

## Y. PING SUN AND PRESIDENT LEEBRON REPRESENT RICE AT BEIJING OLYMPICS' OPENING CEREMONIES

*Article written by Adria Baker, Executive Director of the Office of International Students & Scholars.*



I think most would agree that the Olympics brings a special brand of cross-cultural interaction, understanding, and inspiration - just as we find so often in our international community at Rice. This year, however, as I watched in amazement at the opening ceremonies and parade of athletes from all over the world from my television, I could not stop remembering that Rice University was represented, right there in the midst.

Rice's president and wife/university representative, David Leebron and Y. Ping Sun, were among the special invitees to the ceremonies. The Chinese Minister of Education invited only three US university presidents, and eight others from other countries. I had the great honor to sit down and talk with Ping Sun about her experiences and impressions, and am delighted to share them with the Rice international community. I hope you enjoy her thoughts as

much as I did. . . .

As Ping spoke, she reflected on how moving it was to see the athletes and how they represented part of the larger world stage. During the parade of nations, "there were so many smiling faces from well over 200 countries, all with different costumes, colors, complexions, cultures. . . and all a part of making this world a better place". She explained how exciting it was to see many African nations' athletes dancing as they emerged. She declared that it was a thrill to be a part of so much joy and energy. "The mood was upbeat and rocking!" While watching the countries being introduced, she couldn't help but think back on all the Rice international students and scholars. She was so proud of Rice, as we were well represented in the USA team through students, coaches, and alumni.

As honored delegates, President Leebron and Y. Ping Sun sat right in front of the Heads of State with excellent seats. They witnessed Michael Phelps' first gold medal race, where they were seated right across the pool from President and First Lady Bush. They experienced and observed current events and news before the rest of the world got the "Breaking News" report on NBC.

When I asked her about some of the changes she saw in Beijing, in comparison to when she was growing up in Tianjin, a city nearby, she spoke about the current magnificent buildings, using the Bird's Nest building which held the ceremonies as an example. With the lighting at night, "it was incredible. Almost like a fairy land where dreams can come true". She also described a building nearby that was built like a dragon, with one building being only a head.

The most impressive change for her, however, was the *spirit* of China that was illustrated by the amazing spirit of the Olympics. Ping reflected that China now is more upbeat, with more choices and entrepreneurial opportunities than when she lived there as a child. She was raised during the tail-end of the Cultural Revolution, when there

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# A Letter From the Director:

Dear International Students & Scholars,

I can speak with confidence that all of us who work in the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) feel such a great privilege to have the opportunity to meet such incredibly gifted students and scholars from all over the world every day. Our Rice international community is growing rapidly. This year, we estimate that we will have serviced over 1800 visitors from all corners of the globe! Rice's international community includes our 921 students, 480 scholars, many dependents and prospects, 142 practical and academic training participants. This is a 6% increase from last year, and 37% increase from 5 years ago. In all, you represent 99 countries/regions from around the world.

Oftentimes we see you in the office and want to take time to visit with you, but you might see us run by, as someone is calling on the phone, we are with appointments, or rushing to meet deadlines. We hope you understand. Please be assured, however, that what is going on with you during your time with us is very important to us! Your well being is our top priority!

Please take time to look at our new website (thank you, thank you, Sandra Bloem-Curtis, who worked so hard on it!) and participate in some of our programs, come to workshops, trainings, get involved in activities, come to a free English class with a friend, participate in International Education Week and Culture Fair activities. You are always encouraged to call our office at x6095 to set up an appointment to see an advisor.

Most importantly, we want to know how you are doing. . .especially in light of the recent tragic hurricane. We are sorry for what it brought to many of you and want to be of help to you (please read this newsletters' insert on this). As always, we wish you a great and successful semester!

