Senior Gala leadership changes

This year’s Senior Gala will be held Monday, May 12, from 7 p.m. – 1 a.m., at Proof Rooftop Lounge and Reef. Additionally, a constitutional amendment delegating the planning of Senior Gala to the Student Association Future Alumni Committee and Senior Committee will be proposed at the SA Senate Meeting today, Wednesday, April 9. The formation of the Future Alumni Committee and the Senior Committee will also be proposed as legislation at the meeting.

In past years, the Senior Committee, run through the Office of Alumni Affairs, planned senior events such as the Senior Gala with sponsorship and funding from the administration, according to SA Future Alumni Committee Chair Nina Bhutia. As a consequence of the event not being officially Rice-sponsored this year, Bhutia said she hopes to fundraise exclusively through ticket sales — $30 for seniors and $35 for guests — and a Senior Pub Night.

“It’s a little different this year, because it’s not an official Rice event, which ... a Will Rice College senior, said. “We decided to choose a place that was off the lips [of the students], and I didn’t think extra cost of transportation, so we started looking at places off the light rail, and Proof and Reef offered us a really good deal. One of the most cost-effective places we’re going to [be] paid for by students themselves.”

According to SA President Ravi Sheth, the constitutional amendment should ensure that events like Senior Gala consistently happen each year.

“The great thing about both of these [committees] is that they will be constitutional amendments,” Sheth, a Martel College senior, said. “Moving forward, these will be parts of our constitution. We’re creating these structures for our traditions to appear in the future, and that’s what I’m really excited about. This is a vehicle to promote [and enhance] tradition.”

Sheth said the vision of the to-be-formed Future Alumni Committee is to promote current student and alumni interaction through event planning and outreach.

“What we wanted to do this year was review our process and see how we can make both senior traditions and the new Future Alumni Committee sustainable and be more well-placed,” Sheth said. “For a long time, the notion of what the future alumni committee will be a place for more programming and promoting alumni engagement.

Speaking up

Charles Murray talk sparks student, faculty protests

Rice University students from several campus groups protested against Charles Murray, a prominent political scientist and author, at a talk hosted by the Rice Federalist Society and the Baker Institute Student Forum.

The event was a part of Murray’s national tour for his new book, Coming Apart: The State of White America, 1960-2010. Murray gained national attention in 1994 for his book The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life, which argues that differences in intelligence can be linked with race and class genetically and environmentally.

Fed-Soc President Blake Delaplaine said his club invited Murray to speak to the Rice community to encourage further dialogue regarding class structures in America on campus.

“Our organization’s invitation to Dr. Murray is not an endorsement,” Delaplaine, a Duncan College junior, said. “Additionally, we strongly believe that [the] university setting is ideal for bearing and challenging an event such as Murray’s, where students in support and opposition can exercise their free speech.

Black Student Association President Jackie Mutia, the primary organizer of the student protest, said she was thankful student organizations came together to publicize and organize the protest.

“Murray helped prove my point that the Rice community speaks up when they are upset and makes sure to have their voice heard,” Mutia, a McMurtry College junior, said. “Now it is up to Rice to continue to facilitate a dialogue that they feel will help to develop our university.”

Representatives from BSA, the Hispanic Association for Cultural Enrichment at Rice, the Women’s Resource Center and the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance began protesting at 4:30 p.m. in front of Herring Hall. Faculty members were also in attendance.

SA Language survey seeks student input for changes

The Student Association is looking for student feedback on upcoming changes to the language curriculum.

A survey was sent out through college listservs and advertised on Facebook March 30. The current sequence for language courses consists of two five-credit 100-level courses and four two-credit 200-level courses followed by three-credit 300-level courses. Only courses at the 200 level or greater provide distribution credit.

According to material from the Language Program and Interdepartmental Communication, in fall 2014, the 200-level courses will decrease from four credit hours to three. In spring 2015, the second-semester five-credit 100-level course will be replaced by a six-credit 200-level course that will provide distribution credit. In fall 2015, the first-semester five-credit 100-level course will increase to six credits. Additional changes will take place for 300-level Spanish courses beginning in fall 2014 that will allow for more specialized professional topics such as medicine, business and intercultural communication.

Dean of Humanities Nicolas Shumway said distinguished scholars from other universities reviewed the CLIC curriculum, the facilities, our assessment procedures and a great deal else. The review of the [CLIC] was particularly in February 2011 as part of routine external evaluations.

“The review committee was headed by Elizabeth Bernhardt, who heads the Stanford Language Center,” Shumway said. “The review team commented on the overall quality of the program, the faculty, the curriculum, the facilities, our assessment procedures and a great deal else. The review of the [CLIC] was particularly favorable.”

IT asks community to change passwords after security breech

Security breaches at companies like LinkedIn and Adobe, along with the over 100 compromised accounts since the beginning of the year, prompted Rice University Information Technologists to send an email on April 2 to all members of the Rice community asking them to change their passwords, according to Information Security Officer Marc Scarborough.

“In the past, you could pretty clearly see a correlation between phishing [attempts] and compromised accounts sending lots of spam,” Scarborough said. “This year, we’ve seen some major differences. In January 2012, we saw 3 or 4 [compromises]. [This January], we saw 49, [and] we don’t see the same correlation between phishing and the number of accounts.”

