Duncan begins search for RAs, HRF
BY DIANE RAMIREZ
THE ALIENIST
After passing the milestone of choosing its first masters, Duncan College is now on the search for resident associates and a head resident fellow. Duncan’s RA and HRF search committees are composed of both Duncan freshmen and transfers and are facilitated by Duncan’s current RHF’s and future masters, Luis Duran-Gottberg and Marnie Hylton. Students who are interested in being part of the search committee turn in applications, from which Duran-Gottberg selected the final committee members. While there is only one committee for both the RA and the HRF search, each position is filled by a different student.

Marcel College sophomore Amber Mackhland, a member of the RHF Search Committee, said that the committee needs have approximately eight RA candidates for two RA positions and five HRF candidates for one HRF position, but she said she expects the numbers to double by today’s application deadline. Once the committees have all the applications, the process will proceed by inviting the candidates to meet, giving them brass and holding a series of interviews.

“The whole process is very fast,” Mackhland said. “We know that we can get [the new RAs and HRF] involved in our operations and our transfer events fairly soon.”

Mackhland is hopeful that the final decisions will be made by Will Week. Meanwhile, the committees must focus on their efforts to see if they can achieve the goal set by Dunce’s president, Kevin Foyle, of raising $6.35 million for FY 2009.

According to Associate Vice President for Development Kevin Foyle, Rice’s Annual Fund received $6.9 million in Fiscal Year 2008, which includes all donations made between July 2007 and June 2008. The fund received $66 billion in FY 2010. Foyle said that the goal for FY 2010 is to reach at least $7 million.

“As far as I know, Rice’s [Annual Fund] is the only such fund up in revenue and participation,” Zeidens said.

The Annual Fund goes toward building scholarships and college budget, among other endeavors.

The Centennial Campaign includes a special program directed at young alumni, under which gifts made by the last 10 classes are matched by Karen (Jenner) ‘79 and Rich Old Rich ‘81 Whittemore. If donations were made by end of 2009, the Whittemore tripled their matching funds, and if donations are made by next year, the Whittemores will double the matching funds.

“We started [the campaign] to protect us from CALIFORNIA,” page 2

The Centennial Campaign’s goal is to collect $1 billion in donations by June 2013.

As of the end of the January, the Centennial Campaign had collected $528.8 million.

The Annual Fund received $6.35 million in FY 2008.

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The goal for the Annual fund for FY 2010 is to reach at least $7 million.

Alumni giving has risen from 34 to 35 percent over the past year.
Erratum

In last week's article on college budget cuts ("College course budgets face cuts," Feb. 5), the Thresher reported that the college courses began two years ago. Student-taught courses still remain relatively empty on Monday nights. The future president needs to continue to encourage students, especially freshmen, to attend SA meetings and to get involved in the association through enhanced communicative tools, such as Facebook, Twitter or improved utilization of college's senators. Usage of these channels can also serve as a means for greater outreach to off-campus students who cannot attend SA meetings, or even alumni and members of the greater Houston community that is not affiliated with the SA's activities.

Last year, we also encouraged the SA to embrace the challenge of growth and change brought on by the addition of the Brown College and the Rice-Baylor College of Medicine mergers. We are pleased to see the SA new voices on its Web site, an additional means of communication and formation of student committees to focus on important issues that might otherwise be overshadowed, such as blanket tax proposals. We encourage the next SA president to continue positive working relationships with the administration while also focusing on increased student participation. Additionally, a redesigned Web site would expedite involvement, as we feel that the redesign is too complicated and insufficient to encourage usage.

The SA has done a great job of publicizing its meetings, but the Rice-Baylor Pavilion still remains relatively empty on Monday nights. The future president needs to continue to encourage students, especially freshmen, to attend SA meetings and to get involved in the association through enhanced communicative tools, such as Facebook, Twitter or improved utilization of college's senators. Usage of these channels can also serve as a means for greater outreach to off-campus students who cannot attend SA meetings, or even alumni and members of the greater Houston community that is not affiliated with the SA's activities.

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Distortion of truth remains unpunished

Jane Alice and Steve Wilson, two Florida reporters, were fired in 1997 by their former employer, the FOX subsidiary. In 2004, their report about bovine growth hormones was suppressed, as a mere policy, did not qualify as a sensationalism from free speech. The court also referenced the Federal Communications Commission's policy against falsification and declared that the FCC's "news distortion policy" is a mere policy, did not qualify as a "license, law or regulation" under the Whistle-blower Act. The court stated that the current news distortion should be taken into account, not to license, law or regulation. As viewers and readers, the responsibility of the public that the news distortion policy is a mere policy, did not qualify as a license, law or regulation.

New Orleans' special place

Katie Jenson

NEW ORLEANS is a special place. It's hard for a city to maintain a unique culture when technology makes it easier to travel and move from one place to another. As you may remember, a small storm by the name of Katrina threatened to wash all that away four years ago — and as you may know, we did not take kindly to it. But I'm not really in the business of talking about how low we fell as a city — the administrative breakdown, the infrastructural failure of our levees and the logistical failure of the city. Rather, I'm here to tell you about one small victory that restored our floodwaters and left for dead remnants. New Orleans was slowly, surely becoming to its old self again. A strong tourist-funded economy allowed the city to recover. For a time, cultural changes were enough to lift the spirits of the many who had left. The city of many colors, with a rich history, was slowly on its way to rebirth, but still, a little fire still burned within.

