New BRC opens OC
Collaborative could create opportunities between Rice, Texas

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
Thresher Editorial Staff

Following eight years of planning and months of construction at the corner of University Boulevard and Main Street, the Rice University and Texas Medical Center Collaborative opened its doors on Monday to Rice students and faculty. The new center, designed with the intent to facilitate interdisciplinary interactions between Rice campuses and the Texas Medical Center, will focus on improving human welfare through scientific research.

"There is an extraordinary flush in biomedical science," Provost Eugene Levy said. "Fortunately, Rice is situated amongst one of the world's best medical centers," he said of the Texas Medical Center.

With 10 stories and three levels of underground parking, the BRC adds 477,000 square feet to Rice's facilities, and will be the first Rice building to host a department of campus, the BRC houses a 280-seat auditorium, a 200-seat seminar room and a 10-floor floors dedicated to research space.

The design of the building allows for further construction, including the planned addition of a visualization center, a floor dedicated to biomedical informatics and a second research tower to be opened later. A bus stop by the BRC was added to the Texas Medical Center shuttle network, which runs every half hour from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

Michael Berger, the architect who designed Martel College, also designed the BRC.

Because Rice's first thrust into off-campus construction, the disease research building, was a hot button for students who have to make the big trip and return during the day, "It's a hard thing to charge students," said Loew College Junior Drew Pearson, who is taking a statistics class from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. "I take a statistics class over the summer," he said.

In addition to offering statistics and chemistry, the number of transfer students was also slightly greater than anticipated, with 69 transfers instead of the expected 60 having matriculated this fall, Munoz said. The larger numbers meant that only two students ceded the spot of the Pauls this year.

The bottom line is that more students accepted our offer than historical data would suggest," Dean of Students Robin Forman said. "All things considered, it's a great problem to have.

Spam alert
Today's the day to sign up for a gazillion clubs at the Activities Fair and watch your inbox flood with new mail during the Rice Memorial Center from 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m. to meet the movers and shakers on campus.

Don't mess with Texas!
The slogan used to be affiliated with no listening, but now it's the theme for the first college party of the year. Stop by on your boots and cowboy hat and head to Martel College tomorrow from 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Three cheers for Tea Trike
A merry bunch of Will Ricers egg on their comrades in this year's edition of Tea Trike, the Beer Bike knockoff, against Lovett College. Lovett won, but WRC2's 2009 sweep still stands. For more O-Week shenanigans, head over to page 17.

Freshman class largest in Rice's history
New colleges experiencing 'growing pains'

BY JOCelyn WRIGHT
Thresher Editorial Staff

Rice welcomed its largest ever class this year with approximately 900 first-year students, students, students and from campus during the day.

"There is an extraordinary flush in biomedical science," Provost Eugene Levy said. "Fortunately, Rice is situated amongst one of the world's best medical centers," he said of the Texas Medical Center.

Eugene Levy said the idea for a bioscience division has felt like a burden to some students and will be the first Rice building to host a department of campus.

Besides lectures, professors have a life's worth of experiences to share with students who seek it out.

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Sparty cell phone reception, flooding bathrooms and issues with lighting are some of the problems the new addition of the Rice University and Texas Medical Center Collaborative opened its doors on Monday to Rice students and faculty.

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Diverse student body
Munoz said one of the most notable things about the new class is its diversity. Approximately 15 percent of the entering class is foreign national, a 67-percent increase from last year, and at 10 percent increase from two years ago. In addition to students from China, India and South Korea, international students from other countries are also entering the university.

"It is clear a lot more of our energy and resources were dedicated to diversifying our student body. In the past, students who were selected for our aid were primarily from the U.S. and that is still predominantly the case," Munoz said. "But this year we were able to expand our diversity. In terms of how they could add more diversity and value to Rice," Munoz said.

There are also concerns over the bathrooms and issues with lighting. In certain instances, pod bathrooms had drains installed such that the water did not slope in the right direction. "If water spills out, it can avoid flooding," Glenn said.

"With any new building, growing pains are expected," Glenn said. "Some common problem at both colleges is that the bathrooms have seen clogging and flooding. In certain instances, pod bathrooms had drains installed such that the water did not slope in the right direction.

"The anti-cheer 'Squeegee' was rather impossible to rebuff," Will Rice College and McMurphy College SMO Michael Rog said.

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"With any new building, growing pains are expected," Glenn said.
With the fireworks settled and the students all moved in, the kinks of McMurtry College and Duncan College are now coming out. Drained pools, broken sinks, and a lack of cell phone service are not the way administration and construction of ficials planned to welcome the two new colleges, but that is the way they are four weeks into the college system (see page 1). We are not here to lay the blame on any one group or organization; with so many players involved, there is shared fault, just as there is shared accomplishment in overcoming tragedy, devastating hurricane and financial downturn to see McMurtry and Duncan rise in time for the 2009-10 school year. Even if we tried to, we could not disentangle the many projects and ideas which were both proposed and snuffed out by the McMurrtry and Duncanroos entered the Rice community.

With all of their accoutrements, something was bound to go wrong. Murphy's Law, and all that. After all, Rice was breaking new ground, both literally and figuratively, with this impressive new ground, both literally and figuratively, with this impressive accomplishment. If there is one project proposed and snuffed out before the McMurtry and Duncan creation of an online forum for discussion of student needs; as such, they shouldn't start now.

This is a design problem, a gross oversight, unequivocally untenable. The Student Maintenance Representatives cannot be the ones responsible for taking such rushed measures in completing the two new colleges. This is a design problem, a gross oversight, unequivocally untenable. The Student Maintenance Representatives cannot be the ones responsible for taking such rushed measures in completing the two new colleges.

As part of the Vision for the Second Century, President David Leblon recommended the addition of creative, memorable and immersive art onto Rice's campus, a way of expanding the aesthetic and vibrant aspects of a campus that is relatively lacking, well with H-E-B, right?

