Volunteerism: A Key Opportunity for Opening Many Doors

By Adria Baker

A top value and activity in the USA is volunteering. No matter what organization one is a part of, US cultural priorities include contributing to it - in part as a volunteer. For example, when one enrolls their child in a school – even if they are paying tuition – there is an expectation that the parents, and most likely the child as well, will volunteer time and efforts to the school, or in the classroom with the teacher.

The same happens with clubs and associations outside of school, such as professional organizations, and with faith-based programs. Sharing one’s expertise or time is truly part of the fabric of US society.

For students and scholars from other countries, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience US culture, as well as meet people and make friends. Oftentimes, breaking through the cultural and linguistic gaps are challenging for newcomers. Trying to fit into a conversation where you are new in a country and just learning the protocols and the local slang is very difficult.

However, when you volunteer to help, whether it is a seemingly insignificant task, the opportunity tends to help you bi-pass the cultural and linguistic differences, and the focus becomes the task and goals of the group at hand.

I have seen in many cases that when a group is working to accomplish a goal, it has a unifying effect. Friendships and cross-cultural understanding are developed as students and scholars work together. The shared skills and efforts can serve to develop meaningful conversations and friendships.

**Note of caution:** Please note that you should not volunteer in a place of employment. You need proper work authorization for this, or the legal consequences to your immigration status are very harsh. Volunteerism is intended only for those places where one truly is volunteering to help in a place where no paid worker would be contributing. You are encouraged to talk to an OISS advisor to insure your activities are legal under US federal regulations.

Rice University and the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) has benefitted greatly by contributions of volunteers each year. Our English and Culture Classes are taught by dedicated, volunteer teachers who are eager to support and help international students and scholars. Our friendship / hospitality programs, immigration lawyers and guest speakers are also OISS volunteers, whose goal it is to reach out and help. We have airport pick-up volunteers and student orientation volunteers, to name a few examples.

We hope you will take advantage of the infinite occasions to volunteer on-campus and in the Houston community during your time at Rice. It is a great professional development opportunity where your skills are enhanced, as well as important for your resume and job prospects. If you have questions as to where you might want to invest in yourself by volunteering, feel free to set up an appointment to meet an OISS advisor. The Community Involvement Center is an excellent on-campus resource. Expand your horizons, develop your professional skills, broaden your perspectives, and meet new people through volunteerism.
Dear Rice International Students & Scholars,

Every new school year brings a reminder to me about how honored I am to work at such a wonderful university, with such excellent students and scholars! We realize how blessed we are to have such a vibrant international community, with the top scholars and students from around the world contributing to what makes Rice great, as well as expanding our knowledge base through global lenses.

Each year we assess the need of our international students and scholars. Beyond the everyday immigration and compliance needs to assist you, we have either created programs to help in your success, or serve as a resource to help you find essential avenues. Please know that our doors are open to you. Take time to read this newsletter, as well as past editions. Make an appointment to see an OISS advisor to discuss any immigration and travel issues, cultural adjustment, personal and academic issues. Thank you for choosing to come to Rice University! We know how fortunate we are to have you. Have a great semester and stay tuned to our many offerings in the days to come!

Sincerely

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

To stay informed about OISS events and updates visit the OISS website often at:

http://oiss.rice.edu/

and the blog at

http://oissblogs.rice.edu/

RICE WORLD

Adria Baker

Maqsuda Afroz

Elmira (Left) and Aki (Right)

OISS Welcomes Two New OISS Members

Early this summer, OISS welcomed Elmira Ganiyeva as the International Delegate & Compliance Specialist, and Aki Shimada as the International Administrative Coordinator. Both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to our office and university. Elmira has previous experience working in the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Consulate in Almaty, Kazakhstan, as well as experience in a law firm and Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages. Aki brings to Rice experience from the Japanese Consulate in Houston, the Japanese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, the Japanese foreign service, from private industry, and from Texas Tech University.

We are very happy to welcome both Elmira and Aki to our international staff and hope you will come to greet them soon!

