

The RICE WORLD

Vol. 15 No. 1

Fall 2002

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Registration Table at Fall 2002 International Orientation. Hiram Rodriguez-Diaz, Sandra Boem, Angela Rivas.

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International Fellowships

- * **Eligibility:** Women who are not US citizens or permanent residents.
- * **Funding:** Postdoctoral, Doctoral, and Master's/First Professional Fellowships.
- * **Application deadline:** December 15, 2002
- * **Visit:** www.aauw.org/3000/fdnfelgra/internat.html
- * **Tel.:** 319-337-1716, ext. 141

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Dear International Students,

As an international student you're a full member of **International Student Association (ISA)**, which is freshly reinstalled for the needs of its members.

Because the (relatively) new environment is quite different than any of us had before, we need each other in order to cope with several difficulties and solve our problems before they make us weaker. This is why there is an ISA. Our goal is to reach each of our members and help them to get rid of cultural shock and cure their loneliness... And we'll be the voice of Internationals Students, which is essential to keep our rights and defend us from impolite attacks (especially after September 11).

Please make sure that you're not alone and you have lots of friends waiting to meet and learn about you.

Just keep in touch and enjoy being at Rice.

Cafer T. Yavuz, President, International Student Association
e-mail: cafer@rice.edu, ext. 3762



Subscribe to OISS Listserves

1) ***oiss-announce*** (very important): Immigration updates, workshops, free tickets, activities and opportunities for Rice international students & scholars.

2) ***oiss-market*** (recommended): Buy or sell anything, send a message to: oiss-market@rice.edu

To subscribe, please follow these directions:

oiss-announce:

Write to listserv@rice.edu No subject. Message should say: subscribe oiss-announce

oiss-market:

Write to listserv@rice.edu No subject. Message should say: subscribe oiss-market

Volunteers of Airport Arrival Hospitality

I would like to send a warm thank you to the volunteers of Airport Arrival Hospitality. I appreciate everyone's hard work and thoughtfulness to extend a warm welcome to new arriving students. Despite bad weather in Houston this past month and long customs/INS inspection delays, many international students were picked up from the airport. Thank you for caring and making a wonderful difference in the international community at Rice.

Somarine Diep,
International Student Advisor

Orientation Thank-Yous

We had a wonderful orientation this past August, thanks to a team of friendly and enthusiastic volunteers who contributed so much to make the settlement of the new international students a memorable experience! We could not have done as much for the new students without this valuable crew. I hope many of you will return and to continue to assist us in next year's orientation program.

Lily Lam,
Associate Director

A Letter From the Director:

Dear International Students & Scholars,

Welcome back to Rice from your summer for those of you who are continuing, and welcome (again!) to Rice for you new students!

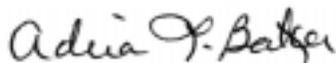
At this time of the year, children all over the USA at school have been writing essays on the theme "How I Spent My Summer Vacation". We, at the OISS can tell you emphatically that our summer vacation was very, very busy as it was filled with helping new students into the USA, as well as navigating the many new laws affecting foreign nationals. We worked desperately to try to read and interpret the flurry of new and changing laws, in order to respond to your needs as best as we could.

With the printing of this newsletter, some laws could be changed or obsolete, as this is happening on a weekly basis. However, we will attempt to provide you with the best summary, as well as resources to for you to stay as up-to-date as possible. You need to subscribe to oiss-announce@rice.edu for the latest (see page 1).

Many international students and scholars have expressed that they feel they are paying the price for the tragedies of September 11, 2001. Truly I can reassure you that international students and scholars are highly valued at Rice and in the USA. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated in a letter to a US university president (2/2002) that the U.S. remains committed and open to all qualified foreign students, because the relationships that result from these exchanges are "important for a secure, prosperous future not only for our own country but for the world as a whole". He continued that "as these students and scholars from other countries gain from our society and academic institutions, they also serve as resources for our campuses and our communities, helping our citizens to develop the international understanding needed to strengthen our long-term national security and enhance our economic competitiveness". In a testimony at a hearing before Congress (March, 2002), Powell noted that educational and cultural exchange programs have gained a new sense of urgency and importance since the attacks of September 11. International education helps to build "trust, confidence, and international cooperation".

