For most of us, surviving Hurricane Ike’s fury in September 2008, was a first-time experience as such. The Rice community, along with others in Houston, Galveston, and the surrounding areas, ducked as we endured the storm and survived the aftermath hardship for weeks.

You would think that would be enough, but the Rice international community did not stop there. A fundraiser for funds to provide food for those most desperately hurt by the storm, as well as an avenue to express appreciation to those offices on-campus who worked so hard to help us was carried out. Along with poster boards full of “thank yous” and expressions of gratitude written in many languages, Rice internationals successfully raised over $2,500 for the Houston Food Bank in honor of the following Rice departments: 1) Facilities, Engineering & Planning, 2) Housing and Dining, 3) Dean of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, Dr. Paula Sanders, and 4) Dean of Undergraduates, Dr. Robin Forman.

You brought many smiles to those to whom you expressed appreciation, after they spent many days away from their families serving the Rice community. (Some departments loved their posters so much, they had them framed!) You also brought food to many in the Houston area who suffered greatly due to Ike.

The Houston Food Bank estimates that through their networks, $1 donated to them equals to approximately $20 worth of food. Your generous efforts gave over $50,000 work of food! Thank you, Rice international community, for inspiring and helping others!
Letter from the Director

Dear International Students & Scholars,

Our bi-annual newsletters to you are intended to provide you information that is specific for students, researchers, and faculty who are at Rice from outside the USA and on non-immigrant visas. We include immigration and other regulatory updates affecting your status, and inform you about opportunities for involvement and training to maximize your success, while you are with us.

We welcome any suggestions on how we can serve you better. Please take advantage of the many services our office, and other offices on-campus, provide for you.

We wish you the best for a terrific spring semester! It is such a privilege to work with you all!

Sincerely,

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

Are you on Facebook?
The OISS encourages you to join their Facebook group to stay up to date with fun activities, post pictures, and stay connected with other Rice Internationals! We post many events online and this is a fun tool to stay in touch with fellow Internationals.

Join our group:

Rice International Student Alumni Group
And for those of you graduating, stay in touch with us by joining the Rice International Student Alumni Group! You can let us know what you’re doing, post updates, and keep abreast with what is going on with our office.  http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=33895722802&ref=ts

Winter Events

This year marked the first annual Winter Events, hosted by our office. We were pleased to invite all of the International Students & Scholars (plus, any friends or family within the community) to participate in a myriad of events during the Winter holidays.

Since many students could not go home over the break, the OISS office felt that it was necessary to encourage a sense of community and companionship over the few weeks between semesters. The events included attending three Rice basketball games together, going to the Houston Zoo, the Menil Collection, the Houston Museum for Natural Sciences (to see Body Worlds II), ice skating at Discovery Green, and a White Elephant party was hosted at the OISS office. We had a great turn out to each event and many wonderful memories were created. As always, we encourage you to keep abreast of all events by checking out the OISS website, being on the OISS-Announce listserv, and being a member of the OISS Facebook group.
The Organization of International Education Week 2008

By Vanessa Pena, International Services Specialist

The organization for International Education Week (IEW) was a project that I started working on around April of 2008. Ever since I got the position of International Services Specialist, I knew this would be a great challenge for me to overcome and as the days passed my mind started to get more focused on this great project. At the beginning I saw it as a huge monster approaching me, but with time and the help from the OISS staff I was able to keep that monster on a leash!

As an international student myself, I was able to get closer to the feeling of being in a strange land with people that speak a different language and at the same time have a fear of the unexpected. This is why the energy I put into IEW incremented day by day... I wanted to somehow fill the space that is left sometimes empty for internationals with the absence of family and friends, I wanted to build a bridge between cultures and show how one world can speak the same language.

IEW involved a lot of effort and team work, everyone had a task they were working on and for which they were responsible; this made things a bit easier for me and at the same time very enjoyable. This was undoubtedly a remarkable experience! This year we were able to push forward four great new projects: The International Sports Sampler, School Visit (St. John’s), Mock UN Election, and Wii Practice; we’re also very thankful for the fabulous collaboration of RUPD on the CSI Crime Scene investigation, the Center for the Study of Languages, the School of Engineering, Athletics, Delivery Services, Rice Catering, Rice Counseling Center, Fondren Library, and GSA! A very special thanks to IT- Liz Brigman for printing the official IEW poster, Sammy’s Café – for providing a weeklong international menu, and Public Affairs – for advertising the events of IEW.

After IEW I realized we can all speak one language, the one of lasting friendships and great times together; this would not have been possible without you!

Rice internationals share rich insights from their countries on our VIP website (http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=116). Created in early 2008, the site hosts briefs each month about a different country on the given topic for the year.

This year, 2009, our theme topic is “Wedding Customs and Traditions”. In 2008, the theme of “Elections of the Head of State” paralleled the current events of our historical election in the USA.

We hope you will take time to learn from one another, as well as consider authoring a brief. Briefs need to be no longer than one page and are intended to allow others to learn from you, and the great things from the almost 100 countries represented at Rice.