This sort of over-the-top praise of Rice's new initiatives, a positive move to improve the living conditions for students, is necessary in the current climate of Rice administration's new favorite phrase, "Historical E-B." Such praise is not only appropriate but also important for encouraging the Rice community to maintain the high standards that have been set.

The Rice Thresher is a student newspaper of Rice University. The opinions expressed in this editorial are those of the editors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the university administration or the student body. The Thresher welcomes letters to the editor and encourages respectful and constructive dialogue. Please submit letters to the Thresher via email at letters@thresher.rice.edu or through our website at www.ricethresher.org.
PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH PROFESSORS VITAL TO LEARNING

**Alexander Bonnel**

However, there is one thing that really makes me feel we are in a seemingly unique situation. Given how dedicated we are to college politics at Rice, it remains somewhat apparent to me today and my current events. My parents always overestimated the influence of this type of political behavior, but I am now realizing that the situation is more organized, but I am embarrassed by the fact that I am now feeling more politically astute. Granted, I was abroad during the 2008 election and probably not able to tell five times Rice students openly discuss politics.

Nonetheless, I feel like Rice has retained a significant amount of its political enthusiasm. It’s okay to be nerdy here, but it can help to be an active participant in local politics. Little political debate does that occur on campus tends to reflect more passion than it does among the average student at Rice. This is, however, the source of our political apathy is extremely difficult. It may start from Rice’s location in the South, and job security is a hospitalization is a wonderful thing, but it is also inherently a way for people to carefully carry on a conversation. But in order to stay polite and avoid conflict, political entrepreneurs tend to avoid polemical topics.

"Just as we feel it is our duty as Rice students to express our views to our college peers and council meetings, we should feel obligated to express ourselves as citizens of an American democracy."

Given the wide range of political opinions at Rice, students might be afraid they will offend someone. As a result, we are now discussing even fewer and even fewer discuss religion.

The rice student is a Wiser College senior.

**Myles Bugbee**

Beyond the measuring mood and hyperbolic charges of a "government takeover of health care," many health care systems currently face these three critical challenges: soaring costs, shrinking coverage and quality of care.

Health care costs now consume 16.6 percent of the U.S. GDP and will likely hit 20 percent by 2017, and health insurance premiums are on pace to double in the next few years. The Census Bureau estimates that nearly 47 million Americans -- more than 1 in 7 people -- are without health insurance. While America leads the world in life-saving drug patents and high-end specialized care, according to the World Health Organization, the U.S. ranks 37th in the world in how well people can afford health care. When Americans are sick in California, 1,900 uninsured citizens showed up the first day seeking medical attention.

Focusing on their bottom lines, insurance companies methodically avoid high risk and high-cost patients. While this may be acceptable in another insurance market, health insurers cover people who, if uninsured, may not be able to afford a colostomy or a mammogram that can detect cancer in its earlier stages.

Just as there is a "backed public option," which would foster greater competition in the health insurance market, it is an efficient way for lowering soaring insurance premiums, making health care more affordable for all Americans. However, public health cooperatives, another health insurance reform option, lack the competitive power of the "public option." Their "private collaboration" effort has no effective lower costs depends on the government.

Seeking to address an issue that has fascinated Washington observers since Harry Truman, President Barack Obama has outlined an eight-planks approach for reducing health care expenses, except that the president would not be able to control what they do to reduce costs. This would include expanding health care coverage and providing care for patients who could be dropped by their insurers. The president’s plan would prevent insurance companies from abandoning patients with "pre-exist- 

Alexander Bonnel

Alexander Bonnel is a Wiser College senior.

**Proposed health plan to expand coverage**

In the last few months, a Congresswoman from Maryland was hanged in effigy, a recent GOP vice presidential nominee forecast impending "death panels" in an apparent reference to a provision in a Senate bill written by a fellow Republican senator and a Nobel-prize-winning physician Stephen Hawking was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, and a high-profile health care reform debate, which has been enveloped by a political black hole of misinformation.

Some of my most valuable learning experiences were outside of the classroom setting -- in professor's offices discussing a paper, on an Alternative Spring Break trip with a faculty adviser or over coffee at the Rice Memorial Center.

I know that with the busy school days of Rice students, interacting with professors inevitably becomes more lip service, but it is truly worth the effort.

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"Rather, I would like to first offer tribute to another James, so I remember that I was a student of the Rice president and beloved friend of the Rice community who passed away last fall. Secondly, I would like to bring to life all those others who I coached, those who were, or could be, someone's James — great life teachers who we come to realize count on us to be there for them in ways that just don't matter.

Trekking through the historical center of Northern Spain brought back many lessons from Prof. Carlos Castaneda, whose rich and deep discussion of Mexican culture, which I took at Rice as a Hispanic studies major two years ago.

Every day, I would bring to class newspapers articles to tie a topical issue to a current event. One of them actually happened when we witnessed a heated discussion between a Basque native, impaneled about his province's plan for greater recognition, and a few unimpressed Spaniards from Madrid. And now that I finally have to read Don Quixote, a Castaneda read our in turns, his description of the work's theme as "classic violence between reason and irrationalism" is more than ever applicable.

Nostalgic reminders like this from Castaneda's class at my time at Rice are not the organic chemistry talks, the failed status quo or some type of class. Students can mean to them — even if not more so than we students.

Landdon Roussell

Landdon Roussell is a Senior College administrator.
FRESHMEN FROM PAGE 1

days before the rest of the incoming class so that they could attend I-Prep, a program started two years ago to familiarize students with the basics of United States culture — from money to standard greetings — and to help them work out any visa issues. "In the past we found before we had I-Prep, international students were sometimes so overwhelmed with the newness that they were not able to take advantage of what O-Week had to offer," Forman said. "This is a chance for them to get their feet on solid ground before O-Week, which is overwhelming for everybody, begins." Forman said the surge of international students will make the colleges much more visibly diverse and also open possibilities for joint activities between Rice students studying abroad and international and exchange students at Rice.

