New Rice Owls raise their hands in solidarity at the end of this year’s Matriculation ceremony on Aug. 17. The event concluded with a speech given by Student Association President Ravi Sheth.
Recent Rice graduate passes away
BY ANDREW TA
News Editor

Recent Rice University graduate Soorya Avali (Brown ’14) died Monday, July 28. Avali was a materials science and engineering major and avid photographer, sharing his talent via photo shoots for friends as well as through Rice’s yearbook, the Campusitum, the Thresher and the Humans of Rice University Facebook page.

He had just started training for a new job after arriving home from an extensive trip throughout Europe, according to Amanda Wicker (McMurtry ’14), who traveled with Avali for part of his trip.

“He was the nicest, funniest, best guy you could ever hope to meet,” Wicker said. “He was always so much fun. He was always smiling and always happy, no matter what. It was impossible to not like him.”

Jones College junior Jeffrey Piccirillo said he and Avali met through a mutual love of photography and often worked together.

“Soorya was always so fun and generous,” Piccirillo said. “So much of how I developed as an artist was from Soorya’s selfless advice and guidance.”

“Soorya never once hesitated to share his extensive photographic knowledge, and crazy, adventurous stories. Goodbye, Soorya. You were a truly dedicated and inspirational friend.”

In an email to the student body, Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson said Soorya’s passing could not be understood.

“Many Rice students, faculty and staff knew Soorya well from his leadership, his volunteer activities, his extraordinarily beautiful photography, and of course, his ever-present spirit and all-encompassing friendliness,” Hutchinson wrote.

A version of this story was originally published online July 30.

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HONOR FROM PAGE 1

Graduate student Saranya Khan, who is not on the Honor Council but represents the Graduate Student Association on the Working Group on the Honor Council and Graduate Students, said many professors were not sending cases to the Honor Council for adjudication because they felt the system was not working well enough.

“It seems like there were cases where lawyers were getting involved, and trying to say that [the Honor Council] will not hold up in a court of law – I don’t know the full details of these cases,” Khan said. “It seems like there have been some issues, and a lot of professors have not felt that the system was working well enough and weren’t sending cases to the Honor Council.”

Khan said there is often a power imbalance when undergraduates on the Honor Council must judge a very advanced student who might have had a career and has legal council that might come in and try to influence proceedings.

“I think there is an understanding that it would be a little bit better to have an Honor Council with more graduate students and even more faculty who are advanced and provide much more of a backboard for proceeding,” Khan said.

Ostdiek said although graduate students are on the Honor Council, and there have even some graduate student chairs, for the most part, the Honor Council has been focused on undergraduates.

“Historically, there would be cases that come in from graduate student programs, but there were so few that it wasn’t really a big deal,” Ostdiek said.

According to Ostdiek, one of the faculty concerns was the Honor Council starting to get an increased amount of cases from graduate school.

“In some cases, the hearings became difficult and even traumatic for the Honor Council,” Ostdiek said. “After a particularly difficult set of cases a few years ago, the Honor Council leadership came to me and said, ‘Get us out of this, it doesn’t make sense for us to be dealing these penalties.’”

Honor Council Chair Hurst Williamson said he did not feel any imbalance in pressure or authority when he presided over a case with an older MBA student.

“Truthfully, there is no difference for me as chair or for council members,” Williamson, a Hanover College senior, said. “Our system is designed to investigate and hear cases for students in a uniform and unbiased manner, and the system is designed so that it doesn’t matter if the student is in or out. I have heard cases for many graduate students, and I have never felt that they were any different from undergraduate cases.”

Ostdiek said he does not disagree with Williamson on the capabilities of the Council’s members, but that making a council specific to graduate students is not about the Council not being up to the task.

“Our Honor Council is very capable,” Ostdiek said. “In fact, I think it has been quite incredible over the years, and Rice should be very proud of it and the job the students do on it.”

Williamson said he is not in favor of splitting the Council since even though penalties levied by the Council could have heavier implications for graduate student than undergraduates, they signed the same honor code.

