Applicant pool increases by 15 percent

BY ANDREW TA & ASYIA KAZI
NEWS EDITOR AND THRESHER STAFF

An unprecedented 15 percent rise in the number of applications for Rice University’s fall 2014 incoming class took the Enrollment Office by surprise, Vice President for Enrollment Chris Munoz said. “For the last seven years, we’ve grown our applicant pool,” Munoz said. “But this, I consider, has been a surprise. There are very few universities this year who are going to report being up 15 percent. I already know...that some other universities are down in applications, including Harvard. Dartmouth is down. Vandy is down. Chicago is down. We’re competing that experience.”

According to Munoz, the number of applicants with high test scores has risen disproportionately, but this follows a trend of an increase in applicants with perfect grades.

“Our overall applicant pool has grown by 15 percent,” Munoz said. “[But] students with SAT scores over 1500 on a 1600 scale has grown by over 30 percent this year compared to a year ago. We have a viable portion, maybe 65-70 percent of the students who apply to Rice, that have nearly perfect academic records and, at one time, that was...Apathy abounds, students fight back

A new kind of television

A&E Editor Kaylen Strench grapples with dark television shows.

SEE A&E p. 8

Just keep swimming

Rice swimming takes conference USA title, scoring a record number of points.

SEE SPORTS p. 9

INSIDE

Saddle up with the Thresher’s guide to the Houston Rodeo.

SEE P. 6

SA leadership passes the torch

OUTLOOKing SA President Yoonjin Min presents a whip to incoming SA President Ravi Sheth during Changeover on Monday, March 10. The festivities took place at Willy’s Pub, celebrating the outgoing SA Executive Board and ushering in the new leadership.

Art Barn removal concerns local community

The Art Barn is being removed from the Rice University campus and may soon have a new home in the Fourth Ward. The Barn, which is also known as the Art Barn Center for Continuous Studies and the former Rice Museum, is going to be disassembled because of safety problems and the potential cost of renovation, according to Vice President for Administration Kevin Kirby.

“We have had many architects and engineers evaluate the building,” Kirby said. “There are substantial structural, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and safety problems that would have to be addressed for us to continue to use the building. In addition to remediating these problems, the building would have to be upgraded to meet today’s building codes, such as (those) for safety, structural shortcomings and access by people with disabilities.”

After the administration’s decision to remove the building, both local and national newspapers released coverage of the decision to remove the building, including pieces in the Dallas Morning News, the New York Times, the Chronicle and the Houston Chronicle.

Visual and Dramatic Arts Professor Geoffrey Winningham said the Houston community tried to find a way to save the Art Barn after seeing the widespread news coverage. On March 8, it was announced that the Brown Foundation has guaranteed money to move the Art Barn to the Fourth Ward in Houston.

“The building was designed so that it can be disassembled and moved in parts,” Winningham said. “The building will become a public art center. The university has agreed to allow [the building] to stand for a couple more weeks [in order] to come up with the actual plan for moving the building.”

According to Winningham, the architect who built the Art Barn claims it is sound and says there are no safety issues related to the structure. Kirby said, after the building is removed, the university will plant a tree in its place.

“The famous tree planted by Andy Warhol in front of the building will remain where it is,” Kirby said. “Green fencing has been installed around the building in preparation for the removal of the building.”

Winningham said the building would be built quickly in 1969 by the de Menil family to house a visiting machine shop from the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Originally, one quarter of the building was for visual and dramatic arts. Now it is known as the Department of Painting and Drawing.

“The building, for 12 or 15 years, was the home of the arts and humanities program,” Winningham said. “The building was turned over to the fourth ward by the University.”

According to Kirby, however, the building’s function and its historical value have changed over the years.

“This structure has been very significant for the city of Houston,” Kirby said. “It represents a time which will, very shortly, only exist in the memory of those of us who knew Mrs. de Menil and experienced a profound excitement in the cultural life of the city.”

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MARTI FRESHMEN ANTE ALEM AND JIEYA WEN ARGUE APATHY STREAMS FROM BOTH LEADERS AND NON-LEADERS.

SEE OPS p. 5

ATHLETE ZAKHIDOV/THRESHER

SAPATHY ABOUNDSTUDENTS FIGHT BACK

Reny Jose search continues after spring break

BY THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

The search continues for Marshall College senior Reny Jose, who went missing on Monday, March 3 while on vacation in Panama City Beach, Fla.

Jose was last seen by his friend at 6:30 p.m. on Monday. According to the Bay County Sheriff’s Office, Jose’s clothes, cell phone and wallet were found in a trash can. The Sheriff’s Office reports that a friend told investigators that Jose had taken LSD and mentioned harming himself before he disappeared. Deputies have been searching the area around the home, and a dive team is searching the Gulf of Mexico near the beachfront home where Jose was staying.

His family is urging people to be vigilant and to continue looking for Jose. A Facebook page has been created to spread awareness, and there is a fund for people to donate money to the family to help the search efforts.

Reashma Jose, Reny’s sister, posted on the Facebook page on behalf of the family. “I just wanted to thank everyone for their support. Your kind words, thoughts and prayers have kept us hopeful,” Reashma Jose said. “Waiting to hear the news of Reny’s whereabouts each day has been agonizing. We ask that you please continue to keep us in your prayers. Reny is very much a pillar in our family and just as he would never give up on us, we refuse to give up on him. Thank you all again for everything.”

Marshall College held a candlelight vigil for Jose Tuesday, March 11 in the Marshall Quad. Students from across campus were invited to attend. Anyone with information about Jose is asked to call BPD at 210-348-6000.