If you are interested in: 1) submitting a brief for this year’s topic, or 2) offering a suggestion for future years’ themes, please write: Adria Baker, abaker@rice.edu, or call x6095.
International students who plan to work in the summer need to apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). Students need to be in F-1 status and have been in legal and full-time status for at least one academic year. It requires a job offer related to the student’s major study and requires a letter from the prospective employer to provide the description of employment, beginning and ending date and good address for the employer. Lastly the students must enroll in one of the following courses:

1) Enroll in a course designating that employment is part of the established curriculum which requires an off-campus employment component to receive a grade;

2) Enroll in a course for which the course advisor or teacher determines that off-campus employment is necessary for satisfactory completion of the course; or

3) Enroll in dissertation research credits and have the academic advisor confirm that the employment is a part of the research necessary for completion of a thesis.

International undergraduate students who would like to gain work experience while they study at Rice University need to enroll in an academic course which requires internship or practicum. Students who enroll in one of the following courses, may apply for CPT (Curricular Practical Training) if they meet the other criteria for CPT eligibility. For more information, please make an appointment with one of our advisors.

### COURSES:

**LEAD 150 - Summer Mentorship Experience**
Required for summer mentorship experience. Students selected for a full-time, paid, summer mentorship in Houston, nationally and abroad. Applications due in January. Students are required to take Lead 150.

**AFSC 381 - Field Training in Air-Force Science**
4 weeks off-campus field training; practicum (summer).

**BIOS 310 – Laboratory Research Experience**
Independent study research course for undergraduates in Biochemistry and Cell Biology. Students participate by working in research labs either in the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology or elsewhere in the Texas Medical Center.

**ENST 350 - Internship in Environment Studies**
Provides enrollment credit for approved internships with environmental organizations and agencies.

**ESCI 491 - Earth Science Special Studies**
Allows students to work in Earth Science field; adapted to the needs of individual undergraduate researchers.

**HEAL 379 - Internship in Health Science**
Designed as an upper-level course for health science majors; offered fall and spring semesters.

**HUMA 295 - Careers and Life Option**
Created for juniors and seniors to learn skills and knowledge needed to transition from student to professional in their field of choice.

**Projects & Independent Studies Requiring Work Experience**
E.g. Engineering ELEC 490

**KINE 276 - Sport Management Practicum**
Designed to prepare students for their internship in the field of Sport Management.

**KINE 376 - Sport Management Internship I**
Internship experience for upper level students in sport management.

**KINE 377 - Sport Management Internship II**
Continue internship experience for upper level students in Sport Management.

**SPAN 310 - Practicum in the Language of Medicine and Health Care**
Number of credits earned based on number of internship hours.

**STAT 450 - Practicum in Statistic Modeling**
Work experience may be required.

**SOSC 421 - Social Science Internship**
Upper-level credit for social sciences majors; requires intern-ship hours.

**ARCH 500 - Preceptorship Program**
Course used only for those with a Bachelor’s of Architecture degree.

**Music Majors**
Work experience recommended by supervising professor.
By Dr. Brent Houchens

Dr. Brent Houchens came to the Continuing Orientation Program to talk to our first year international students on 10/16/2008 on the popular topic, “How to Communicate Effectively With Your Advisor.” The following is the valuable advice given by Dr. Houchens:

Dr. Houchens defined the academic advisors as students’ mentors and colleagues instead of bosses and employers. Advisors value independence and honesty but they can make mistakes just like we do.

In the area of research and studies, Dr. Houchens indicated that it is important that we work together with our advisors as a team, because when we succeed, it in turn helps advisors, and vice versa. It is important that during the research process, we are time efficient and productive. Do not be afraid to speak to your advisor, professors, or anyone in the academic setting even if your English is not your first language. It is important that we make friends beyond people of one’s own country so there is more opportunity to practice English, and build up one’s confidence for conferences and other academic opportunities.

In terms of moral or ethical issues, it is of utmost importance that you do not lie to your advisor and always report true research findings. If you believe that you are being asked to do something unethical, then talk to someone you trust to seek a workable solution in the matter.

The career advice that Dr. Houchens provided are very helpful and practical. He suggested that students always keep the data organized and dated, take notes when you read a journal paper and start writing early. When it comes time to plan your career, Dr. Houchens suggested that students share their goals with their advisors, and ask them for assistance. Talk to your advisors before interviewing for the job. Discuss jobs and internships with your advisor. There are huge resources on-campus that students can utilize for their future success, including the Office of Career Services, and the Office of International Students and Scholars.

I Miss My Good Friend—Li Han

by Huang Yue

Li Han and I have been friends and lab-mate since we first met at the international orientation program in 2006. His friendship was so valuable to me. Now he is gone and I sense a hole in my heart.

Li Han was such an easy going guy. I enjoyed talking to him. I admired Han because he was always enthusiastic about helping others. Li Han had strong virtue of loyalty to China, to Chinese history and culture, and also to his wife and his friends. If he was given the chance to complete his education and training here at Rice, Han would definitely be a great contributor in the field of his major. Professor Brent Houchens, our doctoral advisor, said "Li Han was an independent thinker, an outstanding individual in more ways than just engineering. The spirit of his work remains in our lab, and we are confident that the contributions he has made will not soon be forgotten".

