Rice University: Small in Size – Huge in International Impact

By Adria Baker

In numbers of students, Rice University is considered to be a “small university”, compared to many other universities. However, we are making a BIG impact internationally. The fact that 20% of our overall student body is an international student (defined as being in the US on a non-immigrant visa) is definitely extraordinary. The high percentage of students from abroad helps to send a message that Rice’s goal is to always seek the best students, whether from the US or abroad.

Other examples of how Rice makes a LARGE impact on the world are found in the numbers of research articles and discoveries where our international students and scholars have a key impact on the work and research being done. One can just quickly browse through the Rice News archives to see the many articles and pictures featuring our internationals showing how their work makes the world a better place, and expands Rice’s global impact.

The OISS staff is also working hard to create important global networks and expand Rice’s name internationally. Recently, Sandra Bloem-Curtis, who has worked over a decade in the OISS, was recognized by the university with the award of “Rice Centennial Star”. Sandra was also named “International Educator of the Year” a few months ago for the impact she is making globally (by the International Trade Center).

In addition, Cory Owen was recognized by the Fulbright Association by granting her an award to serve on an esteemed high-level delegation to Germany last fall. The positive impact of her participation, as a result of her award, continues to reap benefits for our university (see page 10 for Cory’s perspective of her participation as a Fulbrighter).

For the first time since the 1960’s, Houston hosted the NAFSA: Association of International Educators national conference. This past May, Houston welcomed 8500+ international educators from all over the U.S. and the globe to review, discuss, affecting international students and scholars and international education exchange. The OISS staff was at the forefront of leadership in helping make this huge international conference a success. In partnership with other offices at Rice, we welcomed many international visitors, representing 26 countries on the Rice Campus Visit day. We were grateful for our wonderful international graduate student guides, who made the visitors feel so welcome. OISS collaborated with many colleagues from across campus, who also served in leadership to bring international visibility to Rice.

Continued on page 9...
Dear Rice International Students & Scholars,

We are very happy to celebrate this record year for Rice University with you – our Centennial! Rice has broken many records in our past 100 years of existence. Of particular interest are the record internationalization efforts that have contributed to making Rice such a great university. Yet again, this year we set a record of new international students who arrived this summer on our campus, as well as those who are continuing (total 1288).

Our international scholars conducting research and visiting in our academic departments have also hit a record of just under 700 in the past year!

We have tried to provide a record number of immigration trainings, workshops, and cultural opportunities to help you during your time at Rice University. Please take time to read through this newsletter to see what offerings we have to help with networking and meeting others beyond your normal group, learning about living in Houston, work authorization opportunities, constantly changing laws that affect foreign nationals in the USA, getting outside of the Rice hedges, and celebrating our 100th year birthday.

Best wishes, always, for a rich and successful semester!

Adria L. Baker
 Executive Director, Office of International Students and Scholars
 Associate Vice Provost for International Education

Top 5 tips for OISS services
 By Andy Meretoja

1. If you would like to speak with an OISS advisor, it is always best to schedule an appointment. The fastest way to do this is to call the office (713-348-6095), but you may also email oiss@rice.edu.

2. You do not need an appointment to request a travel signature. Just bring your I-20 or DS-2019 together with your passport and I-94 card to the front desk. Remember that it takes a full day to process a travel signature, so you will get the I-20 or DS-2019 back the following business day.

3. If you require a supporting letter for a visa renewal, inviting a friend or family member for a visit, proof of enrollment, or for a bank account, the best way to request one is through the OISS website (http://oiss.rice.edu, “Requesting Letters” under “Quick Links” on the right-hand side). Fill in the necessary information, submit the request, and the letter will be ready for pick-up in the afternoon of the following business day.

4. If you would like to apply for a Social Security Number based on an on-campus Job, you need to provide us with a completed Employment Verification Form (available online under “Forms and Hand-outs”). Once we have the form, we can process a letter to support your application in one business day.

5. OISS organizes workshops on CPT, OPT, International Taxes, and Immigration. We will send out information about all the workshops through the OISS Announce, make sure to subscribe to the listserv!

Bonus Tip: English Classes, Undergraduate Lunch Munch, International Ladies’ Networking Lunches and more... OISS has a lot going on throughout the year. Take advantage of all the fun stuff we organize. The schedules are available in this newsletter!

The OISS website, the OISS blog, and the Newsletter archives are all a great source of information! Take a minute to go through some of helpful things we have available online.