Rice has proven its commitment to international educational exchange and support for our foreign nationals. They are spending tens of thousands of dollars to fund necessary hardware, software, and manpower in order to handle all the new compliance laws and changes, which are now additional responsibilities to be handled by the OISS. In sum, international students and scholars are "ambassadors" of their own country, and true enhancements to the continued excellence of Rice University!

Have a great semester, and do not forget to drop by once in awhile to let us know how you are doing and "how you spent your summer vacation".



Adria L. Baker, Director

Office of International Students & Scholars

RICE WORLD

Editor

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Layout, Graphics and Design

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STAFF CHANGES IN THE OISS

The OISS welcomes new people to its staff, and hope that you will take time to come by and get to know them, too.

We were so sad to learn in July that **Lucia Oliveira** had to leave our office to move to London, as her husband, Dr. Petros Traskas (Rice alumn) was transferred with his company. We will always miss her beautiful smile and desire to help all of the Rice international community.

We welcomed **Sandra Bloem** in July, as she served as the OISS Staff Assistant, taking Lucia's po-



sition, for two months. We can now congratulate her on her promotion to a new staff position in our office that was created to handle the foreign student/scholar tracking requirements placed on universities, as well as other additional administrative requirements. She is now the SEVIS & Departmental Administrator for the OISS. Sandra received her Bachelor's degree from Texas A & M University, where she studied International Studies and French. She is both a US and Brazilian citizen and speaks Portuguese, Spanish and French. Welcome and congratulations, Sandra!!

At the time of printing this newsletter, we are in the process of hiring a new Staff Assistant. We know you are ask anxious as we are to know who will be the person to assist us at the front desk. Stay tuned!

Tatiana Tarabara is a regular volunteer who assists our office every Wednesday morning. We have come to depend so much on her ser-

vices, as she has enhanced the OISS with her many talents. She has made poster boards, organized information on the new laws, helped at the front desk, assisted with the SIR luncheon, among many other things. Most of all, we appreciate Tatiana's willingness to volunteer her time and talents, and share her beautiful smile with our office and Rice internationals.

Other staff members in the office are:

Somarine Diep, International Student Advisor

Lily Lam, Associate Director

Adria Baker, Director

VISA ISSUANCE AND DELAYS

Rice was very fortunate that the great majority of our new and returning international students were able to security visas to enter (or re-enter) the USA in time for the fall 2002 semester. In fact, we registered 175 new international students this semester, which compares to more than our best "benchmark year" of Fall 2000.

Important Notice: You must notify the OISS before you apply for a re-entry visa, so we can electronically notify the US Department of State. This is a new requirement.

Unfortunately, there are a few visas that have been delayed. Please make note of the following statement that was shared with NAFSA on August 21, 2002 by the U. S. Department of State. (Note: NAFSA is a professional organization whose function is to assist and inform university administrators to international students and scholars.)

"Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the State Department has been engaged with other U.S. government agencies in an extensive and ongoing review of visa issuing practices as they relate to the security of our borders and our nation.

Through the use of supplemental application forms and other measures, visa applications are now subject to a greater degree of scrutiny than in the past. This scrutiny means that visa applications in some instances take longer to process to conclusion than has been customary. We recognize that individual applicants may experience inconvenience and hardship if their application takes longer to process than they expected. We are doing everything possible to meet the legitimate needs of prospective travelers consistent with the priority we must attach to our security and legal responsibilities.

While our consular officers strive to offer visa applicants as expeditious service as possible, their primary responsibility is to carry out U.S. law and to ensure that applicants to whom they issue visas will

not pose a threat to the safety and security of the United States and its inhabitants. This is a serious responsibility that must take precedence over other considerations pertaining to a visa application.

We realize that these necessary security measures may affect the travel plans of visa applicants, especially individuals intending to enroll in or continue college and university studies in the United States. We will make every attempt to meet the legitimate needs of prospective travelers to the United States, consistent with the priority of our security and legal responsibilities. We recommend that individuals build in ample time before their planned travel date when seeking to obtain a visa.



Special security screening procedures affect a limited number of prospective travelers. Our goal is to have assured security within a system that is responsive to everyone wishing to visit the United States. However, delays in processing of visas will continue to occur as the Department of State, working with other agencies, brings new information systems on line.

Responding to the attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress ordered that security inadequacies be identified and addressed. By legislative instruction, some of this work was specifically to be accomplished by the first anniversary of the attacks. That work is in course now in accordance with those instructions.