SA election rerun shows • 2013: 31.18 percent • 2014 Original: 28.91 percent • 2014 Rerun: 40.54 percent

More than 1,600 students voted in the SA General Elections runoff, according to Student Association Secretary Nathan Andrus. This placed the turnout rate for this election at over 45 percent, the highest it has been in several years. Here are the general election: turnout rates for recent elections:

• 2014 Runoff: 40.54 percent
• 2014 Original: 28.91 percent
• 2013: 31.18 percent
• 2012: 28.00 percent

The highest voter turnout to date, 51.60 percent this year compared to a year ago. We have a sizable portion, maybe 65-70 percent of the students who apply to Rice, that have nearly perfect academic records and, at one time, that was...
Tuition increases at lower rate

Undergraduate tuition will increase 4.2 percent next year from $51,941 to $53,966, according to Vice President for Finance Kathy Collins. This will raise the total cost of attendance—which includes tuition, $686 in mandatory fees and $5,200 for room and board—by 3.9 percent, from $51,941 to $53,966.

“Over the last few years, we’ve been slowing the rate of increase in the sticker price,” Collins said. “We’re attentive to the concern about the rising cost of college.”

According to Senior Director of News and Media Relations Al Almond, tuition must increase each year to ensure the university continues to function.

“The cost of doing business continues to go up,” Almond said. “That involves everything from operating facilities to hiring faculty to operating campus. Wages have been increasing. There are a number of factors that increase as part of doing business.”

Rice topped Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine’s list of best value for private universities in the Smal Colleges and Colleges in the West/Southwest categories. Kiplinger’s ranked Rice No. 3 for best value among private colleges nationwide behind Yale University and Princeton University. Last month, Rice was included in the Princeton Review’s list of top 75 best value schools, but was not ranked in the top 10 list, in which Rice was included for five of the last six years.

“The [administration’s] concern is on Rice being affordable and accessible to a wide range of students,” Collins said. “So being best value in terms of cost, academic qualities and experiences and opportunities provided by Rice is really important. The rankings are secondary.”

Collins said a number of measures have been taken over the past few years to improve Rice’s financial aid for students.

“We have maintained a need-blind approach to admissions, limited the debt we require as part of a financial aid package to no more than $20,000 over 4 years, and raised the family income below which we don’t require any loans to $80,000,” Collins said. “As our prices go up, we adjust financial aid, so it’s not just meeting need in the year you enroll; we’re continually reviewing and updating. And we have other aid that is not need-based.”

Martin College junior Alyce Chu said the recent Kiplinger’s best value rankings surprised her.

“I would have never expected Rice to rank higher than the likes of [California Institute of Technology] or Stanford [University],” Chu said. “After being here for so long, while I love Rice, I have begun to see its flaws, which a survey or numbers can’t necessarily capture for a ranking.”

Weiss College sophomore Alex Tran said a tuition increase was to be expected.

“Tuition increases themselves most likely have to occur at some level, especially considering Leebron’s plan to expand the university, which necessitates more resources, such as professors,” Tran said.
Reddit co-founder gives talk, discusses failure and success

Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian speaks to Rice students on Feb. 26. The talk was a part of Ohanian’s book tour and was sponsored by the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership.

BY JENNIFER SHEK

timeshredder Staff

Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of the popular content-sharing website Reddit Inc., spoke at Rice on Feb. 26 about online entrepreneurship.

The lecture, sponsored by the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership, was part of Ohanian’s national tour to present his book, Without Their Permission, according to Co-Director of RCCL Ray Simar.

Ohanian said the Internet is the relevant frontier for the current generation, and people should use the many resources online to learn how to code.

“We don’t know how it’s [going to] change all of these industries, but we do know it’s happening right now,” Ohanian said. “And those of us of these industries, but we do know it’s happening right now, we should use the many resources online to learn how to code.

“Ideas alone are worthless,” Ohanian said. “Don’t be complacent with just a great idea. Get started right now. No one has a perfect roadmap. The first version of everything is janky. Even the first version of Iron Man is janky.”

Ohanian encouraged listeners to not care about one’s competition and to use haters as motivation. He gave the example of being invited to the Yahoo! headquarters only to be laughed at. According to Ohanian, one Yahoo!’s executive called Reddit a rounding error compared to Yahoo. Ohanian said the first thing he did when he went back home was to print out the words “you hoo!”. Ohanian said the first thing he did when he went back home was to print out the words “you hoo!”. Ohanian said the first thing he did when he went back home was to print out the words “you hoo!.

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“I wanted to look at it every single morning and know exactly who we were proving wrong,” Ohanian said.

Ohanian senior Ruby Gee said she wished Ohanian talked more about the risks of starting.

“I was very charismatic and knew how to use internet humor to engage with his audience,” Gee said.

“However, the talk skimmed over the [high failure rate] of tech entrepreneurship.”

Kirby, however, said the cost of renovating the old building could dip into the university’s investment in other areas.

“After Continuing Studies moved out of [the] Marcel Center, we evaluated many reuse possibilities — the arts, student entrepreneurial activities, office space, among them,” Kirby said. “We are a community of many disciplines, interests and programs, and that means choices have to be made about the allocation of resources. The cost to put any program in the old Continuing Studies building is significant and would come at the expense of some other investments.”

Fusay said the demolition of the Art Barn is not because of the cost of renovating it, but because the administration is unwilling to keep the building.

“They’re tearing it down and putting grass over it when that expense could go toward inventing studio space and other facilities that would benefit both VADA students and other departments, as we could free up some space in Sewall Hall,” Fusay said. “It’s an issue of priority, not of cost.”

Hardaway said tearing down the Art Barn demonstrates the university’s lack of interest in art education.

“It is not surprising to me that the university would choose to demolish the Art Barn instead of honoring its presence with renovation,” Hardaway said. “This decision mirrors their epic lack of interest and support of art at the university in favor of more financially useful departments.”