According to Scarborough, since people typically use the same username and password at multiple sites, a breach at any of those sites could be used to compromise the Rice account.

“Take the example of LinkedIn,” Scarborough said. “Their password database was compromised and they had notified their community in June 2012. We know a lot of people reattached with their Rice address and password. So when LinkedIn said, ‘Hey, those passwords are compromised and need to change,’ what we see is that the people at Rice did not change their password here, and those passwords aren’t just compromised in secret. They [were] compromised and published to the wild.”

Scarborough said Rice IT had collected evidence that pointed to a breach at LinkedIn as a large cause for the recent uptick in compromised accounts.

“Attackers are using the user ID of a Rice email address and the corresponding password to log into our systems,” Scarborough said. “For example, 28 out of 30 accounts might be created before June 2012. It’s [also] not one de-
Rice contracts with box.com to provide staff cloud storage

BY JENNIFER SHEK

Rice University has teamed up with Box, a company that provides online file-sharing and storage services, for a cloud storage and sharing solution for research and collaboration among faculty and staff, according to Barry Ribbeck, director of Systems, Architecture, Infrastructure, Cloud Strategies and Initiatives. Because of their frequent collaboration with faculty and staff on research and other efforts, students will also have access to the storage solution. The service will become available within the next two weeks.

“We really don’t want Rice business data and research documents to be housed in those [free, insecure] services. If we don’t provide these services, people will go out and use something that might be insecure.”

Barry Ribbeck
Director, SA & Cloud Strategy

Each faculty and staff member will receive 30 gigabytes of storage space, and each student will get one gigabyte, according to Ribbeck. Because the solution is extremely expensive, Information Technology want–

Rice Engineering Alumni and the George R. Brown School of Engineering END-OF-YEAR PICNIC!

Saturday, April 12th
4:30 - 7:00pm

Engineering Quadrangle, Rice University

Join the Rice Engineering Alumni and George R. Brown School of Engineering to celebrate another fantastic year for Engineering at Rice University. Over $100,000 in scholarships will be awarded and barbeque will be served.

All engineering students, faculty, staff, and alumni are welcome!

The Rice Mathematics Department is pleased to announce a new degree option Bachelor of Science in Mathematics available beginning Fall 2014. A detailed description will appear in the next General Announcements and can now be viewed at:

http://math.rice.edu/undergrad-math-degree/degree-requirements.html

This complements the existing options of BA in MATH and the Minor in MATH. Questions? Speak to a MATH advisor:

http://math.rice.edu/undergrad-math-degree-advising-tutoring.html

promoting the fact that students are alumni from being here for a small amount of time.” Sheth said the Senior Committee will function as a sub-committee of the Future Alumni Committee.

“The Senior Committee’s vision is to do events that currently are traditions and enhance programming from a senior point of view, find new traditions and look for different sources of funding, so we really want them to be creative,” Sheth said.

According to Bhatia, the organizers of Senior Gala have worked closely with Rice Alumni Affairs to plan this year’s Senior Gala. She said she expects Senior Gala to become even more of a tradition than it is now.

“I think Senior Gala is going to happen every year,” Bhatia said. “I think it’s something that, even though it may not be an official Rice event, we’ve gotten a lot of support from the Rice administration. Alumni Affairs, even though we’re not directly working with them, [has] been helpful with raising money and what to do with the money. Though it may not be an official Rice event like it used to be, [the administration] understands that it’s important to students. It might change, it might not be as big, but it will never go away.”

SA Internal Vice President Abby Gordon said that, though Bhatia and others have made great efforts to plan this year’s Senior Gala, she hopes the amendments will make the planning more regular.

“The goal this year was to create something that would be sustainable for future years, because what we have currently isn’t,” Gordon, a Baker College junior, said. Brown College senior Teresa Lin said she has high hopes for this year’s Senior Gala and expects it to remain a tradition.

“The fact that we’re having Senior Gala to begin with is exciting, because I know it was up in the air,” Lin said. “I feel like there’s a lot of different things that bring Rice students together, like being a senior. It doesn’t matter what college you’re from; it’s about being in your last year and celebrating it with everyone. I think that [future] senior classes will step up and plan an event that can’t be replicated in any other year of college.”
Rice awards Watson and Zeff fellowships to three seniors

Colleen Fugate

Duncan College senior Colleen Fugate received this year’s Thomas J. Watson fellowship, which will fund a year of world travel and independent study after graduation.

Fugate said she will use her fellowship to study women in migrant towns in five different countries.

“The social, political and economic transformations caused by human migration indelibly affect the communities from where migrants originate,” Fugate said. “I will spend my year immersed in five national contexts, collecting and documenting women’s stories of strength and resilience through both writing and photography.”

Heather Olson

Wess College senior Heather Olson also received a Watson fellowship this year.

Olson said she will use her fellowship to study inner-city community gardens around the world. She will be visiting Denmark, India, Nepal, Japan, Australia and Brazil.

