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FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE: Rice freshman Lilla Pivnick at work in Rice's Urban Immersion Program.

Rice Professors Teach Area High Schools About Humanities

Last year, in efforts to engage public audiences in humanistic inquiry, Rice's Humanities Research Center (HRC) invited the local community to Rice for talks by noted scholars. This year, through Civic Humanists, a new program, HRC is taking Rice scholars to area high schools, especially those with populations underrepresented at Rice.

To implement the program, HRC partnered with K-12 Initiatives, a newly created department within the Provost's Office. This project is aligned with Rice's Vision for the Second Century, specifically the call for a full engagement with Houston and making tangible contributions in K-12 education.

As part of the program, professors use their own research topics as an illustration and provide an introduc-

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Finding a University of One's Own

Finding the right college means finding the right fit. While many students know that Rice University is the best place for them as soon as they step on campus, others have to search to discover what a spectacular place it is.

I belonged to the latter group. I began my search this summer by participating in Rice's Urban Immersion Program in which, for a week, incoming freshmen participate in a number of community service projects in Houston. I was among 26 students who volunteered at such places as the Houston Holocaust Museum, Goodwill Industries, Bo's Place and Methodist Healthcare.

By working with various groups, I was able to witness firsthand the social issues that the Houston

Continued on Page 10 >>



PAGE 8: Rice soccer players reach out to distant communities.

ConocoPhillips and Rice Team Up to Improve Science Teaching

The Rice University School Science and Technology (RSST) program and ConocoPhillips have joined forces to expand the Rice Elementary Model Science Lab (REMSL).

Established in 2006 by Wallace Dominey, director of RSST, REMSL now will be called the ConocoPhillips Rice (CPR) Elementary Model Science Lab and will offer 80 teachers a full day of intensive professional development. Each week, teachers from 14 area school districts will come together to learn science content in accordance with the state elementary science standards best practices in elementary science teaching.

The RSST program, part of Rice's Center for Education, has a long history of providing professional development to public school

teachers in the Houston area. Before combining forces, the project provided intensive professional development for only elementary teachers in the Houston Independent School District. The new lab, housed in Spring Branch Independent School District's Treasure Forest Elementary School, will now encompass teachers from multiple districts, including Aldine, Alief, Crosby, Galena Park, Galveston, Goose Creek, Humble, Katy, North Forest, Pasadena, Sheldon, Spring Branch and Tomball.

CPR participants will get the opportunity to learn from lab facilitators and visiting Rice faculty, and participating teachers will be given an online set of student learning experiences developed by RSST and technology and science teaching materials. Additionally, they will receive campus support visits from RSST staff as well as have the opportunity to participate in local science-related field experiences that put science into

a more real-world context.

"The CPR Lab is a unique professional development opportunity because it doesn't just give snippets of ideas or projects to do with students," said Candase Turner, a teacher from Spring Branch Elementary. "I am convinced that it will also improve my scientific knowledge, which will lead to better instruction."

Teacher Lakeisha Dunevant from Fonwood Elementary in North Forest ISD added, "I am looking forward to gaining all the information and knowledge this program has to offer. This is an awesome opportunity to gain professional networks, increase usage of technology and have loads of fun all in the name of science!" ■

— C.J. THOMPSON

Associate Director

School Science and Technology

Center for Education



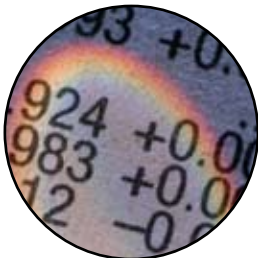
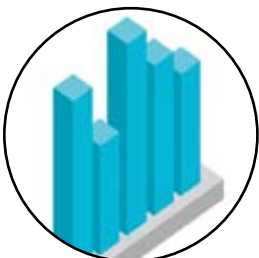
IN THE LAB: Elementary school teachers from various school districts participate in a hands-on experiment as part of the ConocoPhillips Rice (CPR) Elementary Model Science Lab.

Summer Program Teaches Business Basics to High School Students

For many Houston students living in low- to moderate-income communities, a career in business may seem worlds away. But the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management is helping to bridge that gap by hosting the fourth Rice Summer Business Institute (RSBI).

This year's class of 41 students came from four Houston Independent School District high schools — Davis, Reagan, Wheatley and Yates — as well as Chinquapin, Harmony Science, KIPP and YES Prep schools. To be selected for the summer institute, students had to complete a challenging application process.

For two weeks, RSBI students learned the basics of business, communications and finance from prominent Jones School faculty and alumni at Rice. RSBI features



hands-on learning in a wide range of subjects, from the stock and commodities markets to professional ethics and leadership to the businesses of energy and sports management. Participants were encouraged to actively participate in group dynamics

and in investment simulations at the El Paso Corporation Finance Center, a trading room in the Jones School.

Additionally, the selected students got a taste of the real business world by attending field trips to Houston companies, including RSBI's 2008 underwriter Merrill Lynch and corporate sponsors ConocoPhillips, Invesco AIM and the Houston Texans. During these field trips, students toured facilities, gained inside knowledge during presentations by industry experts, and, most important, interacted with personnel who oftentimes came from similar backgrounds.

After completing another rigorous application process, a few RSBI students

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EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BUSINESS: Participants in the 2008 Rice Summer Business Institute (RSBI).

Cellular Engineering Internship Attracts Undergraduates

Eleven undergraduate students from around the nation, including three from Rice, spent several weeks this summer conducting interdisciplinary research in cellular engineering as participants in the Rice Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering's National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF REU) Summer Internship in Cellular Engineering.