Rice Mourns Tragic Loss – Christiaan Scholtz

Rice University learned that one of our international students, Christiaan Scholtz, died in an accident while visiting his home in South Africa over the summer. Christiaan was a Professional Masters student in Bioengineering, whose goal was to help others in medical-related support. A service celebrating his life was held in South Africa in early July.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and many friends. We are very grateful for the time Christiaan was with us at Rice, as he made a great impact in a very short time. A memorial service at the Rice Memorial Chapel was held on August 28, 2014.

Volume 30, Issue 1, Fall 2014
Countries/Regions Represented by Rice *Degree-Seeking* Students

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY COUNTRY/REGION - FALL 2014**

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**Totals:** 1499

*Numbers as of 9/15/2014*

*Did you know...*

... The international students make up 22.82% of the overall Rice population?

... We had 736 foreign visitors and scholars conducting research and lecturing at Rice during the past year?

... Rice international students and scholars represent 89 different countries/regions?
Requesting Letters
By Andy Meretoja
If you require a supporting letter for a visa renewal, inviting a friend or family member for a visit, or proof of enrollment, 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!

Keep in mind that a supporting letter for a Social Security Number can’t be requested online, since we will need a completed Employment Verification Form (available online under “Forms and Handouts”). Once we have the form, we can process a letter to support your application in one business day. Please note that we will only issue letters for SSN applications for On-Campus work!

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).

** 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/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)

To update your address in ESTHER
- Go to https://esther.rice.edu/.
- Login to your account.
- Click on Update Addresses and Phones.
- 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).
- Click on Submit.
- OISS will then receive an electronic update of your address.

Continuing Orientation for New Undergraduate and Graduate Students
Program managers and OISS Senior International Advisors, Jenny Brydon and Ben Colston, have organized a Continuing Orientation series for new students but all current students are also welcome to attend. For questions, please email oiss@rice.edu.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Place &amp; Time</th>
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<td>Kickoff Events</td>
<td>Farnsworth - RMC, 4 PM</td>
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<td>Sept 18, Thurs</td>
<td>Wellbeing and Student Safety</td>
<td>Sewall Hall, 4 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 8, Wed</td>
<td>Undergraduate Academic Session</td>
<td>Sewall Hall, 4 PM</td>
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<td>Oct 9, Thurs</td>
<td>Graduate Students - Working with your Advisor</td>
<td>Farnsworth - RMC, 12 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13, Thurs</td>
<td>Networks for Meetings and Employment</td>
<td>Farnsworth - RMC, 4 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 5, Fri</td>
<td>End of Semester Party</td>
<td>OISS, 11 AM - 2 PM</td>
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</table>

"Human BINGO game" at Continuing Orientation Kickoff Event
Regulatory Resources and Updates

Do I need an Appointment with an OISS Advisor, Yes or No?
By Andy Meretoja

- **I need a travel signature – NO**
  Just stop by with your most recent I-20 or DS-2019 and your passport. 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.

- **But wait, my visa has expired. I’m only going to Mexico so I heard that I can still travel without renewing my visa – YES**
  If you’re planning to use Automatic Revalidation (which enables you to travel to Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean Islands with an expired U.S. visa) we would recommend meeting with an OISS advisor.

- **I want to Request a Supporting Letter – NO**
  The front desk is happy to help with any supporting letters you may need. You can also request letters online at [http://oiss.rice.edu](http://oiss.rice.edu), “Requesting Letters” under “Quick Links” on the right-hand side.

- **I want to get a Social Security Number – NO**
  The front desk can answer questions about how to get a SSN. If you’re applying based on on-campus employment, please see the blurb about requesting letters.

- **I want to Apply for CPT – It depends**
  i. **It’s my first CPT and I haven’t attended any of the workshops – YES**
     An appointment with an OISS advisor is definitely recommended.
  ii. **I’ve done CPT many times – NO**
     Drop off your CPT paperwork at the front desk, no appointment necessary.