Sincerely,



Adria L. Baker, Executive Director  
Office of International Students & Scholars



*Cory Owen and Su Yeon Yoo*

In case you haven't had the opportunity to meet our new OISS staff members, be sure to come by and greet Cory Owen, International Student Advisor and Su Yeon Yoo, Staff Assistant. Cory replaces Jacqueline Carmona, who did a great job before taking a break from working for awhile. She comes with excellent experience from UT Medical Branch in Galveston, where she worked extensively with international scholars. Before that, she was at the English Language Institute at Texas A & M University, where she was in charge of the F-1 students. Cory has already transformed our office with her energy and wealth of experience! Su Yeon started last spring, when we were able to recruit her from a local immigration attorney's office. She speaks Korean and Japanese. She has brought excellent organizational skills and wonderful willingness to help all Rice internationals. Welcome, Cory and Su Yeon!! We are honored to have you as a part of the OISS team!

## RICE WORLD

**Editor**  
Dr. Adria L. Baker

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### RICE AND OISS EMBRACES FACEBOOK

In the age of the Internet, social networking has taken on a whole new meaning. With avenues such as MySpace, LinkedIn, and Facebook, it is becoming easier to connect with people. When Rice University launched its Official Facebook page a few weeks ago, we decided it was time to join the fun. Below are the links to Rice's Official Facebook page, the OISS group, and a few other sites of interest. Please feel free to join us on Facebook to hear updates, make new friends, and create an even more dynamic community.

Rice University Official Page <http://www.new.facebook.com/profile.php?id=728525343&highlight#/pages/Rice-University-Official-Page/28331765549?ref=ts>

Rice Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) <http://www.new.facebook.com/profile.php?id=728525343&highlight#/group.php?gid=32262223311&ref=ts>

Rice University International Students 2008 <http://www.new.facebook.com/profile.php?id=728525343&highlight#/group.php?gid=15016982131&ref=ts>

Friends of Int'l Students and Scholars @ Rice University (FISS) <http://www.new.facebook.com/profile.php?id=728525343&highlight#/group.php?gid=17043722299&ref=ts>

Rice International Students Alumni Group <http://www.new.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=3389572780s@ref=ts>

*Written by Cory Owen, International Student Advisor*

## OPT UPDATES ON CAP GAP AND STEM

On April 8, 2008, there were many changes made to the F-1 program by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that will affect many of you. These changes will be especially important for those of you thinking about plans after graduation.

- All students on their OPT **must** update their employment information. This is especially important to track the number of days of unemployment accrued.
- To update your employment data, please go to: <https://oiss.rice.edu/gateway.aspx?id=204>
- Cap gap extensions may be available for OPTs with pending H-1B visas
- For a chart on the provisions, go to: <http://www.nafsa.org/file/amresource/capgapevents.gif>
- Unemployment during OPT is limited to 90 days total (120 days total if granted STEM OPT)
- Our hint: Unpaid internships & volunteer work qualify as valid employment for regular OPT, so maintain your status and volunteer
- If you are in between jobs for less than 10 days, those gaps will not count towards the 90 day maximum
- STEM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math. If your major is on the STEM list, you *may* qualify for an OPT extension for the additional 17 months *if* your employer uses E-verify.
- To see if your major is on the list, go to: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/stemlist.htm>

· **Special Note: Students *must* continue to update their addresses with our office throughout the *entire* OPT period**

Be sure to submit these updates by visiting <https://oiss.rice.edu/gateway.aspx?id=204>. We will not receive any updates through ESTHER once you are on OPT.

As we learn of any changes, we will keep you updated via our OISS Announce listserv: <https://mailman.rice.edu/mailman/listinfo/oiss-announce>

*Written by Cory Owen,  
International Student Advisor*

## STATUS MAINTENANCE FIRST!

It is essential to maintain your legal immigration status at all times. Here's a quick reminder using the word "STATUS" to help:

**S – Stay** within the minimum credit hours (Undergraduates – 12 credits; Graduates – 9 credit hours).

**T – Timely questions** asked and **requests** for any help from OISS advisor ALWAYS encouraged.

**A – Address** (local) must be updated in ESTHER within 10 days of your move. (If on OPT).

**T – Time granted** on passport, I-20, or DS-2019 can never expire. Meet with OISS advisor to extend before end date.

**U – Unauthorized employment** will always cause you to fall out of status. Make appointment with OISS advisor to apply for work authorization well in advance.

**S – Signature** required for traveling outside the USA from OISS advisor (signature valid for 6 months on I-20 or DS-2019).

