New Economics chair initiates revamp

by Drew Keller

For the Thresher

A multisyear revamp of the Rice University economics department has begun under newly-hired professor and department chair Antonio Merlo, who plans to take major steps to develop Rice's economics teaching and research.

Merlo, a native of Italy, moved from the University of Pennsylvania to Rice this summer to head the economics department and the Rice Initiative for the Study of Economics (RISE). In these roles, he will lead the effort launched by President David Leebron to rework the department, which Merlo said is currently not fulfilling its potential.

“The Rice economics department is lagging in a very basic way,” Merlo said. “The economics department at Rice for several years has not been ranked in the place that Rice University deserves. Rice University has been consistently a top-twenty institution; the economics department is not that status. I think that this is something Rice University [should] strive to have: a first-rate economics department that is on par with the quality of the institution overall. That’s why it’s here.”

Merlo said Leebron’s vision for the future of economics at Rice is what attracted him to the job at the university.

“The stated goal is really to make this a vibrant department that is able to attract the top researchers from around the world, where faculty are actively engaged in teaching and can give the quality of teaching the students deserve and be a vibrant intellectual community where economics thrives,” Merlo said.

According to Merlo, RISE is taking several steps towards this goal, starting with hiring 10 more faculty members. Merlo said four academics from the University of Pennsylvania, including himself, and one from Johns Hopkins University have already been hired.

“The fact that distinguished scholars were willing to embrace the vision and come here to Rice should already be a testament to how things are changing and evolving,” Merlo said.

Merlo said the department is also working to revise the curriculum to better fit the needs of Rice’s undergraduates and graduate economics students.

“The curriculum is trying to offer a broader set of classes, but also a different set of classes,” Merlo said. “It’s not just a matter of a sheer number; it’s also how do we envision a natural progression in the fields of study so that everything makes sense.”

The addition of new faculty involved in research will also enhance economics at Rice, according to Merlo.

“The way I view the research enterprise is that there are individual faculty who are all interested in different areas, and once you bring them together it expands the set of questions they can address,” Merlo said. “We want faculty who can bring their research experience into the classroom.”

See MERLO, page 2

LPAP POD debates requirement

by Tina Nazerbain
Assistant News Editor

The Senate will continue evaluating the Lifelong Physical Activity Program requirement, especially for student athletes.

According to LPAP Pod member Andy Yaven, the Pod advised the SA Senate to create a committee to look into this issue further.

“I would describe the current state of the LPAP as a requirement that attempts to fulfill an idealistic goal, and could do with some adjustments,” Yaven, a Lovett College freshman, said.

LPAP: Past

In February 2012, the Thresher reported the SA was evaluating the LPAP requirement. After discussion, the Faculty Senate changed the LPAP requirement from a two-credit requirement to only one.

Making [the LPAP] a requirement adds extra pressure...to fulfill graduation requirements that we don’t...need.

Taylor Armstrong
Rice Swimmer

“In the spring of 2012, the SA worked with the Recreation Center to conduct a brief survey of the undergraduate population to determine the usefulness of the LPAP requirement,” Associate Director of Recreation Center Programs Elizabeth Slator said. “It was overwhelmingly supported, but most students wished to have the requirements changed from two classes to one.”

Slator said this led to a physical education program in one form or another since it was founded in 1993. Originally, LPAP was part of the Recreation Center. Under the Karenness Department, until 2001, when Recreation became its own department and gained control of the LPAP program.

John Boles (Will Rice ’65), the William F. Hobby Professor of History and author of three books on Rice's history, said during his time at Rice, what is now called the LPAP was a required, year-long course that introduced students to a variety of recreational activities.

“The idea [was] many of them would have had no experience with some of these sports, and that hopefully, people would find one or more [activities] that they would be able to participate in the rest of their lives,” Boles said.

See LPAP, page 4
Honor Council deadline passes without response

BY YASINA HAGHDOOST
NEWS EDITOR
The Student Association Blanket Tax Contingency Committee requested that the University Court clarify how its investigations into Honor Council’s finances should continue after the organization failed to respond to the committee’s questions by the Oct. 27 deadline.

In the last Contingency Committee meeting, the committee sent Honor Council a list of questions regarding its budget and expenditures and a request for a written statement. However, since Honor Council missed the initial deadline to submit these documents, it is unclear how the Contingency Committee should proceed with the investigations.

At the latest meeting, the committee asked SA President and Contingency Committee Chair Ravi Sheth to submit requested written statements and evidence before moving forward with the BTC investigation. Birenbaum, a Hanszen College sophomore, wrote in a letter to UCourt Chair Brian Baran.

Birenbaum also asked UCourt to examine whether delays in Honor Council’s response will affect how the committee is required to adhere to constitutional deadlines, and if the organization’s lack of response could negatively affect the committee’s decision.

“I would like [for] the University Court to look into whether the SA Constitution requires the Blanket Tax Contingency Committee (BTC) to wait for the Honor Council to submit requested written statements and evidence before moving forward with the BTC investigation,” Birenbaum, a Hanszen College sophomore, wrote in a letter to UCourt Chair Brian Baran.

All information regarding the Contingency Committee, including future meeting times and locations as well as public documents, can be accessed at sacourt.edu/btc.

MERLO FROM PAGE 1

Merlo said research experience in addition to teaching ability are important qualities a department is searching for, especially for lower-level classes.