This year's incoming class also has a greater representation of students from the United States outside of Texas. Generally, approximately 37 percent of students who are admitted to Rice from outside of Texas enroll, but this year the number jumped to around 42 percent, Munoz said. This means that the number of U.S. students enrolled this year from outside Texas is up almost 17 percent.

Munoz said this would mean greater name recognition for the university. "Part of the reason for Rice is that when you go somewhere, there will be less, 'Is Rice something to eat?'" Munoz said.

Growing reputation

Munoz credited Rice's growing reputation, the economy and Rice's relative reasonably-priced tuition with the upick in enrollment. Munoz said that even looking at Web sites like collegeconfidential.com, his office speculated that while other universities provided merit scholarships, students chose Rice because of its prestige and tuition, which is about $28,000 per year below what other highly-selective private universities charge. "Some described it as getting a scholarship for $5,000," Munoz said. "In the past the cost difference was not that significant in the choice, but maybe it is now because of the overall economy. Over four years we're talking about savings of $30,000.

Although Houston is the fourth largest city in the country and among the most diverse, Munoz said there is still a lot of stereotyping about Texas and stereotypes, but the stereotypes here are overwhelming for everybody, begins." Munoz said. "It's important that we have a culture of Rice.

It's not that it wasn't going to happen," Munoz said. "It just happened a little faster than we planned."

Forman said Rice has been planning on increasing enrollment over five years to achieve the target population of around 4,500 undergraduate students. Although the larger-than-expected class put some unexpected housing pressure on the colleges this year, Forman said the impact would not even last a full year because Will Rice College and Baker College would move back to expanded and renovated buildings and Duncan College and McMurtry College would open as independent colleges next fall.

"First year we have more new beds and enrollment still will not have caught up, so we expect any housing pressures at all next year," Forman said. "We should be able to house a higher percentage of students next year than in any recent year."

Forman said the impact on the student faculty ratios would be "infinitesimal" and that his office is working to ensure students have access to all the experiences and opportunities they would expect at Rice. He said his office did a careful accounting of seats available this year in DABs, COMM 424 and other upper-division classes, and that they had already been looking into preserving more seats for freshmen since it had become common for more upper-classmen to register for them in the spring. "It was fortuitous the issue was already on the radar," Forman said. "I'm confident the freshmen will find a full slate of courses to choose from."

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Looking ahead

When looking ahead to next year, Munoz cautioned against taking the numbers for this year as evidence that interest in Rice is steadily increasing. "It's important that we have a small campus with access to teachers who have the ability to get to know us personally," Fiddams said. "If we keep getting bigger and bigger, we will lose that quality of the school.

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said he and others believed it would allow Rice substantial opportunity to coordinate its efforts with the TMC.

Levy added that all reports he has received from the BRC's new tenants have been positive.

"Faculty and students are moved in, and the reports are wildly enthusiastic," Levy said.

Over the summer, the Texas Children's Hospital, a top-5 best children's hospital according to the U.S. News and World Report, became the first organization from the TMC to join Rice by leasing space on the eighth floor of the BRC for 10 years. However, the financial downturn has slowed talks with other local businesses, though the discussions will be continued, Levy said.

John McDevitt, Brown-Waas professor of Biomechaning and Chemistry, moved from the University of Texas at Austin to Rice because of the BRC. McDevitt said he believes the BRC will become a magnet for a "bench to bedside" perspective, the view of bringing projects from research to application with real medical relevance.

"It's something that's often difficult to do," McDevitt said. "We have doctors we can talk to over a cup of coffee, and that ability to frequently communicate is what ultimately makes the BRC so powerful.

McDevitt is currently working with medical nanotechnologies to replace large, labor-intensive instruments for use in remote areas where the technology is unavailable.

His Lab-on-a-Chip design will process blood and saliva that could help test for a variety of diseases. The opportunity for biomedical advancement at Rice gives McDevitt real excitement about new industry in Texas, he said.

"The BRC can help Texas move past the oil industry and into a new industry," he added.

"We had Bio-Orientation, and there were some spots here and there found in liquid, but nothing really heinous," Rog said.

Jennifer Fundenberg Irma Arai said that her bathroom's toilet did not flush on the day she moved in but that the problem was fixed in about a week. She said that the sink in one of her adviser's offices fell off the wall, but that problem was also fixed.

Another major problem at both colleges in cell phone service. Lafayette said calls were frequently dropped and it was difficult to receive calls.

"We have to go out to Market College to get service," Lafayette said. "I think it has to do with the cinderblocks, but I'm not really sure."

Rog said the strength of the service at McMurtry depended on the carrier.

"Cell phone service is pretty weak inside the building to the extent that it's a big cinderblock," Rog said. "But we'll figure out the niche. Students will find out a way to use their cell phones."

Other issues at McMurtry include problems with the air conditioning not working in the first few days and the light sensors in the room not picking up movement. Will Rice and McMurtry SMR Advisor Amalia Ferranitos said

"It's sitting and topping my laptop, the lights will go off in 20 minutes or so, and even if I choose a slot in the air it still won't turn on," Ferranitos, a Will Rice junior, said. "I have to go up and open and close the door to turn the lights back on."

Rog said these were small problems that had to be ironed out for the students' habits.

"It's not a matter of us getting used to the new system and them getting used to us," Rog said. "These are learning systems. They have their schedule. They're really quite fantastic, but in the beginning it can be quite tricky."

Rog said the SMR had growing problems in three categories: issues that had to be reached immediately, such as when water was shut off, problems with missing details, such as blinds and shower curtains; and general design feedback about the building, such as the common rooms not having independent lighting control and certain doors not locking automatically.

Concerning the physical appearance of the colleges, particularly the inside, were lukewarm.

Don't Get Lost In The Crowd

"Do This, Not That"
Attend a Career Expo Simulation September 2 & 3, 4-5:30 p.m.
Prepare for the Expo by attending one of two simulations scheduled to demonstrate the Expo.
Check RICElink for more information and RSVP (space is limited).

Community Involvement Center

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2009-10 LOEWESTERN FELLOWS!