Lydia Smith, a Duncan junior majoring in Visual and Dramatic Arts, said the Art Barn is a relic from when Rice attracted high-profile artists.

“It foretells Rice has the potential to be an important destination for contemporary art into once more,” Smith said. “It is just sad that the university is not capable of realizing their epic lack of interest and support of art at the university in favor of more financially useful departments.”

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Impact of SAT changes on Rice admission standards unclear

BY ANDREW TA

Although College Board recently announced plans to focus the SAT on skills practical in a university setting, Vice President for Enrollment Chris Munoz said he will defer judgment on how it will impact admissions until the exact changes are revealed on April 6th.

“Having experienced changes similar to this in the past, specifically with the College Board and the SAT making changes, I have come to the place of waiting to see exactly what materializes before I can really react at all,” Munoz said. “We really don’t know what the changes are going to be until we actually see how it plays out.”

Munoz said he has not received any direct contact from College Board about the changes. “We hear and read that they are trying to be less erastic and use vocabulary that measures what students actually learn while they’re in school, but what is that?” Munoz said. “What words? So I don’t know how anyone can really respond at this point with the work we do in enrollment and admissions until they actually see the [new] test.”

Applicants must submit the SAT Reasoning Test along with SAT IIs or the ACT. Munoz said the changes to the SAT may make it more similar to the ACT.

“We made the decision a few years ago to require [applicants] to take the SAT IIs, which means content mastered,” Munoz said. “Then we cal to question that maybe the coursework they took wasn’t as rigorous as it was purported to be.”

Munoz said test results and general academic performance are generally correlated. “A student with a high test score tends to be successful in the classroom tend to have higher test scores,” Munoz said. “Students who are successful in the classroom tend to have higher test scores.”

According to Munoz, many students submit both the SAT and ACT to Rice, but more students have submitted the ACT than the SAT in recent years. “In the last three or four years, on a national scale, more students have been taking the ACT and not the SAT,” Munoz said.

Munoz said he will defer judgement on how the changes are going to be until we actually see how it plays out. Chris Munoz Vice President of Enrollment

Munoz said test results and general academic performance are generally correlated. “A student with a high test score tends to be admitted at a higher rate than students with a lower test score,” Munoz said. “Students who are successful in the classroom tend to have higher test scores.”

According to Munoz, many students submit both the SAT and ACT to Rice, but more students have submitted the ACT than the SAT in recent years. “In the last three or four years, on a national scale, more students have been taking the ACT and not the SAT,” Munoz said.

“Some schools can be more de sating for the fact that the number of high school graduates is declining,” Munoz said. “I love that Rice is becoming more of a well-known academic powerhouse as opposed to a "best kept secret."” Munoz said. “Rice deserves to be in the same conversation as schools like Stanford, and I think in increase in popularity will allow for that to happen more frequently.”

Brown College junior Reilly Solis said high- yield rates could create overcrowding issues. “The best things Rice has to offer could be quite easily umaed by increases in the student body without sufficient capacity expa nion,” Solis said. “Think student-to-faculty ratio, residential college culture and access to university resources, among other Rice qualities.”

Munoz said he does not foresee another large jump in the applicant pool in the near future. “I’m not expecting another increase in the application rate, like we had year, for next year, but I think it’s conceivable that we will be up again,” Munoz said.

Munoz said his initial findings echoed Hutchinson’s statements that quality of life appeals to the students that apply to Rice. “We have heard [in] a number of statements from students who have applied this year recogni tion from surveys that suggest that Rice students are very happy with their experience at Rice,” Munoz said. “We’re hearing that all the time.”

Munoz said publicizing high levels of student satisfaction in national media has greatly contrib- uted to recent increases in the university’s per ceived value. “I think we’re better known,” Munoz said. “For several years now, we have grown our applicant pool in Texas, outside of Texas, and interna tionally. This consciousness and this awareness of Rice is growing at such a rate that it’s compens ating for the fact that the number of high school students is declining,” Munoz said. 

Munoz said although the primary reason for the increase cannot be pinpointed, the increase of the applicant pool from 8000 to 17000 in the last six years, partly directed by the Vision for the Second Century that called for a growth in the stu dent body, contributed to the large jump. “It’s all interrelated and interconnected,” Munoz said. “There are those who are strong advoc ates for athletics who would say it was because the football team went to a bowl. There’s some anecdotal evidence [that] as you grow your appli cant pool... you get an effect where a student who applied from, say, New York, a number of other students start to become aware of Rice because more students from their community are applying to a university far away.”

According to Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson, the increase in applications resulted from Rice’s rapidly growing national and interna tional reputation. “This is at least in part due to the publicity over our ‘happiest students,’” Hutchinson said. “But, more than that, I think prospective students have discovered that we offer the opportunity to join a world-class research institution and have the residential college experience, all on one campus.”

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### Letter to the Editor:

On Monday of last week, I received a petition requesting that Baker College not restrict the hours of the Baker server and commons during the lunch period. I take all concerns seriously, even if raised by a single student. In this case, the server and commons are used by over 450 students. Since this demonstrates that the issue is of interest to many students, in addition to replying to the author of the petition, I have asked the Thresher to publish my reply in full so that I can share my thoughts with the entire student body.

On frequent occasions, conflicts arise between the interests of individuals and the interests of the larger community. These arise in everyday life, and they arise at Rice. In these cases, the conflict is a disagreement in value judgment about the relative importance of the needs of the individual in comparison to the needs of the community. That value judgment can and does vary from case to case and from person to person. Indeed, an individual person may place greater value on the needs of the individual in one case and greater value on the needs of the community in another. This depends on one’s value system and the specific circumstances of the conflict. There is room for reasonable disagreement in virtually all such cases.