“For teaching introductory courses, a combination of people who are really invested in the teaching mission and really invested in the research mission may be the way to go,” Merlo said. “Certainly, the goal is to have a department that is recognized worldwide for their research but also their excellence in teaching.”

Mathematical economics analysis major Andrew Jacobson agreed that a focus on introductory economics classes would improve the department.

“The gap I see is in the lower level, especially because you have a lot of different [professors], and they all have different teaching styles, so when you get up into the upper levels, people are going to have different levels of knowledge and that’s kind of where an imbalance happens,” Jacobson, a Brown College senior, said. “My experience has been really good once [I reached] the upper-level classes.”

According to Merlo, RISE is a five-year-long plan, and the department has just begun to implement changes; more specific plans are under development.

“I think we’re just at the early stages, but certainly things are going very well,” Merlo said. “It’s amazing how our alumni, the board, all the friends that Rice has, how energized the whole community is and how responsive people have been to the initiative.”

Merlo said he is optimistic about the initiative’s prospects.

“We can do something really amazing together, starting with the students and working all the way up to the administration,” Merlo said. “I think the chemistry is there, and there are certainly some positive vibes in motion that are making people understand it is a viable initiative, which is very exciting and the potential gains are very large.”

According to Merlo, a strong economics department is important due to the field’s ability to address a wide range of topics.

“I was always fascinated by economics as a discipline that really allows you to answer a very diverse set of questions, but at the same time uses a common language and diverse set of tools to answer those questions,” Merlo said.

Merlo taught at the University of Minnesota and New York University before beginning his latest tenure at the University of Pennsylvania. Over the course of his career, he said he has researched topics ranging from conventional economics to crime and the choice of politicians by political parties.

**We can do something really amazing together, starting with the students and working all the way up to the administration.**

Antonio Merlo
Economics department chair

“My view of the field of economics is a little different than the traditional view; I actually view economics as the science of choice subject to constraints,” Merlo said. “Economics is not just macroeconomics; it’s not that if you’re an economist the only career an individual may choose to have.”

According to Merlo, the department will incorporate this expanded view of economics as it adapts to changes in the field.

“Economics is so central to everything we do in human life,” Merlo said. “It can really help a lot in almost every aspect of whatever career an individual may choose to have.”
LPAP Future
According to Slator, LPAP course offerings have evolved with the student interest, fitness trends and the availability of space.
Slater said the thinking is to continually evaluate the effectiveness of LPAP instructors and the courses offered. However, she said she does not think it is necessary to continue a conversation about the LPAP requirement.
"It has been decided repeatedly, and I do mean repeatedly, by both the Faculty Senate and the Student Association that the LPAP requirement should stand," Slater said.
Slater said most individuals, especially American college students, do not participate in physical activity that provides health benefits.
"Given the tremendous amount of stress that Rice students suffer from and [in] physiological and psychological ramifications, offering courses that can potentially alleviate this problem is imperative," Slater said.

LPAP Pod Discussion
According to Yuwen, a small, rudimentary poll voted to change the LPAP requirement for athletes, but almost all supported an option for student-athletes to take LPAP courses. Yuwen said within the Pod, he was the only supporter of the LPAP requirement.
"Students forget that life consists of [things] outside of studying," Armstrong, a Martel College junior, said. "Rice students stress their health for good grades, and taking an LPAP is a good reminder and introduction to healthier living.
However, Armstrong said she thinks the LPAP should be optional for athletes.
"I know this may seem like a double standard, but we literally work out six days a week for a minimum of 2.5 hours at a time anyway," Armstrong said. "Making the LPAP requirement adds extra pressure and stress for us to fulfill graduation requirements that we don’t necessarily need.
Fifth-year senior Gabe Baker, a safety on the Rice football team, said he thinks LPAPs are an important component of the Rice experience but should not be required for athletes.
"They do provide the opportunity for athletes to save the LPAP required class for their last, red-shirt semester, like myself," Baker, a resident of Brown College, said. "The only problem is the difficulty with registering and getting into an LPAP. If they give a higher priority to students who need to fulfill their requirement, that would be better.

LPAP and Activity Program
The Student Association has formed an LPAP Pod to comprehensively investigate the purpose of LPAPs.

Student Opinions
According to Rice swimmer Taylor Armstrong, the LPAP should be a Rice requirement.
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The Lifetime Physical Activity Program through the years

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Concur system streamlines travelling

BY AMBER TONG

The Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (CENHS) is gathering student and faculty opinion on the possibility of a new environmental studies major, according to Dominic Boyer, director of CENHS and professor of anthropology.

"We haven't drafted a proposal or submit- ted anything, but the working group is meet- ing and doing events like [town hall meet- ings]," Boyer said. "We're also reaching out to faculty and key members of the administra- tion to try and get as many viewpoints as possi- ble before drafting a proposal. We expect to have a proposal ready within just a few weeks."

According to Boyer, growing student inter- est motivated the proposal for a new environ- mental studies major.

"The greatest motivation is that we've heard a lot from students who wished that there was an environmental studies degree program at Rice that worked for them in terms of their interests," Boyer said.

Although there are some programs already currently offered at Rice related to environ- mental studies, such as the environmental science secondary major and the energy and water sustainability minor, Boyer said the proposed environmental studies major will be more interdisciplinary in nature.

"What we're talking about is the need for a broad, trans-campus approach to environmen- tal studies, one that's not so much a special- ized topic within one discipline, but more of an interdisciplinary field of scholarship that requires students to have some knowledge of science, engineering, humanities and social sciences, and to bring it all together," Boyer said.