- **I want to Apply for OPT – Attend a workshop first**
  If you have additional questions, we’re happy to schedule a follow-up appointment, but otherwise you can drop off the OPT paperwork at the front desk (please note that an appointment will be required once your OPT I-20 is ready).

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. You should not rely on walk-in appointments being available, you should always schedule in advance.

OPT: Maintaining Status
By Sandra Bloem-Curtis

Did you know that while you are on F-1 OPT (Optional Practical Training) after completing your studies, you still have many SEVIS reporting requirements in order to maintain your status?

Please be sure to report the following via our OPT portal - [http://oiss.rice.edu/opt/](http://oiss.rice.edu/opt/):

- Change of address within 10 days of moving
- Any changes to employment – new employer, unemployment, unpaid employment, etc.
- Any change of status to a different visa type
- Verification of continued employment every 6 months while on STEM OPT

Failure to update OISS means a failure to update SEVIS and that could have a significant negative impact on your immigration status!

Please remember to also get a travel signature on your I-20 if you plan to travel outside the US!
Authorization for Off-Campus Jobs, Internships and Research

By Matt Stein

Every semester, OISS advisors assist many (possibly hundreds of) international students with authorization for off-campus positions related to their academic curricula. These work experiences range from part-time internships during the school year to jobs during academic breaks to research or full-time employment after graduation. Obtaining work authorization for F-1 and J-1 students definitely requires an effort, but the process can be quite efficient and pain-free if you are diligent about following the standard administrative procedures.

On-Campus Work: F-1 students do not need separate authorization to work on campus in most situations. Work up to 20 hours per week during the academic semester is permitted. J-1 students do require authorization for all on-campus work. Please contact OISS for details.

Curricular Practical Training*: CPT is authorization to work during your degree program at Rice and can be approved by OISS within a few days once you have completed the required paperwork. OISS’ “F-1 Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Handout” outlines guidelines and procedures. In order for your application to be processed efficiently, please note that the letter from your employer must contain the start and end dates of your position, how many hours per week you will work, and the job address. This is information that OISS must report to the government, so it has to be specified in writing before your CPT can be approved.

Optional Practical Training*: OPT is authorization to work after you graduate from Rice. OPT requires more planning than CPT since it involves an application to USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) up to three months before you complete your Rice degree requirements. More details about the OPT process can be found in OISS’ “F-1 Optional Practical Training (OPT) Handout”.

The key to OPT is planning 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 friends say that they received their EAD card (Employment Authorization Document) in just a few 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 (even unpaid) after graduation.

CPT/OPT Workshops: OISS holds 8-10 workshops each semester in which we discuss CPT and OPT requirements and procedures in detail. We also address staying in the U.S. beyond OPT (STEM OPT extension, H-1B, and other visa categories). Please plan to attend a workshop several months before you need work authorization. The latest workshop schedule is available on OISS’ student employment web page.

*Please note, J-1 students use Academic Training (AT) for off-campus work permission, both during and after their Rice degree programs. Please see OISS’ “J-1 Academic Training Handout” for details and make an appointment to discuss your situation with an advisor.

We look forward to meeting in person to discuss your specific work situation!
Regulatory Resources and Updates

J Corner

J Visa Holder Regulatory Reminders
By Jenny Brydon

For J-1 visa holders to maintain their status, they must comply with the following:

- Have a valid passport at all times (valid at least 6 months into the future).
- Maintain a valid DS-2019.
- Have valid I-94 stamp with J-1, D/S.
- Be a full-time student each semester (12 credit hours for undergraduates and 9 credit hours for graduate students). You must see an international advisor before you drop below hours (for students only).
- Never work unless you have received authorization from OISS. Also, inform OISS if you stop or change employment.
- Maintain the necessary health insurance requirements.
- Report a change of address within 10 days in your ESTHER account. For questions, Students may email registrar@rice.edu and Scholars may email people@rice.edu for help accessing their ESTHER account.
- Report any of the following situations to OISS as it may affect your immigration status: birth of a child, marriage, change of legal name, divorce, hospitalization, long periods out of country, etc.
- Scholars may be able to change program sponsors while in the U.S. while their program is still active. For more information, please visit with an OISS advisor.