Li Han, was a third year doctoral student in the department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science at Rice. He collapsed while working out at the Rice Recreation center and passed away shortly even with immediate medical attention. He was awarded the Master Degree in Mechanical Engineering by Rice University which was conferred in January 2009. Dr. Adria Baker, Executive Director of Rice University spoke in Li Han’s memorial service on 01/20 and stated that...“Li Han will remain in our hearts...and is part of Rice Community always.”
Have You Filed Your Taxes?
By Sandra Bloem-Curtis, Associate Director, International Compliance & Administration

All international students and scholars who were in the U.S. during 2008 must file U.S. tax forms, whether or not income was received during the 2008 calendar year.

Resources:
CINTAX – OISS has purchased licenses for a web-based software program that will assist “non-residents” for tax purposes to prepare their tax forms. You may also use CINTAX to help determine if you are considered a “resident” or “non-resident” for tax purposes. To use the software, you will need to apply for an access code at: http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=132.

Tax Workshop for Internationals – OISS has invited an international tax expert to host a workshop for all Rice internationals. Be sure to bring your questions and learn how to navigate the often confusing tax reporting requirement on Thursday, February 26th in Keck Hall 100. http://oiss.rice.edu/events.aspx

University of Texas international tax website, an excellent resource for any international: http://www.utexas.edu/international/taxes/.

IRS: www.irs.gov or call 1-800-829-1040

Additional resources available on the OISS website: http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=132

Reminders:
• Make sure you have received all your tax supporting documents before filing your taxes.
• You will need to have an SSN or a ITIN to file your taxes in most cases, please see the OISS on how to apply.
• Check your mailbox! If you have received wages or scholarships from Rice during 2008, you will receive tax documents in the mail. You should receive a W-2 (for wages earned) or a 1042-S (for fellowships). If you have not received anything by mid-March, contact the Rice Payroll office.
• If you did not receive any income in 2008, you may only need to file Form 8843 – you may use CINTAX to assist you in completing the form.
• Foreign nationals who have tax treaties should pay close attention to the terms of their treaties (http://www.irs.gov/publications/p901/ar01.html). If you have questions concerning benefits you think might apply to you, please inquire at the Payroll office (please note that you would have to provide your SSN and you may need to complete additional forms in Payroll in order to receive those benefits).
• Tax forms are due to the IRS by April 15, 2009 to avoid penalties.

J Corner
J students must receive authorization in advance before starting employment on campus or off campus. Please make an appointment with an advisor in OISS and bring the job offer letter for this meeting.

J students who want to work in a career that is related to their studies before or after the completion of their programs, need to apply for Academic Training. For application procedures, please make an appointment to meet with one of the advisors at OISS.

J scholars/professors who travel outside of the U.S. for a period of time (over a month) to participate in an ongoing research project, need to inform OISS for the purpose of travel, as update in SEVIS is required.

J students and scholars need to update changes of their address in Esther within 10 days of their move.
ROPE

ROPE: Outdoor Trips and Equipment Rentals for the Rice Community

ROPE (Rice Outdoor Programs and Education) is your source for all Rice-oriented outdoor activities. Each semester, ROPE hosts outdoor trips, ranging from daylong adventures at the beach to weekend climbing getaways. Every trip includes transportation, access fees, meals and equipment rentals. In fact, all you have to do is register online and show up! Opportunities for the spring 2009 semester include a whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, canoeing, an overnight caving adventure in central Texas, an exploration through Big Bend National Park, and much more! For detailed trip descriptions, registration instructions, and general information, please visit Rope online at www.rice.edu/rope.

In addition, if you’re interested in organizing your own outdoors trip, ROPE can help by renting gear to you! From tents to backpacks to ocean kayaks, ROPE offers an affordable and practical way to acquire outdoor gear for your personal adventures. For a list of equipment available for rent, rental policies, and prices, please visit our online rental center at http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~ricerec/rope/rental_information.html.

We hope to see you soon!
The ROPE Staff

Spring Events

Tax Seminar
February 26, 2009
Mr. Andrew Lai, ESQ, CPA on tax issues
4 to 5:30 p.m. for 1st and 2nd year students
6 to 7:15 p.m. for Upper classmen and post-docs
Keck Hall Rm 100

Sir Lunches
Meeting for the international ladies will be held on March 4, April 1, and May 6, Wednesdays at 12 noon in the Abercrombie Lab lobby. These meetings are open to all international ladies, including the spouses of internationals, female students (both undergraduate and graduate students), post-docs and faculty. Please come to enjoy a simple lunch and great social time. Hope to see many of you.

Cultural Fair
Friday, March 27, 2009
Grand Hall, RMC
12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Will you have time to help the new students in the month of August? OISS is recruiting volunteers to join us in welcoming the new international students before the fall semester begins. If you are interested to be part of our orientation volunteers team, please contact Lily Lam at llam@rice.edu or call X8755.