While economic success in nothing so to scoff at, it is not a point of pride that the city has been economically restored. It was this sort of communal spirit, and those of us who call the city home have always had pride in this fact. As you may remember, a small storm by the name of Katrina threatened to wash all that away four years ago — and as you may know, we did not take kindly to it. But I'm not really in the business of talking about how low we fell as a city — the administrative breakdown, the infrastructural failure of our levees and the logistical failure of the city. Rather, I'm here to tell you about one small victory that restored our floodwaters and left for dead remnants. New Orleans was slowly, surely becoming to its old self again. A strong tourist-funded economy allowed the city to recover. For a time, cultural changes were enough to lift the spirits of the many who had left. The city of many colors, with a rich history, was slowly on its way to rebirth, but still, a little fire still burned within.

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**DIFFICULTIES**

FROM PAGE 1

Duncan and Will Rice–McMurry on how to live in these spaces.

Glen DiFrancesco and FE&P take responsibility for the misunderstanding; students had in the beginning of the year on how to use the facilities. For example, she said students would inadvertently cover the infrared sensors, which activate heating and lighting units, or would mistakenly file a complaint about the low water pressure, when they were simple using few showerheads.

As a result of educating students on how to use the facilities, the SMS also drew attention to some of the technologies in the new buildings that were either broken or simply did not work. For example, Rog said water valves were installed too early and dried out because they had no water flowing through them, rendering them unable to send water to the college at a consistent temperature and pressure.

Senior Director of H&@ Frank Rodriguez said the university simply had to replace the faulty valves and reset their temperature settings.

The SMS also had to work with H&D to resolve problems in the college during the school year.

"There were also many design-driven decisions that simply didn't work," Fritze said, referring to showerheads the architects chose that were sleek but not necessarily user-friendly.

Rog said, referring to showerheads he heard substantial praise for decisions that simply didn't work, "For example, Rog said, referring to showerheads the students are why we're here," she said.

**SEARCH**

FROM PAGE 1

form on finding the perfect candidates for a position that will affect Duncan college for years to come.

The first RAs and HRF will have a lasting effect on Duncan for more than their five-year term. They will set precedents, and I want the bar to be set really high.

Amber Makhani
Maret '12

"The first RAs and HRF will have a lasting effect on Duncan for more than their five-year term," Makhani said. "They will set precedent, and I want the bar to be set really high.

Makhani, who is transferring to Duncan next year, and Dun-Pochotter agree that this search is a very exciting process for a new college like Duncan. Dun-Pochotter said his experience at Duncan has been exciting and gratifying, especially since a new college means getting a lot of people to work together.

The new RAs and HRF next year would be facilitating the creation of a new college," he said. "We are looking for someone who can contribute to the intellectual growth of the students, who is accessible to them, and who can provide guidance.

Makhani said she also thinks it is important for the future HRF to be able to work well with the future majors.

Lain really wants someone who can be committed to community service," she said. "These efforts are very important to the future of Duncan and we want someone who will be concerned with the Duncan family, the Rice family and the Houston family in general.

Duncan freshman and head of the RA search committee, Mari-anne Braun, said that the completion of this process would help build Duncan. "Having a good RA is really im-

Now seeking applications for the:

**ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP**

To promote and recognize community service, the Rotary Club of West University Place is offering a $3,000 scholarship to a continuing undergraduate student at Rice University. If you have a record of community service outside of the Rice campus that embodies the Rotary motto of "Service above Self," you may be eligible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP AND TO APPLY, VISIT THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CENTER'S WEBSITE (HTTP://CIC.RICE.EDU)

Application Deadline:
5:00PM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010
A VISION

dents who will be strong." students who applied to Rice had backgrounds. end, students who applied to Rice had community here," Allonna James, a of minority students here, there is a Vision Weekend, Villafranca said. "Our numbers of minority stu-
dents are not at capacity," Villafranca said. "If you look at where (Rice) is, we should have more stu-
dents of color. Houston is now a minority-majority city.

Some former Vision Weekend par-
ticipants said their stay strongly influ-
enced their decision to go to Rice.

"Even though there are not a lot of minority students here, there is a community here," Allison James, a Baker College junior and 2007 Vision Weekend participant, said. Alex Siller, who participated in Vision Weekend as both a prospec-
tive student and a host, echoed James' sentiment.

"It is really important that the university took an interest in pro-
ducing diversity and not just set ting it on its Web site," Siller, a Mardel College senior, said. "They actually took the time to host a program that had a different focus for recruiting, and reaching out to, underrepre-
sented minority students."

All students traveling to Rice by plane will be reimbursed. On Sun-
day, student volunteers will hand out information packets and Machi Grasshopper prospective students to kick off the weekend's theme.

After meeting their student hosts, Vision Weekend students will board charter buses for a tour of Houston, which will explore the Rice Village, Kirby and Galveston areas before ending downtown for a dinner at Tree-

The traditional Sunday night dinner will be held at an off-campus restaurant because the Grand Hall is not large enough to hold the 350 people — students, hosts, registration volunteers and admission staff — involved in Vision Weekend, Villafranca said.

Other student activities include ice-breakers in the Jones College Commons on Sunday as well as a Monday open-site Pub Night and a party at Willy's Pub. Students will visit classes Monday morning from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and attend academic divisional meetings in the afternoon. Though the university has been en-
acting budget cuts across campus, Villafranca said Vision Weekend, now in its 15th year of existence, has been untouched.

The weekend is coordinated in col-
laboration between admission offices and student groups: Minority Interest Committee, Hispanic Association for Cul
tural Enrichment at Rice, the Rice Native American Student Association and the Black Student Association.