“The argument on their part is that anything less than a B for a graduate student is like an F, and that while the Honor Council is a great thing, that penalty structure is not fair to them, in that they could essentially lose their career based on something,” Williamson said.

Ostdiek said a separate honor council would not change what is expected of graduate students.

“Graduate students are still subject to the same honor code,” Ostdiek said. “You can’t get unauthorized aid. It is not more strict, it is not more lenient.”

Ostdiek said undergraduates knew this change was happening and had been part of the process.

“This is policy making by consensus of the people involved, with the major actors at all levels, including students,” Ostdiek said. “The Honor Council and the SA were both involved. They had representation on both sides.”

English graduate student Larry Butz said because graduate students have different situations, it would make sense that the Honor Council adjudication process is different for them.

“So if it is that (graduates) students have received from letters that indicate procedures for undergraduates only, and it is very unclear who we are supposed to contact and how to go about resolving issues,” Butz said.

ASSAULT FROM PAGE 1

be programming throughout the year. Accord-
ing to Taylor, the working group has encouraged the Student Wellbeing Office and Student Judicial Programs to consider enhancing existing ongoing training processes.

“For undergraduates, we want to enrich pro-
ergizing your choice over what happens next, and the university will help accommodate whatever effect that has had on your life at Rice.”
RSVP loses office in RMC

by MILES KRUPPA
Editor in Chief

Rice Student Volunteer Program lost its office space in the Rice Memorial Center in a decision finalized in June by Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson and Assistant Dean Catherine Clack. The Office of Study Abroad currently resides in RSVP’s old office.

Removing RSVP from its office makes it one of two blanket tax organizations, including Rice Program Council, to not have an office in the RMC. According to Clack, the discussion to move RSVP began in the spring with the realization that their office was primarily being used for storage.

RSVP Co-Chair Pooja Yesantharao said RSVP should be minimally affected by the loss of their office. “We did not really use the office for too many things, so our operations should basically remain the same,” Yesantharao said. “The office was largely used for storage and administrative duties such as interviews. We will be able to survive without it.”

New location for Rice Bikes

by SANA YAKLUR
Staff Writer

Rice Bikes, a student-run bicycle shop founded in 2011 that services and rents out bikes, is moving some of its operations from Sid Richardson College’s basement to the Rice Memorial Center’s Hess Private Dining Room, accessible from the Brown Garden across from Rice Coffeehouse.

According to Rice Bikes General Manager Brian Barr, the organization is moving to improve visibility and accessibility.

“It’s a great opportunity to further our mission of cultivating a culture of cycling on campus,” Barr, a Brown College sophomore, said. The move was the result of months of planning by Rice Bikes and the Student Center, according to Barr.

“As an official Student Run Business, we receive support from staff in the Student Center, and they were instrumental in helping us secure the space,” Barr said.

According to Barr, Rice Bikes is also adding new bikes for rental, as well as creating a monthly bike tour of Houston neighborhoods.

“We will be adding nine new bikes to the rentable fleet to bring our total to 38 bikes,” Barr said. “We will be adding a monthly ‘Tour de Houston’ ride on the second Friday of the month.”

According to Barr, business hours will be 2 - 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Barr said major bike repairs will still take place in the Sid Rich basement.

Survey results determine changes at RMC

by ANDREW TA
News Editor

Student Center staff are reading a report on the 987 responses to a survey sent out last semester asking what the Rice community disliked about the Rice Memorial Center, according to Student Center Director Kate Abad.

“Already, the results of the survey have impacted what our priorities were for the summer,” Abad said. “There are obviously some longer-term goals that we’ve identified in the survey that we are unable to meet without a new building. We cannot create additional space.”

Abad said although she is advocating for a new student center, there was currently no commitment on whether a new one would be built. “When there is no timeline right now,” Abad said. “There is no donor identified currently. We are in a needs-assessment stage, and the plan…is to do focus grouping this fall to see if our current space on campus is being used appropriately, if the needs that people expressed [are viable by] reorganizing space around campus, or do we truly need a new student center?”