## HURRICANE IKE YIKES!

We, at the OISS, are terribly sorry for the destruction and pain Hurricane Ike has brought to so many. . including our international students and scholars! PLEASE let us know how we can help you! Read this newsletter's insert ("Extra") for more.

With great affection,  
The OISS Staff

## \*ADVANCED

## IMMIGRATION SEMINAR\*

All Rice internationals are strongly encouraged to attend this special seminar on immigration issues beyond F and J visas!

**\*When:\*** Thursday,

**October 9, 2008**

**\*Time:\*** 4-5:30pm

**\*Where:\*** Sewall Hall, Room 301

**\*Topics:\*** Issues related to H-1B visas.

Permanent residency and ways available to apply for a "green card".

Other visa options for employment in the US.

## J EXCHANGE VISITOR VISA CATEGORIES – COMPLEX PROS AND CONS

J-1 Exchange Visitor (EV) visa holders at Rice University are specifically classified in a category of **Student** (degree-seeking and non-degree seeking), **Research Scholar**, **Professor**, **Specialist** or **Short-Term Scholar**. Each category includes specific eligibility requirements, benefits, and limitations. Transferring from one category to another is almost impossible, with the exception of the interchangeability of the **Research Scholar** and **Professor** categories. The main three categories at Rice are the **Student**, **Research Scholar**, and **Short-Term Scholar**.

**Student** categories may allow for off-campus work authorization (pre and post-completion of the degree) through Academic Training, which requires approval through an OISS advisor. On-campus employment now requires approval by an OISS advisor, as well as completion of an I-9 from the Payroll Office. Like the F-1 student visa, the time frame allowed for the J-1 **Student** is dependent upon their program and maintenance of their status.

**Research Scholar** and **Short-Term Scholar** categories may have some overlapping usage, but it is very important that the inviting academic department and the J-1 Exchange Visitor have clear communication as to what the long-term goals are for the EV, so as to utilize the most appropriate category. **Short-Term Scholars** Short-Term Scholars are for visitors of six months or less. No extension beyond 6 months is allowed. For any EV scholar requiring a longer time on their J-1 visa, the proper category is **Research Scholar** or **Professor**. Although these categories may be extended up to five years, a 24-month bar on returning to the USA on a J **Research Scholar** or **Professor** category is invoked (even if the stay is for just six months and one day!). There is no such bar for the **Short-Term Scholar** category.

For EVs who may come in and out of the USA on the J visa, it is imperative that the pros, cons, and limitations of 1) keeping the five-year **Research Scholar** active while the scholar is temporarily abroad and

conducting continued research, or 2) using the **Short-Term Scholar** category, needs to be investigated. You are encouraged to discuss this with an OISS advisor. The following flowchart helps to illustrate the differences between the **Research Scholar / Professor** and the **Short-Term Scholar** categories: <http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=104> (click on “Flowchart – Special Considerations/Regulations”).

A J-1 EV participating in their J-1 program for longer than 6 months is subject to a 12-month bar, regardless of program category. The 12-month bar prohibits an EV from participating in a subsequent J-1 **Professor** or **Research Scholar** program for the 12 month period immediately following any J-1 program of 6 months or longer.

An additional regulatory consideration for J Exchange Visitors is the possibility that the two-year home residency requirement (not to be confused with the 24-month bar) may be attached to the J visa. The home residency requirement – 212(e) – is requisite if the EV has: 1) received home government funding, 2) received direct US government funding or 3) the academic field on the Skills List. (For information as to which fields are on the Skills List, visit: [http://www.exchanges.state.gov/education/jexchanges/participation/skills\\_list.pdf](http://www.exchanges.state.gov/education/jexchanges/participation/skills_list.pdf)).

Do not hesitate to call the OISS to make an appointment with an advisor for clarification about your visa requirements. For more information on the J Exchange Visitor program, administered by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs visit: <http://www.exchanges.state.gov/education/jexchanges/academic.htm>.