"We're thinking about giving students the opportunity to have a broader, more com- prehensive introduction to environmental studies."

Boyer said there is no specific structure for the major at the moment and options are still being considered. According to Boyer, student opinion is also part of the planning for the proposal.

"We don't have a specific model that we're trying to push, and we are looking closely at what our peer institutions are doing," Boyer said. "We are exploring a range of options, from doing a minor to a major degree, or from a major degree with a single track to multiple tracks. This whole initiative is to try to provide a better approach to environmental studies from the point of view of the students."

Student Association Environmental Com- mittee Co-Chair Ryan Saathoff said he would like Rice to have an environmental studies major, because it would provide more options for those who come from a social science and humanities background.

"This whole initiative is to try to provide a bet- ter approach to envi- ronmental studies from the point of view of the students."

"Coming here, if you're interested in the social sciences and want to be involved in en- vironmentalism, there's not really a true track for you," Saathoff, a Jones College junior, said. "If you look at the current environmental sci- ence secondary major, it's extremely engineer- ing and natural science focused. That's just not my cup of tea."

According to Boyer, students have voiced similar concerns about the current offerings in environmental studies.

"From what I heard, especially at the end of the town hall meeting, what we have in terms of our degree program is too specialized," Boyer said. "We have a range of classes or courses but students feel like they're having to put things together themselves. I think there's a middle ground there where we can put a structured, well-rounded environmental stud- ies learning experience."

Boyer also said there may be a need for more faculty once the new major is created, and the current offerings in environmental studies have not been maximized.

"I think there is going to be a need for some increase in teaching capacity, which means having more faculty or students taking courses that aren't being taken by students," Boyer said. "We have 170 courses on the books right now that can con- tribute to this major or minor, and yet we don't have them organized in a way that we're really making full use them."

"I would say, first thing, we should be thinking of where we can have the best opportunities for making the most of what Rice offers," Boyer said.

CENHS gathers opinions on environmental studies

BY RAFAEL BITIONG

Senior Toast raises money for student funds

By JACEY PARHAM

The Class of 2015 had an opportunity to participate in their Senior Gift campaign dur- ing the Senior Toast held at the Rice Gallery and Susan and Clayton Bechtel Haas Atrium. The Rice Annual Fund, which covers everything tuition and endowment cannot, cover, including providing scholarship aid, hosted the event.

Lorette College senior Sanye Alatini said she is a recipient of financial aid, and said she likes that she can now give back. "I think it's important," Alatini said. "We should do it for future students.”

Students can choose to donate specifically to undergraduate scholarships, their respective college, athletic team, organization or simply to the area of greatest financial need.

Hammer College senior Hannelle Fares ac- knowledged that tuition is already steep, which brings to question whether students should have to feel compelled to give more money. "Helping our students in any way is import- ant to me is worth the donation," Fares said.

Other seniors also seemed to enjoy the ability to give back to the groups they were involved with during their four years at Rice.

Baker College senior Rico Marquez recog- nized that college can be a formative time for all. "It's nice to give back to organizations that helped make us who we are," Marquez said.

Jones College senior Vaughan Andrews also said he appreciated the option to donate to spe- cific organizations.

My favorite experiences are because of the organizations I was involved with, so it was amazing to give back to those,” Andrews said.

"This year's Senior Gift goals are $2,000 and 70 percent participation among seniors,” Erika Moul, Rice Annual Fund Assistant Direc- tor, said.

Moul said this goal exceeded the Class of 2014’s goal of $5,000 and participation rate of 83 percent.

Duncan College Senior Gift Representative and Rice Annual Fund intern Anastasia Bobsha- k believes the event went extremely well.

"We're booked through the first week of November, and we've got more requests for departmental trainings," Skulski said. "We foresee that we're going to continue doing training to make sure everybody is on board and is comfortable using the product."

"We've looked through the first week of November, and we've got more requests for departmental trainings," Skulski said. "We foresee that we're going to continue doing training to make sure everybody is on board and is comfortable using the product."

"Right now we've supposed to keep re- ceipts for a long time," Yang, a sophomore, said. "The new system is good because it's convenient, and we don't have to do extra pa- perwork or organizational work because everything is online. We can clear charges [and] upload electronic receipts, which makes more sense anyway."

The three residential colleges with the high- est participation rates from senior receive a monetary award. Based on participation, Hau- ren College is at the top, with 95 percent participation, followed by Hanszen College with 91 percent participation, and Lovett College with 83 percent participation.

"It's a way for us to celebrate our time at Rice," Bobshak said.

The respective college this year will present the Senior Gift check during halftime at the Home- coming football game on Nov. 8.
Saturday night, hundreds of scantily-clad men and women will file into the Wiess commons with one thing on their minds. Perhaps, even more importantly, the next day’s stories of who “got it in” will dominate conversations.

What’s the deal with this, really? While, for centuries, premastubal sex was seen as an offense worthy of social stigmatization, it’s now become a status symbol, preferably for men. Remarkably, it’s often not even satisfaction that the act is for, but rather the ability to brag about it and converse about it. “I got laid last night” is a common expression, particularly with similar implications to “I won an award” or “I’m wealthy.”