"We communicate the student perspectives on what activities would be good to the admission officers who implement the ideals," MIC co-chair and Jones College senior Max Paul said. "We really want these students to come here.

This year, Rice received about 12,000 applications with an accep-
tance rate estimated at 20 percent. Some of those decisions are mailed in April, Villa-
franca said.

"We want people who are dif-
ferent," she said. "It would be very unrealistic to have a homogeneous popu-
lation. I think Rice attracts a certain type of student. No one is really judg-
mental here, and I like that.

Villafranca said Vision Weekend, which typically has three ways of in-
cluding minorities on campus with their culture — you can't just check a box," Villafranca 
said. "We want students who are dif-
ferent. No one is really judging 
for the endowment, as they are the

Rather, Wise said, the budget is based on the performance of the en-
dowment over the past three years. Wise also said that gifts to the en-
dowment have averaged $4-$5 million a year over the past 10 years, generally in the form of pledges paid out over a span of three to five years.

Overall, Foyle said that the uni-
versity is fortunate to have so many alumni in Texas, which has been relatively sheltered from the rece-
cession as compared to the East Coast.

"Alumni participation is down among our peers, and it's flat here," Foyle said. "It would be good to in-
crease participation this year, but even if it's flat again, it's still buck-
ing the trend."
McMurtry College develops unique traditions

The five-story "Mongol college," sitting near Duncan Hall and the Inner Loop, is the 10th residential college established as part of Rice's residential college system. After a few early growing pains, it is clear that the college, named after Rice alumni Burt (56) and Deedee (56) McMurtry, is on its way to developing its own identity.

BY KEVIN LIN  FOR THE THRASHER

Currently comprised of 24 freshmen, McMurtry College represented Rice's first efforts to expand the growth of the college system in nearly a decade. Rice did not have the time or financial resources to grow on its own, McMurtry has had the experience of having close quarters with Will Rice College.

With each college building, there was no question that the older college would have a steady influence on the new college's formation.

"We didn't want them to re-invent the wheel," Clark, a Will Rice senior, said. "We provided the shape, and McMurtry fit in all the pieces."

Outside of the presence of Will Rice, McMurtry also has eight ambassadors from each of the other residential colleges, except Baker College. Associate Dean of Undergraduates Matthew Taylor said the role of the ambassadors was to expose McMurtry to different college cultures and make sure that Will Rice wasn't the only influence during McMurtry's formation.

Taylor said the number of ambassadors corresponded with the number of students expected at the college and that the reason McMurtry has no Baker ambassadors is due to a lack of qualified applicants.

But that is not to say that Will Rice has not played a large role in helping McMurtry come into its own. For instance, Will Rice junior Aaron Varnell, a former Orientation Week coordinator, has been a big influence on the college. Varnell temporarily holds the title of "chairman" of McMurtry, an acknowledgement of his dedication to the college.

Since the start of the school year, Varnell, who is a co-chair of the campus affairs council, has spent three to four hours a day immersed in McMurtry-related work. His role includes being one of 28 ambassadors to come to McMurtry town hall meetings and coordinate events. Varnell is also responsible for appointing the heads of both the Constitution Committee, which is responsible for forming McMurtry's government, and the Monitor (the Will Rice newspaper).

"Freshmen are the under-tapped resource on campus because often times they're sort of given the real entry-level positions (in college government!)," Varnell said. "Freshmen come in with ideas, they come in with so much potential and then they're quickly told they must fit into a system. If you have a system to harness that power you can use it to create things that are truly new and somewhat different."

MacMurtry currently shares Will Rice Masters Mike Wolf and Paula Fricko and is still in need of masters for the next academic year, Varnell said. There are currently four potential candidates for the position.

Habanee College (James Liu and Will Rice junior Kelsey Zottuck are in charge of the Masters Search Committee, and the committee has already chosen two finalists whose names have been sent to Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman. President David Leebren will make the final decision.

Happening concurrently with the masters search is an ongoing RA and associates search. McMurtry's O'Week Coordinators for next year will be Sid Richardson College junior Ryan George, Will Rice sophomore Hannah Thalberg and Will Rice sophomore Marie Thompson.

The McMinistry

McMurtry's new government body, the McMinistry, and consists of three students, three Will Rice college representatives and its hall council. The primary function of the McMinistry is to provide a temporary structure to McMurtry in its first year and to give transfers a framework to come into, Varnell said.

The structure of a permanent government body is currently being determined by the McMurtry Constitutional Convention.

McMurtry freshmen Sevetha Rsvh is on the committee responsible for writing the future college constitution. Rsvh said he will largely be buffered off Will Rice's constitution. The constitution is set up so that there will be a triumvirate of power at the top consisting of an president, a vice president and a prime minister.

McMurtry is hoping to differentiate itself from most of the other colleges with the addition of a prime minister, who will be responsible to creative events around McMurtry, Rao said. The last two members of the Executive Committee will be treasurer and secretary, who will assume the traditional roles associated with their respective offices.

Rao said all positions and responsibilities are still subject to change.

Welcoming new Mongols

Besides having to form a new government, McMurtry also needs to assimilate the 28 new students transfers heading its way. The largest groups of transfers are from Will Rice and Marriott College, which have 24 and 20 transfers for McMurtry, respectively.

McMurtry freshman Chris Barnes, another member of the Constitution Committee, said transfer students will be allowed to run for any position at McMurtry and that all the executive positions can only be filled by upperclassmen, which will all be transfers.

"It allows groups of individuals and groups of friends to come," Varnell said. "Transfers want to be involved and are enthusiastic about McMurtry."