“In the cities that I visit as a Watson fellow, I will investigate all aspects of the establishment, maintenance and preservation of community gardens by speaking with gardeners, community leaders, organizations and city officials,” Olson said. “I will see what frustrates and inspires gardeners and discover the individual innovations that imbue the city with character and life.”

Ana Builes

Baker College senior Ana Builes received the Roy and Hazel Zeff fellowship, which will fund a year of world travel after graduation.

Builes said she plans on going to law school after her fellowship.

“Much of my interest in social justice and the law has been in immigration law,” Builes said. “It’s something I really want to pursue. It’s my passion.”

Fugate and Builes will be entering the fellowship fellowship this year.

Scarborough said he encourages anyone with questions to email him at marc.scarborough@rice.edu or call at 713-348-7575.
BAYSK members perform at the Rice Taiwanese Association Night Market on April 5. Night Market Chair Nicole Zhao said, “For those who haven’t taken any curriculum, will promote study abroad opportunities and would appreciate changing [first-year language courses] to six credits if I were a student.” Sheth and [Salaberry] agreed to form this board in our language programs.

According to CLIC Director Rafael Salaberry, the SA began tackling the issue last December. “We have been hearing feedback from students about proposed changes to the language curriculum,” Sheth, a Maritl College junior, said. “Dean Shumway and Dr. Salaberry were scheduled to talk at the SA meeting on March 17, but due to our timing changes for the meetings, they will now talk at the meeting on April 23. This delay has given us a chance to gather student opinions and further investigate the issue.”

According to Sheth, the SA wants to learn what students want from the language program so that the SA can be more explicit in their communication with the administration. “We are trying to understand what students would like to see in an ideal language program and communicate with the administration so that our language curriculum can be closely aligned with student needs and provide a world-class language education,” Sheth said. Sheth and SA External Vice President Althea Kanakamedala met with Salaberry and Shumway on April 1 to discuss preliminary results of the survey. They had received a significant number of responses at that time.

“After the meeting, I personally was convinced of the administration and CLIC’s dedication to increasing undergraduate teaching excellence and quality in these proposed changes,” Sheth said. “However, we believe that student input is crucial to the success of these changes and the lack of student involvement in these changes plays a large role in the negative responses to these changes.”

To ensure the student voice is heard in future curriculum changes, the SA wants to introduce legislation on April 10 recommending that the CLIC form a student advisory board that will serve as a representative body for students approved by Dean Shumway and Dr. Salaberry.

“According to Sheth, we will forward our letter with the CLIC to form a student advisory board that will serve to gather student input and share this feedback with the students,” Sheth said. “This will ensure that the language curriculum will better align with student needs and a containable manner. Furthermore, the discussion with Dean Shumway and Dr. Salaberry will be an opportunity for students to voice their opinions about the proposed changes.”

After speaking to Sheth, the advisory student board is integral in maintaining communication between the CLIC and students.

“We are working hard to make sure the administration understands student priorities and students fully understand the changes the administration is making,” Sheth said. “The survey and data of the survey are only preliminary, but we are extremely excited to see a lot of faces out here, and we’re very excited to see a lot of people that matter.”

“After the meeting, I personally was convinced of the administration and CLIC’s dedication to increasing undergraduate teaching excellence and quality in these proposed changes,” Sheth said. “However, we believe that student input is crucial to the success of these changes and the lack of student involvement in these changes plays a large role in the negative responses to these changes.”

I am not saying that the feminist revolution should not have occurred,” Murray said. “But the collateral side effect that has been avoided involves the demoralization of men. That does not mean the man’s presence, then his sense of importance to that family is impacted negatively. For example, if the family member is a breadwinner, then the man’s presence, then his sense of importance to that family is impacted negatively. As we are working our best to make sure the administration understands student priorities and students fully understand the changes the administration is making,” Sheth said. “The survey and data of the survey are only preliminary, but we are extremely excited to see a lot of faces out here, and we’re very excited to see a lot of people that matter.”
The Thresher was excited to see the political momentum exerted by the protest of Charles Murray’s speech (see story, pg. 1) but thought the protest could have been more effectively executed.

On a campus that is too-frequently plagued with apathy, it was encouraging to see students and other community members take a stand against Murray’s ideas because they believed them to be unjust. We were proud to see students support- ing a cause they consider important.

That being said, we felt that the protest efforts could have been better targeted. While it is our perception that people who protest Murray’s presence at Rice because of his ideas and research, many of the behaviors exhibited by the protesters target- ed Murray as a person rather than as a promoter of specific controversial con- cepts. Many of the signs protesters created for the event included personal attacks on Murray’s intelligence and livelihood — things that are less of an attack, though many felt warranted, are counter-productive to promoting the kind of dialogue and critical analysis expected of Rice students.

We would have liked to see these tactics replaced with protesters’ targeted ques- tions, poignant rebuttals and clearly or- ganized agendas. More fully utilizing the question and answer section at the end of the event could have replaced Murray’s intelligence and livelihood — things that are less of an attack, though many felt warranted, are counter-productive to promoting the kind of dialogue and critical analysis expected of Rice students.

Additionally, the intentions behind bringing a controversial figure to campus have been initially made clearer to the student body. While the email was addressed to the entire Institute Student Forum both publicly stated before Murray’s arrival that he was not necessarily an endorsement of his points, but rather a venue for bringing him to campus. Trigger warning: This article discusses issues surrounding sexual assault.