Feel free to set up an appointment with an OISS advisor, if you have any questions about your status or benefits as a J-1 student or scholar.

OISS Support for Spouses

OISS not only wants to reach out to current students and scholars during their time at Rice, we also realize family members need support as well. The following is a list of ways spouses can connect with Rice:

- Free English language support: http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=112
  OISS coordinates classes open to the Rice community, including spouses. Each semester three or four classes are held: 1) Beginning Conversation, 2) Intermediate/Advanced Conversation, 3) Idioms and Slang, and 4) Grammar and Pronunciation.
- Use of the Fondren Library.
- International Ladies’ Networking Lunches: http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=110
- International female students and scholars as well as spouses are welcome to join our monthly lunches. This is a great time to network, practice English, and make friends.
- Entrance to all Rice events. Some events require tickets.

Special Advanced Immigration Seminar

Do not miss the opportunity to hear Judy Lee, Immigration Attorney and Managing Partner of FosterQuan who will be speaking on October 9th.

Topics include employment in the USA now and after your nonimmigrant status, H-1Bs, permanent residency, immigration limitations and opportunities.

Who: Speaker, Judy Lee, popular Immigration Attorney from FosterQuan

When: Thursday, October 9th

Time: 4-5:30pm

Where: Sewall Hall, Room 301

Mark your calendars and bring a friend to this free seminar


Common Immigration and Visa Pitfalls

By Adria Baker

OISS staff members compiled a “Top Ten list” of common immigration problems that affect Rice internationals. Any one of these can inhibit one’s ability to maintain legal US immigration status, and be able to stay in the USA.

Problem issue 1 – Do not begin working while AWAITING work authorization. Those who have only applied for authorization, but not yet received approval. NOTE: This is a common problem for students who graduate and have been working in a Rice office. After they graduate, you must stop employment until your work authorization date begins.

Problem issue 2 - From a US consular officer perspective:

Make visa appointment well in advance. This is especially important for those from the countries where there is not a US diplomatic office, and one has to travel to another country to apply for a visa. Be sure to arrive to the visa interview 10-15 minutes early.

When applying for the visa AND for port of entry interviews: Keep original immigration documents in hand luggage, i.e. passport with visa, I-20/DS2019 and admission/offer letter. Not photocopies. Learn school address for both interviews.

Problem issue 3 – Applying for work authorization: Waiting until the last minute to apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT) can cause problems. Since the processing time for a completed application takes three months, and students don’t need a job offer to apply, you are advised to apply as soon as possible.

Problem issue 4 - A lack of understanding of the Honor Code policy. The consequences of not following Rice’s Honor Code completely can result in suspension and loss of visa status.

Problem issue 5 – Failure to get a travel signature in the OISS when traveling outside of the USA. This can lead to complications or denial of entry upon returning to the US.

Problem issue 6 – Dangers of “volunteering”. While true volunteer work is a noble activity (such as volunteering in a hospital, faith-based organization, school) and legal for nonimmigrants, it should not be confused with working without pay - which most likely requires work authorization first. Be sure to check with an OISS advisor if in doubt. The consequences could result in unauthorized work and be subject to deportation.

Problem issue 7 – Maintain timely address updates in ESTHER. Failure to update and maintain the correct address in ESTHER can result in lack of proper SEVIS reporting and failure to maintain status. Address changes must be reported within 10 days of any move.

Problem issue 8 – Maintain mandatory updates while on OPT. Employer changes, unemployment, and address changes must be reported to OISS within 10 days of a change while on OPT. Further, students on STEM OPT must report their current address and employer (even if nothing has changed) every six months. All reporting for OPT and STEM OPT must be done on the OISS portal.