The issue of access to the Baker server and commons presents us with one such case. The petition reflects the view that the interests of individual students in having unrestricted access to the Baker server and commons outweigh the interests of the Baker College community, and I do not dispute these concerns. That said, in this case we need to recognize the legitimate interests above the interests of the community. In fact, to disagree with the petition, I believe it is the demand to place individual interests over the interests of the Baker College community, and that Rice is not as apathetic as people believe.

#### Increase in application numbers benefits students

The increase in applications that Rice has experienced over the past several years is a positive trend. The reasons for this increase are complex and multifaceted. Some factors contributing to the increase include the increasing popularity of Rice among domestic and international applicants, the expansion of Rice’s academic programs and resources, and the growing awareness of Rice’s reputation for academic excellence.

However, this trend also raises important questions about the impact of the increase on the Rice community. How will the larger student body affect the Rice experience for current students? How can Rice ensure that the increase in applications does not compromise the quality of the Rice community? These are questions that Rice must address as it plans for the future.

#### students, including student leaders, should fight campus apathy

In the past month, Rice students have heard it repeated: Our biggest flaw is our apathy. Some are too busy to read the news, a few don’t really care at all and most students forget that the world outside of Fondren and their dorm rooms.

However, students don’t always live in their dorms. There have been many instances where students have taken the initiative to implement the uncompromised Student Association position. For example, in 2016, the Student Senate voted in favor of implementing a new policy that required students to complete an online survey before registering for classes. This policy was implemented because the Student Senate believed that allowing students to register for classes online would increase their sense of ownership and responsibility for their academic success. By taking the initiative to implement a policy, the Student Senate demonstrated that they are committed to improving the Rice experience for all students.

The reason for students’ disappointment is that they cannot see the effect of their participation. For example, the RXO sends out multiple surveys throughout the year. In the past, these surveys were conducted in-person. Now, surveys are conducted online. However, students are not always notified of the outcomes of these surveys. The SA claims student input will affect the administration’s decisions, but students know nothing about what influences actual decisions. According to the petition, there are issues that the administration refuses to discuss. In these situations, the SA should take the initiative to contact the student body, so students will understand it is not the SA’s fault. The student body needs feedback to see that its opinions and participation are actually making an impact.

To make matters worse, candidates’ unclear agendas prevent students from making informed decisions when voting. From the candidates’ responses to the petition, there is a lack of clarity in what students believe to be the best course of action. Some candidates do not have concrete ideas, while others have ideas that do not align with the students’ interests. It is important for students to have a clear understanding of what the candidates are proposing, so they can make informed decisions when voting. From the candidates’ responses to the petition, it is clear that the SA candidate expressed their disappointment with the status quo and elected a fellow student who promised to address their concerns. That said, in this case we need to recognize the legitimate interests above the interests of the college community. In fact, to disagree with the petition, I believe it is the demand to place individual interests over the interests of the community, and that Rice is not as apathetic as people believe.

This disappointment with the candidates comes from the fact that they cannot see the effect of their participation. For example, the RXO sends out multiple surveys throughout the year. In the past, these surveys were conducted in-person. Now, surveys are conducted online. However, students are not always notified of the outcomes of these surveys. The SA claims student input will affect the administration’s decisions, but students know nothing about what influences actual decisions. According to the petition, there are issues that the administration refuses to discuss. In these situations, the SA should take the initiative to contact the student body, so students will understand it is not the SA’s fault. The student body needs feedback to see that its opinions and participation are actually making an impact.

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The editors' picks for this week's best events. Time to explore the wonderful world of Houston.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment

what to do at the
HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW & RODEO

Friday, March 14

Steam Wrestling

This event is partly self-explanatory. Steam wrestling, also known as “bogpooling,” has been a staple of rodeos since its creation by rodeo superstar Bill Pickert. After the steers are released, two riders, the “bogpooler” and the “hacer,” chase after it. The rider nearest the steer to keep it close to the bogpooler, while the bogpooler tries to jump off and grab it to horns. Once the bogpooler stops the steers from moving forward, the two men must use all of his strength to tip it over so all four feet are facing the same direction. Steam wrestling is the fastest event in rodeos, and winners typically complete the process in a matter of seconds.

Steaky Wurstkasten

Clear Skies into a cloudless fairy tale, these birds of the air will be featured in this year’s parade. The air will be filled with the sights and sounds of the American Bald Eagle, the Red-tailed Hawk, and the Osprey. The show is free and open to the public.

Saturday, March 15

Parc Art

This festival is a great opportunity to see the works of local and national artists. The event features live musical performances, food trucks, and a variety of art installations.

Café Picknut

This café is a great place to grab a cup of coffee and catch up with friends. The atmosphere is warm and inviting, and the staff is always friendly and helpful.

Luminarium

This immersive art installation is made entirely of paper and is a fantastic opportunity to explore the intricate designs and patterns that make up this incredible structure.

Sunday, March 16

The Barn

This barn is the perfect place to see the best in agriculture demonstrations. From sheep shearing to horseback riding, there is something for everyone.

Fotofest

This annual festival is a great opportunity to see the works of some of the best photographers in the world. The event features a variety of exhibitions and workshops, and is sure to be a hit with photography enthusiasts.

THE WEEKLY SCENE

In her Best Actress acceptance speech for her role in Blue Jasmine, Cate Blanchett admonished Hollywood for marginalizing films with female protagonists, chiding “those ... in the industry who are still foolishly clinging to the idea that female films with women at the center are niche experiences.” She added, “Audiences want to see them and, in fact, they earn money.”