So does this have the girls’ and/or objects of desire status? For some, yes. If single, this point of view arguably entails them with immense power. The knowledge that one’s decision whether to have sex has such many implications on a potential partner’s status and self-worth is an imperative ego boost. In essence, the object of desire gets the upper hand in all interaction once affection has been indicated or declared.

What’s maybe a bit upsetting to consider, however, is what happens to the object of desire once their affections have been captured, particularly if they have a lower sex drive than their partners. The dynamic becomes skewed. Denying sex is no longer an exercise in asserting power, at least in a healthy relationship, if it’s just remaining honest about the partner’s social life, only to realize, for example, not to say that sex must always be withheld. One party can’t quite as happily bump up about it — it’s just interesting that such a denial may end up creating guilt, because it means they cannot fulfill their psychological need for their partner.

In other words, the connection between sex and power harms a relationship as a whole. It makes sex so important that one party may have a maddening desire to have it, as urgently as possible to maintain self-esteem and bragging rights, while the other party may feel that they must choose between engaging in sex when they don’t want it, or deploringly disconnecting their partner. The situation hurts everyone involved: The partner is under pressure to push their girlfriend/boyfriend into having sex, and the girlfriend/boyfriend must endure an obligation to have sex when they don’t feel like it, is ever uncomfortable, etc.

Further, I do not think this is just a result of one party having a greater sex drive than the other. This may be the case in a relationship, but wanting sex just because it feels good doesn’t seem to create as pressing a demand as wanting sex because it says who you are as a person. The dynamic might be attributable to mismatches led but, it is greatly exaggerated by the strange inferences we draw from each other’s sex lives.

In short, we need to end this. Stop pressuring people just for having sex and criticizing those who don’t. It doesn’t make anyone (any animal can have sex, it’s not that bad), it demotes the objects of desire and, once relationships are formed, it puts a terrible amount of pressure on one partner to fulfill the other through an intimate act they may not want to engage in. No one is “I’m just sex,” and no one should ask for it unless their partner is also 100% percent. This goes beyond asking for consent — consent is the baseline. To be a courteous partner, not only should your significant other agree to have sex with you, but they should also not feel pressured to do so. Further, objects of desire should be extremely wary of relationships in which sex is a “habit priority” need. Sex is wonderful, but it should be the background noise to any fulfilling relationship, not the cornerstone.

So, this NOD, has all the same fun with a little less of the chit-chat aftermath. If you “got laid,” cool. If you don’t, well, you get to hang out in a cool space and dance in your underwear for a couple of hours. Either way, everything’s going to be all right.

Kayan Strench
Baker College Junior and a Thresher A&E editor

Letter to the Editor: discussing consent

Consent is not just sexy, preferable or courteous: It is also mandatory and necessary, both legally and as a social norm. It is the result of an acknowledgment of mutual consent and a conscious expression of choice which can be expressed in many ways. Rice’s new sexual assault policy, unveiled this fall, has prompted many questions from the Rice community about practicing consensual consent. The Rice community needs to help the community to navigate these questions and also serves to spark conversations to consider consent from multiple perspectives.

The goal of this work is to contribute to the well-being of the campus as a whole by encouraging students at Rice to participate in dialogues about consent. This year, we are also adding the NOD “Bathing Room” to our program — a space infused with positive energy that will be located at NOD, where students can learn uncomfortable situations on the NOD dance floor without exiting the party. Water and resources will be provided and all participants are welcome to stop by.

We hope our events leave the student body feeling excited and more interested in the issue of consent. More than anything, we want ConsenSew to be welcoming, informative, fun and engaging! Our hope is that all Rice students feel welcomed to participate in our events, now and in the future, regardless of how they describe themselves: a part of the RWRC, a feminist, queer, a woman, a man, asexual, sexual in every way, mentally or physically active or any other identifier. We work to curate events that are relevant to everyone, and we look forward to receiving feedback on how we can better achieve these goals. Together, we can create a community where Rice students can lead, their sexuality and extend a culture of care, in all contexts.

If you are interested in joining the discussion, you can attend a Consent is Sexy Week event and join our Facebook event at events.rice.edu/ConSenSew

Love,
RWRC Director-Coordinator Team

the Rice Thresher

Students must respect alcohol policy at NOD

Following the 2012 Night of Darkness, during which students were hospitalized, as well as other similar instances of unsafe drinking, Rice instituted a new alcohol policy. According to the Student Handbook, the policy “encourages with both regulation and sanction a shift away from distilled spirits toward beer and wine, which pose a lesser danger of abuse.”

The Thresher believes the changes in the alcohol policy have improved the safety and drinking culture of Rice. The prevalence of hard alcohol at private parties and small gatherings in the past led to unsafe drinking, which the new policy has greatly curtailed, thus consumption of hard alcohol does still occur behind closed doors. However, beyond making hard alcohol less prevalent on campus, the new alcohol policy has created a campus climate where students have been more-careful and conscious consumers of alcohol. The 2013 NOD marked a decrease in the number of hospitalizations—hopefully this will be a trend, or at least decrease.

Now that two years have passed since the 2012 NOD, students should take the opportunity to reflect on the events that led to the change in the alcohol policy. Not only should students take time to assess the current effectiveness of the alcohol policy, they should also assess their role in the drinking culture on campus. Rice students should realize that they could not handle an alcohol policy that took a lax stance on hard alcohol two years ago. Living off campus, at large public parties such as NOD where students’ actions will come under scrutiny not only from members of the Rice community, but also from outside parties. Additionally, students should not pressure their peers into uncomfortable or unsafe situations, and NOD should especially not serve as an excuse to do so.