To stay informed about OISS events and updates visit the OISS website often at:
http://oiss.rice.edu/
and the blog at
http://oiss.blogs.rice.edu/
Countries/Regions Represented by Rice Degree-Seeking Students

International Student Enrollment By Country/Region - Fall 2012 *

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<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>El Salvador</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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<td>Rwanda</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Taiwan</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Totals:
- Enrolled non-immigrant degree-seeking students: **1288**
- Graduate international students: **898**
- Undergraduate international students: **390**
- Exchange (yearly) students: **47**
- Visiting international students: **40**
- New international students for Fall 2012: **390**

* Numbers as of 9/12/2012

Did you know...

- International students make up **20%** of the overall Rice population?
- ... We had **698** foreign visitors and scholars conducting research and lecturing at Rice during the past year?
- ... Rice international students and scholars represent **103** different countries/regions?
Getting Involved in RICE

Rice’s 100th Birthday Centennial Celebration

by Von Nguyen

Rice’s 100th birthday is coming up on October 12, 2012! The whole campus is getting involved and celebrating with a number of different events, exhibits and activities. There are many ways you can get involved and partake in the festivities. Check out the Rice Centennial Story Project where students, faculty and staff share their favorite memories of Rice and you can even submit your own story. You can donate directly to the Centennial Campaign or share some of your old Rice memorabilia for display during the celebration. For more information on the Centennial Campaign, please visit: centennial.rice.edu/

At the Office of International Students and Scholars, we are celebrating the Centennial in three major ways which include: The Centennial International Children’s Book Collection, Valuable International Perspectives and the Happy Birthday Rice Poster.

I. The Centennial International Children’s Book Collection is a collection of books from all over the world that represents 100 different languages and/or countries. We currently have 60 books in the collection from countries all over the world and you can see the list here.

If you would like to donate a book, please email oiss@rice.edu or call 713-348-6095. We appreciate donations of new or gently used books for this collection which will be displayed in the OISS Office. See page 5 for more details on our collection.

II. Valuable International Perspectives is a program that was launched in 2008 to highlight international perspectives on a variety of topics. For the Centennial Celebration, we wanted to collect a number of short stories from international students, scholars and visitors about an intercultural experience they had while at Rice. You can write about anything that is happy, sad, funny, memorable or educational with your international perspective. If you’d prefer you can also choose to do a video of your intercultural story. Just email it to us. Every entry will be added to our raffle for Rice “birthday” prizes!

III. The Happy Birthday Rice Poster will be displayed during the Centennial Celebration in the OISS office. We are seeking to have the phrase “Happy Birthday Rice!” written in 100 different languages. We will print out your country’s flag and you can write this phrase in your own language to be displayed on the poster.

For the Centennial Celebration, we wanted to collect a number of short stories from international students, scholars and visitors about an intercultural experience they had while at Rice. You can write about anything that is happy, sad, funny, memorable or educational with your international perspective. If you’d prefer you can also choose to do a video of your intercultural story. Just email it to us. Every entry will be added to our raffle for Rice “birthday” prizes!

We hope you can participate in one or all of these activities to help us celebrate Rice’s 100 birthday in a very international way! To learn more about OISS-sponsored Centennial Activities, please visit: http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=1196. For more on Rice's Centennial activities, see pages 5 and 15.
Getting Involved in RICE

Specialized Communication Workshops Offered by the Center for Written, Oral, & Visual Communication

Conversations occur in many contexts at Rice—one-on-one with fellow students or professors, in small groups in labs or class, and in large groups in lectures—and present a variety of challenges like knowing when it is your turn to speak, finding appropriate ways to offer your opinion, requesting information or assistance, and making time to think of an answer. These workshops will identify strategies to address these challenges and to help you effectively share your ideas and knowledge with others. Each workshop will be tailored specifically to situations faced by the target enrollment group, so please attend only the one for your level of study. Space may be limited, so sign up ASAP at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PWML96B or at cwovc.rice.edu.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Academic Conversation Skills for International Graduate Students</th>
<th>Academic Conversation Skills for International Undergraduate Students</th>
<th>Academic Conversation Skills for International Postdocs &amp; Other Scholars</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Tuesday, October 30 4:00-5:00 p.m. Humanities Bldg 117</td>
<td>Thursday, November 1 4:00-5:00 p.m. Humanities Bldg 117</td>
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OISS Centennial International Children’s Book Collection – Update
By Agnes Vajtai

First of all, we’d like to extend a huge thank you to those who have already donated a wonderful book to the OISS Centennial Children’s book collection! Here is a quick update on our growing international library.

As part of Rice’s Centennial Celebration, we have started collecting children’s books to celebrate Rice’s diversity with the hope to receive 100 books from 100 different countries or languages which will be displayed in the OIISs and later donated to a local school or library. In recognition of the generous donations, a label is placed inside each book with some information of its origin: title, country and language.