*"Graduate students enjoy a pot-luck dinner at a Friends of International Students & Scholars (FISS) dinner."*

### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

**NOVEMBER 17-21, 2008**

Stay tuned to the OISS-ANNOUNCE listserve to participate in the many activities celebrating all aspects of international education -including the importance that international students and scholars bring to Rice and the USA. It will include a Mini World Soccer Cup, an international sports sampler, and more!

### FOR THE FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS!

#### CONTINUING ORIENTATION

*Please reserve your time and join us for Pizza lunch and fun discussions.*

**Thursday, October 16, 2008.**

“How to Communicate Effectively With Your Academic Advisor” by Dr. Brent Houchens & Dr. Adrien Wang.

**Thursday November 13, 2008**

“Cultural Adjustment: What Worked, What Didn’t Work” By Ms. Beth O’Sullivan.

**Location: Farnsworth Pavilion, RMC**

**Time: 12:00 noon to 1 p.m.**



### CULTURE FAIR 2009

**- SAVE THE DATE!!**

Plan now to set up a table of your region or country!

When? Friday, March 27, 2009.

## MAKE TIME FOR YOUR WELL-BEING AT RICE



Are you already feeling a little overwhelmed about the classes, projects and other commitments you've made for the semester? The Rice University Wellness Center is here to help you reduce your stress by focusing on realistic goals for yourself. There just isn't enough time in the day to say 'yes' to everyone! If you notice that your sleep is suffering or you can't seem to get rid of the tenseness in your shoulders, then now is the time to prevent further distress.

The Wellness Center offers several services for enrolled students, including massage therapy, acupuncture, and nutrition consultations. Our professional staff can help you unwind, re-energize, and make healthier choices. We also provide wellness coaching sessions for students who want to address lifestyle issues, such as sleep problems, relationship concerns, time management, and sexual health.

You can schedule an appointment with any of our staff by calling 713-348-5194. For more information, visit our website at <http://wellness.rice.edu> or email us at [wellness@rice.edu](mailto:wellness@rice.edu). We are located in the Morton L. Rich Health & Wellness Center, adjacent to Brown College, on the northeast side of campus. Parking is available at Entrance 27.

*Article written by Emily Dexter Page, Director, Wellness Center*

## ENGLISH CORNER – ENGLISH PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS!

The English Corner is a group that meets to promote community between native English speakers and non-native speakers. It was started in January 2006 when one of Daniel Stark's (a Rice Physics graduate student) Chinese friends said that "not only was I his only American friend after two years at Rice, but that the only opportunities he had to speak English were when he spoke with me or his professor". It then struck Daniel that while the office for English as a Second Language (ESL) does do good work, they had not yet been able to really help graduate students. With that realization, Daniel formed English Corner with the purposes to: 1) allow non-native English speakers a forum to practice their English with native English speakers in a comfortable setting 2) allow all members a method to learn about a variety of cultures, and 3) foster the founding of friendships from across various backgrounds and departments.

English Corner accomplishes this by having each meeting ideally divided into

two parts: Presentation and Conversation.

During the presentation, one non-native speaker and one native speaker present for 5 to 10 minutes about anything they want. Presentations have ranged from the origins of King Cake during Mardi Gras to which city in China has the most beautiful women to a "Make your own adventure" story. During the conversation, the group discusses any topics that a member of the group cares to discuss. They have been as deep as discussing the benefits of various educational systems to as light as the best TV commercial.

Currently, English Corner is open to Undergraduate, Graduates, and Post-Docs from any department at Rice. Its membership is fairly diverse in terms of nationalities, including members from China, India, Costa Rica, Greece, Germany, Iran, America, and many other nations.

Interested in joining?