I think I understand Blanchett’s overarching objective — to prompt audi- ences to reconsider the role of women in film, and her statement regarding fe- male-centric films earning more money seems to hold true (at least for the re- cent past). In 2013, for instance, the top- grossing domestic films were The Hun- ger Games: Catching Fire, The Avengers and Frozen. Two of the three films have female protagonists.

But is it because women-led films are inherently more attractive that they are top-grossing? I argue that it is because these films are “niche” that they garner intrigue. Blanchett may be right about the industry “foolishly clinging,” but she is overly optimistic in her assump- tion that films with female leads are mainstream when, in fact, they fulfill very specialized roles in their genres. The Hunger Games franchise, for in- stance, has often been credited with being revolutionary in its portrayal of a woman as the protagonist of an action- adventure story. With headlines like “The Hunger Games: Action-Film femi- nism is Catching Fire” (BBC) and “Hun- ger Games becomes first female-led film since…” (Buzzfeed), it is clear that The Hunger Games is an outlier in its realm.

Women themselves are underrepre- sented in the industry. According to a recent study conducted by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University, “women comprised 16 percent of all di- rectors, executive producers, producers, writers, cinematographers and editors working on the top 250 (domestic) gross- ing films of 2013.” All things considered, there is an incredible gender gap in Hol- lywood, off as well as on-screen.

Blanchett is right: Audiences do want more female-led films, but the fact is that the majority of us still have not broken free from the confines of Disney princess culture proves its indi- viduality.

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What’s on Rice’s playlist?

What’s on Rice’s Playlist is a new column designed to showcase a sampling of Rice students’ “Songs Of The Moment.” All the songs are available on a playlist that can be found at http://grooveshark.com/#!/whatsonricesplaylist/playlists

Mary Buchanan
Lovett College Senior and Researcher at the Kinder Institute

1. “Little Garcon” Born Ruffians
2. “Fare Thee Well” Marcus Mumford and Oscar Isaac
3. “Don’t Stop Me Now” Queen

“This song is a classic that really pumps you up and energizes you, and it always puts me in a good mood. It’s extremely danceable and encourages singing along too!”

John Draper
Duncan College Senior and Member of the Rice Crew Team

1. “Crane Wife III” The Decemberists
2. “All Gold Everything (The Heisenbergs Remix)” Trinidad James
3. “Perfect World” Broken Bells

“‘Perfect World’ is the first single from their newest album, the last 20 seconds specifically are surprisingly catchy. A nice upbeat song – their entire discography is just really great.”

Jennifer Ding
Baker College Junior and ASB Site Leader

1. “Pa’l Norte” Calle 13
2. “Desaparecido” Manu Chao
3. “Muevelo” Los Super Reyes

“My recent ASB trip to the Texas-Mexico border resparked my love for Latin American music. All of these songs are linked not only by their danceable Latin rhythms but also by their anhemic and poetic lyrics describing immigration.”

2014-2015 Scholarship Announcement

Partial Tuition Scholarships for deserving Rice University School of Engineering Students

WHO CAN APPLY
Open to students of all disciplines in the School of Engineering at Rice University. Priority is given to the following School of Engineering students:

• Professional masters students
• Terminal Research Masters
• Seniors for 2014-2015

Students should have potential interest in the engineering and construction industry or careers with companies and industries that utilize the service of E&C companies.

HOW TO APPLY
To apply for an E&C Forum scholarship, qualified applicants must fill out and submit the online application on the Forum’s website – http://www.forum.rice.edu/scholarship-application/. In addition to completing the information requested, applicants will be required to upload a copy of their unofficial transcript of Rice coursework completed through the fall semester of 2013.

DETAILS
Scholarship award decisions will be made by the Rice Global E&C Forum Scholarship Committee. Evaluation of applicants will be based solely on the information contained in the submitted letter and transcript. No interviews will be conducted and there will be no requests for clarifications or additional information. Failure to address any of the requested information will result in non-consideration of the applicant.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 14, 2014
Announcement will be made April 4, 2014

WWW.FORUM.RICE.EDU
Dark TV dramas play on fears, incite debate

Kaylen Strench
A&E Editor

This spring break, I admittedly did more than my fair share of Netflix binge-watching. I started slowly with HBO’s “True Detective,” then, hungry for more, proceeded to chew with rapid speed through both seasons of Netflix’s “House of Cards.” With time remaining before my family left for vacation and still not quite satiated, I washed down the last season of AMC’s “Mad Men” with a couple of Diet Cokes. I get it, I watch too much TV. Here’s the thing though—I got what I deserved. Those three days of constant screen time left me deeply, existentially depressed in a way I hadn’t experienced since I last attempted to read Sartre’s Nausea.

Of course, these shows, featuring misanthropic antiheroes smashing through their plotlines in the most immoral fashion possible, don’t make for uplifting stories. Yet, I don’t typically feel this way after watching other morally abhorrent action movies or crude comedies. These dark dramas like “House of Cards,” “Mad Men” and “True Detective” are part of their own genre, and they are bothersome and powerful for the reasons most art is—because when we stare at them, we find ourselves staring back.

These shows and their antiheroes represent various personal and societal disintegrations we contemplate and fear. “House of Cards” is a playful exaggeration of what we suspect happens behind closed doors in Washington. In “Mad Men,” Draper’s inability to control his urges is what we fear will happen if we lose control, while also serving as a general metaphor for America’s “moral collapse” since the ’60s. Finally, Cohle in “True Detective” terrifies us with his rants on the true nature of reality and death. Whether the fears we have about self-control, the nature of reality or the leaders of our country are warranted is beside the point; what matters is that there is something we love about seeing our fears played out, watching our nightmares dance on the screen. These shows succeed because we internalize them. They attach to something inside of us and expand in the dark crevices of our minds.