Problem issue 9 – Follow-up on registration holds quickly. Failure to do so can keep a student from registering in a timely manner, which affects one’s legal immigration status. This includes insurance holds, if not enrolled on time.

Problem issue 10 - Work with the OISS on personal and financial updates that need to be reported in SEVIS. This includes dependent information and providing the OISS with dependent immigration documents.

A special appreciation goes to Elmira Ganiyeva, Jenny Brydon, Sandra Bloem-Curtis, Andy Meretoja and Agnes Vajtai, who contributed their tips.

Website for Travel History and I-94

Nonimmigrants may access their travel history into the USA through a website that U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) launched on May 1, 2014. They can access their I-94 arrival/departure information for any point within the past five years. Upon visiting http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94-instructions, nonimmigrants can access “Get Travel History” for this information. Most Rice internationals are already routinely accessing the “Get Most Recent I-94” information tab, which gives information on the most recent date of entry, I-94 number and admission date.

Special Note: It is important that you check and make sure your visa status, duration and other information has been correctly input by CBP. Each time you travel outside the USA and return, be sure to download your I-94 and send to the OISS (print and send, or scan and email.)
The Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) had a unique opportunity to meet with U.S. Department of State (DOS) visitors on July 15th, 2014, when they visited Rice University. Since DOS is the U.S. federal department that issues U.S. visas and manages the J Exchange Visitor program, their visit was important to OISS staff, and other Rice departments, including the Intensive English in our Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, the Brasil@Rice Office, and Study Abroad.

Some helpful updates DOS shared with us included:

- USA is expanding visa offices in Brazil and Mexico.
- DOS is doing its best to keep special review times for “administrative processing” times down. The goal is for a visa applicant to have to wait only four weeks.
- The DOS is seeking to have online fee and scheduling for visa interviews in all U.S. Embassies and U.S. Consulates abroad.
- The DOS has expanded their programs for waiving certain visa renewal interviews.
- U.S. Embassies and U.S. Consulates have special windows or special times blocked for processing F and J visa applications.
- There is a 90% approval rate for all F and J visa applications.

The U.S. Department of State expressed commitment to allowing legitimate foreign visitors enter USA legally, which is reflective of the high percentage of approvals and great increases in visa application processing. Further, they spoke of their determined belief in the importance of people from around the world meeting with one another, in USA and abroad, as a way to increase global awareness, understanding and diplomacy.

Additional tips the DOS delegation had for U.S. visa applicants:

- Apply for visas as early as possible.
- Read about the procedures for the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate that you will visit well before the visa interview.
- Prepare paperwork that is instructed by DOS on their website (http://www.state.gov/).
- In the case of a visa denial, review the DOS website for more information. Listen to what the officer says to you. If your situation changes, you can apply again.

The DOS delegates who visited us were:

Luz Mendes, Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs and Policy Coordination
Bradley Norton, Chief, Public Inquiries Division, Office of Visa Services
Terri Matthews, Consular Officer, Overseas Citizen Services
Beth L. Pompano, Customer Service Manager, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Passport Agency
Taboo Topics: US Customs, Habits, and Other Issues

While some cultural difference topics may seem laughable to one person, they can be helpful to another. Perhaps these taboo topics may give some insight in helping bridge one’s home culture with USA culture. If we were to visit your country, we would be grateful to have some guidance on such topics as well.

General cultural tips to navigate in the USA:

Tips on effective citing of sources, and setting up reference pages from Microsoft Word (referred by Ritvik Bansal):

How to use a western restroom:
http://vimeo.com/6677828

Ben Colston Presents at an International Conference

At the NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference in San Diego, an association that promotes international education exchange, Ben Colston presented on a panel with officers from the U.S. Department of State. The session provided helpful guidance to university administrators on laws that affect international students and scholars in universities around the USA.

OISS Activities and Updates

International Postdoctoral Associate Luncheon
Tuesday, September 23, 2014 @Noon
Esther M. Cohen Room, Faculty Club
Sponsored by the Office of International Student and Scholars

Catch up with other postdocs and learn useful information in regards to your stay here at Rice.