With the new changes, Ambassador Café will be moving to Willy’s Pub, with Droubi’s replacing it in the window space. Sammy’s will now be the new location of Dining at Sammy’s which features four new food options by Housing and Dining: pizza, burger, taco and servery “concepts.”

In the Brown Garden, new benches and power outlets are being installed, while modern upholstery has been added throughout the RMC. Various offices have also been relocated (see map above).

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Welcome to the 2014-15 school year! I would like to share with you why I joined the Student Association (SA), and why we are working towards— with your help— this year.

After the controversy of last year’s general election, I ran as a write-in-candidate in the recent elections to truly leverage the unique voice students have in the governance of this university. During those few weeks, the buzz across campus was palpable, and reflecting upon the last semester, I have realized the potential we have, as a student body, to come together as a community.

I think that we are faced with two major issues as a campus—the encroachment of the culture of “business”—and as we all commit ourselves to our schedules, the loss of the quirky and weird culture and interactions that truly define the Rice experience.

My first two years here at Rice, I was addicted to “business.” I was convinced that doing more would get me further. In a world that moves at an ever-quickening pace, where success is intertwined with happiness, finding what I wanted to do, finding purpose, was impossible; and as my classmates did around me, I just did more.

Looking back upon those two years, the reality seems exceedingly close to me. There is a veracious growing mountain of opportunities, requirements and courses at Rice, and in our craze to add more, to compete with our “peer institutions,” we have colluded to create a culture where being involved in a perfect storm of majors, extracurricular activities and internships is the norm. What we are starting to lose are the small things—the interactions with like-minded classmates across campus, the time to slow down and explore.

As your SA President, I want to use this opportunity to truly bring our undergraduate community together and forge a better culture and environment that reflects the unconventional nature of the students that make up Rice. I am not claiming I know the answers or solutions to all of these problems, but what I am claiming is that I am ready and willing to ask difficult questions—and listen to your answers.

Over the coming semester, I will use this column to ask these questions and share specific initiatives that our team is working towards, starting with strengthening our campus-wide culture. I hope that this can spark healthy discussion and conversation across campus, and we encourage you to come to our weekly meetings (Wednesdays 8-9 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion) or talk with your elected representatives (College Senators and Presidents).

**Strengthening Rice’s campus-wide culture**

The residential colleges are the defining aspect of the Rice experience and what it means to be an undergraduate here. However, beyond the colleges, we have an immense opportunity for students to interact with and meet individuals across Rice, forging lifelong bonds and friendships. How can we facilitate and strengthen campus-wide forums and programming?

Already, we have put in a new structure for a campus-wide Future Alumni Committee, bringing together existing alumni-related groups from the colleges and across campus and centralizing planning for events ranging from Homecoming to on-campus sessions between students and alumni—which will connect students, over their four years here, and forge bonds across campus. We have created a sustainable structure for a new Senior Committee, bringing together the Class of 2015 through events and activities at Rice and across Houston.

Looking forward to the fall semester, we will be working to bring back the Rice Rally Club and support our fellow student-athletes. Working closely with the athletics department and college administration, we will put on exciting and engaging programming and foster a new level of Rice pride.

As we move forward into the school year, we are looking for ways that we can support and fund these, and other, campus-wide initiatives over the coming years, and truly enhance and strengthen what it means to be a Rice student—unconventional and weird.

**BEER GOGGLES**

Can you feel it? No, not the heat. The summer heat has dissipated, the grime we wore while bagging chips bit into our faces, and the mild surprise felt when seeing people we forgot existed over the summer. It compels our feet to find the right classroom. It accompanies every schedule, the loss of the quirky and weird culture and attitudes toward sexual misconduct.

Unedited editorials represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff. All other opinion pieces represent solely the opinion of the piece’s author.