All 15 Fellows completed 4- to 12-week service placements in Latin America or Asia during summer 2009.

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Jingyan Xu
Courtney Ng
Harrison Nguyen
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Projects Abroad

Thanks to the generous donation of Walter Loewenstein ('58), the Loewenstein Fellowship provides funding for students' international service experiences up to $6,500.

To learn more about the Fellowship and this year's deadlines, visit the Community Involvement Center's website at http://cic.rice.edu.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009
By Cindy Dunn

In the first few weeks lock at an all new, crease friends and social gatherings are most students' top plans. However, safety and crime prevention should also be on top of the list. The first six weeks of the school year are when students, especially freshmen, are most vulnerable to crime and personal theft. Rice University Police Department Chief of Police Bill Taylor said that this pattern applies to college campuses nationwide.

"First-year students are the most vulnerable, since they are distracted by social gatherings, classes and situations that they have not dealt with before," Taylor said. "When students come back to school they may be unfamiliar with their surroundings and don't pay enough attention to what they do with their personal property, such as new bikes, laptops and iPods.'

This semester RUPD officers will be at each college for Operation ID to mask and catalog students' valuable as well as register bicycles. In this two-processed process, students will receive a white sheet to list all of their valuable and personal possessions, and another item with a unique identification number. "When you engrave, it develops the property for someone who takes possession of the item," Taylor said. "It also makes it more impossible to someone with the same laptop to know which to steal." An email sent to all departments last Friday from RUPD Captain Ilanna Marshall detailed one burglary incident. A new laptop was stolen from the back of a locked car after the student left the car for only four minutes. "People do not need to leave valuable items in their cars and to always keep an eye on them whenever their inhabitants are gone."

The email also listed tips on parking lot and personal safety. This includes placing valuables near the center of the trunk, locking vehicles, having car keys in hand and using the escort service whenever necessary. RUPD runs an escort service at night from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., going to and from any location on campus, including colleges, parking lots, the BioScience Collaborative and off-campus graduate apartments.

Marshall also recommended people to be alert around the campus when walking and use sidewalks, preferably in well lit areas and with friends, and especially at night. In case someone feels uneasy or thinks they are being followed, Marshall encouraged students to head to populated places and call the police. Any one can contact RUPD by picking up elevator phones, blue campus emergency phones or dialing ext. 6000. If you find your car unlocked on campus, dial 911.
Rice remains top-20 university

BY JOSH RUTENBERG
THE RICE THRESHER

Rice has once again secured a spot among America's top colleges, tying for 17th with Emory University and Vanderbilt University in U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges 2010." In addition to being named one of America's top universities, Rice also received the spotlight for its attention to undergraduate students and its top engineering program.

The methodology used to rank national universities consists of multiple criteria, with a quarter of the weight attributed to a peer assessment, 20 percent weighted on retention rates, and 20 percent based on faculty resources, 10 percent for student selectivity, and 10 percent for financial resources and the remainder of 10 percent split evenly between graduation rates and alumni donations.

In addition to being recognized as a top 20 school, Rice also ranked 10th for selectivity, 10 percent for financial aid, 20 percent based on factors such as one-third of students at Rice receive need-based grants.

"I think one has to be careful not to pay too much attention to these rankings. ... I think the new thing this year, or at least one thing new this year in terms of recognition of Rice, is that we're sort of a school on the move," said President David Leebron.

Some students notice improvements in quality in their everyday dining experience.

"The quality of food has definitely improved," Wiess College junior Siegfried Billsen said. "A lot more colleges have meal programs for OC students.

In the category of "Best Undergraduate Teaching," which looks at national universities that have a "strong commitment to teaching undergraduates over graduate-level research," Rice also tied for 11th under various offerings, along with Brown University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of St. Thomas, and Wake Forest University.

Rice maintains an undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio of five-to-one, with an undergraduate class size of just over 3,000 students.

The small class sizes and ability to cater to one's academic needs are a few of the reasons why Rice may rank highly for the best undergraduate teaching category.

"I am working with another student to create a major in energy studies, and we were able to meet with many different professors," Brown College sophomore Rachit Shah said. "That type of experience isn't available at most other schools."

The rankings also recognized George R. Brown School of Engineering for two of its programs. The biomedical engineering program placed sixth, while the electrical engineering program placed ninth.

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Alumni donation set to bring acclaimed artist to campus

BY JOCELYNN WEST RICEThresher/Editorial Staff

While most Rice students may not currently know what a skyscape is, these soon will. Preliminary designs were finalized this month for a new campus skyspace, a roofless building through which the sky can be observed. James Turrell, a renowned contemporary artist, will design the project.

The permanent installation, which is scheduled to be completed by 2011 and will be located on the Shepherd School of Music’s quad, is funded by a multimillion dollar donation from alums Nancy and Paul Roth. This will be the newest of over 20 skyspaces which Turrell, who received an Honorary Doctorate from the Royal Academy of Art in London, has created. About 50 people will be able to sit inside the structure, which will have four walls with an entrance on each side. Hubbard said. The top of the skyspace will be a canopy with a hole in the center through which spectators can observe the sky. An LED light show will be projected on the underside of the canopy during sunrise and sunset, Hubbard said.

Turrell’s most acclaimed piece is located outside the Fire Station, Austin. The Los Angeles native is in the process of turning a single volcanic crater, Roden Crater, into an observatory. Booth said she hopes students will find the art stimulating.

"Working on a campus that has such a creative building as the Turrell skyspace can only work to be conducive to creativity in other ways," Booth said. "Institutions of higher learning, great architecture and art should go hand in hand."

Booth named her B.A. in art history and a part-time job working for renowned art collector Dominique de Menil, collaborating on projects while she was an undergraduate at Rice. After graduation, she attended New York University’s Institute for Fine Arts, during which time she worked with Menil and worked with Turrell. "Rice and Turrell are two things I absolutely feel very strongly about, so bringing them together seemed to be a natural progression of my involvement at Rice," Booth said.