Contact: *Daniel Stark, Physics and Astronomy*, [ds4202@rice.edu](mailto:ds4202@rice.edu)

## FREE ENGLISH & CULTURE CLASSES

### OFFERED

#### General Sign-Up:

**Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
from 10:00-12:00 (noon)  
in the OISS office,  
Lovett Hall,  
Entrance A;  
2nd floor**

**Questions? Call 713-348-6095**



### Beginning English Conversation

Teacher: Steven Loych

Class: Thursdays from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in OISS office

Begins: Thursday, October 2, 2008

### Advanced/Intermediate English Conversation

Teacher: Catherine Spain

Class: Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Ley Student Center, 2nd Floor, Conference Room

Begins: Thursday, October 2, 2008

### English Idioms & Slang Class

Teacher: Dirk Cameron

Class: Mondays from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in OISS office

Begins: Monday, October 6, 2008

### Grammar & Pronunciation Class

Teacher: Chris Sneller

Class: Every other Friday (Twice a month) from 12:00 to 1:00 PM in OISS office

Begins: Friday, October 3, 2008

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*Continued article from page 1*

were no private businesses. The present positive atmosphere and optimistic outlook of the Chinese people reflect a significant difference from her younger years growing up.

When asked what her favorite event of the Opening Olympics ceremonies was, she said it was hard to choose, but narrowed it down to three: 1) the 2008 drummers who all played in unison, exhibiting unity and commitment in order to perform as they did, 2) people running around the globe, which represented "one world / one dream", and 3) the outstanding athlete delegate parade.

I then asked her what life lesson she learned from going to the Olympics that she wanted to impart to the Rice community of students, staff, and faculty. She said it would be to carry the Olympic spirit in our lives and hearts - our responsibility as world citizens. This would be our part in making a peaceful world for many generations. Further, she would encourage all of Rice's community to seek out people from different backgrounds and get to know one another. "We are all humans with commonalities. Try to understand and listen to each other and help one another in need. This will create a better community for all of us."

President Leebron and Y. Ping Sun's invitation to the opening ceremonies was an expression of continued collaboration with China's Minister of Education. In March of 2006, a delegation of 24 high level officials from various Chinese universities came to Rice to learn about Rice's Vision for the Second Century and how our administration works. Recently, President Leebron was awarded an honorary doctorate from Nankai University, and in October 2007 he was honored with the Friends of China award, which recognizes someone who has made significant contributions in mutual understanding between China and the USA.



**SIR  
(SPOUSES OF  
INTERNATIONALS  
AT RICE)**

S.I.R. (program for all international ladies) began this semester in September. Community volunteers provide lunch, and a unique opportunity for Rice ladies to meet, relax and network. The meetings for SIR are on the following Wednesdays (October 1, November 5, and December 3).

Please encourage your spouse or any women internationals (students, scholars and dependents) to come to these lunch meetings. If you would like to know more about SIR, call the OISS x6095.



**R.E.A.P. INTERNATIONAL**  
**Rice Experiences Advertised to Prospects - Internationally**

- Ever want to share your great experiences with students in your home country?
- Ever want to serve as a Rice "ambassador" in a high school and/or university in your home country?

All international students are invited to participate. You may do so by logging into the website (<http://rgs.rice.edu/oiss/>), and proposing your visit sites and contacts, which consist of a minimum of two institutions: 1) a high school, and 2) either a university, college or overseas advising center. The process includes a generally simple exchange of emails between you and the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS). To view the steps to be completed, visit: <http://rgs.rice.edu/oiss>

In the end, you will receive: 1) a certificate of appreciation for your service, 2) \$125 honorarium, 3) the fulfilling belief that you have opened up possibilities to others in your home country, 4) the satisfaction that you have given back to Rice through telling about the good things of our school, and 5) have enhanced your Rice degree, as the more people know about Rice, the stronger your degree will be back home.

Some high schools, universities and overseas centers have been visited in the following countries/regions so far: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Lebanon, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

We will send messages on the oiss-announce listserv periodically to tell you when the next informal informational session on REAP will be held. Please consider participating in this program during one of your next visits to your home country. Be a Rice ambassador, and a returning "celebrity" in your home country!

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

### *If you sense trouble*

- Move away from the area as quickly as possible.
- Draw the attention of other people.
- Dial 911 (or x6000 if on campus) and/or activate a fire alarm (both part of a personal safety system). There are blue light emergency phones located in many areas on campus
- If you are facing an armed suspect, it may be best to comply with the suspect's demands. However, if your life is in immediate danger, use any defense you can to get away.
- If something makes you feel uncomfortable, heed that feeling!