With the help of not only our international but the entire Rice community we already have a wonderful stack of colorful books on display. The 60 books received so far came from 33 countries and in 24 different languages. The collection varies and represents countries where large numbers of our international students, scholars, faculty and staff are visiting from such as China or South Korea, as well as countries like Uruguay, Madagascar, New Zealand or Israel, where there may be only one student studying at Rice. In terms of age-groups, the current collection is equally colorful. We have books from across the continuum, starting from board books (from Japan or the Netherlands), which can be enjoyed by even a couple of months old babies, to comic books (from Hong Kong) for a teenage age audience.

You can check out the entire collection here, or visit OISS and pick your favorites in person. By flipping through the pages you will discover the many different designs, characters and appearances of sometimes the most well-known stories from around the world.

We still have time, and a couple of books to collect before the big day, so would like to invite all of you to be a part of the biggest birthday party of the year. If you have a book to share, even ones from your childhood, towards helping us achieve the 100 book goal, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please take a look at other ways that OISS is celebrating the Centennial, and be a part of this historical event by wishing a Happy Birthday together to our wonderful university http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=1196.
Regulatory Resources and Updates

Immigration Updates

Procedures for Entering the USA May Affect Visa Status

By Adria Baker

U.S. government agencies under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced upcoming changes: 1) The Customs & Border Protection (CBP) will no longer stamp I-20s and DS-2019s with an arrival stamp as you enter the U.S., and 2) CBP will no longer issue I-94 cards upon entry to the U.S. Note: It is unclear when it will be fully operational.

Due to the inconsistencies in stamping (or not), the burden is on YOU, the non-immigrant visitor, to monitor that your entry stamp and proper visa status is still stamped. You are strongly encouraged to review the stamp that the officer at the U.S. port of entry (POE) applies to your immigration documents, BEFORE STEPPING AWAY from the POE’s desk. This may be the only way to prove that you have entered the U.S. properly, or without causing you hardship later.

Maintaining Immigration Status

By Cory Owen

While you’re here, you may find that all the rules and regulations about your courses, the campus, driving, etc. can be overwhelming. As international visitors, you have an added layer of regulations that you need to be aware of and that’s where we come in! The OISS office is here as a resource for you to be sure your immigration status is never in jeopardy. Whenever you have questions or doubts about how something will impact your immigration status, we recommend that you always talk to an OISS advisor (not your friends!) about any possibility of problems.

The main thing is to communicate with the OISS about any changes or questions. There are often immigration consequences that can occur with any changes to your program that you may not be aware of and we want to help in any way possible.

F-1 & J-1 Students:

• Be enrolled full time every semester (12 hours for undergrads, 9 hours for grads).

• Don’t work without authorization—ALL off-campus work (even unpaid work!) must be authorized by OISS *Special note: If you’re on a J-1 student visa, all work must be authorized, even if it is on-campus.

• Don’t violate the Honor Code! Make sure you: 1) know all the rules of the Honor Code, 2) you cite things properly, and 3) do not share work.

J-1 Scholars:

• Don’t work anywhere besides Rice (including giving a talk at another institution) without OISS authorization—even if it is unpaid work.

• Maintain adequate your health insurance (medical, evacuation and repatriation) for you and all of your J-2 dependents.

• Update any changes in your program to OISS such as change in funding, dates, adding dependents, etc.

• Before you apply for a waiver for the two-year home residency requirement (212(e)), you are strongly encouraged to first speak to an OISS advisor.

Advanced Immigration Workshop

Don’t miss this great free seminar! Details below

Topic: "U.S. Immigration Strategies for Employment-Temporary and Permanent Options"

Immigration Lawyer / Speaker: James D. Prappas

Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Time: 4 - 5:30pm

Place: Sewall Hall, Room 301
Regulatory Resources and Updates

Applying for a Social Security Card
By Von Nguyen

For students and scholars who have secured employment, you will need to obtain a social security card from the Social Security Administration (SSA) for tax purposes. Plan to get to the SSA office early and please bring all your original immigration documents with you. You may want to bring a book or laptop to keep you occupied as it can be a time-consuming process. Use the metro rail to get to the SSA Office on Smith St. as parking may be difficult to find. Make sure you provide the Payroll office a copy of your card after you get it. The OISS does not need a copy of your social security card.

Before you go to the SSA:

- You must be in the US for at least 10 business days before applying for a social security number (SSN).
- **Students** who apply for an SSN for on-campus employment must have employment verification letter signed by supervisor and bring to OISS. OISS will give further instructions.
- **Students** who apply for SSN for off-campus employment (CPT) must take their I-20 with the CPT authorization on the third page, and offer letter directly to SSA.
- **Scholars** must bring their offer letter from Rice University along with original immigration documents.
- The earliest you can apply for an SSN is 30 days before employment start date.