**Mitch Mackowiak** is a Lovett College sophomore and the Thresher opinions editor.
Chasing the buzz beyond the hedges

KAYLEN STRENCH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Southside Espresso
COME FOR THE best lattes ever to touch your lips
STAY FOR THE Perfect study atmosphere

Agora
COME FOR THE Cheap cocktails and Texas Feet
STAY FOR THE Great hangout atmosphere

Blacksmith
COME FOR THE Giant, melt-in-your-mouth butter cookies
STAY FOR THE Incredibly friendly staff and the nostalgic vibe

Blacksmith is a quaint, bony coffee house tucked into Montrose. Those qualities only seem to add to the comfortable, escapist atmosphere of the place. The staff is warm and friendly and the wooden tables, china dishes and hearty breakfast food transport you to a southern relative’s corp, rural bangalore. Blacksmith is the perfect place to shake off fast-paced city life and recreate that “back home” feeling.

5924 Westheimer Rd.
HOURS: 7 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Inversion
COME FOR THE Food trucks that are parked out outside most mornings/weekends
STAY FOR THE Amazing local art

Inversion is a cafe for the modern man or woman. The shop, situated in the Houston Art League building, boasts innovative New Age architecture and walls coated with artwork from prominent local artists. Also notable is the parade of food trucks that periodically park right outside – on my visits I encountered Chicken and Waffle and Breakfast Burrito trucks, but lunch trucks also stop by on the weekends.

1923 Montrose Blvd.
HOURS: 6:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Rice is an amazing place, with perhaps equally amazing coffee – (Rice Coffeehouse, Salento). However, it is shameful to go to college equally amazing coffee – (Rice Coffeehouse, Salento). However, it is shameful to go to college.
This summer, Autry Court in Tudor Fieldhouse received a $17,000 makeover. The court received a special redesign that was created with a stain, which lasts longer than the original paint.

Director of Facilities and Events at Rice Ryan Bucher and his colleague, Andrew Ryerson, spearheaded this project. Bucher explained the redesign was motivated by flaws in the original paint job.

“We were having some issues with the paint that led underneath the resurfacing or the finishitur,” Bucher said. “We wanted to get it redone so that aesthetically it looked a little bit better.”

Autry Court is used for basketball games, volleyball games and other various events. Bucher claims the stain will hold up well under stress.

“Due to the amount of use that Autry Court gets for basketball, volleyball and events like O’Week, the skinny wood panels would crack the paint eventually,” Bucher said. “We’re hoping for some maintenance advantages by going to a stained wood instead of a painted wood.”

Ryerson described the small changes in design that were made.

“We went with a heavy navy paint and navy Andover,” Ryerson said. “With the design you see now, we have shrunk the ‘R’ a little bit more than what it used to be.”

Bucher said he and Ryerson consulted several coaches and administrators during the decision making process. Their goal was to give the gym a polished look.

“We tried to pick something that aesthetically was a little bit different, a little bit flashier,” Bucher said. “We got some input from our coaches, basketball coaches, from administrators of what they’d like us to do. We took that into account, but ultimately it was a maintenance decision as well. Hopefully, it creates some newness and excitement along with our new men’s basketball coach.”

Quality Hardwood Floors, Inc., a San Marcos-based company, stained the floor. Ryerson commended the companies work.

“(Quality Hardwood Floors) has been very professional, very hardworking,” Ryerson said. “They’ve been very versatile, very friendly, very helpful and very accommodating.”

Senior wide receiver Jordan Taylor hauls in a deep pass during the Owl’s fall training camp. Taylor led all receivers with 55 catches for 848 yards last season. The Owls look to record their fourth ten-win season in school history and reach their third consecutive bowl game in the 2014 season.

Veteran Owl soccer team battles in early games

by Michael Kidd

The Rice University women’s soccer team kicked off their 2014 season with two over-time matches this past week. The 2014 team has many key returning players including senior goalkeeper Amy Cryz and juniors Hol-ly Hargreaves and Lauren Hughes, who led last year’s team in scoring with nine goals each. Other returning players for the Owls are midfielders junior Quinny Truong and junior Danielle Spriggs.

The first official match of the season was an away game against Baylor University on Friday, Aug. 22 in Waco, Texas. The Owls were defeated 1-0 in an overtime game that remained deadlocked for over 95 minutes of play. The Owls then played on Sunday, Aug. 24, in the home opener against the Dayton Flyers. After 110 minutes, the two teams finished in a 2-2 tie. The Owls now have a re-cord this season of 0-1-1.