The time needed for adjudication of individual cases will continue to be difficult to predict, as necessary new procedures are refined. Visa applicants affected by these procedures are informed of the need for additional screening at the time of application and should expect substantial delays of six to eight weeks or more before a visa can be issued.

We trust that affected applicants will understand that this waiting period is necessary as we strive to make every effort to ensure the safety and security of the United States for all who are here, including foreign visitors."

IMMIGRATION SEMINAR

Speaker: Ann Pinchak,

Immigration Lawyer; Rice Alumni.

Title: "Current Events Effect on US Immigration & Foreign Nationals' Employment After Graduation".

When: Tuesday, October 29, 4-5:30pm.

Where: Sewall Hall Room 301.

Don't miss this special opportunity to hear an immigration lawyer speak about the following topics, relevant to Rice international students and scholars!

Topics: Changes in US Immigration Law After Sept. 11, 2001; H-1B Employment; Possible Avenues to Gaining Permanent Residency; O & P Visa Categories; For Exceptional "Stars" (Athletics, Music, Other Arts).

NEW STUDENT / SCHOLAR TRACKING SYSTEM: SEVIS

Since the attacks of September 11, 2001 on the United States, there has been a flurry of new legislation passed by Congress and the President that have had a direct, and harsh impact on US universities and colleges. Among the laws, and by federal mandate, universities are responsible for setting up systems to track their international population and report it directly to the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) through SEVIS (Student & Exchange Visitor Information System). This national system collects, maintains, tracks and reports information on an on-going basis. As Rice international students and employees, you must always maintain your legal and valid immigration status, as there is no delay in which the OISS information system downloads information directly to the INS database. Maintaining your status includes (but is not only the following): All international students must take a full-course load (Minimum: 12 credit hours-Undergraduates / 9 credit hours-Graduates) every semester. You may speak with an international advisor if you need to drop below these hours. However, you MUST do so BEFORE you drop below hours. International scholars must only work on the program (research and teaching) of which they have been approved.

Many new fields of data will be required of international offices in the USA to track for each foreign national on F or J visa category. Examples are up-to-date local addresses, home country addresses, consistency of name spelling and order, entry-exit dates and ports of entry, etc. The reporting requirements for Rice include a population of about 1200 foreign nationals (students, researchers, faculty, staff, and dependents). The deadlines for compliance are alarmingly short, given the necessary level of intense cooperation between administrative offices and system interfacing requirements throughout the Rice campus. A Rice SEVIS Working Group was formed in March of 2002, working under the sponsorship of Dr. Jordan Konisky, Vice Provost for Research & Graduate Studies.

You are invited to review the information on the INS website directly to learn more about SEVIS for yourself. You may visit: www.ins.gov and click on "SEVIS". Another excellent resource is: www.nafsa.org and click on to "Recent SEVIS News & Updates".

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the OISS for an appointment.

INS - Student related information
website: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/publicaffairs/presinfo4.htm#Students>.

ADDRESS LAWS

The INS requires all foreign nationals (including foreign nationals) to report any change in address within 10 days of moving. Failure to provide notification to INS is a misdemeanor offense that could result in a fine and/or sentence. If the failure to provide notice is found to be willful, the alien could be removable from the U.S. The INS form to use for an address change is the AR-11. It is available on the INS website at www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/ar-11.htm.

Each family member must submit a separate form to the INS to the address listed on the form, however, they can be mailed in the same envelope. It is advised that the form be mailed using certified mail, return receipt requested so you have proof of compliance.



In addition to filing the Form AR-11, if you have a pending application with the INS, you should notify the INS office where your application was filed. If you have a naturalization application pending, you can report an address change by calling 1-800-375-5283. If you have any other type of INS application pending, you can notify the local INS office or Service Center that is processing your case. See the INS website for a list of addresses at www.ins.usdoj.gov.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: For Rice, you must change your address in the Registrar's office (for students) or Human Resources (for employees). The address cannot be a department or a P.O. Box, but must be a physical address. This must be kept current always.

(This information has been adapted from an immigration update sent to the OISS by the immigration law firm of QUAN, BURDETTE & PEREZ, P.C.)

Helpful Websites for Changing Laws

Since Fall 2001's terrorist attacks, the USA has experienced a record number of new laws and changes in the laws that affect foreign nationals. In order to minimize misinformation and to be up-to-date on federal laws, please refer to these websites on a regular basis:

INS Homepage: www.ins.usdoj.gov.