It is often colored by fear and distress. To integrate implementing a much-needed sensitivity to- ward the experiences of those of us who did not have prior knowledge with regard to the discrepancy between Rice policy and the Texas Penal Code, so that mem- bers of the community who are still unfamiliar with this distinction — particularly out-of-state and foreign students — can be better informed.

My initial assumption was that the confusion resulted from a simple miscommunication; this was not the case. The confusion stemmed from the fact that I, as well as other students, wrongly assumed the Rice sexual-misconduct policy is consistent with Texas state law. The Student Code of Conduct includes non-consensual sex- ual contact in its definition of sexual assault, which is the case in many states, including New York, Pennsylvania, California, Utah, Kan- sas and Louisiana, just to name a few. However, this definition is not, in fact, shared by the Texas Penal Code (Sec. 22.011). Instead, the Texas Pe- nal Code describes acts of non-consensual sex- ual contact as simple assault (Sec. 22.01). How- ever, I was told intent of sexual assault — despite the implication of the name — is actually consid- ered a more severe offense than simple assault; I was also told the reason the emails were worded in this way is because RUPD typically launches investigations by using the definitions provided by the Penal Code. Despite all of this, I would like to bring up is not one that has to do with the in- tances of Texas law. Instead, I would like to focus on the fact that the student body received com- munications from the RUPD that was not co- rrected Rice policy. Hopefully, I will be able to explain why I think this is a concern.

Every student at Rice University is bound by a set of core values outlined in the Code of Conduct, which includes the university’s policy on sexual assault. The wording of the emails, although expressed using language regarded acceptable by the Penal Code, came across as in- sensitive to those values. Although the incident involved an outside party, the notifications were ultimately sent from and received by members of the student community. That being said, some RUPD communications had the unfortu- nate side effect of confusing a university policy which is already misunderstood by so many of us — including myself. Such confusion is a threat to student safety, because most perpetra- tors typically do not realize they are committing a crime (some victims may not immediately realize it either). I know that many students felt that as a student I would feel much safer knowing there is no doubt in anyone’s mind as to what constitutes ac- ceptable behavior at this university, which is one reason why we found the emails disconcerting.

Protecting students is not just about fighting misconceptions. More importantly, it’s about implementing a much-needed sensitivity toward the experienced community, whose aftermath is often colored by fear and distress. To integrate a broad definition of sexual assault is to commu- nicate sensitively to those issues without open- ing discussion to the details of the event itself.

The Thresher is the official student newspaper at Rice University since 1916, is published each Wednesday during the school year, except during examination periods and holidays, by the students of Rice University.

Letters to the Editor must be received by 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication and must be sent to the Editor in Chief at cny73@rice.edu. The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for content and length and to place letters online. The Thresher is a member of the ACP, IPA and CMA. All opinions pieces represent solely the opinion of the author's column.

To read more about Charles Murray coming to speak at Rice and the resulting protest, visit http://www.rice.thresher.org/opinion/ for two students’ opinions.

LPRD email language harmful to students

RUPD email language harmful to students

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My family, my childhood. They have because they reminded me of something photos. I started collecting the photos hand shop that sold black and white behind. So, when I moved back to Vietnam in 1978, we had to leave everything of a kind of desire to find my own family Rice Gallery commissions new artist

SOPHIE NEWMAN A&E EDITOR

The Rice University Art Gallery has commissioned Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Le to showcase his latest work, Crossing the Farther Shore, from April 10 to Aug. 28. The installation examines the Vietnam War era through a combination of black and white photos taken in Vietnam pre-1975 and short, handwritten notes. Le discusses the personal meaning of his work as well as the significance of its title:

1. Is this the first exhibition of this kind that you have done, or does this show accompany your previous work?

It’s a new work, but it’s a continuation of a previous work I did around 1999-2000. I have been thinking about that piece over the years and how to expand it— make it more sculptural. It’s called ‘Mo Coi Di Vi,’ and it means spending one’s life trying to find one’s way home.

2. Where did you find the photos?

I started collecting these photos out of a kind of desire for my own family photos. When my family escaped Vietnam in 1979, we had to leave everything behind. So, when I moved back to Vietnam in the mid-80s, I bought a second-hand shop that sold black and white photos. I started collecting the photos because they reminded me of something— my family, my childhood. They have become a kind of surrogate family.

3. Can you talk a little about the handwritten notes that will accompany the pictures?

Some of the photographs come with existing notes. Most of the time they are dates, locations and names of the people in the photographs. And then there are photographs that have no written notes whatsoever, and we don’t know where they come from. So, what I did for this work was [add] narratives of Vietnamese overseas, as well as this epic poem, ‘The Tale of Kieu,’ which talks about a young lady who, through circumstances, had to sell herself in order to save her family. Through her troubles, she had to sell far away from home, but she always dreamed of coming home, and eventually she did. I felt that a lot of Vietnamese overseas, the older generation, identify with her story because it mirrors their own desire to come home.