So what do we take from this? First, I would intersperse some normal human interaction in with your binge-watching. More importantly, however, I realized that these shows are not to be watched mindlessly. They require engagement and beg us to connect their themes with thoughts and experiences from our own lives. The characters are supposed to get into your head. In short, once we understand that these shows are less like traditional television and more like good literature, we can cultivate a greater appreciation for what they have to offer and what they say about our human nature.

Once we accept the above concepts, watching and talking about TV can transform from a cultish, trivial activity to a cool, intellectual exercise. This is already happening to some extent, which is a cultural phenomenon in itself. Personally, it is a trend I would like to see continue since it makes art more accessible to the public. Therefore, I give you permission: Watch shamelessly.

Teacher EDUCATION

Teacher Education has programs which enable Rice students to explore critical issues in education. Whether you are interested in simply taking a few classes for distribution credit, earning your teaching certification or pursuing your master’s degree, we invite you to learn more about Teacher Education.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Teacher Certification
Students enrolled in the Teacher Certification program will complete 27 hours of professional education courses, including six hours of field-based practicum, in addition to 24 hours of content courses in their chosen teaching field.

Undergraduate 5-year
Master of Arts in Teaching
This unique Webber degree program adds the opportunity for students to gain their MAT degree while completing their bachelor’s degree in the subject they plan to teach.

INFORMATION SESSION: Wednesday, March 26 from 6:00–7:00 p.m. in the Student Center, 2nd Floor Conference Room. Dinner will be provided.

To RSVP, please visit teach.rice.edu

FALL 2014 COURSES

EDUC 304 Race, Class, Gender in Education
This course examines the complex ways in which race, ethnicity, gender, and class intersect and influence the educational experience of students in American schools. By employing an interdisciplinary approach centered both on individuals’ lived experiences and the educational system as a whole, EDUC 304 explores and critiques these critical issues and their impact on student learning. Likely topics include the historical foundations of race, class and gender in education, segregation, Title IX, and other contemporary topics.

ADDITIONAL FALL COURSES

*EDUC 292: Contemporary Issues in Education
*EDUC 301: Philosophical, Historical and Social Foundations of Education
*EDUC 308: Educational Psychology
*EDUC 315: Teaching and Learning with Inquiry
*EDUC 325: Adolescent Literature
EDUC 330: American High School
EDUC 348: Educational Technologies and Digital Learning
EDUC 460-466: Content Specific Theory and Methods (Art, English, Foreign Languages, Math, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies)

*Distribution course, group II
The Rice women’s swimming team captured their second consecutive conference championship in Atlanta, Ga. last weekend. Junior Casey Clark (bottom middle) was named C-USA Swimmer of the Meet.

**Women’s swimming wins second straight championship**

by Maddy Adams
Sports Editor

The Rice University women’s swimming team captured their second consecutive conference championship in Atlanta, Ga. last weekend. Senior Michelle Goa followed Armstrong, coming in ninth place with a time of 2:04.31. McKenzie won the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 49.76. Four other Owls placed behind McKenzie: Senior Karina Wlostowska earned fourth, senior Chelsea Feng earned sixth, junior Marissa Konicki earned seventh and senior Kim Steinhouse earned eighth.

Senior Rachel Moody came in second in the 200-yard breaststroke with a Rice school record-breaking performance of 2:13.46. Sophomore Shelli Ragsdale and junior Madison Livingston finished behind her in seventh and tenth place, respectively.

Going into the 200-yard butterfly, Rice held a 242-point lead over FIU. Clark won the event with a time of 1:59.40 and Feng placed ninth. Senior Michelle Gean followed Armstrong, coming in first place and broke Rice’s school record with a time of 1:59.31.

“Clark works hard, and she does not limit herself,” Huston said. “Every year she gets better; she thinks bigger and bigger.”

Rice kicked off the tournament with a 108 point lead and maintained their spot, as 12 Rice swimmers qualified for the final races.

The Owls managed to secure their first place victory with several critical moments during the final races. Going into the 1,650-yard freestyle, Flanagan had to swim a personal best to beat Florida International University’s junior Sonia Core Arias, who swam a 16:28.62 during the preliminary races. Flanagan surpassed her personal best with a time of 16:24.09 to beat Arias and win her second C-USA title for the meet.

In the 200-yard backstroke, sophomore Taylor Armstrong broke the Rice school record with a time of 1:59.31 to earn fourth place at the meet.

In the 1,650-yard freestyle relay, the Owls earned eighth. The 400-yard freestyle relay squad, which included McKenzie, Clark, Konicki and Wlostowska, came in first place and broke Rice’s school record with a time of 3:19.32. The team set a total of 14 new school records at the meet, and eight Rice swimmers managed to make NCAA provisional times, meaning the girls will be eligible, in 15 different events, to attend the 2014 NCAA tournament, if there are enough spots.

When asked about next season, Huston acknowledged the loss of several important seniors but said returning swimmers will have the opportunity to take on leadership roles.

“The seniors here were integral in winning the first championship their freshman year, and they certainly played a huge role in winning on their way out,” Huston said. “We will see now [the returning swimmers] will respond to that and who answers that call.”

**Baseball wins first conference series**

by Dan Elledge
Sports Editor

The Rice University baseball team opened conference play on Friday, March 7 against Old Dominion University in the first of a three-game series. In the first meeting, the Owls pitching staff performed well in a 9-1 win. Junior pitcher Zach Lemond started the game instead of coming in as a closer, turning swimmers will respond to that and who answers that call.”

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**W e n t s o m e w i n s s e c o n d s t r a i g h t c h a m p i o n s h i p**

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Freshman Alison Ho hits a slice backhand during match play. The Rice University women's tennis team has an overall record of 7-5.