INS-Related Federal Register Releases: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/lawregs/whatsnew.htm>.

U.S. Department of State: www.state.gov

U.S. Embassy & Consulate Information: www.usembassy.state.gov.

NAFSA: www.nafsa.gov.

<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/publicaffairs/presinfo4.htm#Students>.

J HIGHLIGHTS

* New regulations are expected soon addressing the J Exchange Visitor (EV) visa category. All EVs will be tracked under the SEVIS program, just as F students and scholars (see page 3 concerning SEVIS).

* The J Exchange Visitor program is no longer issuing the Form IAP-66. In its place is the form DS-2019. It looks very similar to the old form, and used virtually the same.

* For waiver applications of the 212(e) law which requires a two-year home residency requirement for many J visa holders, please visit: <http://travel.state.vog/DS-3035.pdf> for the latest version of Form DS-3035, which is the J Visa Waiver Review Application.

* All J visa holders are REQUIRED by law to hold a specified levels of insurance in order to maintain their legal J status. Please note that two of the requirements, 1) repatriation and 2) medical evacuation, are not included in the regular Rice insurance for students and employees. You must hold supplementary insurance for these requirements. Please come to the OISS to get information on this supplementary insurance, which is very inexpensive.

* New proposed J regulations include discussions as to increasing the "Research Scholar" category from three to five years. Also in discussion is the possibility of including an "intern" category. Please stay tuned, as neither have been yet approved, but we are keeping our fingers crossed in hopes of both changes.

Automatic Revalidation Limited

The laws for F and J visa category holders still allow 30-day visits into contiguous territories, i.e., Mexico, Canada, Caribbean Islands (except Cuba), by keeping the I-94 card. However, a major change was instituted early Spring 2002 when the law requires all Fs and Js to return directly to their home country from Mexico or Canada, if they are denied an entry (or re-entry) visa.

In sum, if you wish to visit one of these countries for less than 30 days for a conference or vacation, you may re-enter the USA on your I-94, which allows your expired F or J visa stamp to automatically revalidate. You must show proof of the intent of your trip and the I-94 card. If you are denied a visa, you may NOT re-enter the USA. Re-entry to the USA would require a new visa stamp gained (most likely) from your home country.

Tips from the OISS Staff to Rice Internationals:

Somarine Diep:

1) Completing your studies and planning to work in the US after graduation? Pick-up an Optional Practical Training (OPT) application packet from OISS. The application process can take up to 120 days, and you cannot begin to work until you receive your Employment Authorization Document from the INS.

2) Considering an internship or a job off-campus? Consult with an OISS advisor regarding your Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or OPT eligibility before accepting the job offer.

3) Traveling out of the country? Obtain from the OISS a travel endorsement to re-enter the US. Your I-20 should be endorsed within the semester you are traveling.

Lily Lam:

1) Be familiar with the immigration regulations pertaining to your status.

2) Stay in status, stay in touch with our office.

3) Step out of your circle of confidence, learn the language, know people around you and take initiation to find the answers to your questions.

Sandra Bloem:

1) Take advantage of all the many volunteer programs OISS has to offer. This will help you make new friends, have fun, and teach others about your country and culture.

2) Make sure to subscribe to OISS-ANNOUNCE listserve to learn about all the new laws that may affect your status, as well as all the activities that are going on.

3) Take advantage of your free time to go explore and experience the many things that Houston and the surrounding area has to offer.

Adria Baker:

1) Participate in the many traditions that Rice internationals have shared for years, i.e., new student airport pick-up, Culture Fair, orientation volunteer.

2) See as much of Houston, Texas, USA, Mexico and Central America, and Canada as you can while you are here. There are great cultural differences in just a short distance away.

3) Plan months in advance for everything you do and come to see an OISS advisor frequently about any changes or questions, i.e., work permission, travel outside the USA, change of status, cultural questions.

Changes to the DPS Identification Requirements...

On Tuesday, August 20th, more than 90 international students from Rice were bused to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to apply for their Texas Identification Cards, as a part of our international orientation program. Thanks to the help of three wonderful Rice volunteers, everyone was processed that day. These students were lucky, because since then, foreign nationals have not been able to apply for Texas IDs. DPS made some changes to the identification requirements on August 20th, and more changes are expected soon. As soon as we find out more about the final changes, we will let you know. Stay tuned...

