor, even though there is overlap with managerial studies.

"We are working on ways to make the two curriculums more compatible," he said. "We are thinking of building bridges between the economics department and managerial department and we feel like it is a good idea to offer this minor."

The senate proposal also stipulates that the Jones School will never establish an undergraduate business major in the future.

Speaker of the Faculty Senate Marie Corcoran said the adopted proposal adequately addresses most of the concerns raised by faculty, staff and students. Corcoran said one of these concerns is that the introduction of a business minor will cause the mentality of the student body to become more professional-oriented and change the culture of Rice. However, Corcoran said she thinks the existence of a managerial studies major and financial modeling minor prove that professionalization will not be a problem.

"There have been businesslike programs for some time," she said. "I don't think it is going to be a radical departure from the past."

Corcoran also said the Jones school has its own budget, which means the cost of the minor will not affect the university's ability to make other curriculum changes.

James College junior Adam Guerra said he thinks the business minor is a good idea and that students should be able to decide what courses and minors to pursue.

"I have heard some people say a business minor would be cheap and worthless, but in my mind I don't see how it would be bad to have more options," he said.
Dalai Lama urges global openness, acceptance

by Lily Chun

The Dalai Lama said on Thursday in a public lecture at Rice University that people must see themselves as part of a global whole.

"People must see themselves as a part of a global whole," said the Dalai Lama, who is currently on a worldwide tour to promote peace and understanding through his lectures and other activities.

The Dalai Lama said that the concept of "global responsibility" applies not only to nation to nation, but also to continent, he said.

The Dalai Lama said that he hopes to return to Rice University in 2006 to give a lecture on the topic of environmental issues.

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A closer look: The history of the future of Hispanic studies

By Julia Bursten

It has been a tumultuous year for faculty, staff, students and community members with an interest in Hispanic studies programs and the recent Latin American initiative at Rice. Four current and eminent faculty members in the Hispanic studies department have headed a movement to publicize their position, a mandate calling for a doctoral program in Hispanic studies and the direction of increased university attention and resources toward expanding that department. University administration does not support the foundation of a doctoral program in the Hispanic studies department and is undertaking an alternative project, the Latin American initiative, as a means of improving Rice’s focus on Latino culture in Texas, Mexico, South America and Spain.

PREQUEL: SPRING 2006

A new movement to improve Rice’s focus on Latin American culture goes public. Kaufmann publishes a column in the Thresher (“We need: Hispanic studies doctorate,” April 28, 2006). Kaufmann said this is not the first such movement, and that he had previously been involved in an unsuccessful campaign to obtain a multidisciplinary Ph.D. program in the Hispanic studies and German and Slavic studies departments that began in 1998.

Less than a month later, undergraduates submit a petition to President Leebron, Wild and Dean of Undergraduates Robin Fonserna, calling for a Latin American studies program. The petition was formed in part due to the departure of numerous professors whose research focuses include Latin American focus. About 700 students signed the petition by the end of May. “700 sign petition in support of Latin American studies,” May 19, 2006. (Rice students join other institutions in the formation of the Initiative for Romance, Languages and Cultures, a nation-wide student and faculty advocacy movement for increased university attention and resources toward Hispanic and Latin American scholarship.

Fall 2006

While negotiations of department chairs Nor. 1 to announce his plan to combine four of Rice’s foreign-language departments, including Hispanic studies. “Humanities consider department mergers,” Nor. 10. Wild’s implementation of this plan was underway before the meeting began, and some faculty became upset that Wild was acting before consulting them. Van Delden speaks with the Thresher in November and expresses concerns that Wild’s plan would limit the scope of Hispanic studies and impede the department’s campaign to obtain a doctoral program. In December, Wild announces that no merger would occur before the school of humanities underwent an external review.

SPRING 2007

Student initiatives to show support for Latin American-focused scholarship and research continue, including Marro’s College senior Stephen. Doctor’s formation of a Web site that hosts the 2006 petition as well as testimonials from undergraduates, graduate students and alumni. The site also hosts a letter directed to President Leebron and written March 5 by Castaneda, van Delden, Kaufmann and Gonzalez-Stephan, which reasserts and elaborates these faculty members’ position that Rice must have a Hispanic Studies doctoral program, and that failing to create one insults the intellectual culture of Hispanic studies. The letter addresses the call for attention to Latin American culture in the VCC, the need to dismantle historical prejudices against Spanish as a scholarly language and Rice’s unique geographical position as justifications for a doctoral program.

In the letter, President Leebron responds to the chair’s letter April 26, confirming that he does not plan to pursue a Hispanic Studies Ph.D. program. The letter elaborates on the administration’s activity in pursuit of improved Latin American studies, including mention of Quiilen and Vassar’s plans to secure working relationships with Monterrey Tec and Universidad de Monterrey. Quiilen and Vassar left for Monterrey Wednesday.

In the letter, President Leebron encourages an alternative to a Hispanic studies departmental Ph.D.— the pursuit of multi-departmental, graduate-level programs that focus on international research interests and draw on resources from around the university and the Houston and international community.

There has not yet been mention of a concrete timeframe for hiring new faculty with research interests in Hispanic or Latin American studies.

Fall 2007

HUMA 250
Writing for Print Media
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 7 – 8:30 PM

Spring 2008

HUMA 251
Principles of Typography & Design
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 11 AM – 12:15 PM
Save the Earth

Students examine a booth at an Earth Day fair in the Ray Courtyard of the student center. The fair had booths to raise environmental awareness, as well as outdoor treats like snow cones.

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JIM TOUR — Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science
George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching

MICHAEL EMERSON — Sociology
George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching

JOHN BOLES — History
George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching

JAMES BROWN — Economics
George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching

SEICHI MATSUWA — Biochemistry and Cell Biology
George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching

ANTHONY BRANDT — Composition and Theory
George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching

ANN SATERBAK — Bioengineering
American Society for Engineering Education Robert G. Quinn Award

BRIDGET GORMAN — Sociology
Nicolas Salgo Distinguished Teacher Award

POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period April 17-May 9.

Residential Colleges
Brown College April 24
Will Rice College April 26
Sid Richardson College May 4
Sid Richardson College May 7
Lovett College May 8

Academic Buildings
Fondren Library April 23
Space Science Building April 30

Other Buildings
Alice Pratt Brown Hall April 17
Vachel Hall May 2

Parking Lots
South Colleges Lot April 24
Greenbriar Lot May 1
South Colleges Lot May 4

Off the Area
Jane and Justin Veha
Stadium April 18

Alumni Extension
Entrace 1B April 21

Delivery Services
Laboratory Road April 26

Alumni Extension May 3

Rice Stadium Laboratory Road May 9

Rice and Sunset Boulevards May 9

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
Failure to stop and give information.

Terroristic Threat.
Subject found with illegal weapon at traffic stop. Subject arrested and remanded to Harris County Jail.

Theft.
Subject arrested for driving while intoxicated and remanded to Harris County Jail.

Theft.
Subject arrested for driving with suspended license and remanded to Harris County Jail.

Assault. See story, page 4.