At its core, the alcohol policy acts to ensure that Rice students practice safe and healthy drinking habits. To that end, it’s important to note that if it were not for the student body, the event would not have occurred.

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

Correction

An article in the Oct. 8 issue titled “SA Regent resigns of Honor Council” incorrectly stated that the Oct. 3 Student Association Blanket Tax Contingency Committee meeting was inadvisable because it violated the SA Constitution. The First Contingency Committee meeting of the year, which took place Sept. 5, was the only meeting that was inadvisable.

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Sophie Newman Opinions Editor

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The Rice Thresher, 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 300 words or less including all names. All names will be published if the writer signs, including college year and year of the writer is a Rice student. The Thresher reserves the rights to edit letters for content and length and to place letters on its website.

ASK THE STAFF

“I’m going to a wedding.”
– Marcel Melven, Photo Editor

“Me too.”
– Claire Estwanick, Creative Director

“Hosting a private orgy in my room, and I’ve got a pretty sweet lineup.”
– Yasna Haghdoost, News Editor

“I’m in the lineup.”
– Christine Jiang, Copy Editor

“Staying a sit-in at the Thresher office.”
– Miles Krupp, Editor in Chief

“I won’t be studying.”
– Sarah Nyquist, Sports Editor

“I’m gonna get naked and roll around in the McMurtry sand pit.”
– Kaylen Strench, A&E Editor

“Lying naked in the Skyspaces with ping pong balls all over my eyes.”
– Sophie Newman, A&E Editor

“Clown party.”
– Rend Thorburn, Backpage Editor

“Drink a bottle of wine, watch “Say Anything” with my roommates and go to the clown party.”
– Carrie Jiang, A&E Editor

“Saving 10 bucks and my dignity.”
– Mitch Mackowick, Opinions Editor

“The dream of a lifetime.”
– Ajay Mittal, Associate News Editor

“Walking around in my underwear. And my shirt. And my shorts. And my socks and shoes.”
– Evan Neustatter, Sports Editor

“Milanos and Netflix.”
– Megan Shedd, Copy Editor

“Orgo.”
– Jordan Park, News Designer

* indicates member of the Editorial Board

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Editorial and business offices are located on the second floor of the Leaf Student Center: 6100 Main St., MS-416B, Houston, TX 77005-1892 Phone (713) 524-4980 Email: thethresher@rice.edu Website: www.theresher.com

Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff. All other opinion pieces represent solely the opinion of the piece’s author.
Do you remember the Golden Record? Well, the Houston resident and Rice University Artist Fellow Dario Robleto is doing battle with the past and present to capture the beauty of humanity.

Dario Robleto bridges science and art
BY KAYL FRENCH
A&E EDITOR
Houston resident and Rice University Artist Research Fellow Dario Robleto is making waves on the national art stage. At only 42, his work has been displayed in solo exhibitions across the nation, in cities such as New York, Seattle and Los Angeles. Robleto’s most recent exhibition, “The Boundary of Life is Quietly Crossed,” is currently on display at the Menil Collection. The exhibition includes a mix of “found” art, Robleto’s own sculptures and pieces from the Menil itself.

Robleto’s work is framed around the famous story of the Golden Record. A NASA team headed by Carl Sagan decided there should be a record of humankind circulating in space so that, if the Earth were destroyed, some memory of human beings would persist. Perhaps, Sagan hoped, new life forms could find the record and appreciate the beauty of humanity. He hired creative director Anne Druyan, and the two went about deciding what was worthy of being on the record. Among other things, they settled upon music from different cultures, a variety of images and tapings of various human languages. Magnificently, in the process of selecting these pieces, Druyan and Sagan fell for each other and later married. This inspired Druyan to attempt to “capture” human love and add it to the record by recording an EEG of her brain waves when she thought about Sagan. She fantasized that an advanced race might one day be able to translate these brain waves back into the concept of love.

A look at Etoile’s past shows its success is no accident. Though it may be Verpiand’s first venture in Houston, his history includes graduating top of his class at the Avignon Culinary Institute, multiple stints at the Avignon Culinary Institute, and art instruction will have more than 50 paintings from museums around the world.

Recommended Dishes

- Mush & Oyster Bisque Homard, $12
- Maine lobster bisque, lobster royale, brandy and fine chives
- Lobster, roasted cauliflower, Pecorino flooring, snow peas, almond brown butter sauce

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Etoile: classics with a certain je ne sais quoi
BY WALDEN PEMANTLE
THRENSHER STAFF
When our waiter described the night’s special as salmon in beurre blanc, a typical and often unsuccessful mainstay of French cuisine, I had my misgivings. It seemed like a waste of a special to add such a common dish to a menu that already contained escargots, free grass, coq au vin and beef au poivre, to name only a few of Etoile Cuisine’s most traditional plate. But while Etoile specializes in the most common of French dishes, chef Philippe Verpiand’s meticulous preparations make the food uncommonly good. The coq au vin, often boiled into oblivion by less savvy chefs, is simmered to a succulent tenderness and served with enoki mushrooms, which lend the dish a lighter feel than the usual cast of cremini and portobellos. Even the pot-au-feu is uncommonly good. The coq au vin, often boiled into oblivion by less savvy chefs, is simmered to a succulent tenderness and served with enoki mushrooms, which lend the dish a lighter feel than the usual cast of cremini and portobellos. 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Photography in China

![Chinese flag]

FOTO 388
Spring Semester 2015
Taught by Paul Hassar
Department of Visual & Dramatic Arts
Rice University
Travel to Xi’an, China during Spring Break
Improve your photographs
Learn about China through photographs

INFO SESSION
Wednesday October 29 7pm
Kyle Morrow Room Third Floor Fondren Library

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Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Time: 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Location: Huff House
Register or learn more: db.com/careers/events

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Passion to Perform
In his recent book Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the Last Year of Life, Dr. Atul Gawande conveys an inevitability that the modern world of medicine—and frankly, society—would rather not discuss: death.