The design is still preliminary and several details, such as the specific dimensions of the skyspace, must be determined before finalization. Hubbard said once the final design is completed, it must be approved by the Art Committee. The earliest construction will begin this December, Hubbard said.

Five different locations for the skyspace were considered by President David Leebron, Turrell and members of the Art Committee. Hubbard said the Shepherd School was chosen because the committee discovered Turrell had a connection with music and that he had worked with composers.

"We thought this connection he had with music would be interesting if the Shepherd School could also utilize this art space and put on small concerts and whatever [Turrell] deems appropriate," Hubbard said.

Although Turrell loved the site in front of Lovett dorms, work on art should go hand in hand, Hubbard said. "That’s pretty much unachievable here because it is in the middle of the campus," Hubbard said.

This skyspace is one of the first major pieces of artwork included as part of a larger initiative to have more art on campus. "We’re coming from Leebron’s Vision for the 21st Century," Hubbard said.

Leebron said he hoped that this piece would "let students know the space between the Shepherd School, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and the Rice University Business School."

"It will be a beautiful work of art on the campus and also something that people physically interact with and a piece of conversation and reflection," Leebron said. "I think it will add to the sense of place, to the spirit of dynamism on campus at Rice and recognition of what we’re about in bringing people together as a community. I think it will create a very special place for people on campus."

Leebron said the university is considering adding other pieces of art to the new building such as the Raymond and Susan Bloomberg Pavilion and the Golds Recreation Center.

New director set to take over Leadership Rice

By Cindy Dinh

RICE Thresher/Editorial Staff

As the new school year begins, Leadership Rice will have a new head. David Nino is taking the helm this month as the new director of the club. He replaces former director Brad Smith who will pursue a doctorate degree in sociology at Princeton University.

Nino will be administering two programs under Leadership Rice: the Summer Mentors Experience, which places Rice students with internships and mentors over the summer, and the Envision Grant, which awards up to $2,500 to fund a student project that impacts Rice or the community.

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"The best way to be a leader is to lead. When students focus on academics, it becomes a challenge to not develop in other ways," Nino said.

The best way to be a leader, Nino said, is by leading. "In teaching this course you can develop in other ways in the future," Nino said. Nino said he would like to see more students take advantage of the Leadership Rice programs and courses, and he intends to implement his goals to expand the program's breadth and visibility. These include updating the Leadership Rice Web site with videos from students about their internships and, in the future, expanding the Summer Mentorship Experience by including international internship placements in Latin America or Asia. Placements may be available in Latin America or Asia in the future, expanding the Summer Mentorship Experience by including international internship placements in Latin America or Asia. Placements may be available in Latin America or Asia in the future.

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McMurtry College and Duncan College may be completed, but that doesn't mean that construction on campus is over. From Olympic-sized swimming pools at the new Rec Center, to hummingbird gardens at the newly-named Huff House, to reconstructing the torn-down wings at Will Rice College and Baker College, the projects run far and wide. To get your bearings, here is a map to find your way through the cranes and sawdust and all the way to the new badminton courts.

**BROCKMAN HALL**

The new physics building is scheduled for completion by 2011 and will house physics researchers from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, as well as photonics and nanomaterials researchers from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Brockman Hall is in the process of obtaining the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification. Check out last week’s article online at ricethresher.org for more information (“Brockman receives over $1 million in NIST grant,” Aug. 21).

**BARBARA GIBBS WELLNESS AND RECREATION CENTER**

The new Recreation Center will house the Wellness Center, as well as athletic facilities. The center will have two pools, workout facilities, a multi-activity court set up for a variety of sports — including indoor hockey, soccer and badminton — and a dance studio, project manager Joe Buchanan said. The grand opening will be on Sept. 25th, at which point the facility will be fully operational, with the exception of the competition pool, which will be completed in October.

**BIOSCIENCE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE**

The BioScience Research Collaborative houses some faculty offices and provides Rice with the opportunity to do collaborative research with the facilities in the Texas Medical Center. The center features six stories, three levels of underground parking, a 250-seat auditorium and room for restaurants and shops. The building opened at the end of the summer and is fully functioning, but certain sections are still being finished (see story, page 1).

**SEWALL HALL ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT**

An elevator was added to the north wing of Sewall Hall to make the first, second and third floors on the north end of the building accessible to handicapped students, project manager Joujou Zebdaoui said. Although there is an elevator on the south wing of the building, the wings do not connect on the same level, which made it difficult for students to access higher floors. The project, which began in May and finished on Aug. 14, also included renovations to the bathrooms, removal of the wooden ramp in the hallway, and new carpeting in the hallway.

**PETER AND NANCY HUFF HOUSE**

In addition to a new name, the former Ralph S. O'Connor House will have a major conference room on the first level, and some of the upstairs offices will be remodelled to make them more functional, project manager Joujou Zebdaoui said. Some drainage issues in the back yard will be fixed, and a hummingbird and butterfly garden will be added. Renovations are scheduled to begin in October, and should be finished by the end of February. The Center for Student Professional Development and the Office of Alumni Affairs are still working out where they will be relocated in the meantime, Zebdaoui said.

**SOUTH COLLEGE RENOVATIONS**

Will Rice College and Baker College are being renovated to add additional beds and remedy issues with ventilation, project manager Larry Vossler said. Over the summer, the old wings were torn down and the foundations for the basement were poured so that construction on the first floor can begin. A 25-foot-by-25-foot tower crane was installed in the Baker construction site and will remain there for most of the construction, but when it is removed, a tree and greenery will cover the area, Vossler said. Facilities, Engineering and Planning Manager of Communications Susann Glenn said her department was working to ensure that Lovett College did not feel surrounded by construction. "There is an access point through old Will Rice to the grove so that you can still get back and forth," Glenn said. Construction is set to be finished by next fall.
1. Will Rice College O-Week coordinators Michelle Kerkstra (left) and Sarah Nations (right) show the freshmen how to properly chug.