4. What is the significance of the title of the exhibit, Crossing the Farther Shore?

The older generation, particularly my mom’s generation, migrated to America, lived in America, but their heart was still in Vietnam. Even though they are here, they are divided. They are neither here nor there. They are constantly crossing but they never arrive.

The opening reception for Crossing the Farther Shore is Thursday, April 10 from 5-7 p.m. This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Let’s exhibit is an architectural installation with hanging grids of photos that will form cubes reminiscent of macaque nests in Vietnam.

THE WEEKLY SCENE

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

TOTA LLY TExAN

Whether you’re a tried-and-true Texan or a curious non-native, you’ll be treated to enjoy the 2014 Totally Texas Festival on Saturday, April 12 from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The festival celebrates Texas independence from Mexico with music, a chili cookoff, a country-talent competition and a parade. Admission is free.

GROOVY

Hey man! Are you ready for the (in) daunting Age of Aquarius? Check out Bubblegum Yum Video Lakeside Love Party, a showcase of short films inspired by the far-out feelings of 60s bubblegum music. The event is April 11 at 7 p.m. Be there or be square.

JAZZ

It’s Jazz Appreciation Month! Celebrate by attending the concerts hosted by Da Camera Houston at Discovery Green April 10-14. The events will feature jazz vocalists and instrumentalists from the Greater Houston area, and the concerts will start at 6:30 p.m. Picnics and blankets for lawn seating recommended.

JEFF BRIDGES

Come see a true renaissance man this Saturday, April 12. Academy Award-winning actor Jeff Bridges (The Big Lebowski) will be performing songs from his critically-acclaimed self-titled album. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. and tickets start at $37.

WAREHOUSE LIVE

813 Saint Emanuel
WAREHOUSELIVE.COM

See Kaylen Strench

A&E Editor

This past Saturday, April 5, former president George W. Bush launched a public exhibition of his paintings at his presidential library in Dallas. Bush’s paintings include everything from cats to world leaders produced in large, chunky brushstrokes on a variety of solid-colored backgrounds. Bush’s paintings have not escaped their fair share of critical analysis, most of which has included the words “creepy” and “bizarre.” The Daily Telegraph art critic Alastair Sooke recently described his style as “dysyncratically naive and skew-whiff,” whatever that means.

The thorough coverage of Bush’s universally-condemned art brings to mind the question, “Why the hell does anyone care about George Bush’s bad painting?” When you get past the alarming weirdness of the mental image of Bush proudly finishing up a disfigured portrait of a cat, is there any artistic significance to his work?

One answer could be that the paintings allow access to Bush’s psyche. They tell us deeper things about his approach to life and world leadership. Besides his choices to portray world leaders with either smiles or frowns, however, I can’t seem to find any other symbolic significance to the works. We can’t blame Bush for this though; he’s a literal man who’s straight to the point.

Instead, I claim that we don’t really know about Bush’s artistic nature. While he may have an interest in his crappy paintings or his non-artistic soul. His paintings are important because of his choice to paint them and display them to the world. Human beings of all cultures, ages and backgrounds write in diaries or sketch photographs. Many the 50-plus housewives, including many of my mom’s friends, have taken up painting as a casual hobby. However, few make the important choice to expose these naïve attempts to the world for analysis and sometimes rather harsh critique. Art does not require symbolic depth or skill; what it does require is an audience. Bush’s paintings suck, but they deserve the honor of being labeled “art” because they put them on display anyway. His fame and
LPAP Speed Dating

With registration right around the corner, students need to start thinking about picking courses that will define the remainder of their college experience. Yeah, we’re talking about LPAPs. Considering the cutthroat competition over courses and the dense distribution and major requirements packing your schedule, students only get to take a couple, and thus need to choose these classes very wisely. The Thresher is here to help by reviewing a few of fall 2014’s LPAP offerings.

**INTRO TO SALSA, MAMBO AND CHA CHA**

Time Slot: Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:35 p.m.

Teacher: Jill Banta

Reviewer: Lovett College junior Kayla Hatchell

What they say you do: Demonstrations, lectures, drills.

What you actually do: “Every day, we’d sign in, review some stuff we learned from previous classes and then learn new stuff or review some more for the rest of the class,” Berggren said. “Near the end of the semester, we no longer had instruction time, just practice time for our final performance.”

Learn anything?: “I feel like I have rudimentary foxtrot and waltz skills,” Berggren said. “I’d feel comfortable participating in a social dancing situation should one arise.”

Instructor critique: “Jill is a great instructor and worked with us at a slow pace until we learned the moves,” Hatchell said. “She put pressure on the guys to lead well, but it paid off.”

Recommend?: Yes. “This LPAP is ideal for someone wanting to learn a new type of dancing or simply looking to meet new people,” Berggren said. “Since it’s a dancing class, you’re nearly always in contact with someone, so who knows, you could find your eternal partner in this class. Also, if you’re averse to strenuous physical activity, this LPAP is ideal.”

**INTRO TO FOX TROT AND WALTZ**

Time Slot: Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:05 p.m.

Teacher: Jill Banta

Reviewer: McMurry College freshman Seth Berggren

What they say you do: Demonstrations, lectures, drills.

What you actually do: “We learned how to be a solid dance partner for Salsa, Cha Cha and Bachata,” Hatchell said. “We also learned how to adjust to the styles of different dance partners.”