Please RSVP by emailing Jenny Brydon at jbrydon@rice.edu with your name, email and phone number (include area code) by September 17, 2014.

Takatoshi Matsui
Yukiko Matsui  and Saki Matsui
Summer events at the OISS bring Rice international families out for a bit of summer fun.

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OISS Activities and Updates

Nimen Hao, China!
By Jenny Brydon and Ben Colston

OISS Senior International Advisors and Managers, Ben Colston and Jenny Brydon, went to China in June 2014 to host welcome receptions for new students in Beijing and Shanghai. During their adventure they were also able to visit local universities, play tourist and taste fabulous cuisine.

The purpose of the receptions was to educate new students on life at Rice, highlight Houston attractions, and provide information about international orientation programs for undergraduate and graduate students. The program was also organized to allow new students and families a time to ask questions of current students and staff. The undergraduate student leaders did an amazing job of providing thoughtful and informative answers to new student and family questions and by being there, they also helped create wonderful community among the new students. The leaders included: Harry Chen, Maple Zhao, Sophia Shao, Connie Zhang, Ara Zhang, Kerui Huang, and Chengwei Ge.

In Beijing, on Sunday, June 22, over sixty new students, family members, and current student undergraduate leaders met at the Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel for the first reception.

In Shanghai, on June 25 more than 75 new students, family members, and current student leaders met at Courtyard by Marriott Puxi for the second reception. The student leaders did another amazing job in helping new students and their families know what to expect when they arrive at Rice. They even organized activities throughout the day for new students.

While in Beijing, Ben and Jenny also visited Peking University to meet with members of their international staff and took a tour of their beautiful campus. In addition, the advisors saw the Wangfujing shopping district, Tiananmen Square, and part the Forbidden City (it was closed on the day they went). They also enjoyed a wonderful hotpot lunch with several Chinese educators. After the fruitful visit, Jenny and Ben headed to Shanghai.

The following day, Jenny and Ben were picked up by Sylvia Xu from Soochow University to meet with school officials, and tour the campus and Suzhou. She gave them tours of a silk manufacturer, the Humble Administrator’s Garden, and a water village. They were also treated to wonderful meals, including a dinner with the president of Soochow University, Dr. Zhu Xiulin. They also met with Dr. Huang Xing, director of the International Office and School of Overseas Education at Soochow. They discussed possibilities of exchanges between Rice and Soochow, and potential opportunities for students and faculty to study and do research. OISS looks forward to exploring possible future collaborations between Rice and Soochow, and hopes to reciprocate the warm welcome to President Zhu and his wonderful staff to Houston and Rice University.
OISS Activities and Updates

Midterm Recess NASA trip coming up!!!

OISS is planning a trip to NASA Space Center during Midterm Recess on Tuesday October 14. Last year’s Midterm Recess trip sold out in record time, so secure your spot early! Details will be sent to OISS-Announce as soon as we have them confirmed! Tickets will be $22. Price includes NASA entry group price and transportation costs to NASA. This does not include lunch.

World Cup Fun

Every four years, the Rice international community enjoys a true global event, as we support our favorite teams around the world in the World Cup. Brazil did a wonderful job in hosting the games on their turf! The Offices of International Students & Scholar and Brasil@Rice partnered with the Graduate Student Association (GSA) to host World Cup pizza and watch parties. So happy many were able to take a break and watch together over the summer. Thank you, GSA, for always being so willing to share your space and be such great friends and partners!!

Congratulations to the finalists and the winner: Germany!
OISS Activities and Updates

Rice internationals enjoying gathering to “Pandas” at the IMAX theatre

Rice Alumni in Brazil
Adria Baker meets with Rice alumni (visiting students and research scholars) from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) in Florianopolis, on a recent trip to Brazil last spring.

Culture Fair 2014
The OISS invited the Briarwood School students to the Culture Fair in March 2014. The Briarwood students had the special opportunity to meet with President Leebron on-campus. The Briarwood School is a local private school that teaches special students with learning differences.