List of items to bring:

- I-20 or DS-2019 form.
- Employment letter (students) or Rice offer letter (scholars).
- SSA Letter from OISS
- Passport.
- I-94 card.
- Visa.
- Map to SSA (can be obtained from the OISS office).
- Money for metro rail.
- Book or laptop (optional).

Resources for Employment information and how to obtain a SSN:

Properly Maintaining Your Address in ESTHER

For immigration compliance reporting purposes, your Mailing Address in ESTHER must be where you actually live in Houston. You may use the Permanent Address field for any address you wish, but note that address is where the Payroll office will mail your tax documents in the spring.

Be sure to properly format your address and update it in a timely manner (within 10 days of moving).

To update your address in ESTHER:

a) Go to [https://esther.rice.edu/](https://esther.rice.edu/)
b) Login to your account
c) Click on Update Addresses and Phones
d) Update the information in the “Mailing Address” field (if you do not have a “mailing address” field, you may email the Registrar at registrar@rice.edu to request one)
e) Click on Submit
f) OISS will then receive an electronic update of your address.

** If you are on a visa type other than F-1 or J-1, you must also complete the AR-11 form and submit it to the address indicated on the form. [http://uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/ar-11.htm](http://uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/ar-11.htm)

Proper format for addresses in the United States should be:

Line 1 = First line of address (example: 1234 Main St.)
Line 2 = Second line of address (example: Apt 11B or Room 201, XYZ College)
City = Houston
State or Province = TX
ZIP or Postal Code = XXXXX (example: 77005)
Nation = (LEAVE BLANK)
Guidelines for Law Enforcement Inquiries

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other law enforcement agencies occasionally interview international students and scholars, in particular in scientific fields, as part of a national security effort to protect sensitive technical information. You may read more in the FBI’s white paper “Higher Education and National Security: The Targeting of Sensitive, Proprietary and Classified Information on Campuses of Higher Education.”

In the unlikely event that you are contacted for such an interview, here are some suggestions to consider:

1. OISS encourages members of the community to cooperate with legitimate law enforcement investigations.
2. You may ask that law enforcement officers provide proof of identity, and you may ask about the subject matter of the interview and why you were selected.
3. Agreeing to an interview with law enforcement is voluntary, unless the officer or agent shows you a court order or summons. In the event of a proper court order or summons, you must comply.
4. You may take notes during the interview to remember what questions were asked and how you responded.
5. You may request an interview time or location that is convenient for you, and you might consider asking a faculty member to sit in on the interview. You are also permitted to engage legal counsel or bring an interpreter.
6. Although OISS cannot give legal advice, please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Updates

- DPS laws have changed. In order for anyone to get a Texas drivers license (DL) or a Texas state identification (ID) card, you must have lived in the State of Texas for a minimum of 30 days.
  - To prove Texas residency you must show acceptable documents, a list of possible documents can be found at www.txdps.state.tx.us
  - If you are between 18-24 years of age, and are applying for a Texas driver's license for the first time you must complete an Adult Drivers Education Course, (a six hour on-line course).
  - International Driver's Permits (IDP) are valid for one year. You must obtain it in your home country. (This is different from your regular home country license.)
  - Citizens of Canada, Germany, France and South Korea can trade their home country's driver's license for a Texas DL. Note: Koreans have to get it translated and notarized at the Consulate before the trade. You won't have your DL when you return home, (which could pose a problem for you).
- How can a Texas ID be of help to me? It can serve as an alternative ID.

Free Advanced Immigration Opportunity

If you have questions about visas beyond F and J visas, including H1B working visas and permanent resident (“green card”) eligibility, you are strongly encouraged to attend a free seminar by an immigration lawyer, Mr. James D. Prappas. He will present a session entitled "US Immigration Strategies for Employment-Temporary and Permanent Options", on Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 4:00 - 5:30 PM in Sewall Hall, room 301.
OPT: Planning Ahead to Work After Graduation

By Matt Stein

As much as you enjoy and cherish your time at Rice, the end goal for most students is to graduate and find a job. This might be work in the corporate world, in a non-profit or non-governmental organization, or as a post-doctoral researcher at a university. Fortunately, there are several ways for Rice international students to obtain employment authorization to prepare for life in the working world after Rice.

OPT – Optional Practical Training – is the most common way for Rice F-1 students to work after graduation. The key is to plan ahead: OPT requires an application to USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) as early as 90 days before you finish at Rice. You might hear from friends that they received their EAD card (Employment Authorization Document) in just four or six weeks, but depending on the time of year it often takes USCIS a full three months to process OPT applications. Without your EAD card in-hand, you may not start an OPT job after graduation. No exceptions.