Unique traditions

Even without the writing of its constitution, or the assimilation of a transfer group larger than its entire college, McMurtry already has plenty on its plate. The college has formed a Beer Bike Committee to coordinate its first showing at the longstanding Rice tradition. Heading the committee are Barnes, fellow freshman Kelsey Pederson and transfers Nick Roush, a sophomore from...
Duncan College establishes ‘fresh’ identity

Serving as Rice’s newest residential college, Duncan College has come into its own following its first semester on campus. Named after Rice alumnus Charles (’47) and Ann Duncan, the 11th college has bolstered its green reputation into a mecca of environmental friendliness and brought an entirely new meaning to the word ‘BaDunc’.

BY KEVIN LIN
FOR THE THRESHER

Made up of 79 freshmen, the Duncan class is naming its rooms with the sister college, Baker College. However, this integration goes beyond just room names, as the two colleges eat meals together, play intramural sports together, and even vote together. Instead of differentiating Baker students from Duncan students, the combined student body is referred to as ‘BaDunc’.

“It speaks to our joint relationship together as sister colleges,” Baker College President Kathy Kellett said. “We work together on a lot of things. For example, we don’t have a ‘Baker Hall/’Duncan Hall’ argument. We have, ‘BaDunc!’”

This year was a joint effort from both colleges. However, this integration goes on a life of its own almost as much as the college itself. For instance, the Duncan freshmen arrived. It’s kind of a rhythm, Kellert said. “They like to communicate with each other.”

Forum of the future

The framework of a more official government is currently being formed by the Electoral Committee, which is headed by Duncan freshman Matthew Taylor. The committee is responsible for greeting the transfers and organizing events like D-Day and a barbecue, both of which were aimed at welcoming transfers. Delgado said, Duncan also hosted a semi-formal black-tie affair last week to draw in more transfers.

Delgado described the description of the transfers to be very positive and the transfers themselves to be highly enthusiastic. “I haven’t met a transfer yet that doesn’t want to be involved,” Delgado said.

Beer Bike bumps

The Spirit and Electoral Committees were chosen separately within the college, which, she admits, is not necessarily the easiest task. “It speaks to our joint relationship together as sister colleges,” Delgado said.

“I haven’t met a transfer yet that doesn’t want to be involved,” Delgado said.

Beer Bike bumps

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The framework of a more official government is currently being formed by the Electoral Committee, which is headed by Duncan freshman Matthew Taylor. The committee is responsible for greeting the transfers and organizing events like D-Day and a barbecue, both of which were aimed at welcoming transfers. Delgado said, Duncan also hosted a semi-formal black-tie affair last week to draw in more transfers.

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Vagina Monologues deliver touching show

BY JANE LI
FOR THE TESHER

Interested in truly celebrating an anti-Valentine's Day this year? Well, there may be no better place for those against commercialized romance and the represented heteronormativity of the holiday than at a performance of The Vagina Monologues in the McNulty College Commons this weekend.

This year's production, co-directed by Wessa College junior Josephine Bonilla and Wessa sophomore Matt Banks, fits the bill nicely. An unabashed tribute to sex, the female experience and reproductive anatomy, that is a must see for men and women alike. The Vagina Monologues strings together a series of powerful stories with a good deal of humor and insight to create an altogether enjoyable show.

The Vagina Monologues has been in various forms of production since 1996. Its author, Eve Ensler, began the V-Day movement worldwide performances of her play and other consciousness raising events—to bring an end to violence against women.

and girls. The proceeds of this weekend’s performances will benefit the Houston Area Women’s Center, and the play begins with a touching remembrance of two recent Houston victims of domestic violence.

Though the play carries a serious message and purpose, it also entertains in more humorous territory. There are visually striking images of turtle necks and mutilation, but also light-hearted odes to embracing one’s sexuality and the sheer variety and color of all the words for “vagina.” The characters represent a wide spectrum of female experiences: a smattering of ages, races, nationalities and sexual orientations.

Directed By: Jocelyn Wright, Matt Banks

New Playing: Tonight and tomorrow, 8 and 11 p.m., McNulty Commons

Price: $5 with Rice ID, $7 without

Taco Trek: Yan and Ben remember the Alamo

This week's installment of Taco Trek, the last in our four-part series, is all about simplicity. So often, in the heat of competition, restaurants attempt to one-up each other, seeking any way to gain an advantage. Whether it be in the form of a bigger dining area, fancier menus, a waitstaff dressed to the nines or HDTVs on the wall, numerous strategies are employed to bring back customers, often at the cost of quality.

Alamo Tamale & Taco has established itself as a major player in the Taco District by doing exactly the opposite. Standing at the gates to Taco Heaven on 2310 Navigation Boulevard since 1986, the two-room business that ships tamales around the continental United States. But for-franchise business feel remains, with simplicity reimagined.

Originally intended to be a single restaurant, Alamo has grown tremendously in size and popularity, and currently consists of three stores together— one tamale factory and a huge online business that ships tamales around the continental United States, but fortunately for the customer, its small business feel remains, with simplicity trumping complexity every time.

Ben's Take

This week's trip to Alamo Tamale and Taco was rife with anticipa-
Are you hungry yet? Check out our slideshow of Taco Trek pictures at ricethresher.org. You know you want to.

VAGINA FROM PAGE 8

duration. The minimalistic staging and lighting also work well to highlight the action, which, at its best, is excellent and worth the price of admission.

Well written characters become significantly more endearing and engaging through dedicated performances. Baker College senior Julia Larkins’s lovely, eerily woman displays surprising depth in the telling of a long-ago-embarrassing experience. Self-acceptance is one every young woman needs to be celebrated.