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- Intelligent
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Major construction projects begin over summer

by Ricki Binder

When students return to campus in the fall, they may be surprised by a number of changes and renovations that take place over the summer. More than 20 different projects are scheduled to begin this summer, ranging from renovations to the residential colleges to the construction of a new utility plant.

The Residential Colleges

Nearly all nine existing residential college buildings will receive some form of renovation or construction before students return to campus. Associate Vice President of Housing and Dining Mark Ditman said Baker and Lovett Colleges will get their Resident Associate apartments redone.

Ditman said the total cost of residential college-related renovations on the Housing and Dining capital project list is currently expected to be around $25 million.

Groundbreaking will begin for McMurtry College, the 11th residential college and the connecting servery in June. Assistant Vice President of Facilities, Engineering and Planning Doug Tomlinson said noise from construction crews and trucks will be inevitable, but workers will observe quiet hours to avoid disturbing north college summer residents and homeowners across the street.

South Plant

In order to support the addition of new buildings and the continuing construction of the Collaborative Research Center, Rice is also planning to construct a new utility plant next to Entrance 4 to provide chilled water, steam and electrical service.

Tomlinson said the plant will connect to existing cooling pipes and steam tunnels to supplement the existing central utility plant. "I'm telling my own staff to get out there and just shoot hundreds of pictures of these sites before we change them," he said.

The new sections of Will Rice and Hanszen Colleges will get new air ducts, and 3K Richmond College will get the height of its balconies raised. Several other colleges will get their Resident Associate apartments redone.

A new plant, south of the south plant, will be installed parallel to the existing Alumni Drive, across from Wiess College, will be closed and dug up to install steam tunnels connecting the plant to the rest of campus. Tomlinson said a gravel road will be installed to receive renovations beginning in June, and Beckendorf Park will get new turf and improved drainage.

Several engineering buildings will be remodeled or repainted over the summer, and many similar minor projects will also take place.

Tomlinson said he is excited about all of the new projects and encouraged people to document the changes.

2007 GSA Awards Winners

Faculty Teaching/Mentoring Award
Dr Robert Raphael (Bioengineering)

Faculty/Staff Service Award
Martha Alexander (CE - LANP), Kevin Kirby (VP for Administration)

Robert Lawry Patten Award
Jennifer Greason (Bioengineering), Mark Little (Earth Science), Louise Organ (Bioengineering), Hao Yang (Physics & Astronomy)

GSA Service Award
Jordan Miller (Bioengineering), Hao Zhan (Physics & Astronomy)

Friends of the GSA Award
Regional Unit of Texas of Recording for the Blind & Deafness

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Enrollment for Fall '07 to increase for fifth straight year

by Julia Bursten

Under the supervision of a new Vice President for enrollment, freshmen admissions numbers continued to climb for the fifth year in a row, with a record 8,777 students applying for a spot in the 2008 freshman class.

Of 2,226 accepted applications, 1,724 students, about 33 percent, have declared their intention of attending Rice next fall — and, for the first time ever, they made their commitment deposits online.

Vice President for Enrollment Chris Munoz said there were two main changes to the admissions process this year. They first expedited the process of collecting admissions commitments by allowing students to not only accept an offer online but also to deposit money to secure a place in the freshman class.

The change means the enrollment office has more complete data on this fall’s expected attendees than 6 of the time demographics were compiled last year.

"It’s like comparing apples and oranges," Munoz said. "The numbers now are just so much more complete."

In addition to moving to a Web-based system, students who marked themselves as ethnically multiracial on their applications were counted that way during the admissions process, instead of being lumped in with one of their multiple ethnicities. In previous years, he said, students who identified as half-black, half-white were counted as black for admissions demographics purposes.

Munoz made the executive decision to change Rice’s policy as a result of discussion among other member schools of the Consortium on Financing Higher Education, a 31 university organization of enrollment administrators at elite private institutions. He said Rice’s previous method was the standard COFHE approach, but changing attitudes toward multiracial groups caused Rice and two other COFHE schools to switch to the current system.

[Multiracial students] can be similar to whoever they might identify with or they can be completely different, or they can be a mix or montage of the two. They call it the Tiger Woods Syndrome factor,

— Chris Munoz
Vice President for Enrollment

"More of this generation’s students are the result of multicultural, multiracial parents — that group can be similar to whoever they might identify with or they can be completely different, or they can be a mix or montage of the two," Munoz said. "They call it the Tiger Woods Syndrome factor."

About five percent of this fall’s freshmen class identifies as multiracial — 37 of the 742 expected attendees, in contrast with the class of 2008, for which the enrollment demographics labeled a single student as multiracial.

Additionally, the number incoming black students rose from 33 in fall 2006 to 55, from similarly sized acceptance pools, indicating a positive change in yield — the percentage of acceptees who choose to attend. The numbers of Mexican-American and Latino attendees fell this year by three and four, respectively. About 45 percent of 2007’s expected students identified as white, and about 21 percent identify as Asian-American.

54 more men than women plan to enter Rice this fall, making the incoming class 54 percent male. Munoz said he was surprised to discover what academic areas were most affected by the gender jump from the 2006 matriculants, in which 20 more women entered Rice than men.

"We’re up 31 percent in engineering," he said. "Typically that means, proportionally, more men select engineering than women. Well, what we discovered was that we actually admitted more women as a percent in engineering this year than a year ago, but few of them elected to deposit. The biggest difference is in humanities and social sciences."

This year, 72 of 174 male acceptees to Rice’s School of Social Sciences will matriculate, a 41 percent yield. Last year’s yield was 27 percent, and 45 of 167 men. The numbers held steady for women in social sciences, with no more expected attendees this year than last.

In the humanities, 40 of 68 male acceptees will attend this year — 45 percent, up from 33 percent last year — while 29 percent of 160 female acceptees in the humanities have elected to come to Rice this year, as opposed to last year’s 36 percent yield.

Engineering and natural sciences yield rates have held fairly steady, with more acceptees and more planned attendees across both genders and disciplines. The architecture school expects 23 new students and the Shepherd School of Music has 32 planned attendees.

Regionally, admissions distributions have not varied much from the previous two years. About 10 percent of the incoming class lives in Texas, and about 7 percent of matriculants are international.

Munoz said the number of new transfer students appears to be up slightly, from 66 to 70, but that those numbers may shift later.

RICE ENROLLMENT

2006-07 ADMITANCES BY DECISION PERIOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision Period</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Admissions</th>
<th>Deposits</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Decision</td>
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ADMITTED STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Other Hispanic or Latino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Reported</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiracial</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexican American or Chicano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign National</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caucasian or White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American or Black</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By Evan Mintz  
THE RICE THUNDER 
Not your usual grunt

After two tours of shakling things up in Iraq, Hanszen College senior Phillip Wharton is finally able to graduate

Leadership Rice 
encourages me... to bring together future scientists, engineers, architects, and thinkers to form something stronger than talent—a team. In the Solar Decathlon Team, we are working to design and build a solar-powered home to bridge the gaps not only between sustainability and livability, but between vision and results as well. Leadership Rice teaches how to focus dreams and bring individuals together for a shared purpose and passion, and that only by learning how to use our strengths and weaknesses to serve a team can we become leaders and bring about change.