### **Out and About**

- Try to use ATMs during daylight hours. Be alert to your surroundings and watch for people who seem to be loitering near an ATM machine.
- Familiarize yourself with the layout of the campus both during the day as well as at night.
- Plan the safest route to your destination; choose well-lit areas whenever possible and avoid alleyways or shortcuts through isolated areas. Use alternate routes that are less secluded.
- Travel in groups and avoid going out alone at night.
- Use the Rice campus escort or shuttle services at night (call x6000).
- If you are being followed, change direction and go to the nearest safe place for assistance. Be a good witness.
- Walk in the center of a sidewalk or path to avoid being too close to areas where you might be attacked
- Carry your purse close to your body; carry your wallet in your front pants pocket. If confronted by someone demanding these items, do not resist. Try to remain calm, tell them that you will comply and tell them every move you are making.
- Keep your keys separate from your purse or backpack.
- Walk with a confident stride; you are less likely to be caught by surprise
- If a motorist stops and asks for directions, keep your distance. If you don't feel comfortable talking to the stranger walk away in the opposite direction.
- Watch out for vehicles that seem to be "cruising" the neighborhood.
- Cell phones are a great tool if used properly.
- Do not carry electronics with you late at night such as laptops, PDA's or MP3 players.
- Be careful of individuals who are loitering or wandering around aimlessly.
- Be cautious of people wearing clothes not matching the weather conditions.
- Stay away from individuals walking alone.
- Never use headphones while exercising. They prevent you from hearing and being alert to what is going on around you.
- If you observe suspicious activity report it immediately.

### **Be Alert**

- Be aware of current events (crime alerts, crime trend warnings, etc.)
- Keep in contact with local community groups.
- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.

### **Know how to contact the police**

- Memorize the telephone number for the University Police: 713-348-6000.
- Program 911 and 713-348-6000 into your cell phone.
- Learn where the campus emergency telephones (blue light telephones) are located and how to use them.
- Crime Stoppers 713-222-8477

**Rice University Police Department 713-348-6000**



## WHAT IF CALAMITY STRIKES?

In this world of unpredictability, we do not know if Houston will be facing a hurricane landfall or any other natural or man-induced crisis. Therefore, the OISS has prepared the following survival tips for our international students and scholars in case of crisis and emergency.

### The "Top Ten List" for in case of Emergency:

#### 1) Take important documents with you!

- a. Proof of ID
- b. Passport
- c. I-94 (hopefully attached to passport)
- d. I-20 or DS-2019
- e. Texas Driver License or Texas ID
- f. Social Security Card
- g. Rental information
- h. Contact numbers
- i. other important documents

We suggest putting these documents in a sealed plastic bag in case of flooding.

2) Although plans change as the crisis changes, have a safety plan up dated and thought ahead of time...do it now.

3) Try to have some cash and water with you. Also, fill up your gas tank.

4) Don't panic. Watch enough news to be informed, but take a break from it also.

5) Let the OISS know what you and your friends need, and your travel plan.

6) Find a group of friends to stay with and to support one another.

7) Communicate regularly with your family and loved ones what your plans are.

*continued on pg. 8.*

## SUMMER IN JAPAN

by *Kriti Charan*

Looking back, I spent a large part of last summer doing new things. I learned a language, made new friends, ate unusual meals, visited places I had never even heard of before, experienced the warmth and kindness of people from Japan, and, when I wasn't busy with all of these, learnt a little more about engineering. As one of the sixteen participants of NanoJapan 2007, I had the time of my life.

We spent the first three weeks in the capital city, Tokyo. Several hours each day were spent in language classes that would later enable us to find our way

around on our own. Later in the day, we got to play the role of tourists, i.e., we traveled, shopped, and gazed in wonder at everything from electric toilets to the conveyor belts that carried plates of sushi.

The most important and challenging part of the program was the research internship. Every one of us had, on the basis of our interests, been assigned to a Nanotechnology lab in one of five cities - Sapporo, Tokyo, Sendai, Nagano and Osaka.

Our experiences for the rest of our stay were shaped by the city we were in, and the atmosphere in our lab. I worked in Tonouchi-sensei's lab, in Osaka University, where I learnt about Terahertz Imaging. My friends worked with nanotubes,



graphene, semiconductors and many other exciting things that are on the frontier of research in Nanotechnology.