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Colwick soars to 10-high vault of 2010
Senior pole vaulter leads Owls in Frank Sevigne Classic as Moore makes strides in sprints

By Jonathan Myers

Texas A&M College Station

After taking a week's hiatus from the annual pole vault lore, senior Jason Colwick reminded everyone at last weekend's Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational just why he is considered one of the preeminent pole vaulters in the world. Colwick won the event with a mark of 5.67 meters (18' 7.25"), good enough to break his own Rice record.

Colwick's vault is also the 10th highest vault in the world this year.

In addition to collecting his second Conference USA Athlete of the Week award this season, topping his total to six for his career, Colwick is now the owner of a polished black and red plate emblazoned with the words "Frank Sevigne Male Most Valuable Performance 2010." The medal plaque currently resides in the office of Head Coach Jon Warren '86, who talked about Colwick's adjustment from the Lincoln, Neb., meet after the National Pole Vault Summit held in Reno, Nev., on Jan. 22.

"He just said he did a much better job preparing for this week," Warren said. "Reno, Nev., is a whole different ball game, with the altitude this week."

Colwick extended his personal best twice this season -- the senior is well on his way to maintaining that goal.

"I find that reason and never make the same mistake again, I'd like to think I'm a better pole vaulter than I was a year ago each week."

At this pace -- Colwick has now broken his personal best twice this season -- the senior is well on his way to maintaining that goal.

The other on the team are following suit. Freshman Donte Moore led the foursome that took fifth in the 4x400 meter relay, posting a time of 3:32.22 seconds in the preliminaries.

According to Warren, Moore has just begun to discover his talent.

"The person that was next to the most exciting was Fonte," Warren said. "I think he can be a great runner, running indoors is a completely new experience for him. He's learning a lot, and the 400 is one of the events that's most different from indoor to outdoor track, with the low chance of the think he can go significantly faster than he did. He's physically capable of it and he just has to figure some things out. It's very normal for a freshman."

Other freshmen traveling to the meet were high jumpers Reichl Nunnally and Nebraska.

Women's track spins personal, school records

By Natalie Clericuzio

Texas A&M College Station

What do the 1975 University of Indiana men's basketball team and the 1985 University of Houston women's track team have in common?

Early in their seasons, both could be described as teams on the brink of greatness.

With only one meet to go before their team competes for its fourth regional Conference USA Indoor Track & Field Championship Feb. 25-27, Head Coach Greg Bevan said he believes several members of his squad are on the verge of breaking through to historic performances. "I think there's a lot of people getting ready to stride forward to the next level," Bevan said.

Leading the group of improving Owls in senior Tina Robinson, who set a new school record in the weight throw of 16.60 meters Saturday at the University of Houston All Comers Meet, outdoing her sister Krystal's record of 15.73 m. set in 2005, Krystal '05 was an All-American in the discus, marking Tina's accomplishment all the more impressive.

"(Tina) never did that event in high school, so it's something that she's been working at, she had to learn," Bevan said. "She's done a great job, she's been diligent and she works hard.

Bevan hopes Tina's accomplishment will also spur her younger sister, freshman thrower Sharae Robinson, to greatness of her own.

"It's nice to keep the record in the family," Bevan said. "And it's also nice because her little sister's a freshman and she's watching it all. So hopefully that's inspired the little sister, too.

Bevan also noted that Tina has likely not made her final stand in the weight throw, as there are still two meets left in the season.

Still, the team is comprised of members other than the Robinson clan, many of whom also improved upon previous performances. In junior Allie Hoke took first in the pole vault at 3.60 meters, and Bevan expects even more from her before the indoor season comes to a close.

"As it's just knocking on the door of making a big breakthrough," Bevan said. "I could see her going a foot higher just like that. She looks so good on the mound.

Sophomore Kiri Kendall's high jump mark of 5.65 m placed her just short of a medal -- she finished in fourth place -- but Bevan pointed out that the jump displayed her commitment to fundamentals.

The middle- and long-distance events went even better for the Owls. Junior All-American Becky

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Sports is now on Twitter. Get the scoop at twitter.com/ThresherSports
Consistency remains fickle for women
by Teddy Grodek

Consistency is one of the main goals of any athletic team. For the women’s basketball team, it has been one of the toughest to reach.

The Owls (11-11, 5-4 C-USA) have suffered humiliating losses against teams that should have been easy victories, but have simultaneously managed to rally to defeat some of the elite teams of Conference USA.

Despite their back-and-forth play, the Owls still stand on the brink of ushering themselves into the upper echelon of C-USA at the beginning of last week. They had finally battled their way back to the .500 mark and had two critical games against the elite teams of Conference USA — the University of Houston and the Rice Owls — to snap out of a funk that made their first half look like the UMC youth league that often plays at halftime.

But the Owls (12-10, 6-3 C-USA) had their chance to turn a score completely different, as Rice failed to gain any form of momentum and quickly settled for a nine-point lead five minutes into the half.

The gap only grew larger, as the Cougars managed to turn a score that was once tied into a 17-point lead with a little over four minutes left in the game. Rice looked stunned and defeated but cut the advantage in 11 points after picking up a full-court press in the closing minutes of the game.

However, by then it was simply too late to make up the deficit.

SPORTS 11

Men see silver lining in dealing with top foe
by Yan Diglavy

There is always a silver lining when you are your own worst enemy. At the very least, you know your enemy well. That seems to be the case for the men’s basketball team, which dropped another big lead to the University of Alabama at Birmingham last Saturday and found itself fighting back to beat Division II Texas A&M International University Monday.