OISS offers several OPT Workshops each semester. Please **plan to attend a workshop several months before you need work authorization.** During these one-hour sessions offered toward the beginning of every fall and spring semester, you will hear a complete introduction to OPT, pick up information handouts and forms, and have an opportunity to ask questions of an OISS advisor. Please see the OPT Workshop dates for Fall 2012 or check the OISS web site ([oiss.rice.edu](http://oiss.rice.edu)).

At any time, you can learn more about OPT by reading OISS’ “[F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) Handout].” Even after you have read the OPT Handout and attended an OPT Workshop, we encourage you to schedule a meeting with an OISS advisor to discuss your specific case. That way, we can discuss a strategy and timeline for your post-Rice plans, including travel during OPT and H-1b work visas.

The process is actually quite straightforward as long as you plan ahead and follow the correct procedures.

We look forward to working with you in person!

..Continued from page 1

The OISS staff members volunteered their time, presented a session, or presented a poster session. Some of the sessions that the OISS presented (see pictures) were on: 1) FISS program, 2) Rice’s International Football Clinic, 3) International Delegations at Rice, 4) Special programs for internationals, 5) Our essay contest, 6) Houston, as an international city, and 7) internationalization growth. To learn more about the conference click [here](http://oiss.rice.edu).

The leadership that the international students offer to Rice is also outstanding. Many of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) executive leaders are international students. Last year, Sumedh Warudkar did an outstanding job as President of the GSA, as well as also winning the award by the International Trade Center as Outstanding International Student. More and more international students are now serving in leadership for undergraduate O-Week, as well. We will continue to make a HUGE international impact, and this Centennial year, is a great time to celebrate and acknowledge the great strides we have made!
I had the unique opportunity to visit Germany on a two-week Fulbright program for international educators this last fall. As part of my trip, I (and 19 other educators) got a chance to learn all about the German (and European) education system in an exciting, whirlwind adventure.

Our first order of business was to do a city tour of Berlin! It was amazing to see all the historic sites that you read about in history books. And since I had never been to Europe before, it was an amazing opportunity to learn so much about a place I’d only heard about from family and friends.

We got started the next day early in the morning with an overview of the German university system and ended the night by meeting various government officials such as members of the German Federal Foreign Office and the US Embassy. Over the next few days, we were able to do campus visits of universities in Berlin, learn more about scholarships and fellowships available to students and scholars, and we got to go to the German Parliament (“Reichstag”) to meet with a Member of Parliament!

While there are a lot of memories made (including a trip to France to meet with their Fulbright office!), there were two things that really made this trip special.

On one of the days, we walked to Poland (while it is possible to just walk to Canada or Mexico, it isn’t a common practice in the US to just walk into another country!) and spent the day learning more about their education system and the history of the country. Part of this trip included a visit to a unique housing initiative for students (both German and international) called Fforst. This housing arrangement came about because the students felt that there was a great divide between the German and non-German students (particularly from Poland). They started the joint housing a few years ago so that half of the residents would be German citizens and the other half would be international. I got to meet students from around the world and learn more about what drew them to Germany. I was so impressed with their initiative!

The other aspect of my Fulbright that I loved was that we were able to split off into specialization groups to various cities across the country. My group of international advisors went to Leipzig and it was amazing. We all got a “host family” for the day and I was able to see what life was really like in the city. We went to the park, got some dinner, visited a beautiful man-made lake and just relaxed together. It really gave a deeper look into life in Germany and was very reminiscent of our own FISS program.

Overall, it is impossible to say how much this trip really impacted me. The people I met, the connections I made, and the experiences I had were so transformative. And while it was a short visit, I’ll always be grateful for my time in Germany and all my wonderful memories.
We had yet another year of fantastic activities for our Summer International College! We started up our weekly Cultural Enrichment Sessions which took place in our new OISS Multipurpose Room. It was a fun way to have small group discussions on various acculturation issues that can come up. Between these meetings and our International Coffee Hours on Fridays, we really had a chance to have great conversations in a small group setting—perfect for getting to know each other!

Between the trips to the zoo, the fireworks on the 4th of July, and the museum visits, we had some great opportunities to get beyond the hedges. These little excursions proved how lucky we are to be at Rice with so many fantastic places to visit in walking distance from the campus! Plus, all these events were free, which made it even more fun!

Our field trips were a hit again! We had so much fun last year that we even added a new one—we went to the Bayou Wildlife Park and got to hang out with the animals! Between feeding the eager ostrich, hanging out with the deer, and petting the goats in the pen, I’m not sure which part was my favorite! I know that we definitely made some friends there—especially with the overly enthusiastic deer that kept trying to eat our food!