All international students and scholars are highly encouraged to get a Texas ID BEFORE their entry visa stamp expires, if you do not already have a Texas driver's license. Only those foreign nationals with valid visa stamps, or a Texas ID, may apply for a driver's license later during their stay in Texas. Again, the policies and laws are changing, so you will need to speak to an advisor about requirements.

New Social Security Administration (SSA) Regulations

Social Security number (SSN) is a number issued for the purpose of verification of employment eligibility in the US. Thus only those who are eligible to legally work in the US may apply for it. Students with a visa status that does not allow for work authorization are not eligible to apply for this number.

The new regulations require all Social Security applicants to provide proof of full-time school enrollment and eligibility of on-campus employment, as well as evidence of age, identity and visa status.

Both F-1 and J-1 students need to come to the OISS to obtain a letter signed by a Designated School Official (DSO) for F-1 program, and Responsible or Alternate Responsible Officer (RO or ARO) of the J-1 program sponsor. Together with this letter, students need to take their valid passport, I-94 and the original I-20 and IAP-66, or in the future DS-2019 form, to the SSA to apply for an SSN. You may obtain the map from the OISS for the closest SSA office to Rice.

Please check with our office before you go to the Social Security Office, as you may need to be informed of new rules or requirements, as the laws and policies seem to be changing on a daily basis.

SPECIAL REGISTRATION AS PART OF ENTRY-EXIT SYSTEM

The following information was sent to us by NAFSA. news. NAFSA: Association of International Educators is a professional organization for advisors to internationals.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) issued a notice declaring that the newly expanded special registration requirements for nonimmigrant aliens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria. Nonimmigrant aliens who a consular or inspecting officer has a reason to believe is a national or citizen of any one of the above mentioned countries will also be subject to these expanded requirements. The expanded special registration requirements went into effect on September 11, 2002. To view this notice, issued September 6, 2002, access: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-22791-filed. INS has created a Web page with detailed information on how and where to comply with the new special registration requirements, at: <http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/lawenfor/specialreg/index.htm>.

2004 Diversity Visa Lottery

On August 21, the Department of State published instructions for the 2004 Diversity Visa Lottery (DV 2004). The DV program is an annual lottery in which natives of eligible countries can apply to be randomly selected to receive an immigrant visa.

Caution is urged for the following reasons: 1) Application can be made individually, and one does not need a company to apply for them. Many companies enjoy taking the applicants' money, yet can only do what one can do by oneself. 2) Although the applicant is only applying for the ***opportunity*** to apply for permanent residency, the legal opinion on F and J visa holders to apply for the DV Lottery is mixed on how to report this on an entry (re-entry) visa. Both are run by the same agency: U.S. Department of State.

To view the instructions, access: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-21411-filed

Approximately 100 new international students are serviced by Social Security Administration (SSA) at International Orientation.

Andrew Hardwick (SSA) has assisted hundreds in the Rice community in the last 7 years.



Somarine Diep assists new international students during orientation.

THE FRIENDS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (FIS) DINNER



The Friends of International Students (FIS) dinner that allows new international students to meet their new US friends during orientation, is not only a highlight of the week, but this year was one of the biggest ever! All of the new Rice international students who signed up this year were matched to a US friend. This also was a record year for Rice employees to participate as new friends in this program!

SPRING CULTURE FAIR

Every spring many international students organize themselves to put up booths showing beautiful aspects of their country, region or culture. Every year it has been an international student group(s) that has won the contest as well. Last year, international student groups included:

Africa, Aegean Club, Armenia, Caribbean Student Association, Costa Rica, European Club, Germany, Indian Students at Rice, Iranian Society at Rice, Italy, Japan, Korean Graduate Students, Native Americans, OISS, Rice Chinese Students and Scholars, Sweden, Taiwanese Graduate Students, Turkish Students Association.

To see pictures of the last few years, you may visit: www.ruf.rice.edu/~ois. Click on "Culture Fair".

It is never too early to begin talking to your friends about what you want to show at your table and what you want to talk about. We are always amazed by the tremendous enthusiasm, energy and creativity the international students and scholars exhibit, and how much we can learn from you!

We encourage you to participate, and don't wait until the last week(s) to plan and think of it.



Budget Tours for International Students

Want to get away and see some of the USA, but have limited funds? Consider travelling to one of these destinations but **PLAN NOW!** These activities are mostly funded and sponsored by church and community groups.