Learn anything?: “Not much that I didn’t already know,” Hatchell said. “Same general talk about being fit, eating healthy, don’t drink, smoke or have sex without proper precautions.”

Instructor critique: “Jill was super chill and laid back,” Berggren said. “She was an amazing instructor that made learning new dance moves relatively easy. Plus, Jill has the most fantastic nails you will ever lay your eyes upon; they always match her shirts. I honestly don’t know how she does it.”

Recommend?: Yes. “This LPAP is ideal for someone wanting to learn a new type of dancing or simply looking to meet new people,” Berggren said. “Since it’s a dancing class, you’re nearly always in contact with someone, so who knows, you could find your eternal partner in this class. Also, if you’re averse to strenuous physical activity, this LPAP is ideal.”

**DISCOVERING PERSONAL WELLNESS**

Time Slot: Mon 3:40 p.m.

Teacher: Marcia Oliveira

Reviewer: Brown College freshman Lesley Miller

What they say you do: Discuss factors that lead to personal well-being, giving special attention to your particular needs and goals.

What you actually do: “Spend three hours going over two chapters in the textbook about wellness and discussion,” Miller said. “Learn anything?: “Not much that I didn’t already know,” Miller said. “Same general talk about being fit, eating healthy, don’t drink, smoke or have sex without proper precautions.”

Difficulty level: “The amount of work was excessive for an LPAP,” Miller said. “Reflection papers were required for each class, and an eight to ten page final paper was required. It wasn’t that difficult, but it was annoying when I talked to other people in other LPAPs and realized I was the only one having to do these kinds of things.”

Instructor critique: “The professor was very nice,” Miller said. “Although, some people became concerned because she never gave us our grades back. On the last day of class, she told us that most of the class had B’s, causing widespread panic to ensue. That was fun. Also, the class was made up of two extremes: those taking it because they were passionate about wellness and those taking it to avoid an LPAP that involved fitness. Thus, when she made us discuss our numbers and results on various assessments, it was a little uncomfortable if you were in the latter category.”

Recommend?: “if you’re looking for an LPAP that involves sitting for three hours, you’ve found the one,” Miller said. “Just be prepared to do the actual reading and writing to make up for it.”
shaky public perception only underscores the bravery of this act.

In fact, the choice to create and display is one of the most powerful and artistically meaningful acts a human can ever make; it involves isolating a delicate part of one’s soul and exposing it in a way that renders it completely vulnerable. The larger the audience and the lower the quality of the work, the more impressive the decision. I would even argue that Rice students should be moved by Bush’s decision to display their own work in a public setting. While offering it up to the proverbial shark tank is an intimidating thought, to do so is to show confidence that you can stand the criticism. If Bush can shamelessly present his gloppy portraits of world leaders, you can definitely publish your Franzian short story on environmental Marxism.

In conclusion, I beseech you George Bush: Ignore the criticism of your shitty paintings. You are an artist, and while your paintings may not deserve respect from the art world, your choice to display them certainly does.

Above is one of George W. Bush’s most noteworthy paintings, a portrait of Russian leader Vladimir Putin. Bush’s choice to portray Putin grimacing, as opposed to the happier expressions of leaders in other paintings, indicates his relative disdain for the Russian president.
Mike Rhoades brings passion, intensity to Rice

by Nicki Chamberlain-Simon and Evan Neustater

Thresher Staff and sports editor

Every day, Mike Rhoades wears a custom-made black rubber bracelet that says “Lots of love and faith — with no excuses.” Rhoades swears by this motto, and he hopes to bring his philosophy to the Rice University men’s basketball team as the new head coach.

Rhoades, who was announced as the successor to former Head Coach Ben Braun on March 26, has deep roots in basketball. Rhoades says his love and dedication for the sport began when he was the ball boy for his uncle’s high school basketball team and continued throughout his childhood.

“I’d always dribble my basketball,” Rhoades said. “Where I lived, there was a two-mile hill that went outside of my town straight up, and I would run that, dribbling my basketball at the hottest time of the day.”

He went on to be a varsity point guard for three years on his hometown high school team in Pennsylvania, where he earned All-State and All-American honors. Rhoades later began his head coaching career at Randolph-Macon College at the age of 25. Since then, Rhoades has coached his teams to several appearances in the NCAA tournament, including in 2011, 2012 and 2014, as an assistant coach at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Beyond his experience with basketball, Rhoades also brings a drive to compete. The first image result for a Google search of his name is a picture of Rhoades missing two front teeth after getting elbowed in a scrimmage with his own VCU players. In another demonstration of his dedication, Rhoades completed every task alongside his players when the team hired an ex-Navy Seal to run a mock SEAL Team training.

Baseball drops series to East Carolina

by Michael Kidd

Thresher Staff

The Rice University baseball team hosted the Eastern Carolina University Pirates this past weekend in a three-game series between the top two teams in Conference USA. For the second straight weekend, the Owls won only one game out of three, giving ECU the series victory for the first time since 2006. The Owls are now 22-12 on the season (10-5 in conference play), while the Pirates improved to 19-13 overall (8-4 in conference play).