Beginning with an anecdote about the young doctor he once was, Gawande describes the ways in which the difficulties of accepting mortality would affect his career. Gawande describes his expectations for how doctors would learn to handle the terminal illnesses and the limits of medicine in preserving life. Gawande says, “I initially thought I had just the medical profession to reconsider its approach to death, but also all of his readers to come to terms with the limits of the human condition. Gawande’s accounts of patients aging and the body’s inevitable deterioration are both disturbing and fascinating. In detailed descriptions of tooth decay and brain shrinkage, Gawande gives a straightforward analysis of what happens when a complex system begins to fail.

The most heart-wrenching stories in the book, however, are the terminally ill cases, in which both patients and doctors must navigate the difficult question of how to proceed after diagnosis. From prescription medications to chemotherapy to the latest experimental drugs, there is certainly no shortage of options when it comes to the end of life, but treatment can sometimes come at a great cost—namely, quality of life.

His chief concern becomes the ways in which we are learning about a human quest to record our hearts and minds and to leave a mark upon them. The Menil exhibition is a manifestation of Anne’s attempt to record her thoughts and feelings. The Menil until January 4. He will also continue his tour of the exhibition. Not only does Robleto feel the heart and mind, but I do want to go to that anchor that holds everything together.”

Robleto said capturing science as art and art as science is also an inherently useful exercise to better understand both fields.

“My job as an artist is to examine creativity across the whole spectrum, because I’m interested in it as just a human impulse, wherever it goes,” Robleto said. “As science is also an inherently useful exercise to its name, managing to be three desserts in one: a spicy subtle mixture of garlic, red wine and truffle honey vinaigrette. The whole list is well balanced, with a good selection of new- and old-world style bottles and exceptional Grenache, Sauvignon Blanc. Burgundy and Bordeaux available by the glass. Even the desserts impress, a thick cream and tart goat cheese with dates, walnuts and fig compote served on a fluted ramekin. Many come to terms with their own and their loved ones’ heart-wrenching story, but Gawande’s clear medical analyses and personal insights make his work both grounded and profound.

“Through anecdote and fact, Gawande dives into a topic that most are reluctant to bridge and some never willing to confront. His contributions to the conversations about conscience and terminal illness are undoubtedly important, but his most significant insight is in redefining the role that doctors can play in discussing mortality. "I never expected that among the most meaningful experiences I’d have as a doctor, and really, as a human being, would come from helping others deal with what medicine cannot do, as well as what it can,” Gawande writes.

“Men of my generation are leaving the world often with paperwork, e-mails and texts sitting in their inboxes. In my opinion, this is not the mark we wish to leave. As Anne reminds us, the details of art to cross over fields,” Robleto said. “It’s clear to me that there are times when it comes to the end of life, but treatment can sometimes come at a great cost—namely, quality of life. Gawande’s concern becomes the ways in which we are learning about a human quest to record our hearts and minds and to leave a mark upon them. The Menil exhibition is a manifestation of Anne’s attempt to record her thoughts and feelings. The Menil until January 4. He will also continue his tour of the exhibition. Not only does Robleto feel the heart and mind, but I do want to go to that anchor that holds everything together.”

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It’s clear Verpick has a good thing going with Etilo, and with his remarkable commitment to craftsmanship, he could take the show anywhere. Anyone looking to celebrate a special occasion, host a dinner party or simply enjoy a typical French cooking in the Gallery or Uptown area should consider Etilo a must-visit.

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This Week in Entertainment by Louis Lesse

Just in time for Halloween comes this highly anticipated film. In the movie, a group of teenagers (including Trevor, played by Daren Kagasoff, the Secretary of the American Teenager) attempts to use the Ouija to communicate with a recently-killened friend, only to be confronted by demonic powers hidden inside the ancient spirit-teaching device. PG-13 by minute.

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Etilo FROM PAGE 6

This comedy starring Jason Segel (The Good Year) and Paul Rudd (This Is 40) stars a couple who film a sex tape to spice up their marriage. Of course, it all goes wrong when the video is uploaded to the cloud, causing them to embark on a wild chase to prevent their friends and family from seeing their embarrassing clip. Bonus features include deleted scenes, bloopers and a behind-the-scenes documentary.
Soccer splits conference games in Florida

by Michael Kidd

Rice vs. FIU
1-2

Rice vs. FAU
3-2

The Rice University soccer team traveled to South Florida this past weekend and split two games against Conference USA opponents. The first weekend game featured a 2-2 draw against FIU and the Owls were tied for second place and are looking to catch up to the University of North Texas, which Rice defeated 41-23 of Alabama, Birmingham and the University of Southern Mississippi, which Rice defeated 41-23 of Alabama, Birmingham and the University of Southern Mississippi, which Rice defeated 41-23. After averaging 23 points per game across the three losses, the Owls have rebounded to even their record midway through the season. "At FAU, we got back to what makes us a great team, and hopefully we carry that with us for the rest of the season," Spriggs said. "We have three games left in Conference, and winning all three of those is really important. We're excited to go [out and] take care of business." The Owls return home this weekend for the final two home games of the season. The Owls will compete against Old Dominion University Friday at 7 p.m. for Senior Night and the University of North Carolina, Charlotte on Sunday. With three games left in Conference, the Owls are tied for second place and are looking to catch up to the University of North Texas, which currently leads the conference by one game.