Women’s tennis goes 2-1 over weekend

by Evan Neustater
Sports Editor

The Rice University women’s tennis team continues to have a season with mixed results. Last weekend, the team beat New Mexico State University 4-1, then lost to Tulsa University 6-4. The Owls bounced back from the loss with a 7-0 shutout victory over Texas State University, leading to the current overall record of 7-5. This weekend, Rice will have a chance to improve that record further, and perhaps build up a winning streak in New Orleans, La., where the Owls will play Georgia State University on Saturday, March 15 and Tulane University on Sunday, March 16.

Head Coach Elizabeth Schmidt said she was pleased with Rice’s performance against Texas State, especially given the disappointment over the Tulsa loss.

“I was happy [with] the way we came out and played today,” Schmidt said. “It seems like a long time since our last match. Part of that was the disappointment we felt after the Tulsa match; we didn’t play our best tennis that day. We have been wanting to get back out there. On top of that, with spring break, we’ve had a little more downtime than usual.”

Schmidt also said the team has been exemplary in doubles matches, which it has been striving for in practice.

“We controlled the doubles from start to finish,” Schmidt said. “It was nice to see them be able to implement some of the things we’ve been working on in the match.”

Junior Natalie Beazant said the close losses this season are due to the steep competition the team has been facing in order to improve their play and rank.

“I think that we have had a solid schedule this year, something that we need if we want to become even more of a threat nationally,” Beazant said. “This has meant that we have had some close, tough matches. It’s just a matter of us converting those matches, something I am confident we will start doing in the second half of the season.”

Beazant also said she thinks Georgia State will present the team with new competition.

“We’re excited to go to [New Orleans] this weekend to play Georgia State,” said Beazant. “I don’t think we have played them before, so it will be good to see some more competition.”

Beazant said the recent success against Texas State will aid the team’s confidence this weekend.

“The win over Texas State was a good match for everyone,” Beazant said. “Everyone on the team got a win, so that was really good preparation going into this weekend.”

Schmidt said she likes the way Rice played at a high level.

“We really took it to them today, from start to finish,” Schmidt said. “That’s something I’d like to see us continue to do moving forward.”

Men’s tennis secures win in San Diego

by Luke Samora
Thresher Staff

During spring break, the Rice University men’s tennis team ventured to La Jolla, Calif. to participate in the Pacific Coast Invitational & Pacific Cup Championships. The tournament lasted from March 8 to March 10 and allowed players to enter alongside coaches. Assistant Coach Bojan Simunski entered the tournament with sophomore Gustavo Gonzalez. Simunski and Gonzalez won the tournament, defeating sophomores Mads Engsted and freshman Filip Berg of the University of California, Berkeley’s men’s team.

The team played in a total of three matches over spring break. In the first two matches, the team lost against St. John’s University 4-3, and the University of San Diego 6-1. Later in the week, the team defeated San Diego State University 4-3. The Owls are scheduled to play a doubleheader this weekend in Beaumont, Texas, where they will square off against Lamar University and the University of Texas, Pan American.

“I was just happy that the team could find something to gather around.”

Coach Ustundag

Freshman Zach Yablon said the excitement of the tournament carried over into the start of the next matches, but that they could not achieve the same success against St. John’s or USD.

“Having one of our own doubles teams win the whole tournament really put us in a good place going into the St. John’s match,” Yablon said. “We just could not keep that hot streak going into the next matches.”

According to Yablon, beating SDSU’s men’s team, which is currently ranked No. 69 in the nation, was key in restoring the team’s morale.

“Winning against a ranked team like SDSU really ended the weekend on a good note after such disappointing losses to USD and St. John’s,” Yablon said. “It really set us up with a positive outlook that we can look to when we face Lamar and Texas, Pan American.”

Sophomore Adam Guayasam and freshman Max Andrews sealed the doubles point for the Owls, and sophomores Gustavo Gonzalez and Tommy Ren beetled over in singles matches.

Coach Ustundag agreed with Yablon’s point concerning the team’s growing confidence. Ustundag said the victory against SDSU allowed the team to rally around each other and recuperate mentally.

“It just felt good to get that moment of relief after two tough losses,” Ustundag said. “I was just happy that the team could find something to gather around and renew their confidence in this season.”

BASEBALL FROM PAGE 9

After Old Dominion tied the game at 2-2 in the eighth inning, the game remained tied until the bottom of the 17th inning when junior first baseman Skyler Ewing broke the deadlock with a game-winning single to left field that brought home senior second baseman Ford Stainback to give the Owls the victory.

The game started at 10 a.m. but didn’t end until 2:53 p.m., making it the longest game thus far in the Owls’ short season.

The second game of the doubleheader ended in 10 innings with Rice suffering a 2-1 defeat. Sophomore pitcher Kevin McCanna pitched 9.3 innings but recorded a loss by allowing two earned runs. The Owls’ lone run came early in the first inning when Aquino singled to right field to bring home Byrd. Rice was held scoreless for the remainder of the game.

With the series win, the Owls are now 10-6 for the season and 2-1 in Conference USA play. The Owls will play Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi at home on Wednesday, March 12, before traveling to play a three-game series this upcoming weekend at Florida International University, a C-USA newcomer this season.

SPORTS
Men’s basketball season ends
by Evan Neustater
Sports Center

The Rice University men’s basketball team finished its season on Tuesday, March 11, losing to the University of North Texas 63-62 in the first round of the Conference USA tournament. The game, which took place in El Paso, Texas, marked the final game of the season for the Owls, as they completed the 2013-14 campaign with a record of 7-23. Rice finished the season with an eight-game losing streak, culminating in Tuesday afternoon’s loss.