If you are a freshman or sophomore who would like to learn more about Japan and nanotechnology, I wholeheartedly recommend applying to NanoJapan – it's the experience of a lifetime, and you'll be surprised at how much you can learn in a few weeks.

*Written by Kriti Charan,  
undergraduate  
international student leader*

## UNDERGRADUATE RECONNECT

**A special time for you to reconnect with your international friends. Please come for lunch and fun discussions on the following special topics at Farnsworth Pavilion-RMC at 12 noon to 1 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 7, 2008**

”Developing the ‘Know How’ to Prevent and Resolve Conflicts” by Dr. Beata Krupa.

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008**

“Wise Time-Management During Finals.”



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## WHAT IF CALAMITY

### STRIKES?

**8) Take medications with you and try to get a months supply, if appropriate.**

**9) Maintain you legal immigration status.**

Non-immigrants (such as F, J, and H-visa holders) are not eligible for public assistance, only private fund. Keep SEVIS email address and telephone number with you for guidance, if you cannot contact OISS. The SEVIS website is: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/emergency/evacuation.htm>. Register full time or leave to home country.

**10) Stay connected to Rice's emergency updates on Rice Website.**

**Phone numbers for emergency:**

Rice Police 713-348-6000

Phone number of your home country's embassy

*You may want to make a copy of this article and put it with your passport so that it may become handy when the situation arises*

## NEED TO BORROW

### A CAR

## FOR A COUPLE HOURS?

### TRY ZIPCAR!



Zipcar is a car-sharing membership service that makes it easy to get access to a car, whether for an hour or an overnight trip. The service allows members to reserve a car online or via a mobile device anytime – day or night. Hourly and daily rates include gas, insurance and 180 free miles per reservation. Rice applicants must be at least 18 years old to become Zipcar members. There is an annual \$35 membership fee, and all Rice-affiliated Zipcar members will receive \$35 in driving credit, valid for 60 days, given at the date of membership acceptance. To learn more about the Zipcar at Rice program, please visit [www.zipcar.com/rice](http://www.zipcar.com/rice).



# International Student Enrollment By Country/Region - Fall 2008

Albania	1	Greece	10	Panama	1
Argentina	7	Guatemala	3	Peru	6
Australia	5	Honduras	1	Philippines	3
Azerbaijan	1	Hong Kong	8	Poland	6
Bangladesh	1	Hungary	1	Portugal	1
Barbados	2	India	142	Romania	10
Belarus	2	Indonesia	1	Russia	9
Belgium	3	Iran	16	Rwanda	1
Bermuda	1	Ireland	4	Saudi Arabia	9
Bolivia	2	Israel	4	Senegal	1
Botswana	2	Italy	9	Serbia	1
Brazil	12	Jamaica	3	Singapore	3
Bulgaria	8	Japan	12	South Africa	4
Cameroon	3	Kazakhstan	1	Spain	4
Canada	49	Kenya	1	Sri Lanka	2
Chile	5	Korea (South)	68	Switzerland	1
China	243	Lebanon	4	Taiwan	36
Colombia	12	Malaysia	3	Thailand	3
Costa Rica	4	Mali	1	Trinidad & Tobago	4
Croatia	1	Mexico	34	Tunisia	2
Cyprus	1	Montenegro	1	Turkey	33
Ecuador	2	Nepal	3	Uganda	1
Egypt	6	Netherlands	1	Ukraine	3
Finland	1	New Zealand	3	United Kingdom	7
France	7	Nigeria	6	Venezuela	12
Georgia	1	Norway	4	Vietnam	5
Germany	16	Pakistan	7	Zimbabwe	1
Ghana	3				

**TOTAL: 921**

*Totals:*

Enrolled non-immigrant degree-seeking students: **921**

Graduate international students: **718**

Exchange international students: **17**

Visiting international students: **13**

Undergraduate international students: **203**

New international students for Fall 2008: **296**

*Did you know?*

... The international students make up **17+%** of the overall Rice population?

... We had **480** foreign visitors and scholars conducting research and lecturing at Rice during the past year?