2. Crazed Sid Richardson and Carter Wang, a junior, shows off his bounty after a successful raid.

3. Martellians display a penchant for geometry as they sprawl around their college's crest during an evening of interpretive dance.

4. The denizens of Team "Family" Wiess College show college pride before heading to Tudor Fieldhouse for matriculation.
5. Don't worry: Grübel isn't coming for you. But for the Brown College freshmen last week, they weren't so lucky. With the help of Brown senior Chris Tzeng, Brown advisers made sure the new students would never forget the night of oatmeal bridges, suck-and-blow card games and water dumping.

6. Rice may not have a hockey team, but that didn’t discourage new Wiessmen from displaying their talents on the broomball ice. Next stop: Houston Aeros?

7. Lovett College senior Barney Cruz tries out a new type of shampoo, mashed potatoes, during Lovett's famed food fight. No telling, however, if he also used gravy as his conditioner.

8. Martel freshman Kelvin Araia proves his mettle during O-Week's Mock Bike, as Martel — and nine other colleges — begin early preparations to block Will Rice's attempts at another sweep.

**Come Worship with Us!**

West University Baptist Church invites you to worship, the study of God's Word and fellowship. We have both contemporary and traditional Sunday worship services, as well as a college-level Bible study class that is attended by many Rice University students and taught by Dr. Jim Tour. Free breakfast is always served in the class. Located two miles directly west of campus at 6218 Auden between University and Rice. Free roundtrip shuttle service is provided each Sunday morning leaving at 8:35 AM and 9:35 AM on the loop in front of Rice's Allen Center. See www.wubc.org for details, or call 713-668-2136.

Contemporary Worship: 8:30 AM
Bible Study Class: 9:45 AM
Traditional Worship: 11:00 AM

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American soldiers dubbing themselves "The Basterds" have been busy sloshing across France, ambushing Nazi patrols and scalping the dead in order to strike fear into the Nazi war machine. When word reaches them of the film premiere and its select guests, the cinema quickly begins to turn into a Panzer machine. When word reaches them of the film premiere and its select guests, the cinema quickly begins to turn into a Panzer machine. The movie's star, Alexis Bledel, has honed her charm and expertise as a college student in Gilmore Girls and The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, and she gives Post Grad real potential. But, like a promising student who fails a test under the pressures of the real world, the film falls seriously short of its promise and robs itself of any quality through a pointless plotline and a career.

Billed as the world's first "human light show," LUMA fuses state-of-the-art light technology with dance to create a show unlike any other. It shows tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. and admission is completely free. Bring a blanket; the event is outdoors.

The film takes place "Once upon a time ... in Nazi-occupied France." After escaping a Nazi raid on the house hiding her family, Shira Erlichman (Melanie Laurent) establishes her claim to a purposeful life. In the meantime, she works for a few of us can pull it off and...
conversation between Landa and a dairy farmer. While this may sound like a recipe for cinematic disaster, Walt establishes a commanding presence on the screen and has no problem engaging with the audience, even if he is speaking French half the time.

Similarly, with Pit's doing his best Marlon Brando scowl, is the other standout of the film, providing a trove of quotable one-liners. ("When you go home, are you planning on taking that Nazi uniform off?") Walt is delightfully dim-witted, yet still manages to hold his own in discussions with some of the film's more intellectual characters.

Intellectualism is a staple of this film, and, for a movie set during World War II, there are surprisingly few action sequences. Instead, the majority of the film is driven by dialogue and character interaction. If this were any other director, the audience would be in for a snooze-fest, but Tarantino has penned such tight and natural dialogue that it is a treat to watch the characters converse about everything from the particulars of Operation Kino to their favorite directors.

Hand-in-hand with the film's length and strong emphasis on dialogue is the cinematographic style of the film. There are no random Michael Bay, middle-of-scene jump cuts to be found here. The style of the shots is methodical, composed and well thought out.

The converse of the above problem: some problems are not as obvious. For example, Walt can not let go of the fourth grade or simple Frankenstein's potato clogs. It is as close as you can get to actually "watching" a book, complete with narrator asides, anecdotes, flashbacks and chapter titles. And even though the plot is uncharacteristically chronological for a Tarantino movie, just like any good book, each chapter ends with a cliffhanger before switching to a new subject, keeping the audience guessing as to what will happen next.

Perhaps the film's greatest feature is also its only weakness. Tarantino is known for paying homage to various films and genres, and Basterds is no exception, drawing inspiration from spaghetti westerns of the 1960s and French New Wave cinema. Many conversations in the film repeatedly reference period directors and their works, such as Les Enfants Terribles and the like. For a cinephile, it's exciting to see that kind of stuff in a movie, but for the Average Joe it seems like Tarantino is saying, "Hey, look! I know boring details and stuff about old movies!"

That being said, Basterds is still a towering achievement for Tarantino. It's violent, stylish, funny, dark, and above all, fantastic. There are no epitaphs to be found here, just pure, blood-soaked cinematic fun.

**FASHION**

FROM PAGE 13

hide it well, but nippies lying around are neither distracting nor particularly classy by any means.

4. Exposed underwear
The converse of the above problem: some problems are not as obvious. In this look no longer makes them attractive prospects, but rather gives off a "worse-than-your-daddy's-suit" vibe.

5. Rear end advertising
Words stamped on one's derriere are clearly an exploited hole among name brands. There's no better billboard than the one you're born with.

6. All-over denim
A favorite among those who cannot let up on the fourth grade or simply Frankenstein's potato clogs. It is very methodical, composed and well thought out.

7. The muscle shirt
It is a uni-task garment and should remain as such. However, it falls under the "athletic wear as casual wear" category. It's often worn elsewhere and, unbeknownst to many, one actually needs muscles in order to pull off this bro-friendly look.

8. Ill-fitted clothing
"Muffin tops" and "swimming in your daddy's suit" only sound cute.

9. Socks with sandals
From athletes to nerds, this retro trend displays the indecisive nature of the wearer. When faced with choosing one over the other, they choose the fuzzy option: both.