LEAD RICE

Roque Sanchez  
Rice Solar Decathlon  
Civil Engineering & Hispanic Studies  
Wiess '02

Build your capacities for leadership through participation in Leadership Rice programs and courses. Leadership Rice is offering: LEAD 309 Leadership Theory to Practice, LEAD 313 Entrepreneurial Leadership, LEAD 320 The Rhetoric of Leadership and LEAD 321 Leadership Communication; fall semesters only. For additional information about Leadership Rice programs, visit our new website at www.rice.eduleadership.
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Move-in Day Tech Support - IT staff members and College Computing Associates or CCAs will be on hand to help you connect to the Rice network during O-Week move-in day.

Campus Portal - The campus portal is available to students; customize your tab to track your favorite Rice events or news feeds: https://my.rice.edu/

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Information Technology (IT) Help Desk - Visit http://helpdesk.rice.edu/ or call us at 713-348-HELP (4357). We can answer your computing questions before you arrive!
Center: Graduates pour out of the Sallyport Delan Tabakov.
Clockwise, from top left: Jones College President Teddy Bucher hugs a Jones graduate Michael Rog. Undergraduate degree candidates file into their seats Taylor Johnson. Jack Craig catches a typing lens Taylor Johnson. Student Association President Laura Kelly places a wreath on Willy's Statue Taylor Johnson. Hockey Rodin beams at the camera as she exits the Sallyport Delan Tabakov. Faculty gaze over the crowd from seats on the Commencement stage Michael Rog. Graduates' families sweat through Commencement Exercises Taylor Johnson.
Baker College President Karen Spitzfaden leads her college's graduates to their diplomas by displaying the Baker banner Michael Rog. President David Leebron receives an enthusiastic embrace from Pete Choo Taylor Johnson. While degree candidates file in, Elizabeth McDonald (Lovett '04) and family pregame her brother Rob's graduation with a picnic Michael Rog. Electrical Engineering Professor William Wilson bears the ceremonial mace toward the stage Taylor Johnson. Degree candidates from Jones and Brown College line up to make their entrance Delan Tabakov.
All photos in this layout were taken for the Thresher.
Doerr speaks on love, family, education

Thank you, President Lehrman. Honored, privileged, parents, family and guests, and most important of all, the class of 2007, I am honored to be with you on this wonderful occasion. President Lehrman was very kind in his introduction. I asked him what I should say, and he said, "Say, "You have one minute," but when I met with some of your graduates, you said, "John, talk to us about life and love." So I'm going to tell you four love stories, three about me and the fourth about you. Just four stories.

The first story is about a love that all of us can identify with—love for parents. You can probably remember when you were young how you looked up to your parents as your heroes. For me that feeling has never gone away. My parents raised the kids in St. Louis on a middle-class income and always made us feel we came first. They worked hard and saved money and saved all of us through college, and I remember how proud they were the day I got an acceptance letter from Rice. Nearly 40 years since, they have always been here for me and my siblings. They have loved each of us unconditionally and made sure we knew it. They've always been proud of whatever we do, and they try to share the important events in my life with them, so naturally they are here today.

I'd like to introduce them to you. My dad and here Lois Doerr, my amazing mom Rosemary and my great aunt Jo Howland. Thirty-four years ago they were here, not far from where they are now. Now my mom and I chat every week to share what's happening. She's always there 100 percent, empathetic and listening, and my siblings and I make a good effort to plan the holidays. My kids have loved each of us unconditionally and made sure we knew it. They always been proud of whatever we do, and they try to share the important events in our lives with us, so naturally they are here today.

Ken Kennedy stepped in. Ken Kennedy's the person I'd like to bring home today. My teacher and friend Ken spent nearly four decades at Rice as a beloved professor, before he passed away in February. Now forgive me, but cancer sucks.

If I can't answer your questions, I'll turn to me in my junior year, knowing that I was shy on girls. Ken pushed me to meet another engineering student—Ann Howell. For months, I wrote Ann's name over and over again and her number on the side of my legal pad. But I couldn't find the courage to call her. Honestly, I felt unlovable, and I feared she'd turn me down.

But Friday night, February the 2nd, was an unassuming Friday night. Yes, I was alone in the lounge out of the memorial center just outside SRB, watching "Star Trek" and probably feeling a bit sorry for myself. All of a sudden, though, in walked Ann. She was sparkling, vivacious, sensitive and very smart. And she was looking for me. What I didn't know was that Ken had worked some magic to get me together. He had encouraged Ann to ask me to help her find the broken public address system at Jones College. He had helped me get the car, patiently choosing the campus because he understood where I worked. He helped her buy her first car—we named it Woodstock. It was a yellow VW Beetle whose reverse gear didn't work. But it was easy to live. I've been blessed with a strong family. Once I started missing a few meals at home, it became easy to start missing more meals. One day, I suddenly realized that Esther was walking. Mary was in kindergarten and I was not as involved in their lives as I wanted to be. And then Ann developed cancer.

Everything changed; I changed. I wanted and I needed much more time with Ann, with Mary and Esther, to be present with them the way my parents were for me. Being home in the evening has become one of my top priorities. And not just being home but being available so much so that we've declared 6 to 10 p.m. an e-mail free time zone. With Ann's cancer in remission we live each day for the blessing that is life. I decided way back in my 20s, less than five days a month. Sometimes that means traveling, like flying to China for only 18 hours, in order to get back home after just one night in Beijing. Sometimes it means not getting everything done. Business meetings, dinners, and travel must now pass the test. Is this really worth missing a night at home? Since applying this test, I'm getting home for dinner almost every night. Ken Kennedy taught me not to be afraid to fail. But there's one place you shouldn't fail, and that's with your family and your children. When I screw up as a venturist, I may lose some money and a bit of pride, but it I fail at family, lose love and lives that can never be regained.

The fourth and last love story is yours. It's all about you and your loved ones. Only it's unfinished. You're writing it from this moment onwards. Right here, right now. Don't wait 34 years to ask the important questions—start today. What will all this book learning from Rice make of your life? Who are your role models, your mentors, your heroes? Most important, who is your true love, and what kind of partner are you or want to be? How do you want to make meaning of life?

It's easy to get lost in ambition and accomplishment, but that path, in and of itself, may not make a meaningful life. Apply what you know and what you learn to your own passion and aim high. Ignore the, applies, including me. Accept advice, but make your own, and never forget that meaning comes from what you do and from others, meaning from the love you lose and from those who love you and all the others yet to be discovered.

Four simple love stories. About Ann and Rosemary, and Ken and Ann, about parents keeping family first, about true love that allows you to love others, about kids and unconditional love for who they are, and about you making your own meaning.

I'm always going to remember what my dad once told me. He said, "John, love and are going to give you one gift no one can ever take away: a good education. But it's up to you to decide what to do with it." A lot of people have worked really hard to help give you the education of a lifetime. Now it's up to you to decide what to do with it.