We kept up our two other favorite trips: NASA and George Ranch Historic Park. This year’s trip to NASA was especially fun since we had our very own NASA expert with us. . . Andy Meretoja! As a NASA fanatic, she was able to give us so much insight into the history of the space program and we got wonderful “lectures” from her at many of the stops.

The George Ranch trip was a lot of fun again! Between the blacksmith, the rancher, cowboys and house tours, it is hard to pick a favorite event! It was really fun to learn how to lasso properly and I was not surprised to find that most of our group were fast learners!

As always, the pictures from our events are available online on our Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/riceoiss/ If you attended the events, please feel free to add the pictures!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Texas Speak (sounds like)</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Howyudooun?</td>
<td>“How are you doing?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umfixintu . .</td>
<td>“I’m fixing to. . . “ – meaning - I am going to..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuwunnukok?</td>
<td>“You want a Coke?” - meaning – Would you like a soda? (then you proceed to ask what kind, Sprite? Dr. Pepper? Coca-Cola?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuwunsumthon?</td>
<td>“Do you want something?” – meaning – Do you need anything?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y’all</td>
<td>You (singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All y’all</td>
<td>You (plural)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeet?</td>
<td>Did you eat? – meaning – Have you had anything to eat yet?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cultural Activities

Grad Corner  
By Ben Colsten

Continuing Orientation for International Graduate Students

OISS is sponsoring two more Continuing Orientation sessions this Fall. If you are a new international graduate student, please join us for the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Successful First Year at Rice</th>
<th>Planning Your Graduate Study</th>
<th>Socializing, Networking &amp; Communicating Across Cultures in the US*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 17, 2012</td>
<td>Monday, October 15, 2012</td>
<td>Monday, November 12, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>12:00 – 1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farnsworth Pavilion</td>
<td>Farnsworth Pavilion</td>
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(it was enjoyed by many!) 😊

Free Lunch will be provided by OISS.

GSA International Coffee Break Series

Last year, and through the summer, GSA continued to sponsor the International Coffee Break series. GSA collaborates with different cultural clubs to provide beverages and food from around the world, as well as coffee. In July, GSA celebrated the Olympics with a London themed Coffee Break.

The Fall 2012 Coffee Break series began on August 15 with the GSA American-themed Coffee Break with an assortment of pies.

Watch for announcements from GSA regarding the upcoming Coffee Breaks, held in the Graduate Student Lounge, in the RMC. For more information, you can contact Kaushik Kalaga, the GSA Graduate Lounge Manager at vk9@rice.edu.

Graduate International Culture Night

Last spring, GSA presented their Third Annual Graduate International Culture Night (GICN). The evening included traditional music, dancing, and performances by Rice international students and scholars. A flag presentation representing 65 nations began the evening, and it was concluded with an international feast. If you missed it, you can check out a video of the event here.

Mark your calendars for the Fourth Annual GICN, scheduled for February 1, 2013.

Friends of International Students and Scholars (FISS) program

Mingjie Liu and her roommate, Carol Lam from Baylor College of Medicine, took time out of their weekend to help us recruit for the Friends of International Students and Scholars (FISS) program. Mingjie re-counted some great cultural and friendship experiences shared with her “host family” to the Friendship Force members, a non-profit community-based organization.
Cultural Activities

3rd Annual International Football Clinic & Tailgate Party

Rice’s Head Football coach, David Bailiff, and his entire staff, coaches, and football team generously offered another wonderful football clinic to 200+ international students and scholars again this year. Everyone enjoyed practicing drills and learning from our wonderful football team about the rules of football (US style). The evening was full of food, cheering, laughter, new friendships being made, high-fiving, drills, celebrating, teaching, learning, and joy. Of special interest was the leadership and friendship that our own international student and football player, Luke Willson (shown in both pictures), offered throughout the night. We are truly indebted to Coach Bailiff, Ingrid Sobrino, all of the coaches and staff, and the football team for an evening we will never forget. To learn more check out this video.

Academic Impressions Student Panel

Academic Impressions (www.academicimpressions.com) is a professional organization that serves higher education professionals by providing products and services. On July 11-13, Academic Impressions held a conference in Houston: Supporting International Student Academic Success. Three of our current international grad students spoke about their own experiences as international students during a question and answer panel. Jorge Diaz Granados Stapel, Hwajung Lee, and Zi-Ang Zhang (pictured) each shared with an audience of 50 higher education professionals about challenges they faced, and what helped them succeed. Their stories and comments on cultural adjustment, language, making friends, job interviews, involvement, and other topics were insightful and appreciated by all in attendance.