Smoky Mountains, NC & TN
October 12-14, 2002

\$39 for 3 days
(\$13 per day)

Orlando, Florida
December 21-30, 2002

\$149 for 10 days
(\$14.90 per day)

Atlanta, Georgia
April 11-13, 2003

\$49 for 3 days
(\$16.33 per day)

Hilton Head Island & Savannah
May 24-28, 2003

\$49 for 5 days
(\$9.80 per day)

Washington, DC
July 2-6, 2003

\$125 for 5 days
(\$25 per day)

For more information on how to register, deadlines, what is included and not included in the cost, visit the website at: <http://www.ifmusa.org/tours>. The international student tours are organized by International Friendship Ministries.

Another great opportunity during the winter break to meet US and international students, experience Christmas holidays with a US family, and visit other US regions is with Christmas International House. Check out the great hospitality and possibilities at www.christmasih.org. The telephone number is: 404-228-7749.

Workshop: Selecting the Job Offer from a Financial Perspective

Thursday, October 10th, "Selecting the Job Offer from a Financial Perspective", Workshop offered by Decker & Associates, (www.deckerusa.com) (3:30-5:30pm), OISS lounge.

Topics include looking at, not only a salary offered, but the benefits package, future financial benefits, etc.

In the Decker workshop, students project when they want to achieve financial independence and then calculate the funding required. Students examine their salary, bonuses, investments, current standard of living, educational loans, projected expenses and apply financial principles of inflation, rates or return, and present value to develop a plan for their future.

International Student Enrollment By Country/Region - Fall 2002

Albania	2	Greece	7	Philippines	4
Argentina	2	Guatemala	3	Poland	4
Armenia	2	Guyana	1	Portugal	2
Australia	8	Hong Kong	5	Romania	11
Austria	4	India	95	Russia	11
Bangladesh	2	Indonesia	4	Saudi Arabia	2
Barbados	1	Iran	9	Senegal	3
Belarus	3	Israel	4	Singapore	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	Italy	5	South Africa	1
Brazil	4	Jamaica	6	Spain	1
Bulgaria	3	Japan	15	Sri Lanka	3
Canada	43	Jordan	1	Switzerland	1
Chile	1	Kenya	1	Taiwan	17
China	150	Korea	41	Tanzania	2
Colombia	6	Lebanon	1	Thailand	1
Costa Rica	7	Mexico	31	Trinidad & Tobago	1
Croatia	1	Nepal	1	Turkey	25
Cyprus	3	New Zealand	3	Turkmenistan	1
Czech Republic	2	Nicaragua	2	Ukraine	1
Dominican Republic	2	Nigeria	1	United Kingdom	26
Ecuador	1	Norway	2	Uruguay	1
Egypt	5	Pakistan	2	Uzbekistan	1
El Salvador	2	Panama	2	Venezuela	7
France	8	Paraguay	1	Vietnam	3
Germany	14	Peru	3	Yugoslavia	5

TOTAL: 662

Totals:

Enrolled non-immigrant students: **662**
 Countries/Regions represented by students: **74**
 Graduate international students: **568**
 Undergraduate international students: **94**
 New international students for Fall 2002: **175**

Did you know?

... The international students make up **14%** of the overall Rice population?
 ... We had **292** foreign visitors and scholars conducting research and lecturing at Rice during the past year?
 ... Rice international students and scholars represent **82** countries/regions?

Calendar of Fall OISS Events

October 2, Wednesday - SIR luncheon (see page 8), OISS lounge, noon - 1:00PM.

October 8, Tuesday - "Realistic Expectations in the Job Search for Internationals", Career Services/Louma Ghandour, OISS lounge, 4:00-5:00PM.

October 10, Thursday - Workshop - "Selecting the Job Offer: From Financial Perspective", Decker & Associates, OISS lounge 3:30-5:30PM (see page 6 for details).

October 19, Saturday - IIE hosts family and friend picnic at typical Texan ranch (see page 8 for details).

October 29, Tuesday - Immigration Seminar - "Current Events Effect of US Immigration and Foreign Nationals' Employment

After Graduation", Ann Pinchak, Immigration Lawyer, 4:00-5:30PM, room to be announced (see page 3 for details).

November 6, Wednesday - SIR luncheon, OISS lounge, noon - 1:00PM.