That's enough questions and advice. For the rest of today, celebrate your success. Enjoy your family, your friends, your loved ones. Be proud to call yourself a Rice graduate. So, Class of 2007, there's nothing left for me to say except for a question and then I'll be done. Please join me now. Stand up, turn and face the people you love. Congratulations class of 2007, you've earned it.
Spider-Man-Man spins unconvincing web in new film
by Matthew McKeel
THREESERIATED REPORTER
Hollywood's favorite wall crawler has come to the silver screen again in a third smash hit. Spider-Man 3 broke opening-weekend revenue records and opened on more movie screens than in Americas than any film before, and its budget is one of the highest in the industry.

Unfortunately, the latest tale about Peter Parker (Sebastian Stanfloey Maguire) and his alter-ego does not justify all the hype. The 31-minute film juggles four villains – Harry, Sandman, Spider- Man's reunion, and the new Green Goblin. While the previous two films have developed the villains well, plotlines get tangled up in Spider-Man 3 and they receive too little attention. It seems like the movie's plotline is no more interesting.

Although Spider-Man 2 began with Parker struggling in work, school, and Spider- Man's reputation, Spider- Man 3 opens on a grand parade in the hero's honor and his thoughts of proposing to Mary Jane. If it contained more of Parker's inner scene, the film would have been more than just a foundation built for Harry's character. However, the new Green Goblin, who is incorporated only marginally. In short, the film is a letdown for Spider- Man fans.

At the end of the film, Magneto and his fellow mutants begin a relationship and draw attention to an effective science. They saved Peter and Mary Jane from a world of multiple characters, and as this relationship is critical to Spider-Man's world, their scenes should have continued.

Knocked Up induces laborious disappointment
by Tasha Chengpavil

Producer: Adam Shankman
From the director who brought us the popular and critically acclaimed 'Hairspray'. The Legend of Ron Burgundy was met with rather mixed reviews. 'Knocked Up' on the other hand is a kind of heartwarming tale. It is a story about a young couple, Seth (played by Seth Rogen) and Susan (played by Katherine Heigl) who are about to become parents. The film revolves around the theme of becoming parents and the challenges that come with it. It is a film about love, life, and loss.

Alison is a young journalist whose career is faltering. While out covering a recent promotion at a theme park, she meets the gamer geek, essentially the same Ben Stone (Tom Hardy). The two have an unusual bond – he is passionate about games, and she is passionate about journalism. This passion results in Alison getting their story.

However, the episodes show the couple's growing bond along with some variations to use in Spider-Man 2. Mary Jane, even after the sincere devotion expressed at the end of Spider-Man 2, still ends this film seeing like a slighter and fake lover. The new Green Goblin, than director had used the previous of the previous, should have been more aware to the personalities he helped build. This inconsistent characterization could have been remedied had the film focused its plot.

While the narrative fails, the technical elements of this film are dazzling. When Spider-Man punches through Sandman, it looks like he is really punching through him. The dynamic screen angles and overall high quality of the comic-worthy action sequences show for minutes at a time. Fight sequences do not have the indulgence and superficiality of a film like 300, but skillfully use the film's big budget to make every scene look like it came straight from the most theatrical films and still could find fault in New York tomorrow. They combine technical wonder with characters that viewers can relate to, despite their lost potential.

Spamalot, however, is not something that fans of the theater eye can truly. The disappointing story arcs falls into the notion of Hollywood mediocrity, however, and bags down the fantasy of Spider-Man.

Deities and digital worlds:
One cyborg's perspective
by Amanda Phillips

We are the first generation that went digital in childhood. For some of us, social training was fully integrated with media experiences – our relationships were first forged in front of electronic gadgets and in AOL chat rooms. Our culture is a generation full of information, 更新ing virtual and real, and the tragedy is that some of us believe these.

But not this media baby: I am an adult and proud cyborg. When my parents gave in to my desires to play video games, I launched my virtual world with physical and digital people, identifying my training as a cyborg superhero. Other people have books, movies, and television shows to spark the imagination. I had video games. Noting pervasive narratives against series like Grand Theft Auto, it seems everyone want to talk about games in terms of addiction, violence and their illicit nature. In my time at Rice, however, I have found a far more meaningful approach to which to discuss games religion. I'm not talking about cults, which is why wonderful to discover that some digital mythologies do not have the indulgence and superficiality of a film like 300, but skillfully use the film's big budget to make every scene look like it came straight from the most theatrical films and still could find fault in New York tomorrow. They combine technical wonder with characters that viewers can relate to, despite their lost potential.

Spamalot, however, is not something that fans of the theater eye can truly. The disappointing story arcs falls into the notion of Hollywood mediocrity, however, and bags down the fantasy of Spider-Man.
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Matthew O'Conner
Jean
Rhinoceros

BEST PRODUCTION,
FULL LENGTH
Much Ado About Nothing
(Bakershake)

BEST SUPPORTING
ACTOR
Barron Stone
Dogberry
Much Ado About Nothing

BEST PRODUCTION,
SHORTS
"Vagina Monologues" *

BEST DIRECTOR
Matt Radford
Much Ado About Nothing

BEST ACTRESS
Haley Richardson
Beatrice
Much Ado About Nothing

BEST SUPPORTING
ACTRESS
Linda Permenter
Margaret
Much Ado About Nothing

ABOUT THE SAMMYS
The Sammys have been selected by Rice students every spring since 1980. This spring, Thresher staff members and the Rice theater community were invited to nominate and vote on these honorees.

Shown above are the results of this voting process. An asterisk indicates the selection of Thresher editors for each award. Note: Because this year's nomination period ended April 9, Brown College Theater's production of Antigone and Godden stern are Dead could not be considered.

George (Baker College freshman Greer Sims) watches Dogberry (Baker sophomore Barron Stone) in Baker's Much Ado About Nothing. Stone was voted Best Supporting Actor, and the show was voted this year's Best Production among spoken performances. (Photo by Marshall Robinson/Thresher)

Haley Richardson (Rape) in Much Ado About Nothing. Richardson was voted Best Actress, and the show was voted this year's Best Production among spoken performances. (Photo by Marshall Robinson/Thresher)

BEST ACTRESS
Haley Richardson
Beatrice
Much Ado About Nothing

BEST SUPPORTING
ACTRESS
Linda Permenter
Margaret
Much Ado About Nothing

BETTER LEFT: Rice Players in Eugene Ionesco's absurdist play Rhinoceros. (Photo by Marshall Robinson/Thresher)
BEST ACTOR
Trevor Pittinger
Baker
Into the Woods

NOMINEES:
Alex Lambert
Office Lockstock, Urinetown
Drew McUic *
Bobby Strong, Urinetown
Paul Early
Calio-III B. Chadwell, Urinetown

BEST PRODUCTION
Into the Woods
(Rice Players)

NOMINEES:
The Last Five Years (Jones)
Reefer Madness (Sid Richardson)
Urinestown (Wies Tabletop) *

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Caroline Turner *
Little Red Ridinghood Into the Woods

NOMINEES:
Teresa Bany
Little Sally, Urinetown
Marguerite Clements
Cinderella's Stepmother, Into the Woods
Kate Goodwin
Sally Dechains, Reefer Madness
Dorothy Koval
Mam Scarlet, Clue: The Musical (Martel)
Allie Janda
Penelope Pennywise, Urinetown