Graduate Loan Closet

A Graduate Loan Closet is a service given out of true care for Rice graduate students. It is located in the RGA. Be sure to offer to help the ladies who volunteer their time and hard work if you ever pass by the Loan Closet during open hours. Also let them know how much you appreciate them. To learn more visit: http://gradloancloset.blogs.rice.edu/

Undergraduate Updates

iPREP proved to be another amazing time, as the new international, exchange, and visiting Brazilian students met before O-Week. The programs included important talks about academic advising, immigration responsibilities, legal issues in the USA, and various panel discussions on special topics for international students. iPREP concluded with a wonderful reception which included President Leebron and his wife, Y. Ping Sun, Dean John Hutchinson and his wife, Paula, and other VIPs. Toward the end of O-Week, the international students and the OISS staff enjoyed a reunion at the “International Reconnect” (pictured).

Don't miss the Town Hall meeting for all undergraduate international students with Dean Hutchinson on Tuesday, October 23 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm in room 301, Sewall Hall.

We will continue reconnecting with international students throughout the Fall semester, as the OISS staff will meet weekly at the various colleges for lunch each Wednesday. Check out the schedule of the Wednesday Lunch Munches. Please stop by and let us know how your semester is going, Undergrads! 😊
Health Insurance Tips
By Sandra Bloem-Curtis

1. Understand your health insurance policy terminology
   ♦ Premium = the amount that you pay to purchase your insurance coverage
   ♦ Deductible = the amount that you must pay before the insurance company starts to pay.
   ♦ Co-payment/Co-insurance = the percentage that you must pay after the deductible is paid.
   ♦ Example: If your deductible is $100, your co-insurance amount is 10%, and your total medical bill is $2000. You will be responsible for $290 ($100 deductible + 10% of the remaining $1900).

2. Be prepared:
   ♦ Carry your insurance ID card with you.
   ♦ Learn the details of your insurance plan by looking at the explanation of benefits, so you best understand how to use your policy.

3. Know the name and location of network providers/hospitals near Rice and your home (see http://health.rice.edu “Obtaining Care”)

   ♦ Normal sickness or minor emergencies (for students only) = Try to go to the Rice Student Health Center during regular business hours, appointments are preferred. As a student, you already pay for access to the Health Center.
   ♦ Minor emergencies or if Student Health Center is closed = Go to urgent care centers
   ♦ Major emergencies = Go to emergency room
   ♦ Life-threatening emergency = Dial 911 (off-campus) or x6000 (on-campus) for an ambulance to be sent to your location.

5. Paying your medical bills
   ♦ A claim must be filed with your insurance company to get the process started. The hospital/clinic may offer this service or you may need to contact your insurance company for assistance in filing a claim.
   ♦ Remember, your insurance will pay a portion of your expenses. Any remaining expenses are your responsibility to pay to the doctor/hospital/medical care provider.

6. Getting assistance with your particular insurance questions
   ♦ Aetna (students) = Mary Aycock (studentinsurance@rice.edu)
   ♦ All SAS plans = Paul Fisher (phone 877-626-0360)
   ♦ Aetna (scholars) = Human Resources (benefits@rice.edu)
   ♦ OISS is also available to provide guidance on how to resolve insurance issues.

ZIPCAR

Need a car to get groceries or buy furniture or take a road trip to Galveston Beach? Or perhaps you need to take the Driver’s test at the DPS?

Become a member of the zipcar program on campus! Any international student or scholar who is 18 years of age or older with an international or US driver’s license may sign up for this program which costs $25 for the membership fee. If you have a foreign driver’s license, you will have to provide additional proof of your driving history. Learn more about the process here. Once you sign up, you can rent the car by hour or by the day and not have to worry about gas or insurance since it is included in the rental. You can reserve the car online and let yourself in with your zipcard.

If you need to use the car to take a driver’s test at the DPS, you just have to notify zipcar a week ahead of time so they can produce the insurance letter for the car (which you will need to provide when you get to the DPS).

Find out more about the zipcar and visit here.

If you have questions about the zipcar program, please contact zipcar directly at the contact information below:
Email: info@zipcar.com
Phone: 1-866-4ZIPCAR
Vegetarian Restaurants

By Matt Stein

Texas might be known for cattle ranches and oversized steaks, but Houston is a cosmopolitan city with choices for the non-carnivorous. For Rice students and scholars who do not eat meat for religious, ethical or health reasons — or for anyone who wants a break from barbecue and other meaty options — here are a few vegetarian restaurants in order of proximity to the Rice campus:

If you’d like to explore beyond this list, Happy Cow (happycow.net/north_america/usa/texas/houston) has additional choices. If you do, please report back so we can add recommendations to the OISS veg restaurant list!