★ **November 17-22. U.S. International Education Week includes:**

★ **November 17, Sunday** - Typical Thanksgiving Dinner 1-3PM; OISS lounge. Hosted by a community volunteer wishing to share well-wishes and happy holidays to all Rice internationals.

VERY SPECIAL EVENT:

★ ★ **November 19, Tuesday** - Mayor Pro-

Tem & Houston City Councilman, and Immigration Lawyer Gordon Quan to address Rice internationals; Light lunch break; noon-1:00PM; room to be announced.

★ **November 22, Friday** - Orientation Reunion Party, OISS lounge, 3:00-4:00PM.

December 4, Wednesday - SIR luncheon, OISS lounge, noon - 1:00PM.

Free English & Culture Classes Offered

OISS Sponsored and Volunteer-led Classes:

Beginning Class (conversation)-Ann McCulloch (has been a host family).
Fridays: noon-1pm, OISS lounge.

Advanced/Intermediate class (conversation and culture) - Catherine Spain (veteran teacher for OISS for 8 years. Professional teacher at St. Johns in Houston).
Wednesdays: 1:15-3:15pm. (Lee Student Center-Meyer Lounge).

Idioms & Slang - Herb Crouse (has been a host family and assisted many foreign nationals through the years with his international business).
Mondays: noon-1pm Abrecrombie Lab.

Other free English classes -

Rice Temple Baptist Church

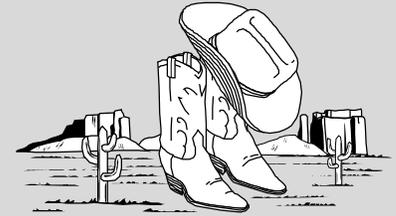
Wednesdays: 7:30-8:30pm. (6409 Greenbriar; tel. 713-666-2875).

Baptist Student Ministries

Mondays and Tuesdays: 7:00-8:30pm. (Diagnostic Clinic 10th floor, Conference Room. Register: bsm@evl.net).



“Hold On To Your Hats. It’s Picnic Time!”



The internationals at Rice are cordially invited to spend a Saturday, October 19, at a Texas ranch. The invitation is compliments of a volunteer/friend of the Institute of International Education (IIE). You can ride the bus (holds about 45 people and you need to sign up for space in the OISS on a first-come, first-serve basis), compliments of other community volunteers of the IIE and Bethel Independent Presbyterian Church, or take your own car. There will be a lunch, a hayride, and a chance to play soccer and baseball (as it is played in the USA).

Don’t miss out on a relaxing Saturday away from the city for a few hours. The rest will do you some good! The bus leaves from the Graduate Apartments at 11:00 AM (promptly) and will return at 4:00 PM.

This bi-annual publication is designed specifically for the needs of Rice international students and scholars. Please take time to read

Take a minute to smile:

You Know You’re From Houston If. .

You have to turn on the air conditioning in January, two days after a low of 29 degrees.

When you see your neighbor dancing around the front yard, you don’t think he’s won the Publisher’s Clearinghouse Sweepstakes; you know that he just stepped in a fire ant bed.

You’re on your way to work one FEBRUARY morning and suddenly you’re trapped in a traffic jam caused by a chuck wagon and fifty horses with riders and you look around to see that everybody in the trucks around you is wearing a cowboy hat.

You know that the Astrodome will always be the Eighth Wonder of the World.

You think “y’all” is perfectly good usage if you’re referring to more than one person.

For a chili cook-off, you’ll use anything from armadillo to frog’s legs, but you know that the only GOOD chili is made with chopped not ground beef and it has NO beans and NO tomatoes.

You can leave your house, head out of town, and an hour later you still haven’t left the city limits. (During rush hour, you haven’t left your NEIGHBORHOOD.)

You’ve never seen I-45 and I-10 in any condition other than under construction - and you’ve lived here for more than 30 years.

If the humidity is below 90 percent, it’s a GOOD hair day.

*The following were forwarded to Rice internationals
by Kiley Athanasiou, Asst. Director, Rice University Relations.*



SIR Luncheons:

All wives and women international students and scholars are invited to a monthly luncheon and networking opportunities held in the OISS lounge. SIR (Spouses of Internationals at Rice) began five years ago hosting only international student and scholar wives, but has opened the opportunities to all international women.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm on October 3, November 6, December 4.