Football prepares for North Texas following three-game win streak

by Evan Neustater

Senior wide receiver Jordan Taylor runs past the Army defense during a 41-21 victory for the Owls. Taylor caught three passes for 72 yards and a touchdown in the game.

Senior goal keeper Amy Czyz makes a save during the game at Florida Atlantic University. Though, FAU outshot Rice 11-4 in the second half, Czyz recorded four saves, securing the 3-2 win.

Senior forward Lauren Hughes scored the tying goal with 43 seconds on the clock remaining to send the teams into overtime. Just seven minutes into overtime, FIU found the back of the net to clinch the win.

On Sunday afternoon, Rice beat FAU 3-2. By the 45th minute of play, Rice had already taken a 3-0 advantage from goals by junior midfielder Danielle Spriggs, Hughes and freshman midfielder Samantha Chaklen. However, FAU continued to chip away at the Rice lead by scoring two goals by the 60th minute. Rice was outshot 11-4 in the second half but found a way to hang on and secure the 3-2 victory.

Head Coach Nicky Adams said she was disappointed with the team's performance in Friday night's loss against FIU, but satisfied with the win against FAU. "Our Friday night performance was the first game [I felt] our entire team did not play well," Adams said. "We couldn't get over them, couldn't play our style of game and struggled as a unit. However, I'm proud of our team for rebounding well with three goals on Sunday." According to Adams, the upcoming home games are critical to the team's success, particularly with only three regular-season games remaining.

"We now have two home games against [Old Dominion University] and [the University of North Carolina, Charlotte], which are our last two home games," Adams said. "We'll be ready to go ... and still have nine points to earn to close out our C-USA season." Hughes said the lower level of play the Owls have had over the past three matches has concerned her, but she is happy to see her team return to its winning ways after the FAU game. "We definitely had a bit of a slump where we didn't play Rice soccer and allowed the other teams to dictate the way we were playing," Hughes said. "I think our team's ability to bounce back from the slump shows the grit we have ... and I'm extremely excited that we are back to playing our game."

Spriggs said the game against FAU helped the team return to form and focus on finishing the season strong. "At FAU, we got back to what makes us a great team, and hopefully we carry that with us for the rest of the season," Spriggs said. "We have three games left in Conference, and winning all three of those is really important. We're excited to go [out and] take care of business."

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Club baseball player ascends to varsity team

by Evan Neustater

Despite not being recruited out of high school, Sanjiv Gopalkrishnan has found his way into Rice University’s varsity baseball team.

Gopalkrishnan, a McMurtry College sophomore, played catcher in high school and continued on to play for the Rice club baseball team. After playing for the club team last year, Gopalkrishnan was elected president of the team before the school year and played with the club team through the first month of the year. After the varsity team’s catchers sustained multiple injuries, however, Gopalkrishnan was given the opportunity to join the varsity team.

According to Gopalkrishnan, the opportunity came from the team’s injury situation as well as his relationship with coaches and players.

“The story is that one week they had two freshmen catchers get hurt,” Gopalkrishnan said. “Hey, Sanjiv can catch, he’s on the club team, give him a call and I’m sure he’ll do it.” So Coach [Patrick] Hallmark called me and he asked if I could come out, and the rest is history.”

Gopalkrishnan also said he credits his rise to the friendships he made with the varsity team athletes last season.

“The first person who recommended me was Michael Aquino, who is a fifth-year student now,” Gopalkrishnan said. “J.C. [Reeves], who was actually one of the catchers who got hurt also backed him up, and Connor Teykl as well.”

Since being called up to the varsity team, which lost last season in the regional round of the postseason, Gopalkrishnan has had to adjust to the gap in playing ability and commitment.

“[The difference in] skill level is huge,” Gopalkrishnan said. “With club, sometimes last year it was a struggle to get nine guys on the field, whereas for varsity there’s backups for every position and everyone is skilled enough to start. Just in terms of velocities, it’s expected that you throw 85 to 90 [miles per hour], whereas the fastest guy we have for club throws 78.”

Although he has joined the varsity team for the fall, Gopalkrishnan understands his role on the team. According to Gopalkrishnan, his responsibility will be to help in practice and make sure pitchers are warmed up before they enter a game.

“I see myself being in a purely supportive role,” Gopalkrishnan said. “I don’t expect to play much, if at all. I expect to catch in the bullpen, I don’t even know if I’m on the team for the spring, but for the fall, I’m catching bullpen. I get to play in the intrasquad scrimmage though, which is really cool.”

Despite not starting not earning significant playing time, Gopalkrishnan has embraced the new position with open arms. Even though his chances of earning a roster spot on the team in spring are slim, Gopalkrishnan said he knows he’ll always be viewed as a member of the team.