The laundry list of issues that has kept Rice (8-14, 0 Conference USA) at the bottom of the conference standings touches every aspect of its game.

Two weeks ago, it was a stagnant offense plagued with turnovers and a porous defense that allowed Tulane (19-5, 7-2 C-USA) to overcome a 19-point second-half lead and steal a 79-76 victory. Against UAB (11-5, 7-2 C-USA) — which is currently in second place in C-USA — poor shot selection led to a frustrated defense that stopped running back in transitions, allowing the visitors to overcome a 12-point deficit to take the 76-65 win.

But at the same time, the spread has shown a repeated ability to overcome those issues. After chasing to within 15 points in the first half against TAMIU (9-13), Rice shot 50 percent from the field in the second half, finishing only seven turnovers in the whole game and allowing zero fast-break points in 12 minutes to come out on top, 79-66.

Thus, for Rice, the man in the mirror seems to be continuously changing faces, a personality disorder that has been diagnosed but not yet treated.

“With the respect they felt they deserved,” Head Coach Tim Braun said. “I think we can take some teams right where their heart is. But to do that, you have to play consistently. You don’t take a team’s heart with one play — even the dunk. That was great, but it was one play. Come down and make a stop. It is the continuing growth of the team, the team that has out-rebounded the conference opponent before.”

And what’s not to like in a team with two freshmen as the top scorers, a team that out-rebounded the University of Texas and one of the most respected coaches in the nation?

In the second half of play against the Dustdevils those dominant aspects of their game were on full display. Along with numerous alley oop highlights, the most memorable play of the game — perhaps of the last three seasons of Rice basketball — came four minutes into play when freshman forward Anas Karemji carried the ball coast-to-coast for a buzzer-beating dunk that shocked the rallies.

But it was just what the team needed to snap out of a funk that made their first half look like the YMCA youth league that often plays at halftime.

Edwin (When) you see a guy jump over someone and put a knee in his face, you will get excited,” sophomore forward Lucas Kajepi said. “I wanted to run up and shake people in the stands. It was awesome.”

Kajepi, too, had an impressive showing that night, finishing the game with 15 points. Before injuring his shooting arm last season, Kuipe also took the 76-65 win. Rice shot 50 percent from the field with two freshmen as the top scorers, a team that out-rebounded the conference opponent before.

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Owls rock Tigers, Hurricanes in homestand
Rosa leads men’s tennis team, knocks off pair of ranked foes to help Rice trounce visiting schools over weekend

By Casey Michel

If there were questions remaining about the viability of the men’s tennis team’s doubles slate, or how the two new transfers would fit into the lineup, or if senior Bruno Rosa, ranked 19th in the nation, had the mettle to shoulder the tandem-rank Owls (5-2), last weekend provided a cheat sheet.

Doubles success! Check.

Transfers fitting in? Better than expected.

Rosa fulfilling his potentials? Just ask the two ranked opponents he dominated in straight sets — they can probably answer better than we.

After a pair of 6-1 wins over No. 31 Louisiana State University and No. 21 University of Miami over the weekend, the Owls appear to be flying on all cylinders. The Tigers (6-1) and the Hurricanes (2-1) provided Rice’s first test after a disheartening 6-0 loss to then-No. 28 Pepperdine University earlier this month. But if the score is any indication, the only test we can expect to see the Owls would be in the doubles point. Rosa followed with another win over an opponent ranked in the top 50.

"Every time you step on the court, you expect all six guys to show up ready to perform," Assistant Coach Eka Ustundag (Baylor ’10) said. "And that’s exactly what happened."

"Taking on the Tigers at Tiger Stadium last Friday, it was a homecoming sight to see a sightseeing tour after the Owls rolled over against the then-low-ranked Bulldogs (7-6) two weeks ago. Fresno State, now ranked 29th, halted Rice in an unentertaining and disappointing manner, and junior Oscar Podlewski noted that the Owls wanted not more than to turn the tables on their next opponents."

"Coming back and winning against LSU and Miami was doubly rewarding — we were positive after a bad loss," Podlewski, a transfer, said. "It was obvious at Fresno State that the team didn’t show up, and that the Bulldogs just got on top of us. ... And that hurt us. So we wanted to do it against LSU and what Fresno State did to us.

The Owls blotted out the gate, with the No. 3 doubles tandem of sophomore froms Tachibana and freshman Jonathan Chang edging Ole Miss’ Luke Bonomo and James Turberville 9-7 to clinch the doubles point.

Turberville enacted revenge in singles, downing Chang 7-6 (7), 6-2 — but the Tiger’s beneficiaries had little leg on the Owls rampaged through the lineup. Rosa, who was named Conference USA Player of the Week Tuesday, led the way with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over No. 26 Neal Skupski, and Podlewski backed him up at No. 2 with a 6-2, 6-2 win over 20th-ranked Sebastian Carlson.

Tachibana and fellow sophomore Michael Naeslund and Sam Garfirth-Riley then rounded out the victory. All winning in straight sets to give Rice its first win over LSU in four years.

The Owls continued that momentum two days later against the Hurricanes, once more grabbing the doubles point. Rosa followed with another win over an opponent ranked in the top 50.

"We just lacked to be a bit more mentally tough than both teams we played against," Ustundag said. "That’s always a positive thing this early in the year. And we just hope it continues, because there’s really no breathing room in our schedule."

Ustundag is right — the road is only tougher from here on out, as the Owls are slated to meet four top-20 opponents in their next five matches. Rice will get this week off to ready itself before taking on No. 20 Virginia Tech University and No. 20 Wake Forest University on the road next weekend.