BEST DIRECTOR
Ben Burford
Into the Woods

NOMINEES:
Carla Machain Martinez
The Last Five Years
Nickey Rodin *
Urinestown
Andrew Sinclair
Reefer Madness

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Diego Tucker *
Wolf/Cinderella's Prince Into the Woods

NOMINEES:
Parker Davis
The Lecturer, Reefer Madness
Stephan Hammel
Narrator/Mysterious Man, Into the Woods
Derrick Huang
Narrator/Mysterious Man, Urinetown
Jack Stone
Jack, Into the Woods

BEST ACTRESS
Nicola Lusog *
The Witch Into the Woods

NOMINEES:
Stephanie Nemir
Cinderella, Into the Woods
Nicky Rodin
Baker's Wife, Into the Woods
Caroline Turner
Hope Chadwell, Urinetown
Martina Young
Mary Lane, Reefer Madness

BEST ACCOMPANIMENT
Alice Chai *
Into the Woods

NOMINEES:
Alice Chai & Will Garris
Urinestown
Cat Coomea
Death by Disco
Kitty LandiBoi
Much Ado About Nothing
Katelyn Willis, Katie O'Sullivan, & Michael Bag
Orange Lemon Egg Canary (Will Rice)

CHOREOGRAPHY
Katelyn Halpren *
Urinestown

NOMINEES:
Caroline Crites
Much Ado About Nothing
Heather Johnson
The Last Five Years
Jenly Narrold
Into the Woods

INSTRUMENTATION & MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT
Chris Burt *
Into the Woods

NOMINEES:
Bobbi Anderson
Clue: The Musical
Paul Angell
Reefer Madness
Chris Burt
Urinestown

The Rice Players' production of Into the Woods won six Sammy's this year. Director Ben Burford (Brown '06) returned to lead the Players in a performance noted for its abstract approach and strong grasp of the fantasy's drama and plot. (Photo by Marshall Robinson/Thresher)
JUDD
From page 19

Despite the disappointing comedy, the actors give it their best, and the individual roles fairly well. Roenig's earnest but churlish Blerk is pleasant and fun. He takes on the part of the big bad, who needs to grow up so well, one might think he's not acting. And Heigl'sinstalled neuroticism fits Alison perfectly. However, when the two get together, they simply are not as believable as a romantic couple. They feel like a pair of good friends at best — and no one wants to see a romantic comedy without the romance. While The 40 Year Old Virgin made Carrell a household name, Knocked Up will not provide the same coup for Roenig and Heigl. Although they are enjoyable and entertaining in their roles, they do not have enough screen presence or fictional love on which to build their romantic story. In their roles, they do not have realistic chemistry and do not give anyone a chance to fall in love with the characters. What kind of impact do you think you've had on the Rice theater community?

Freshman year, I acted in a one-act (Wiseau Tabletop Theater's "AnyTHING"), and that was my first time to do any straight theater with my musical aspect. I had been brought through high school that I could not act and was only casted for my voice. When I got to Wiseau and did this one-act, I got a lot of positive feedback. It felt so good that there was this environment for people to excel in.

What was the most memorable production you helped put on?

I was probably the most emotionally involved with Wiseau Tabletop Theater's Baby. It helped me come out of my shell. I saw a lot of myself in that lead actress, Marisa Young, and could help encourage her. It was also such a broad spectrum working with someone like her and then music graduate student Tom Comney, who was a Broadway kid. Even though it wasn't the most successful performance, it was such an incredible experience.

What was the worst mistake you think you made?

Trying to take on too much. Inlorso. I was a much better delega-
tor, and I tried to do too much on my staff as I could. My biggest mistake was not letting go of the earlier productions. If I had one piece of advice to hand down, it would be to make sure you delegate.

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Wisconsin College Senior Nickey Rodin

MARTEL COLLEGE SENIOR AVA MOURSUND

What kind of impact do you think you've had on the Rice theater community?

I hope that I have been able to pass on some of my technical and practical knowledge onto people, and I hope that I have gotten some people into theater that would not have been involved otherwise. I also hope that my conversations with the theater department will get them thinking about the balance between their program and the Rice Players. I think that's important. If there are too many musicals and musicals-only classes, people might get scared and not take drama and then there will not be many people to continue the community.

What was the worst mistake you think you think you made?

I think my team and I raised Wiseau's caliber of show and made people see Wiseau as a force in college theater. I think for everyone involved, my impact has been the seeing theater as being community-based and encouraging everyone and giving a chance everyone to not take themselves too seriously.

BROWN COLLEGE SENIOR MACONDA O'CONNOR

How did you get involved in Rice's theater community?

I came in freshman year, and I was trying to see how the year turned out. I actually almost put myself in the hospital. I did not sleep. Theater people here are like that. We are crazy. We can't say no to people! I think that there is this group of really dedicated, really hard-working people that I got to do everything, and we do not really realize when we are in our own heads. You get this really overcommitted group of theater people that are kind of killing themselves working on four shows at the same time. It has to kind of be like that because there is a small group of people that have the knowledge and the technical ability to take on so much. If they were not doing all those shows, at least two of them would not happen.

What are you planning to do after you graduate?

I am a psychology and theater double major, and I plan on going into forensic psychology, so I will be going to graduate school for that. I want to work for a year, and I am going to go home to San Antonio and working at a mental health hospital for some practical experience before going into a real career. But I always want to keep involved in theater, community theater even if it's not professional. I am really passionate about theater, so I want to be involved with something.

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**Women's track wins C-USA**

Owls record most-lopsided margin of victory since 2002

by Dylan Farmer

The women's track team showed up at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium last Thursdays with their sights set on the NCAA Championships, Rice was not just looking forward to setting a school record; the Owls totaled 146.5 points by scoring in 11 of the 12 running events, all four jumping events and the heptathlon to win the C-USA title by the conference's largest margin of victory since 2002—23.5 points separated Rice runner-up University of Texas-Pan American and the Owls. The win clinches Rice's national titles by zooming to a victory in the 10,000, taking an early lead and winning by roughly 20 seconds. The Owls were in it until the wire, but it was more than enough to defeat their competitors. We had a lot of good athletes, unfortunately we couldn't get them in the finals, said head coach. Jim Bevan.

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Women’s shot for second straight title misses target

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**THE RICE THRESHER**

**SPORTS**

Friday, May 18, 2007

Junior Tiffany Lee serves during Rice’s 7-0 shutout of Columbia March 16. Lee will be one of the seniors leading the Owls next season — along with Kimberly Patenaude and Christine Dao, she will aim the team toward its second C-USA championship.

**FROM THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT**

Women’s shot for second straight title misses target

Owls drop semifinal match to third-seeded Marshall University after defeating Houston, Southern Methodist

CARLING DONOVAN

The Owls opened the tournament by manhandling seventh-seeded Houston 4-1, the same score they beat the Cougars by in last year’s tournament. Rice started strong in doubles, as sophomore Emily Braid and junior Christine Dao paired to crush their opponents 8-1 at No. 3. In the top spot, the tandem of freshman Julie Chao and junior Tiffany Lee clinched the doubles point by staving of Leila Salek and Loli Gomez in a hard-fought 9-8 (7-4) win.