On Friday night, two of the premier junior pitchers in the country took the mound as ECU’s Jeff Hoffman and Rice ace Zech Lemond squared off at Reckling Park. The game remained scoreless through four innings until Rice strung together three consecutive singles to take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the fifth.

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The Pirates scored a run in the following inning to tie the ballgame at one run each. The score would remain that way until the ninth inning. The Owls walked two batters and allowed two singles in the ninth, which gave ECU the 3-1 lead. The Owls led the inning off with back-to-back singles. With runners on second and third and one out, the Owls only managed to score one of the base runners and lost by a final score of 3-2.

Women’s tennis wins, pushing streak to seven

by Julie Doar

Thresher Staff

On Saturday, April 5, the Rice University women’s tennis team beat DePaul University 6-1 at Jake Hess Tennis Stadium. This recent victory is the latest in a seven-game winning streak for the Owls. Rice’s record is now 19-5.

In addition to the winning streak, senior Dominique Harmath was named C-USA Women’s Tennis Athlete of the week last week. Harmath said she was honored to be given validation for all her hard work.

“I was honored to be the athlete of the week,” Harmath said. “It’s a great feeling to see hard work pay off in matches.”
"Our victory over Yale was an extremely hard-fought one," Harmath said. "The team did a fantastic job pulling out the doubles point, and it gave us the edge to later take the win."

Rice will play Baylor University on Wednesday, April 9 at Jake Hess Tennis Stadium. Rice lost to Baylor 6-1 earlier this season in Waco, Texas. This Sunday, Rice will play University of Texas, San Antonio at home once again.

Baylor and UTSA are the final matches of the season. On April 17, the C-USA Tennis Championships begin in Norfolk, Va. With the season drawing to a close, Rice is looking to finish on a strong note and carry its momentum into the conference tournament.

Harmath said their success has been achieved through the team’s focus on doubles. "We have put a lot of emphasis on doubles, as capturing the doubles point in dual matches has proven to be crucial in big matches," Harmath said.

Harmath also said the team has no intention of resting on its successes. She said they are happy for the winning streak, but are mostly focusing on the pivotal matches in the near future.

"Winning feels great, but we have to keep our focus, as we have some very important matches up ahead," Harmath said.

According to Harmath, the team is anxious to face Baylor once more. She said the match this Wednesday will be a hard-fought battle.

"Baylor is a strong team, and we are excited to take them on again this season," Harmath said. "It’s going to be an intense matchup on Wednesday."

Winning feels great, but we have to keep our focus, as we have some very important matches up ahead.

Dominique Harmath

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Beer Bike Results

Times and rankings

Alumni
1. Will Rice (16:35)
2. GSA (16:42)
3. Hanzen (16:59)

Women's
1. Jones (17:37)
2. McMurtry (17:36)
3. Will Rice (17:37)

Men's
1. Will Rice (23:55)
2. McMurtry (23:50)
3. Jones (24:07)

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Sports Calendar
games this week

Baseball
at Tulane,
April 11, 6:30 p.m.
April 12, 2:00 p.m.
April 13, 1:00 p.m.

The Rice baseball team (22-12) looks to continue its impressive season as it heads to New Orleans to face Tulane in a conference matchup. The Owls, who remain at the top of Conference-USA, have faced struggles recently, and look to rebound against Tulane.

Football
Blue and Gray Spring Game,
7 p.m.
Rice Stadium

Come watch the final spring scrimmage for the Rice football team and see what the future holds for the defending Conference USA champions.

Women's tennis
vs. USTA,
11 a.m.,
Jake Hess Stadium

The Rice women's tennis team looks to continue its impressive seven-game winning streak against USTA at Jake Hess Stadium. With the end of the regular season fast approaching, the Owls look to finish the season with momentum heading into the conference tournament.
RHOADES
FROM PAGE 9

Rhoades has already made changes with
in the Rice baseball staff, hiring assistant
coaches Scott Peria from the University of
Pennsylvania and JD Byers from Radford Uni-
versity. Rhoades said while coaches are impor-
tant to the team, the student athletes are his
main priority.

“The number one thing is the players,”
Rhoades said. “I make sure I hire guys that are
player-friendly, that want to spend time with
the players and that aren’t afraid to sweat with
them and work for them.”

Rhoades said coming to Rice was an ideal
situation for himself and his family. He not
only gets to pursue his dream of being a Divi-
sion I head coach, but he also gets to come to
a university with a storied academic tradition.
Rhoades said Rice’s academics were a major
part of why he chose to come to Houston.

“I always wanted to coach at a great academ-
ic school that was serious about their athletics
while never compromising their standards,”
Rhoades said. “It’s sort of the way I was raised;
my parents were educators. We were always
told about being student athletes to the fullest
degree, and so I’ve always taken pride in that.”

In the final and deciding game of the week-
end series, the Owls had senior Chase McDow-
ell on the mound in what would be a rainy
contingency game. The early 10:10 a.m. start
time did not prevent the inclement weather as
rain poured throughout the first five innings
of the ballgame. The Owls managed to get on
the board first as senior Michael Aquino hit a
double to deep left, which was followed up by
a Keenan Cook triple to take a 1-0 lead.