Both teams will jumpstart the season.

"We’re only six matches into the season," the coach said. "If we’re satisfied with where we are already, we’re in for a big surprise."

RECORD

From Page 10

Wade led Rice in the mile run, placing first overall with a time of 4:07, a six-second lifetime best for her and good enough to place her on the all-time list for the national meet.

For Wade, her performance showed her that she is ahead of where she thought she was in training.

"It was exciting, definitely surpassed my personal record for the 1,500-meter," Wade said. "It gives me confidence about where we’re at and where we are in our season. I guess I kind of expected that running in the 4:00s would be a bit more difficult, but it actually felt pretty good." Wade, who shot put second through fifth place, with senior Nicole Mericle (4:59.8), sophomore Halley Fisher (5:03.23) and sophomore Marie Thompson (5:05.27) rounding out the Owls’ finishers.

Bevan was happy with his team’s performance, even if everything did not go exactly as planned.

"We knew we basically were running against each other and against the clock," Bevan said. "Becky ran an outstanding race. She started strong the 400 and she ran away. She looked strong, very strong."

Mericle excelled in the three-me-

mer race as well, winning the race in 3:26.82 despite an eight-month reprise from competition, due to a foot injury. Behind her were team- mates sophomore Sophie Peters (3:29.72) in second and freshman Heather Olsen (3:29.93) in fourth.

Bevan hopes to continue the team’s trend of improvement tomorrow at the Texas A&M Challenge in College Station, Texas. As this is the third weekend of competition for the team, the coach said he hopes all the ups will bring out the team’s greatness, as they will be pitted against top teams.

The meet will be scored by conference rules, with three schools from each conference. The University of Alabama, the University of Tennessee and the University of Mississippi will represent the Southeastern Conference, while The University of Texas, Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University will come from the Big 12 Conference.

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Join Nobel laureate Samuel Ting from MIT and six of his senior collaborators as they discuss the greatest physics experiment ever conducted in space.

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Women’s tennis caught California dreaming

no victories were to be found. and the Owls (3-3) got some rays—but the tennis team made the long trip to sunny

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Owls stumble against superior competition in road swing against Pepperdine, UCLA

by Chris Pettijohn Thresher Staff

Last weekend, the women’s tennis team made the long trip to sunny California in hopes of catching a couple of victories, and perhaps some rays as an added bonus.

The weekend ended up distinctly dry, and the Owls (3-3) came home with no Victories. Pepperdine proved to be too strong, and the Owls were defeated by the West Coast team in straight sets.

The top doubles team of junior Rebecca 

Unfortunately, the team could not translate the momentum of winning the doubles point into victories during the singles matches. Pepperdine came out with renewed vigor and quickly won the first five sets. Despite fighting hard, both Lonne and 

The one outlier was Guzman, who won her first set, lost the second and took the third to 10-8. The Owls won the second point and the second set in an early marathon on the top of the ladder. Jackson, Lin and 

Sophomore Ana Guzman, here lunging for a ball at home Jan. 30, was the only Owl to take a point in Rice’s rough road losses last weekend against Pepperdine and UCLA.

Rice faced its toughest test of the season, battling No. 43 Pepperdine University (1-5) and No. 12 University of California-Los Angeles (5-0) in its first extended road trip of the season. The weekend’s matches began ominously, as the prospect of rainy conditions in California forced the team to change its hotel and hotel plans. The team postponed its departure to Saturday instead of the previous Thursday, playing Pepperdine as scheduled on Sunday but waiting until last Monday to take on UCLA.

Rice came out strong in the doubles matches against the Waves (2-3). The No. 1 doubles team of senior Chao and sophomore Ana Guzman played aggressively to win their match 9-8, while the No. 3 doubles team, senior Rebecca Lonne and junior Rebekka Hanne, suffered a difficult 6-4 loss. With the doubles point hanging on the No. 2 contest, the 9th-ranked team of junior Jessica Jackson and sophomore Alex Rasch fell into an early 7-3 hole. But after fighting off five match points, the team slowly crept its way back into the match, point by point, and ended up taking it 7-5.

"It was the only point in Rice’s brutal road losses last weekend against Pepperdine, as the Owls lost by a score of 4-5 to Pepperdine and 5-2 to UCLA."

"We are very confident," Jackson said. "We are going to work our socks off to get these tough matches under our belts."

Rice's victory was the special one for Head Coach Elisabeth Schmidt, offering her a return to alma mater where she played only a decade ago.

But the homecoming was short lived as UCLA’s nationally ranked players had their way with their opponents. Rice's No. 1 team of senior Thomas Beck and freshman John Rask took a 0-0 lead, but UCLA's No. 2 team of Alex Rasch and junior Jessica Jackson dominated from the start. The Owls were defeated by the second set of the play 7-0. Unfortunately, the team could not translate the momentum of winning the doubles point into victories during the singles matches. Pepperdine came out with renewed vigor and quickly won the first five sets. Despite fighting hard, both Jackson and Hanne were defeated in straight sets at the top of the ladder, Jackson, Lin and Rasch, each of whom lost the first set, came back to win their third sets, yet all three fell in the third set.

The one outlier was Guzman, who won her first set, lost the second and took the third to 10-8. The Owls won the second point and the second set in an early marathon on the top of the ladder. Jackson, Lin and junior Rebecca Lonne, each of whom lost the first set, came back to win their third sets, yet all three fell in the third set.