10. Crocs
Apparently, fans of Crocs have not realized that the brand also makes better looking shoes and not simply Frankenstein's potato clogs. However, the trend popularity of this original remains unshakable. This is just unacceptable.

*Deanne Nguyen is a Will Rice College junior.*

**STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)**

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For more information, visit the RSVP web site (http://www.rice.edu/rsvp) or contact Alice Tsao, RSVP Chairperson, by e-mail (alice.tsao@rice.edu).

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Post Grad is certainly a comedy, but its style of humor is ambiguous. Is it dark humor, as the episodes with caskets and Ryden’s weird brother suggest? Perhaps slapstick humor, as Keaton’s karate moves dictate? Or is it chick-flick humor with Bledel’s failed attempts at love on the inflatable couch? Who knows?

In comedy, timing is everything. But when the only timing you get right is the release date, you know you’re in for a long, dull ride.
SPORTS

Women draw with Baylor after thunderstorm delay

by Yan Digiiov

As the rain poured down and the lightning illuminated the darkest sky last Friday, the Owls’ soccer team set out for a game they were not eager to play. For the Owls, the start of their game was almost as difficult as the actual competition.

"We were all really restless, waiting for the game to start," Scott said. "It was difficult because we were trying to stay pumped up."

The game was almost as difficult as the actual competition, Coach Chris Huston felt less waiting for the game against Baylor University. Two hours later, the schedule was in effect.

"Obviously we wished we could pull a win out of it, but Baylor is a good team," Scott said. "We are just going to continue to work hard and start off undefeated.""}


COMMENTARY

One sport untouched by others’ transgressions

The privates of professional sports are boiling. When the NFL’s biggest off-season story involves the return of a player after completing a prison sentence for cruelty to animals, when parents storm off in reaction to interviews, whether following a win or loss, this is sport.

"I'm not the closer — I'm just the guy on the back of the coach's get-three-wishes noggin. You know, I think I could fill in for a team that's been without a closer for nearly a decade. Searing his 95 MPH fastball, Darrell Nix Hendre has yet to make up his mind. For Townsend and Humber finding themselves exiled from the bullpen, the Big Three are now dust, their gold turned to lead. Which meant that the torch of Rice’s 2003 championship is now placed in the hands of David Aardsma."

"We all owe him a beer and a slap on the back."

Aardsma finally finds rhythm in majors

"I'd like to see STANDARDS, page 18"

"I'm not the closer — I'm just one of the other relievers," Aardsma said when I talked with him this summer. "I just happen to pitch the ninth inning. I'm doing my job — it just happens to be that they put a role on it and a number on it."

"I'm not the closer — I'm just the guy on the back of the coach's get-three-wishes noggin."
RICE VOLLEYBALL 2009
After last season’s trip to the NCAA Championships, women aim to fill holes and expand upon success
by Paul Fitzgerald

With their season already under way (by Wichita State last weekend), you might wonder if the Owls’ squad may have hung its head, dropped its flag and kept its place from the last year’s disaster. Instead, the team saw a rise, which came in the opening weekend of the NCAA Tournament, the end of an unattained success. Not only did the team finish third in Conference USA, but they also made it to the Big Dance, their first appearance in four years.

Now, if all goes according to plan, the team’s abrupt finish should provide it with all the motivation it will need to even top this year.

“Our goal this year is to win the conference, win the conference tournament and make the second round of the NCAA Tournament, which is what we should all be hoping for this year,” Head Coach Genny Volpe said. “They understand that we’ve got a very strong squad this year.”

Those goals will be difficult, as the Owls graduated three seniors last year: Ricciare Shamma, Kayen Morgan and Jessica Bolden-ness (Hanszen ’09). The latter two provided a presence for the Rice lineup this year, and the Owls with a heavy dose of offense, and their presence will be sorely missed.

“The pair of outside hitters (Boldeness and Morgan) generated 39 percent of our offense last year, so they’re not going to be tough to replace,” Volpe said. “We’re going to need players on the court last year to put up bigger numbers, or have someone step up to fill shoes.”

Returning sophomore Ashley McCord noted that the seniors left big holes to fill:

“We definitely lost two big players,” McCord said. “They kept their cool and were very collected through everything. Our seniors this year have made it to the Big Dance, their first appearance in this year.”

In addition, two newcomers will hope to replace some of the production from last year’s stars—Morris Cole, a 6’7” middle blocker from Pascua, Texas, comes in as the tallest player on the Rice roster. Cole was named best-team from All-State three consecutive years and MVP of the USA Jr. Olympic National Division. Her height should provide a presence for the Rice lineup this year.

Rice’s other newcomer this year is Megan Murphy, a setter from Plano, Texas, Murphy, who was named in the midst of a 4A State team, will join from one of the best returning setters in the country, junior Meredith Schuman.

Volpe said, “The injuries have been very important by Murphy’s court presence thus far.

“Morris is very experienced, as she has set at a high level with her high school and club team,” Volpe said. “The injuries I’d like to describe her are great, called, and collected, and she’s very unheralded.”

In the shadow of her preseason Co-Player of the Year, the first time in Rice’s history, and an especially rare honor for a setter.

Lam and McCord, an outside hitter. The junior was named First-Team All-CUSA last season, and the coaches also voted her preseason Co-Player of the Year, the first time that has happened in the volleyball program’s history, and an especially rare honor for a setter.

Schuman was joined on the preseason All-CUSA team by three of her teammates: Bogan, Lam and McCord, an outside hitter.

McCord was named the C-USA Newcomer of the Year in 2009, and the Owls have big expectations for her following her time this summer with the U.S. Women’s National Junior Team.

Moreover, the Owls’ defense will be bolstered by junior middle blocker Caroline Gill, whose presence in the Owls’ summer campaign followed off-season foot surgery. The Owls expect big things from the highly-fresh junior.

“I would go as far as to say that Caroline is probably our most underrated player,” Volpe said. “She worked hard all summer and is at the top of her game right now.”