Stay tuned for Culture Fair 2015 (March 27, 2015)! Join some friends and enjoy hosting a table to represent your country or region.
OISS Activities and Updates

Bringing iPREP Back to Campus
By Jenny Brydon
In 2013, the undergraduate international orientation program, iPREP (international Preparation and Regulatory Education Program), took place at the DoubleTree Hotel near IAH Airport. Although the hotel was convenient in regards to its proximity for those just getting off long international flights, students were not able to have time to take care of all of the logistical needs of settling in to a new place, such as setting up a bank account and purchasing a US cell phone or SIM card.

This year, OISS has blended hotel comfort with the opportunity to take care of all of those new place needs. iPREP 2014 students stayed at the local Wyndham Hotel, went to iPREP check-in and orientation sessions in Lovett and Sewall Hall, made use of an all-day shuttle, and attend fun social events, which included a pool party and Texas BBQ Dinner. The shuttle transported new students from the Hotel to: OISS, Chase Bank, Rice Village (for cell phones and meals), and RUPD (for id cards). The shuttle was a huge success!

The other addition was the 7-person iPREP student leader staff who aided students from hotel check-in to O-Week move-in. The iPREP student leaders were: Arthur Cao, Adam Chen, Eva Chen, Harry Chen, Michelle Hong, Gautham Neelam-Naganathan and Maple Zhao. Without their assistance, the new students would not have created such a bond and had such a great time.

If you are interested in serving as an iPREP student leader for iPREP 2015, please be on the lookout for application in early Spring 2015.

5th Annual International Football Clinic & Tailgate

Are you interested in hearing about: 1) new friendships, 2) lots of smiles and laughter, 3) fun junk food, 4) learn more about US culture, 5) playing games, 6) face painting or 7) cheerleaders? Then read on about Rice’s now infamous International Football Clinic & Tailgate 2014.

Around 200 (primarily) new, and some returning Rice international students and scholars gathered at the Rice football stadium to meet the incredible Rice football team, coaches, and staff. All were invited, and individually greeted by Head Coach David Bailiff (number one “Class Act” on my list). Each were given a Rice football t-shirt and escorted into the stadium to learn pre-game (tailgate) games and eat yummy hot dogs and pizza. After an informational (and often humorous) explanation of the offensive and defensive roles and rules, all of the attendees had the unique privilege to run through the stadium tunnel onto the field. Coached by fellow Rice students, who are highly respected football players, the internationals learned how to catch, throw and run the ball. Lots of cheers, laughter and fun was shared by all. My personal favorite was enjoying the art of “celebrating”. Check it all out on: http://news.rice.edu/2014/09/08/introducing-american-football-to-rices-new-international-students/

With complete gratitude and awe we thank Coach Bailiff, the coaches, team, staff and John Simmons for their generosity of friendship, teaching and gifts. A special “thank you” to Andy Meretoja, who helped organize the internationals. Also, so grateful to President David Leebron, Y. Ping Sun, his wife and University Representative, and Dean Seiichi Matsuda, who also attended the football clinic.
Mark Your Calendars

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

General Sign-up will take place online starting on Monday, September 22, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. Instructions will be sent out through OISS-Announce and can also be found at http://oiss.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=112. If you have any questions please contact us at 713-348-6095.

Free Classes offered for Fall 2014

**Beginning English Conversation:**
Teacher: Laura Russell  
Class: Mondays from 12:00 – 12:40 p.m. in OISS  
Starts: Monday, October 6, 2014  
Ends (tentatively): Monday, December 1, 2014

**English Idioms & Slang Class:**
Teacher: Martha Alexander  
Class: Tuesdays from 12 noon – 1 p.m. in OISS  
Starts: Tuesday, October 7, 2014  
Ends (tentatively): Tuesday, December 2, 2014