Madras Pavilion (velp.com/biz/madras-pavilion-houston): Indian with big lunch buffet

Field of Greens (fieldofgreenscuisine.com): General macrobiotic and vegetarian

Pepper Tree (ilovepeppertree.com): Chinese vegan with big lunch buffet

Cricket’s Creamery (cricketscaffe.com): Casual breakfast, soups, sandwiches and dessert in The Heights

Loving Hut (lovinghut.us/houston): Vegan, pan-Asian

Specialty Restaurants

Did you know that Rice has specialty restaurants on and near campus?

Some Halal restaurants in Houston close to Rice University:

Droubi’s – On campus (all Mediterranean food is Halal)

Istanbul Grill and Deli (5613 Morningside)

Kosher food on-campus: Who Deli (next to the South Servery)

Madras Pavilion (velp.com/biz/madras-pavilion-houston): Indian with big lunch buffet

More Centennial Celebrations: Asians at Rice

The Rice University Community of Asian Alumni celebrated Rice’s 100th birthday with a Centennial Symposium and Luncheon on Saturday, September 15. Many current Rice Asian students participated, which helped make the event a success. International Student Panelists who spoke of their experiences at Rice, and how they came to learn about Rice. The panelists (pictured on left), in order from left to right are: Jeong Hwan (Eric) Kook, Keivan Rokneddin, Mingjie Liu and Sumedh Warudkar. Also, pictured above are the leaders of the Rice Chinese Students & Scholars Club (RCSSC), who were present, as well as several other Asian student groups.
**Mark Your Calendars**

Rice University’s Office of International Students & Scholars sponsors... FREE English & Culture Classes!!

General Sign-up: Friday, September 28, 2012 from 10:00am to 12:00 noon in OISS: Lovett Hall, Entrance A; 2nd floor. If you have any questions please contact us at 713-348-6095

**Free Classes offered for Fall 2012**

**Advanced/Intermediate English**
- **Conversation:** Teacher: Catherine Span
- **Class:** Mondays from 1-3pm in the Ley Student Center, 2nd floor; conference room
- **Begins:** Monday, October 1, 2012
- **Ends (tentatively):** Monday, December 10, 2012

**English Idioms & Slang Class**
- **Teacher:** TBD
- **Class:** Tuesdays from 12 noon-1pm in OISS
- **Begins:** Tuesday, October 2, 2012
- **Ends (tentatively):** Tuesday, December 11, 2012

**Grammar & Pronunciation**
- **Teacher:** Blake Ackerson
- **Class:** Wednesdays from 1-2pm in OISS
- **Begins:** Wednesday, October 3, 2012
- **Ends (tentatively):** Wednesday, December 5, 2012

**Beginning English Conversation:**
- **Teacher:** Abbey Godley
- **Class:** Thursdays from 12 noon-1pm in OISS
- **Begins:** Thursday, October 4, 2012
- **Ends (tentatively):** Thursday, December 13, 2012

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**International Ladies Network**

Please join the OISS staff members for networking, food and fun activities with other International ladies.

The luncheons will take place in McMurtry College, Room 107 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

Pizza will be provided

Please also consider joining the Rice International Ladies Google group, a forum for Rice international ladies (students, scholars, and spouses) to communicate with each other.

The group will be a meeting point for discussions on events, acculturation, support, and fun!

Sign up: [http://groups.google.com/group/rice-international-ladies](http://groups.google.com/group/rice-international-ladies) (Click on “Join this group” link to the right of the web page)

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**FALL 2012**

- **October 1, 2012**
  - Card Making
  - Make cards with Pooja Wardker

- **November 5, 2012**
  - To be decided

- **December 3, 2012**
  - Holiday themed crafts

**SPRING 2013**

- **February 4, 2013**
  - Card Stamping,
  - Make Valentine’s day cards by stamping with Tracy Rhoades

- **March 4, 2013**
  - To be decided

- **April 1, 2013**
  - International Pot Luck,
  - International Food and End of Semester Party
Thoughts to Ponder...

*Some Famous Quotes About Being Yourself*

"To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else, means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight and never stop fighting." **E. E. Cummings**

"History is a gallery of pictures in which there are few originals and many copies." **Alexis de Tocqueville**

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." **Henry David Thoreau**

"None of us will ever accomplish anything excellent or commanding except when he listens to this whisper which is heard by him alone." **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

"Accept no one's definition of your life, but define yourself." **Harvey Fierstein**

"What you think of me is none of my business." **AA saying**

"We are born originals. So why do so many of us die copies?" **Edward Young**

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." **Robert Frost**

"Once conform, once do what others do because they do it, and a kind of lethargy steals over all the finer senses of the soul." **Michel de Montaigne**

Taken from Jim Jackson's "Jim's Daily Awakenings", June 6 2012