... Rice international students and scholars represent **99** countries/regions?

*(data collected on 10/14/2008)*

**Free English & Culture Class SIGN-UP: Wednesday, October 1 between 10AM-12:00 (noon)** in the OISS office - Come and go as you please. We will have classes to offer (see pg. 5 for details).

**SIR Luncheon for international ladies - Wednesday, October 1, November 5, & December 3, 12 (noon) - 1:00PM.** in the Abercrombie Lab lobby.

**Undergraduate Reconnect Tuesday, October 7 from 12:00 noon - 1:00PM** in Farnsworth Pavilion. "Developing the 'Know How' to Prevent and Resolve Conflicts" By Dr. Beata Krupa.

**Continuing Orientation (Graduate students) Tuesday, October 16 from 12:00 noon -**

**1:00PM** in Farnsworth Pavilion - RMC. Topic: "How to Communicate Effectively With Your Academic Advisor". We'll have drinks, pizza, and chips.

**Advanced Immigration Seminar: Attorney Harry Gee Jr. & Associate Thursday, October 9, Sewall Hall, Room 301, 4-5:30pm** (pg. 3 for details).

**Work authorization informational (OPT and CPT) session** (identical sessions): on **Tuesday, September 30 and Thursday, October 2 at 3:30PM** in Room 301 Sewall Hall.

**Undergraduate Reconnect Tuesday, November 11 from 12:00 noon - 1:00PM** in Farnsworth Pavilion. "Community Matters: "Wise Time-Management During Finals."

**Continuing Orientation (New graduate students) Thursday, November 13, from 12:00 noon - 1:00PM** in Farnsworth Pavilion - RMC. Topic: "Cultural Adjustment: What Worked, What Didn't Work". We'll have drinks, pizza, and chips.

**Mini-World Soccer Cup**  
Date and time to be announced.

**International Education Week 2008 - TONS of activities. November 7-21, 2008**  
Be sure to stay tuned to OISS-Announce listserv, so you can come to as many as possible!! This is to honor YOU!

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

**LOL - LAUGH OUT LOUD!**

## USELESS TRIVIA - ENJOY!



- “Stewardesses” is the longest word typed with only the left hand.
  - “Lollipop” is the longest word typed with your right hand.
  - No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
  - ‘Dreamt’ is the only English word that ends in the letters ‘mt’.
- There are only four words in the English language which end in ‘dous’: tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
- There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: “abstemious” and “facetious.”
  - A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
  - Almonds are a member of the peach family.
  - February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
  - In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
  - Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite!
  - Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
  - The cruise liner, QE 2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
  - The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
  - Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
  - Now you know more than you did before!!

## CHECK OUT THE NEW OISS WEBSITE!!

OISS has redesigned the website!!! <http://oiss.rice.edu>

We know it looks a little different, but we are confident you will learn how to navigate it in no time. To get started, try the Gateways - they will guide you step by step through issues and resources that pertain to you. If you know what you are looking for, try the menus at the top.

## SUBSCRIBE TO OISS

### LISTSERVES



#### OISS-ANNOUNCE

You’ll find out about free tickets, social activities, important immigration updates and requirements, and other special issues of interest to internationals at Rice.

**To subscribe, please visit:**

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#### OISS-MARKET

You’ll be able to buy and sell, find transportation for trips, and communicate with other internationals at Rice.

**To subscribe, please visit:**

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#### OISS-FORUM

A forum for discussion of topics ranging from good restaurants to good dentists. Here is also the place to engage your peers in a friendly discussion of current issues and world events.

**To subscribe, please visit:**

**<https://mailman.rice.edu/mailman/listinfo/oiss-forum>**

**To unsubscribe from any of the above lists, you many visit the same website and follow the instructions listed at the bottom of the page.**

#### **ATTENTION UNDERGRADS:**

You are all invited to join the \*International Language Exchange\* as a fun and easy way to practice English, make new friends, and learn more about US culture! This will be an informal program that pairs you with a native English speaker who will meet with you for casual conversations. If you are interested, please contact Cory Owen at: [cory.owen@rice.edu](mailto:cory.owen@rice.edu).