**Advanced/Intermediate English Conversation:**
Teacher: Catherine Spain  
Class: Wednesdays from 1-2 p.m., or 2-3 p.m. in the Leve Student Center, 2nd floor; conference room  
Starts: Wednesday, October 1, 2014  
Ends (tentatively): Wednesday, December 3, 2014

**Grammar & Pronunciation:**
Teacher: Lauren Hanson & Chris Sneller  
Class: Thursdays from 12 noon – 1 p.m. in OISS  
Starts: Thursday, October 9, 2014  
Ends (tentatively): Thursday, December 4, 2014

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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 Graduate Student Lounge (GSA) - RMC Basement from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Pizza or sandwiches 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 (Click on “Join this group” link to the right of the webpage)

**FALL 2014**
October 1, 2014  
A cultural presentation from  
The Japan American Society  
November 5, 2014  
December 3, 2014

**Spring 2015**
February, 2015  
March 2015  
April 2015

Special Note: Announcements on Events go out on OISS-Announce@rice.edu. Listserv, also
Mark Your Calendars

**Calendar of OISS Fall Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Free English &amp; Culture Classes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 22, Monday,</td>
<td></td>
<td>English Class Sign-up, 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mondays 12pm (noon) - 12:40pm</td>
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<td>Beginning Conversation - Laura Russel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First class, October 6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesdays 12pm (noon) - 1 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>English Idioms and Slang - Martha Alexander</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First class, October 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays 1pm - 3pm</td>
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<td>Advanced/Intermediate English Conversation - Catherine Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First class, October 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays 12pm (noon) - 1 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grammar and Pronunciation - Lauren Hanson &amp; Chris Sneller</td>
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<td><strong>First class, October 9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Post Doctoral Luncheon</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 23, Tuesday</td>
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<td>Esther M. Cohen Room, Faculty Club, 12:00 pm (noon) - 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced Immigration Workshop</strong></td>
<td>October 9, Thursday</td>
<td>Sewall Hall, Room 301, 4:00 -5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NASA Trip</strong></td>
<td>October 14, Tuesday</td>
<td>Mid Term Recess, Details TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Continuing Orientation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 3, Wednesday</td>
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<td>Kickoff Event, Farnsworth - RMC, 4pm</td>
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<td>September 18, Thursday</td>
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<td>Wellbeing and Student Safety, Sewall Hall, 4pm</td>
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<td>October 8, Wednesday</td>
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<td>Undergraduate Academic Session, Sewall Hall, 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9, Thursday</td>
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<td>Graduate Students - Working with your Advisor, Farnsworth - RMC, 12pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 13, Thursday</td>
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<td>Networking for Meetings and Employment, Farnsworth - RMC, 4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5, Friday</td>
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<td>End of Semester Party, OISS, 11am - 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>International Ladies Networking Luncheons</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, Wednesday</td>
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<td>GSA Lounge - RMC Basement, 12pm (noon) - 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5, Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>GSA Lounge - RMC Basement, 12pm (noon) - 1pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3, Wednesday</td>
<td></td>
<td>GSA Lounge - RMC Basement, 12pm (noon) - 1pm</td>
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<td><strong>International Education Week 2014</strong></td>
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<td>November 17-22</td>
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<td>See the <a href="http://www.internationaleducationweek.org">IEW website</a> for more information</td>
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<td>November 20, Thursday</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22, Saturday</td>
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<td>Annual Mini Soccer World Cup</td>
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Stay Tuned for **Winter Events**

Don’t forget that you can subscribe to the OISS Events Google calendar at [http://oiss.rice.edu/events/](http://oiss.rice.edu/events/)

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**Random Quotes on Integrity**

“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.” **Dwight D. Eisenhower** – U.S. President

“The greatness of a man is not in how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and his ability to affect those around him positively.” **Bob Marley** – Musician

“Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.” **C. S. Lewis** – Author

“There is no better test of a man's integrity than his behavior when he is wrong.” **Marvin Williams** – Athlete

“Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people.” **Spencer Johnson** – Author

“Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.” **Oprah Winfrey** – Actress/Celebrity