“Michael [Aquino] told me that once you’re on the team, it’s like a fraternity,” Gopalkrishnan said. “They’re always looking out for you — they’re basically your brothers. At first, I got some weird looks, but now I’m definitely part of the team. They all welcome me, and I’m sure that, even if I’m not practicing during the spring, if they see me in the stands they’ll all appreciate me being there and supporting them.”

Although he has spent most of the time this season catching in the bullpen, Gopalkrishnan has gained playing experience in intrasquad and competitive situations. Gopalkrishnan earned his first career hit as a Division I athlete on Wednesday, Oct. 15 in an intrasquad scrimmage. Gopalkrishnan is now 1-3 batting in the fall season with an RBI.

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or asthma@bcm.edu

Oktoberfest at the Market

Tuesday, October 28, from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Come join us for a fun time at our Oktoberfest! We will have a band, local breweries and organic spirits giving out free samples, Salento will be selling wines, Rice chefs will prepare foods for sampling with a German flare along with an ice sculpture carving, and kids can decorate pumpkins to take home. Most importantly you’ll have access to a variety of local foods! It’s an event you don’t want to miss. Plus you can always use your tetras at the market!
Freshman forward Kimmy Kim carries the ball out of a scrum in a B-side match against the University of Houston. Rice lost the friendly match against UH, and also dropped their A-side match against Texas State University 37-8 later that day.

**Statistical Leaders**

- **Leading Receiver**
  - Mario Hull
  - 14 rec, 265 yards, 3 TDs

- **Leading Tackler**
  - Jaylon Finner
  - 23 solo, 7 assists

**FOOTBALL FROM PAGE 9**

The game against UNT will kick off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23 in Rice Stadium.

**Powderpuff Week 7 Update**

**SCORES & RECAPS**

- **McMurtry vs. Brown**
  - 20-6
  - “Historically, we own Brown, but they came out this game with a revamped passing attack that gave us trouble. Our defense really turned around when our defensive coaches switched schemes and moved Casey ‘Better Than You’ Zhu to the outside. She had three sacks and tackles for losses in the second half. Of our twelve offensive players, eight are freshmen and none are seniors. McMurtry is set up to be the dominant powderpuff team of the next four years.”
  - Ross Michie-Derrick
  - McMurtry Head Coach

- **Sid vs. WRC**
  - 7-0
  - “Sid beat us 7-0, scoring the game-winning touchdown with 2 seconds left. One Sid player made a one-handed catch to win the game. Both defenses played outstandingly and forced several turnovers. We are looking forward to playing them again. It was a great showing by our girls and we came up just short.”
  - John Robertson
  - WRC Head Coach

- **Jones vs. Duncan**
  - 12-7
  - “We suffered a tough loss against a very good Jones team that was hungry for their first divisional win. We came out in the first half looking good on offense and defense, scoring a touchdown. At half, the Jones coaches did a great job of making adjustments on both sides of the ball to change the momentum and score two unanswered touchdowns. My girls never gave up as they executed a great two minute drill, however, a few key drops at the end prevented us from scoring the game winning touchdown.”
  - Jeremy Reichkind
  - Duncan Head Coach

**STANDINGS**

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**PREVIEW**

“There’s no doubt Sid will be our toughest test yet. Given that this is a division game between two undefeated teams, this is unquestionably the biggest game of the season for us both. We know they have an explosive offense and can put a lot of points up, but we feel that our defense is up to the challenge, and we strongly believe that we’ve got the best quarterback in our league. It’ll be a fun one, and we’re looking forward to the challenge.”

- Neel Ahuja
- Lovett Offensive Coordinator
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Tutors needed IMMEDIATELY! Rice Alumni helping tutors for Middle & High School Math, Natural & Social Sciences, Foreign Language, and Humanities. Reliable transportation required. Pay $25-40/hr based on experience. Contact 713-498-8790 and email resume to aiyengar777@gmail.com.

Rice Architecture Professors seek responsible graduate or undergraduate to pick up 10 year old son from Poe Elementary 5 days a week (M/W/F) at 3:15pm - stay with him until 5:00pm or bring directly to campus. Email for schedule details and compensation finleys@rice.edu

Middle school tutor for girl on 8th grade - Math, English, Spanish. - 5 minute drive from Rice university - 2-3 day per week at 5-6pm, $30 per hour. Call 832-367-9541 or email: dina4k89@gmail.com

Can you type 45wpm? Good communications Skills? Dependable and Polite? We are needing an evening operator. Email Gray 713-834-3850 employment voice mail.

ELITE PRIVATE TUTORS is hiring Rice students ASAP! Owned by a Rice alum, we are excited to add tutors to our growing company.

Please email Mallory at admin@eliteprivatetutors.com if you are interested. Must have a car, a good attitude and a 3.0 GPA or higher! Come join the Elite Team, we're looking forward to meeting you!

TUTORING looking for creative and charismatic Rice students to tutor K-12 level chemistry, physics, biology, geometry, algebra 1&2, pre-cal, calculus, and Spanish. Reliable transportation required. Starting at $15/hr. Email resume to maysallnoneacademics.com.

Elementary school (5th grade) general studies tutor. Must have Spanish fluency. Daily meetings. 5 minute drive from Rice. $25 per hour. Call 713-269-3743.

CLASSIFIEDS @rice.edu

The Thresher's Backpage is satirical and written by Reed Thornburg, and this week Dennis Budde, Andrew Stout and Bhagwat Kumar collaborated. For comments or questions, please email turnerprice@rice.edu.