After a rain delay halted play for approxi-
mately one hour and 15 minutes, the Owls
went back to work, holding the ECU Pirates
must win and get the job done for each other.”

Hoelscher said he wants to bring his unique
coaching style, which he learned while assist-
ing at VCU, to Rice. He said his style will cre-
ate a family atmosphere within the team while
also motivating his players to succeed to the best
of their ability.

“We want to play fast and go after people
like [we did at VCU],” Rhoades said. “My coach-
ing style is [to] let the guys know I really love
them, spend a lot of time with them off the
court so they have a family situation here, that
they know that we’re here for them as people
and not just as players. And then the basketball
part is just really pushing them to be the best
players that they can be and really teach them.”

Rhoades is coming to Rice on a five-year
contract and said he wants to elevate Rice’s
status in the college basketball landscape dur-
ing that time. He acknowledged that the team
needs a major turnaround from its 7-23 record
this past season, but he said he is still optimis-
tic about the future.

“In four years, let’s put ourselves in a posi-
tion where, when we go out for a jump ball,
we’re going out there knowing we’re going to
win this game, and we’re going to give our-
selves the best opportunity to win this game,”
Rhoades said. “That comes with a lot of things.
In believing in our system, in player develop-
ment, in efficient recruiting, and then just cre-
ating a belief and a buzz on campus, just like
football and baseball and some other sports
have done. You can be great students and a
heck of a basketball team. That’s our plan.”

BASEBALL
FROM PAGE 9

Saturday’s ballgame featured sophomore
pitcher Blake Fox starring for the Owls. Rice’s of-
fense took advantage of ECU’s pitching early, as
Rice took a 5-0 lead by the fourth inning. Sopho-
more Connor Trykil hit a two-out single that scored
two Owls while senior Shane Hoelscher and junior
John Clay Reeves each contributed one RBI.

Rice took a 5-0 lead by the fourth inning. Sopho-
mores Connor Trykil and Ryan Morgan each
hit a two-out single that scored two Owls while
senior Shane Hoelscher and junior John Clay
Reeves each contributed one RBI.

In the bottom half of the inning, despite Rice’s
attempt to rally after the leadoff hitter reached
dub, a ball hit down the line was corralled by
ECU and turned into a double-play to finish the
game.

Hoelscher said despite the disappointing
losses as of late, the Owls must regain their
drive to get the job done and continue to win
ballgames.

“We don’t have a choice but to respond
with some energy, tenacity and focus,” Hoel-
scher said. “We need to realize that we
must win and get the job done for each other.”

In his final season with the Owls, Hoel-
scher said the number one goal is to win an-
other Conference USA title. He said he wants
his team to focus and get the team back on
track.

Coach Rhoades addresses the media at his introductory press conference at Rice. Rhoades was introduced as Rice’s new head coach on March 26.

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“Right now the number one goal is to win
[Conference USA],” Hoelscher said. “We have to
go into every game from here on out expect-
ing to win.”

Fox said he believes that despite the recent
losses, his team has a great chance of winning this upcoming weekend against Tulane Uni-
versity.

“Hopefully we can bring out A game when
headed out on the road to [play] an overall
solid team,” Fox said. “As long as our bats are
there and our pitchers are filling up the zone,
we have a good chance of getting some wins.”

The Owls will face Conference USA teams
this upcoming weekend in New Orleans.

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Houston Fertility Institute is seeking compassionate women who would offer another woman the chance to become a mother, who otherwise would not be able to conceive.

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BY MILES KRUPPA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After announcing that the admitted students of the class of 2018 are “the most talented group Rice has ever had on its campus,” David “Dave” Leebron went on to explain some of the forthcoming changes for the class of 2018. The editorial board of the Thresher has compiled the most important of these changes here:

Declare
Students will be required to declare their majors over the summer before their freshman year in an attempt to increase the number of engineering majors on campus.

Scheduling
Courses will be selected for each student by the registrar for your first two semesters in an effort to minimize stress and avoid the mostly unnecessary task of typing the Course Registration Numbers for Chemistry 121, Physics 101 and Math 101. If you have AP credit in these three courses, you will automatically be enrolled in a new program called PASS (Parents Assume Student is Special), where you and your gifted classmates will attend the exact same classes but will be forced to wear robes.

FWIS
The newly introduced FWIS program will undergo some minor restructuring for the fall semester. Notably, students will read from a preselected list of books and offer brief presentations in addition to a one-page paper for FWIS 100: Mechanics of the Elementary Book Report.

FLPAP
Students will be required to take a preliminary test before attending Rice University, administered by the United States Naval Reserve. Freshmen will then be sorted by physical ability into various dodgeball teams for FLPAP 135: Bombardment.

FJOB
To satisfy the new labor requirement, first-year students must enroll in one of the following courses: FJOB 111: Servery Dish Washing, FJOB 112: Football Water-boy, FJOB 113: General Maintenance.

Hours
The number of hours required to graduate has been raised to 150 to encourage students to develop broader interests and pay more tuition.

The Backpage is satire and written by Alex Weinheimer and Reed Thornburg. Newspaper Logo designed by Luis Prado from the thenounproject.com. For any comments or questions, contact ajw3@rice.edu.