With some key turnovers against the Waves, Rice’s only victory was the doubles team of Jack- son and Rasch, who were Rice’s only victories during the match. They took their match 7-6 (1), in what was a hard-fought championship-discussion.

"We have to learn to be composed and trust yourself in those big situations, and posed and trust yourself in those big points. While Rice has emerged as a useful weapon, or rather a use-

The Owls next faced No. 12 UCLA, a national championship-caliber team, which proved to be too strong for Rice's tough team thus far this season. One set later, Rice understood just how big the Owls in the medaille the estimated cost, but UCLA was the only one that was able to play through the change-up. No singles player on Rice took a set from the Bruins.

"We are very confident," Jackson said. "We are going to work our socks off to get these two matches under our belts."

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program

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Application deadlines are November 15 for the fall and April 15 for the spring. For more information and to download the application go to:

http://diversity.rice.edu/mmuf/mmuf.php

Application deadline is February 26, 2009
especially after the loss of team leader sophomore point guard D'Frantz Smart to foul trouble. Rice ended up falling by a final margin of 70-52.

"They really outplayed us," Goswitz said. "That was our first conference loss at home, so we were really anxious to show what we could do. We really tried against UAB." Looking forward to this weekend, Rice has the road, looking to finally get over the .500 hump on which they seem to be stuck. They travel to Southern Methodist University (19-5, 1-8 C-USA) Friday night and hope for a repeat of their 72-58 win from a few weeks ago. Then Rice will travel to the University of Tulsa (19-3, 1-8 C-USA), looking to beat a team that has lost seven of its last eight games.

It has been a struggle for all C-USA teams this season to win on the road — Rice has not done it under its belt but Williams hopes his team can change the trend. "It's proven in our conference that it's much harder to get a win on the road," Williams said. "Your goal has to be to split on the road. If you offer me a split on the road trip, I'm a happy camper."
the Calendar
FEB. 12-18, 2010
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FRIDAY 12

ZOMG ISLE OF THE DEAD

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

Don't wear anything stained

Duncan College's first ever public party, "Sensation: The Whiteness," will be totally blacklit. Wear white and/or extremely reflective things and head over at 8 p.m.

But wouldn't it have been so much more awesome if

They had used the blacklights to turn all of Duncan College into a giant laser tag game? Or even better, take over Fondren Library for a night and have THE WORLD'S LARGEST GAME OF LASER TAG!

Rhetorical, anatomical

Check out The Vigils' Monologues tonight or Saturday at 8 p.m. in the McMurry College Commons. Student tickets are $5 and general admission is $7. Proceeds benefit the Houston Area Women's Center and the V-Day campaign.

SATURDAY 13

Sing, sing, sing

Head over to Shelley Gantrick's senior vocal recital in the Duncan Recital Hall and you'll hear some lovely songs by Handel, Wolf, Chausson and Cilea Pette. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., with a reception to follow.

Happy New Year, moon

It's the Ivain New Year! Celebrate with Iran's secret Adam ride in the Rice Memorial Center Grand Hall. Dinner at 6 p.m. in St. Or, if you want to run your new year. The performance is at 7 p.m. and it's free.

THURSDAY 18

Being in the shape of a pretzel is healthier than eating a pretzel

At 8 a.m. the Wellness Center is hosting a totally free yoga session. Step by and get flexible!

The play's the thing wherein I'll catch the king

Actors from the London Stage is a troupe of actors, founded by Patrick Stewart, which travels the world performing Shakespeare. They're at Hamman Hall to present "Romeo and Juliet" using five actors and no props, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are $5. Cheaper than going to London!

CAKALOG

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FRIDAY 12

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2010

For the impatient but desperate

Need a Valentine? Try speed dating! Stop by Willy's Pub at 8 p.m. for dinner and a three-minute speed dating with, I quote, "the hot and single." Hehe. After the dinner, the way to advanced by 8 p.m. at the door. But that's a bargain, because you can't buy love.

You know you want to see a wiener dog race

Drive over to Saint Houston Race Park, on Houston's north-side, to catch the Second Annual Wiener Dog Races. For your $5 ticket, you get to watch the races at 7 p.m. and then, at 8 p.m., there's "a pet costume contest." YES!!

He's got a huge talent

Want to know if the kid next to you in mandatory core class? Probably not, but check out the Rice Talent Show anyway at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall. The audience will get to vote on a winner to receive $300, and the "most talented college" will receive an ice cream party.

SUNDAY 14

Last chance to take Open magazine's sex survey

Visit shop.riceuniversity.edu to participate if you haven't already.

And speaking of love

Happy Valentine's Day! Celebrate with that special someone, or, if you're like me, somewhat grumpily point out that it's also Singles Awareness Day. Hey, at least my mom sent me a Valentine's card.

Romatic music on the radio

Tune in to KTRI or visit America at 7 p.m. to hear a taped broadcast of the Shepherd School Symphony's Friday concert. Encore!

WEDNESDAY 17

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, I can't look at you today

Today is "Day without Mirrors," an experiment to see if people have better self-esteem about their body if they don’t have a mirror. "All around campus, mirrors will be covered with paper," says the event description, which suggests you go mirror-free and learn to love your body. But what if you use a mirror to admire yourself? I guess people like that ought to have it taken away for a day, too.

THURSDAY 18

Mardi Gras at Fondren

If you missed Mardi Gras, the:Run in advance or call me. Happy Mardi Gras! Nothing says creole cuisine like beignets and gumbo! For your $24 ticket, you get to catch the races at Sam Houston Race Hall. The audience will get to vote on a winner to receive $300, and the "most talented college" will receive an ice cream party.

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