The Cougars came roaring back in singles, winning the first set in three spots. But Lee made sure the Owls kept up their momentum, winning in straight sets at No. 3.Sophomore Dominique Karas rallied from an early 4-0 deficit to take the No. 4 point and push Rice’s lead to 3-0. Although Chao, who attained all-conference first team honors, fell at No. 1. Braid picked her up and sealed the win for the Owls at the bottom of the ladder with a come-from-behind 16-6, 6-3 victory.

The next day Rice faced in-state rivals SMU. The Owls had already fallen to the Mustangs earlier in the season, by a score of 4-1 in Houston. This time around, the Owls prevailed.

SMU, seeded second and ranked 52nd in the nation, started the match off hot, taking the doubles point. The Mustangs continued their momentum by beating the Owls in a straight-set win at No. 2. Rice then gained its footing, as Karas put her team on the board with a dominating 6-3, 6-1 win. Freshman Rebecca Lin, who had recently been out with an injured neck, earned the score by taking the point at No. 3. Chao, who was named C-USA Freshman of the Year May 1, then put the Owls in the lead with her first singles win of the tournament.

However, the match was far from over. At No. 3, Lee, who was later named to the all-conference third team, tried her hardest to take down Claire Ketch, but her second-set comeback proved futile as she fell 6-2, 6-2. This loss evened the score and turned all eyes to the bottom of the ladder, where Braid, a walk-on, battled Georgina Marta. After dominating by opening frame, Braid fell in the second set due to muscle cramps. But in the final frame, Braid shook off the injury and took control of the match, winning 6-0, 6-4 and placing the Owls in their second consecutive C-USA semifinals.

"[Braid] is just a wonderful story for us," White said. "She is tough, courageous and fearless. I was excited to see her on the court to win the match.

Rice met No. 63 Marshall that Sunday for the first time since their get-together in the 2006 tournament. The Thundering Herd took the doubles point to open the match with an early lead, but the Owls found themselves four points down at No. 3. Sophomore Dominique Karas rallied from an early 4-0 deficit to take the No. 4 point and push Rice’s lead to 3-0. Although Chao, who attained all-conference first team honors, fell at No. 1. Braid picked her up and sealed the win for the Owls at the bottom of the ladder with a come-from-behind 16-6, 6-3 victory.

**BY THE NUMBERS: PLAYER RESULTS**

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**THE RICE THRESHER**

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007

C-USA TENNIS

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**FRESHMEN JULIE CHAO CHANGES A CROSS-COURT FOREHAND IN A DOUBLES MATCH AGAINST COLUMBIA'S MILENA KACHAR AND CARRING DONOVAN**

She was named C-USA Freshman of the Year May 1.
Back in the CUSA tournament, Rice’s road to the final was far easier than the final match. The opening round on April 20 saw the Owls blow past the seventh-seeded University of Memphis 4-0. The next day, Rice met No. 48 Southern Methodist University, a squad that had edged the Owls 4-3 in Houston less than two weeks earlier. In that match, a tightly-contested doubles win gave the third-seeded Mustangs the final point of the day. But last Saturday, Rice made sure doubles was no longer SMU’s advantage, and grabbed the point with ease.

**DO YOU KNOW?**

The last year men’s tennis won a conference tournament was 2004, when they defeated SMU to take the Western Athletic Conference crown. It was Rice’s first title since winning the Southwest Conference in 1972. The Owls advanced to the NCAA second round, where they lost to eventual champion Baylor University.

On a rainy afternoon April 22, the men’s tennis team looked poised to take the Conference USA crown from 21st-ranked University of Tulsa. After dropping a hard-fought doubles point and five of the first six opening sets, the Owls were staring at a 3-0 deficit with Tulsa needing only one more point to clinch the win.

However, the second-seeded Owls were on the brink of mounting a comeback, close to wins at Nos. 4 and 5, and sophomore Christoph Muller had battled his way back from an early deficit to take his No. 3 match to a third set. In the final unplayed match, junior Ralph Knupfer was leading an inspiring comeback to change against the Golden Hurricane’s Ricardo Soriano and on the brink of sending their match into the final frame but Soriano would not be denied, and won five straight games to clinch the title for the Golden Hurricane.

Even though they dropped the conference crown, the 30th-ranked Owls still guaranteed their fifth straight national seed and headed to Waco April 21. The last time the Owls beat the Mustangs was April 24, 2005, and it might have taken a bit much out of us, both physically and mentally.

The Owls were looking to avenge last year’s heart-breaking 4-2 loss to Tulsa in the NCAA second round, taking his first set, was also on the brink of winning his match and earning Rice its first point. However, it was Soriano’s match at No. 2 that would prove the deciding match of the day. Dropping the first set, Knupfer roared back to take a 5-2 lead and was on the brink of winning a second frame away. But seemingly out of nowhere, Soriano rallied back, and before the Owls could even catch a single point on the board, Tulsa had won.

We just gave Tulsa too much of a cushion with a 1-0 lead, and it was just too hard to get ourselves back in the match,” Ustundag said. “We eventually tried to do that, but we just dug ourselves too deep of a hole. It would have been a great match if we had come back from of that hole, but Tulsa just didn’t let it happen.”

Senior Ben Harknett jumps for a backhand in the Owls’ April 20 win over Memphis. Although Rice lost the CUSA title and a first-round NCAA match to Texas A&M, Harknett will participate in the singles championships May 23.
COMPETING in his first-ever C-USA outdoor meet, senior Luke Stadel easily won the shot put and then followed that with a near-win in the discus.

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Senior Pablo Solares became the second person in C-USA history to win both the 800 and the 1,500 meters at the conference’s outdoor championship meet. Solares set conference records in both events. He will run both the 800 and the 1,500 at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championships in Des Moines, Iowa next weekend.

THE RICE THREShER sports FRIdAY, MAY 18, 2007  
compete at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championships, which will take place May 25-26 in Des Moines, Iowa. He and freshman Jason Colwick qualified in the pole vault. Also going to the regional meet are Solares in the 1,500, Stadel in the shot put and the discus and Wright in the high jump. They can all qualify for the NCAA Championships automatically by placing in the top 4 of their events, but if they make the top 12, they will still be in the running for an at-large berth. Warren said all five Owls have a chance to qualify for nationals.

“[Solares] has the chance to be an All-American,” Warren said. “But, looking at those field events ... if Luke continues to throw like he’s been throwing he’ll have a shot, but also the pole vault and the high jump are just flaky. If you can get in and clear the right bar ... chances are you’ll secure a spot at nationals. It’s not what your personal best is, it’s what you do on that day.”

C-USA RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>UTEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>ECU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>UCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Southern Miss</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final team point totals from the C-USA Men’s Outdoor Track and Field Championships:

1.    *Mergeria* 154.5
2.    *UTEP* 145
3.    *Houston* 134
4.    *ECU* 114
5.    *Rice* 110.5
6.    *UCF* 92
7.    *Southern Miss* 63

THE OWLS who were at C-USA had quite a successful showing at the championship meet. Senior Luke Stadel easily won the shot put and then followed that with a near-win in the discus. He and freshman Jason Colwick qualified in the pole vault. Also going to the regional meet are Solares in the 1,500, Stadel in the shot put and the discus and Wright in the high jump. They can all qualify for the NCAA Championships automatically by placing in the top 4 of their events, but if they make the top 12, they will still be in the running for an at-large berth. Warren said all five Owls have a chance to qualify for nationals.