Senior setter Channing Griffin, senior outside hitter Jesus Bautista and junior outside hitter Jatyna Jvrezewczyk will also be expected to provide invaluable experience for the team this year.

The team’s depth will be tested early at the Mizuno Invitational, the team’s season-opening tournament held at Tudor Fieldhouse. The Owls play Nicholls State University and the University of Oklahome tomorrow, and the University of Central Arkansas and Houston Baptist University on August 29.

Rice certainly has the talent to achieve all of their goals. While C-USA did not conduct a preseason poll, the Owls’ four preseason All-CUSA members indicate the respect opposing coaches will have for the Owls this year.

But respect means little in terms of wins and losses, as the Owls will strive for consistency in their success.

“We can’t afford to be great one game and poor the next,” Volpe said. “We’ve got very good at certain aspects of the game and we’ve got to be consistent.

We’ve got some new pieces this year, and we’ve been stressing consistency to them all preseason.”

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We have to go out and win games. We already knew that we had a good schedule which will allow us to qualify for the NCAA tournament.

Head Coach Chris Huston

Christian University had also battled to draw with the Bears in an exhibition match earlier in the year, and the Frogs pulled a 2-2 upset over the University of Texas on Friday.

That result only improves the likelihood that the Owls could win an at-large berth for the NCAA Tournament at the end of the year, which Huston said is the ultimate mark of a successful season.

"We have to go out and win games on our own," Huston said. "We already knew that we had a good schedule going into this year, which will allow us many opportunities to qualify for the NCAA tournament without having to rely on the conference championship game alone."

And that schedule just got a little stronger after the weekend's results. Oklahoma State University came out of the weekend ranked 23rd in the nation, and conference rival University of Central Florida also finds itself in the top 25. The University of Memphis upset Louisiana State University 2-0, while the University of Alabama at Birmingham upset both the University of Mississippi and the University of Alabama.

What do all of these teams have in common? The Owls will be facing Oklahoma State, TCU, UAB, UCF and Memphis in future games.

But before they take on those pivotal matchups, they will face a tough road trip to Milwaukee, Wisc., to play Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee today and Sunday, respectively.

Those match-ups will give the Owls a good idea of where they stand in the national rankings early in the season. If they can manage to come back home without a loss, the Frogs predict an increased chance of a regional ranking.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009

AUG.  28-SEPT.  3,  2009

Yes, there is a Rice People!

Not playing this year at the Alley Theater: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Undead

Speaking of the Alley Theater: The Berger Playhouse production of The Importance of Being Earnest in the Hammer Hall basement tonight at 8 p.m. for an ice cream social and meet the folks who put on the shows.

Russian wrestling + somebody named "Throttlebottom" = a theatrical sensation

Did somebody say "mango smoothie"?

Cucumber sandwiches will be served

Pass incomplete

And now, a word from our friend the Registrar: Today is the last day to resolve any grades marked "incomplete" on your report cards from the spring or summer semesters.

Yes, there is a Rice People Who Don't Do Anything Club

But it won't impress your future employers, so go to the Activation Fair this afternoon instead! From 12:30 to 4 p.m., a wide array of Rice student clubs will be present in the EMU Grand Hall and adjoining courtyard. Go learn about who they are and what fun they have and/or what trouble they cause. Then join your favorites!

SATURDAY 29

Don't mess with Martel!

Martel kicks off the public party schedule with the Don't Mess with Texas Party, on the sundekk tonight at 10 p.m.

Bull Asian birthdays

Yeah, dude, you're not cooker, be sure to taste him if you can.

Hansz Hansz Revolution!

If you're a dancer or a composer interested in collaborating with fellow Rice students on a new musical dance show, head over to Hansz's Upper Commons at 7 p.m. on Tuesday night. Fingers crossed, check hanszentheatre@gmail.com.

Hamman it up

Interested in joining the Rice Players, our all-campus theater troupe? Visit the Hamman Hall basement tonight at 8 p.m. for an informational meeting and on the Hamman Fall Dance Concert. There will be cookies, cupcakes, and crevity. If you have questions, check out the Players production of The Importance of Being Earnest in the Hamman Hall basement between 7 a.m. and 2 a.m. If you can't make it today, there's another chance to try out tomorrow at the same time and same place. Menu to the Rice Players. You guys should cast David Leebron as Canon Chasuble. Seriously.

SUNDAY 30

Hansz Hansz Revolution!

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TUESDAY 1

Cucumber sandwiches will be served

The South Asian Society is having a Mango Smoothie Social on a "mango smoothie" (Will Bastards). Or maybe they did print it after all and didn't tell me. Double bastards.

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Do you have a good time on Saturday? "Someone had a good time on Saturday." -Officer Anderson, on Dis-O.

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The Backpage is satire and is written, or whatever, by Kyle Barrhant and Cristina Tortarolo. This thing needs more Calendar jokes.

The Rice Thresher ADVERTISING

The BackpageSATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2009

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009

The Rice Thresher

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We accept classified and classified advertisement orders. Ad size, rate, and deadline vary. Additional, the Thresher does not take responsibility for typographical errors. Printing an advertisement does not constitute an endorsement by the Thresher. Display advertisements must be received by 10 a.m. on the Tuesday prior to publication. Classified advertisements must be received by 4 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to publication.

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Rice University

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Phone: 713-348-5228
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...and it involved some serious software.

tems in that it feeds on the life force of innocent human beings. Since it became self-aware to pass, ESTHER has been perfecting the art of malignancy and sadism. It grows stronger with every "CLOSED SECTION" announcement or complicated, draw-down menu. Its hunger is bottomless and it will not stop until every student is enrolled in PHIL 101 out of sheer frustration.

We think that President Leebron summed it up best: "Don't make her angry. Please! Not again! Last time we made her angry, she created Ow! space."

"Someone had a good time on Saturday." - Officer Anderson, on Dis-O. He sent this in from his cell phone.

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