Despite the 1-0 loss to Baylor, Head Coach Nicky Adams said she was proud of the ef-fort her team gave against the Bears.

“You can’t fault this team at all,” Adams said. “Our effort was unbelievable all 90 minutes plus the overtime period. I thought our girls did an unbelievable job. This team never stopped fighting, and it makes me so excited for the future of this team.”

The Owls returned to Holloway field to face the Dayton Flyers on Sunday, Aug. 24. The Owls scored the opening goal of the match in the 10th minute. Danielle Spriggs found the back of the net off a deflection from the goal keeper for her first career goal. Shortly after, in the 22nd minute, Dayton tied it up on a bending shot that pass-ed Cryz. Eight minutes later, the Flyers would score again off a penalty kick and take a 2-1 lead into halftime.

The Owls came out of the locker room looking to combat the deficit. The ten-siveness paid off as forward Lauren Hughes scored an equalizer in the 66th minute of play. Sophomore defender Jenny Fichera produced a cross that hit the far post. Hargreaves controlled the deflection and found Lo for the score, giving Hargreaves her second assist of the game. For the next 45 minutes of the game, no goals were scored on either side and the game ended in a 2-2 tie. Rice produced 21 shots in the game and 13 corners. Rice goalkeeper Cryz finished the game with five saves for the Owls.

Coach Adams said she was pleased with her team’s play this past weekend, consider-ing the difficulty of the early-season schedule.

“We opened up with one of the toughest schedules, having two NCAA tournament teams back to back,” Adams said. “But what I can say about this group is that they never stop battling.”

Veteran Owl soccer team battles in early games

by Julie Doar

Football prepares for Notre Dame

by Evan Neustater

When the Rice University football team takes the field against the 17th-ranked Uni-versity of Notre Dame this Saturday, Aug. 30, they will be the defending conference chions for the first time since 1956. Following their third ten-win season in school history, the Owls will strive for their third consecutive bowl game and try to repeat as conference champions will be impacted by the loss of several key players. Notably, four-year start-er Marcus Green will be the defending conference champions in the 2014 season.

Football prepares for Notre Dame

Senior wide receiver Jordan Taylor hauls in a deep pass during the Owl’s fall training camp. Taylor led all receivers with 55 catches for 848 yards last sea-son. The Owls look to record their fourth ten-win season in school history and reach their third consecutive bowl game in the 2014 season.
Tudor Fieldhouse received a $17,000 redesign over the summer, including a new court surface. Bucher said, ultimately, he would like to see this new design to remain pristine for several years. "Ideally, you only paint or resurface every five to seven years," Bucher said. "We've had to do it a couple of times in the five years or six years that it's been down just because of some different issues. We're hoping that this design lasts a while, and we can just resurface every year."
It was __________, I worked as a __________ for __________ in __________. My parents used to __________, but now they have reserved hopes about my future potential as a member of society. I worked __________ hours __________, and got to hang out with this really attractive other intern from __________. I think that I was a __________, but I mostly did __________, which made lunchtime conversation __________. I drank __________ cups of __________ every day and used __________ just to stay alert! I learned __________, which should come in handy when I am a full-time __________. The job paid US dollars, so I lived like __________. I’m really __________ for this year, and can’t wait to go to __________, which will __________ happen this year. Summer was __________. I lied about my hours and got high. I come from wealth and did not want to work. I printed and stapled large documents. I saw things. I also did not profit. I’m actively trying to transfer. I saw things.

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I printed and stapled large documents.
I saw things.
I also did not profit.
I’m actively trying to transfer.
I was forced to sit in a beanbag chair at work.
I mostly did __________, which will __________ happen this year. Summer was __________.
I lied about my hours and got high.
I come from wealth and did not want to work.
I printed and stapled large documents.
I saw things.
I also did not profit.
I’m actively trying to transfer.
I was forced to sit in a beanbag chair at work.
I mostly did __________, which will __________ happen this year. Summer was __________.

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