“[Solares] has to be the favorite to be an All-American,” Warren said. “But, looking at those field events ... if Luke continues to throw like he’s been throwing he’ll have a shot, but also the pole vault and the high jump are just flaky. If you can get in and clear the right bar ... chances are you’ll secure a spot at nationals. It’s not what your personal best is, it’s what you do on that day.”

Wright is the favorite, Dominic Tanui of UTEP. From page 23
"It's always good to have an arm that comes out throwing 90 [mph] with command," St. Clair said. "It just creates another option out of the bullpen."

The three-game series against Memphis May 17-19 at Reckling Park will conclude the regular season for the Owls. The CUSA tournament, with Rice seeded No. 1, begins May 23 in Greenville, NC. The rest of the seeds are still up for grabs, but the Owls figure to be the clear favorite no matter who their opponent is.

The NCAA tournament begins with the Regional round June 1. With a strong finish to the season, the Owls will assure that Reckling Park will host 1 of 16 Regionals and 1 of 8 Super Regionals. Graham knows from his experience at Rice the importance of home-field advantage in the playoffs. Most recently, the Owls lost to Tulane in New Orleans during the 2005 Super Regional round.

"I'm not sure there's really any difference between No. 1, No. 8," he said. "There's certainly a lot of difference between a No. 8 and a No. 9."

Despite his team's recent return to the top in the RPI, Graham said there have been several significant threats out there. Rice played a strong nonconference schedule, playing 20 games against teams ranked in the top 30, and the Owls have a good feel for the competition.

"The best two teams [we've seen] are Vanderbilt and Texas," Graham said. "(Texas A&M) is sort of like Tennessee — if their pitching holds up, they could go all the way."
The 2007 season was off to a rough start for the preseason favorite baseball team. After reaching the College World Series last June only to fall just short of a second national championship, the Owls unexpectedly dropped two of their first three February games. The pitching staff was a huge question mark after Rice lost Cy Young Award winner Craig Counsil '06, Eddie Degerman (Sid '06) and Bryce Cox to the major league draft the previous year, and injuries jeopardized the seasons of junior starters Joe Savery, Bobby Bell and reliever Cole St Clair. In addition to replacing the 364 innings thrown by the trio of draftees last season, someone needed to shoulder even more of the burden while Savery and St Clair worked back to full strength.

Berry provided a rude introduction to the Baylor hitters, allowing only three hits and striking out seven in six shutdown innings en route to his first collegiate victory. After the game, this much was clear: Graham had unleashed his newest weapon to wreak havoc upon the college baseball world.

Humble Beginnings

The third of four children, Ryan Paul Berry was born Aug. 3, 1988 in nearby Humble, Tex. His interest in sports from a young age was not unique in his family — his two older brothers were both athletes, but his father, William, said Ryan’s extraordinary love of baseball was apparent from early on.

"He always wanted to play baseball," he said. "That’s all he’d ever talk about when he was a little kid." Ryan helped his own cause, beginning his career in third grade as a pitcher, shortstop and third baseman for a local team. Eventually, he rose into the select-team ranks, and pitched a game at Reckling Park that happened to catch Graham’s eye. As a good student, his interest in going to Rice grew throughout middle school and into high school career, and despite pitching only a handful of innings for Humble High his junior season, his potential and his outstanding academic record — he graduated with a 4.5 GPA — earned further attention from Rice’s coaching staff.

Into the Rotation

Berry’s first opportunity to prove himself came during the team’s two weeks of intrasquad scrimmage games known as "fall ball." With many spots in the rotation up for grabs, Berry said he had a chance to make a name for himself.

"I knew [there was] a possibility of pitching with Eddie [Degerman] and Bryce Cox leaving," Berry said. "Coming into fall ball, I had a chance to earn the respect of everybody by pitching well."

In addition to a sinking fastball that can hit 91-92 mph with consistent location, Berry features a hard knuckle-curveball, a changeup with good movement, and a slider to wreak havoc upon the college baseball world.

Berry provided a rude introduction to the Baylor hitters, allowing only three hits and striking out seven in six shutdown innings en route to his first collegiate victory. After the game, this much was clear: Graham had unleashed his newest weapon to wreak havoc upon the college baseball world.

The youngest pitcher in Rice’s starting rotation is performing like anything but a freshman, and the whole country is starting to notice.

A CLOSER LOOK

Name: Ryan Paul Berry
Age: 18
Birthday: Aug. 3, 1988
Bats/Throws: R/R
High School: Humble High
Before Rice: Set the Humble record for strikeouts (128) en route to 11 wins and a 1.47 ERA.

The Owls took the field Feb. 19 to face Baylor and the nation’s top-ranked recruiting class, and head coach Wayne Graham needed to right the ship quickly. And to apparently make matters worse for Owls fans, he was ready to hand the ball to a lanky, unheralded 18-year-old freshman sporting large glasses that looked more at home in a chemistry lab than on the baseball diamond. Rice fans were about to meet Ryan Berry.

Berry and senior catcher Travis Reagan wait for head coach Wayne Graham’s visit to the mound during Rice’s Feb. 19 win over Baylor. Berry struck out seven in six innings in the 7-0 victory.
Three," pitched the Owls to the 2002 draft after their junior seasons. The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association also named him National Pitcher of the Week a second time. Record: 5-1

Berry had his second premature exit in as many starts, giving up six hits and three runs in 4.2 innings. But again, his relievers picked him up, extending a one run lead. Record: 2-0

March 10 — Rice def. Texas Tech 5-1 at Corpus Christi

There are no doubts about the future. The Rice baseball program is already looking Ahead. With the arrival of Ryan Berry, the Owls have a strong core of returning players. The team is ready to challenge for the Conference USA title and make a run at the NCAA Championship. Berry's presence on campus and in the classroom has already left his stamp on the residential college, and it's not hard to see why. He gives you the opportunity. He helps to raise the bar for student athletes. From helping to coach in seasons to come. Combine his on-the-field talent with his off-field contributions, and you have a student-athlete for the ages.

The Future

"There are no doubts about the future," said a confident Ryan Berry. "I expect us to go to Omaha and win." Berry said. "The future belongs to the team that works hard and plays with heart. We're ready to shut down any team that comes our way."

"Our guys are not homogenous," said one of his teammates. "We have players from different backgrounds and different levels of experience, but we come together as a team. We support each other and believe in our success."

However, the future is not without challenges. Berry and his teammates will face tough competition in the upcoming seasons. But with the right attitude and hard work, they are confident of achieving their goals. Berry's leadership and dedication will continue to inspire his teammates and guide them towards victory.