The Owls started the game strong and took a 10-2 advantage heading into halftime. Despite the first-half lead, Rice faltered in the second half when they were outscored 35-26. Tied 56-56 with seconds left on the game clock, sophomore guard Keith Washington put up a shot at the buzzer that did not fall through, sending the game to overtime.

The Owls, who had previously been 1-1 in overtime games this year, started the extra period off strong and led for most of the extra five minutes. With eleven seconds on the clock, Rice held a 62-61 advantage until UNT junior guard Chris Jones knocked down two free throws, which turned out to be the game-winning baskets for the Mean Green. Down one with just seconds left, freshman guard Marcus Jackson put up a buzzer-beater that would have won the game, but it rimmed out at the last second.

Free throw shooting plagued the Owls all night, as they shot just 67.7 percent on 19-29 free throw attempts. UNT, conversely, shot 85.5 percent on such shots, going 25-29 from the line. Rice ended the game by missing four consecutive free throws in the final minutes of overtime, which could have secured the victory.

Head Coach Ben Braun said missing those free throws was one of the main reasons Rice lost the game.

“It’s just unfortunate that we [could not] knock down those free throws,” Braun said. “We really outplayed [UNT]. They were foul knock down those free throws,” Braun said.

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“I’m encouraged by what our young guys have done, Obi made the all-freshman team and I’m excited for him. It’s exciting for Rice to have a standout player coming back next year.”

Coach Braun

Braun also said he is optimistic about the future of Rice basketball, especially with so many young players like Obi coming back.

“I’m encouraged by what our young guys have done," Braun said. "Obi made the all-freshman team and I’m excited for him. It’s exciting for Rice to have a standout player coming back next year." Braun said it is important for the team to remain focused in the offseason, because the team needs to mature before they can win in close-game situations.

“[Porter] has had back-to-back double-doubles, and we have been searching all year long for that second scorer," Williams said. “She has really stepped up to be the player we expected her to be.”

Williams said the final game of the year against UAB was one of the best games he has coached at Rice.

“I am so proud of our team for the performances [I] saw against UAB on the road,” Williams said. “[We] played tremendous defense and kept them below their average of 70 points per game.”

The Owls went into the Conference USA tournament as the No. 12 seed and played FIU, who was the No. 13 seed. Rice could not stop the hot-shooting Panthers, losing 85-65. FIU shot 53 percent from the field, including 60 percent in the second half, which led to 48 points. In her final game, Ramljak secured the 66th double-double of her career with 26 points and 11 rebounds while securing the 66th double-double of her career. Upon grabbing her tenth rebound, Kuster moved into sole possession of the conference record for most double-doubles in a career. Freshman point guard Maya Hawkins scored 18 points, making four three-pointers, while Porter added 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Owls.

Head Coach Greg Williams said he believes Christal Porter is hitting her stride at the perfect time.

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Heart of Texas

Rice Rowing Club members Kevin Chen and Timothy Thrall celebrate their race at the Heart of Texas Regatta in Austin, Texas.

COURTESY ALEX BUI


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Ravi Sheth for President?

Prez Statz

Height: 5’6”
Weight: 125 lbs
From: The Nasty Nati
Age: Under
Hot Sisters: 1
Best Friend: His Microbiome
Fun Fact: Ravi has no time for fun.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIEDS @rice.edu

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Tutors needed immediately! Rice Alum hiring tutors for Middle & High School Math, Natural & Social Science, Foreign Language, and Humanities. Reliable transportation required. Pay $25-40/hr based on experience. Contact 832-428-8330 and email resume to siyengar777@gmail.com

Peer2utor is hiring online tutors for Texas State Test and AP tests! Flexible hours. Minimum $15/hr. No transportation required. No minimum time commitment. Go to peer2utor.com or email info@peer2utor.com

Looking for afternoon help in West U. 3:30-6:30. 3-4 days a week M-F. Duties: pick up 2 kids from school, snacks, homework, drive to sports practice. 919-824-5491

Hiring Household assistant. Duties include: assisting house manager with errands and administrative support; part-time babysitting as needed for three children (ages 6, 4 and 3). Occasional help with children’s homework and projects. Flexible schedule. Part-time or full-time. Occasional weekend work. Qualifications: 3rd or 4th year college student or recent college graduate. Prior babysitting experience. Compensation: $20/hr. Interested persons should submit a resume and indication of interest to Jo Lynn Hendricks at jo@arnoldfam.net

Tutor needed for Kinkaid high school freshman in Algebra, English and Honors Biology. Please contact Holly at littlelawoffice@yahoo.com.

10 Reasons Ravi Will Fail

1. He's from Martel.
2. He won the Goldwater Scholarship. Barry “Mr. Conservative” Goldwater was an outspoken critic of the New Deal, and in 1964, he ran against Lyndon B. Johnson for president of the United States of America, in which he suffered a landslide defeat. Also, he opposed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Therefore, Ravi is a racist.
3. He has been known to associate with terrorists from the mysterious FYP cell.
4. He’s been juicing since last summer.
5. Danny Connolly, a source close to Sheth, reports that he often has bad breath in the morning.
6. Ravi has repeatedly committed Banks fraud.
7. The only thing Ravi “fixed” was the election.
8. He deals arms.
9. He’s from Martel. Never trust a Student Association president from Martel. Selim Sheikh, another Martel SA president from 2010-11, made the following contributions to Rice: removed a sandwich store that sold large $5.00 sandwiches, removed a Smoothie King and replaced both with an overpriced convenience store with Lunchables (not even the pizza kind).
10. His research interests include 3D bioprinting, and he will likely use his presidency to found Skynet.

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Cynthia Hau
Advertising Manager
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The Backpage is satire and written by Alex Weichbrod and Reed Thorburg. For any comments or questions, contact ajw3@rice.edu or purple@rice.edu.