BY THE NUMBERS: FRESHMAN YEAR STATISTICS FOR SELECT RECENT RICE PITCHERS

A year after their stellar freshman seasons, Philip Humber, Jeff Niemann and Wade Townsend pitched Rice to the CWS Championship in 2003. In 2005, Joe Savery was named National Freshman of the Year by Baseball America after he maintained a 2.43 ERA and struck out 9.7 batters per 9 innings of work. Here's how Ryan Berry stacks up against arguably Rice's best freshman pitchers from recent years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>ERA</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>CG</th>
<th>SV</th>
<th>SO</th>
<th>BB</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>ER</th>
<th>HR</th>
<th>BB</th>
<th>BAA</th>
<th>HBP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Philip Humber</td>
<td>2.77</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>110.2</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Jeff Niemann</td>
<td>3.11</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Wade Townsend</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>51.1</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Joe Savery</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>118.2</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007*</td>
<td>Ryan Berry</td>
<td>3.22</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Through May 15 2007
CONFERENCE
From page 23

comeback attempt. Freshman Nicole Mericle scored in three different events, taking sixth in the 1,500, fourth in the 3,000 steeplechase, and seventh in the 5,000. In the sprints, freshman Shakera Reece and junior Desaré Walbey took third and fifth in the 100, and scored again with fourth and sixth in the 200. Junior Niyangazn Allen was fifth in the 800.

In the field events, senior Sharbey Caesar was sixth in the triple jump, and junior Ulrika Hinson placed fourth in the javelin.

After guiding the team to its first indoor-outdoor sweep since 2001, head coach Jim Bevan was named the Conference USA Coach of the Year. He downplayed the honor, passing the credit to his team.

"I just feel lucky because these are tremendous people, athletes and competitors, and it's not too difficult to motivate them to improve," Bevan said. "They are very self-motivated, very self-driven people. I just make sure they're on the right path, and they take care of the rest."

Whatever the team's motivation, the Owls displayed a number of determined individual performances not shown in the scoresheets. Behind Daniels' extensive lead in the 1,000, senior Seve Barrows edged a multi-lap battle with Fulton's Audrey Phillips for third place. After moving up from seventh place to fourth, Barrows passed Phillips with under a mile to go, only to have Phillips pass her right back. Barrows tried to regain the lead several times, only to have each attempt blocked by a resolute Phillips. However, with about 550 meters to go, Barrows finally spiraled around and running the last two laps in 2:41 and beating Phillips by 10 seconds.

"It was tremendous for Susie to get a medal because she has persevered against a lot of obstacles in her running career," he said. "She has overcome both injuries and hard times, and to get a medal at the conference meet her senior year, right before she graduated, was huge."

Jinoh also had an extraordinary improvement — coming back, Bevan said she tweaked the muscle a few days before the meet during handoff drills for the relay events. She rested her leg until the start of the meet, but re-aggravated it on a 20-foot, 8.5-inch long jump — the first jump of her first event of the weekend. She scratched on her second attempt and passed on three more in an effort to prevent any further injury, but her noticeably short final jump signaled that something was wrong. Later that evening, she finished fifth in the high jump, a good two inches shorter than her season best. The next day, she was second in the 100-meter hurdles and lined up in the blocks for the 200, but elected not to finish the race. Jinoh said she was frustrated by her injuries but pleased with the overall team performance.

"I was unhappy that I wasn't in tip-top condition, which was maybe a little to ask for," she said. "But it was glorious in the end because we won. That was what really mattered — the team championship. So for that reason I'm pleased anyway."

Bevan said he was not surprised by the results, given Rice's experience and sense of camaraderie.

"This team pulled together for each other as group more than any I've even seen in a long time," Bevan said.

"And I think the closer the team is, the more they run and compete for one another, and I think that leads to realizing potential more often than not. That's what this group did."
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SPORTS

Golf 11th at C-USA Championships

A work after finishing in last place at the 2006-07 season, the Rice Owls golf team looked to end the season with a strong showing at the Conference USA Championships April 16-May 1 in Tallahassee, Ark. Unfortunately, even after two promising first-rounds results from seniors Addison Awe and Hoon Young Lee, the Owls could not maintain performance over the next two days, and they finished in last place, 24 strokes behind 10th-place East Carolina.

Ave and Lee recorded first-day scores of 107 and 113, respectively, on the par-72,5,602-yard course, good enough for fourth and fifth place. However, both slipped the following days amid partial showers, finishing towards the rear of the pack. Junior Bobby Thomure and sophomore Phillip Mailloux both finished tied for second with four-under-par 212s, and Tulsa's Thomas Mccay finished fourth.

This notification of tournament performance came just a week after 182 Rice student athletes received recognition on the Commissioner's Honor Roll for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher for the 2006-2007 academic year. In addition, 26 student-athletes received the Commissioner's Academic Medal for maintaining a GPA of 3.75 or better.

The NCAA also handed out penalties for substandard performance, which ranged from a four-year probation at the University of the Virgin Islands to probation at Florida International, to four years of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, to probation at Tulane for one year of probation at Tulane, 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Dean Wihl to establish department of Tex-Mex studies

Graduate students and professors reach compromise with Wihl over interdepartmental classes, free guacamole

After years of arguments, bickering and rumbling open letters, Dean Wihl has finally come to terms with the overwhelming tidal wave of support for Hispanic Studies at Rice, reaching a compromise of offering up a department and doctoral program in Tex-Mex studies. Classes in the department will focus on the food and culture of areas along the Texas-Mexico border and their effects throughout the nation and world.

Wihl announced the new department “Habana!,” and those in attendance declared Rice is going to have an art department for the estudar of Tex-Mex studies. Aye carumba! I will be throwing a fiesta on Thursday nights! Disgusting! But I don’t want to take advantage of its location in Houston.”

Despite its short history, Tex-Mex Studies has already fortunately built a negative reputation among the other departments.

“I don’t want Tex-Mexers coming into my department and signing up for my classes,” Bill Nabih, a sociology major, said. “Sure, they could go to Mexico for office or something, but I don’t want them bogging up my academic resources. They should just go back to their own department.”

However, opinion is nowhere unanimous.

“One way or another, Tex-Mex students are going to take classes in our department,” Sarah Smith, a history major, said. “We should treat everyone equally.”

Tex-Mex students are small but quick developing field. Technically, “Tex-Mex” first entered the language as a nickname for the Texas-Mexican Railway, which was chartered in 1875. But the form we know it today as referring food and culture first occurred in print in the Mexico City News in 1973.

PROPOSED TEX-MEX STUDIES COURSES

- TXMx 101: Introduction to Tex-Mex Studies
- TXMx 103: Con Queso
- TXMx 132: History of the Taco, Burrito and Enchilada
- TXMx 141: Salsa vs. Guac
- TXMx 101: Introduction to Tex-Mex Studies
- TXMx 202: Spanglish 1
- TXMx 203: Sociology of Spanglish
- TXMx 320: Sociology of Spring Break
- TXMx 440: Sociology of Spring Break

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GIVE A HOOT(IE) WRITE FOR THE THRESHER

The Rice Thresher wrote at 6:01 am on April 17, 2007

Dear incoming students, It is 6 am. I am leaving soon. I just ate another slice of Papa John's. I still haven't seen an appropriate backspace. I am thinking about you.

THE BACKPAGE IS SATIRE AND IS WRITTEN BY EVAN MINTZ