As part of the program, interns received training in cellular engineering research, leadership and mentorship and benefited from social retreats, special seminars and career development workshops. Students also enjoyed competitive stipends and travel support, stayed in on-campus housing and attended Rice's Advances in Tissue Engineering short course.

**RICE
IBB**
Institute of Biosciences
and Bioengineering

Since most of the interns are pursuing degrees in biology and engineering, the opportunity to gain experience in metabolic and tissue engineering research — specifically in areas such as hard and soft tissue formation engineering, cardiovascular tissue engineering and engineered cell surface interaction — was invaluable. In fact, in an anonymous exit survey, students said their experiences in the program not only confirmed their plans

to pursue vocations in the sciences, but also motivated them to pursue research careers.

Admission to the NSF REU Summer Internship in Cellular Engineering program is highly competitive, and students were chosen based on the quality of their transcripts, their personal statements about interest in and motivation for research, and their letters of recommendation. Women and minorities particularly were recruited for this selective program.

The 2008 interns were:

- Frances Acevedo, University of Houston, and Meaghan McNeill, Baylor University, working in the laboratory of Jane Grande-Allen, associate professor of bioengineering
- Ida Bernstein, University of North Texas, working in the laboratory of Richard Gomer, professor of biochemistry and cell biology
- Marianne Beynon, Rice, working in the laboratory of Janet Braam, department chair and professor of biochemistry and cell biology
- Andy Chang, Rice, working in the laboratory of Tony Mikos, the John W. Cox

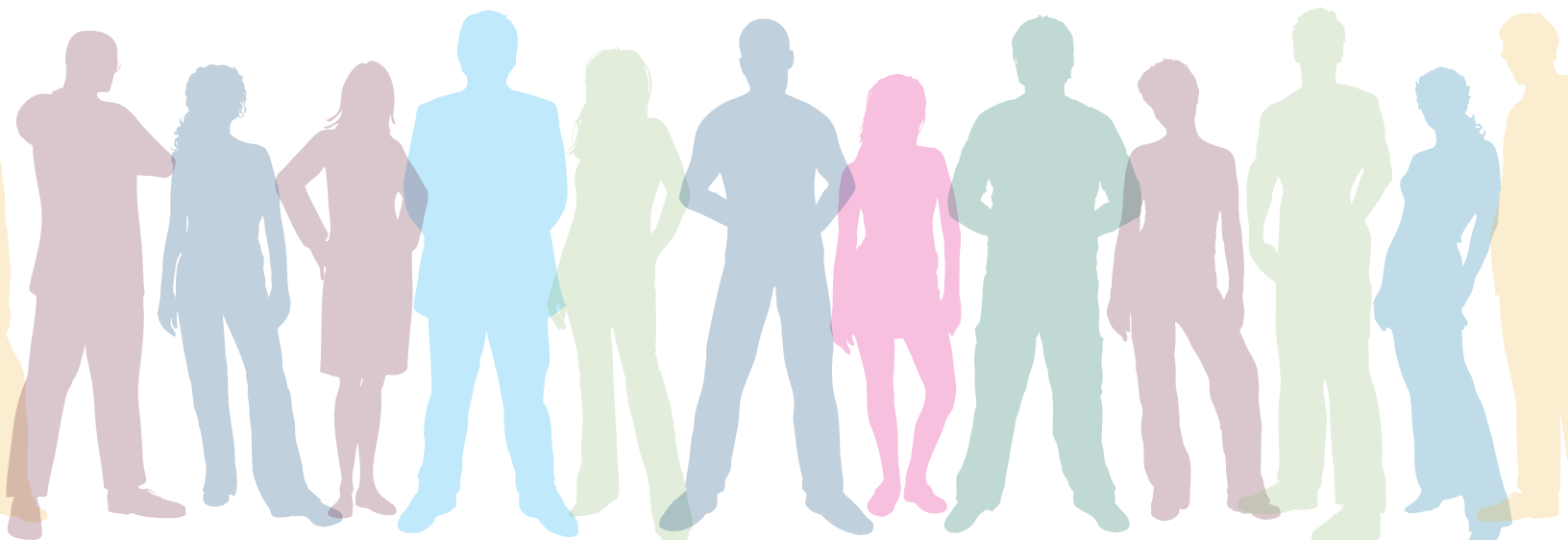
Professor in Bioengineering and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and director of the Center for Excellence in Tissue Engineering

- Kexun Chen, Johns Hopkins University, and Eric Kim, Rice, working in the laboratory of Kyriacos Athanasiou, the Karl F. Hasselmann Professor of Bioengineering
- Kiara Fairman, Alabama State University, working in the laboratory of Ramon Gonzalez, the William Akers Assistant Professor in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- Brian Hite, University of Houston, working in the laboratory of Michael Diehl, assistant professor in bioengineering and in chemistry
- Patricia Martinez, University of Houston, working in the laboratory of Jennifer West, Isabel C. Cameron Professor of Bioengineering, department chair, past director of the Rice Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering, and principal investigator of this NSF REU grant
- Travis Miller, University of Chicago, working in the laboratory of Joff Silberg, assistant professor in biochemistry and cell biology

For more information about the NSF REU Summer Internship in Cellular Engineering, visit www.nsfreu.rice.edu. ■

—STACEY KALOVIDOURIS

Executive Director
Rice Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering



Student Research Seeks to Improve Houston

As participants in the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE), nine Rice undergraduates devoted their summer to implementing faculty-supervised research projects to benefit Houston. They shared the results of their endeavor at a Rice symposium in September.

The CCE Fellows program enables students to conduct community-based research and design projects with a Houston partner. The students receive a stipend for their efforts. This year's projects focused on the environment, public health and safety, and transportation.

Three of the research projects addressed environmental needs within our community. Under the mentorship of Robert Stein, the Lena Gohlman Fox Professor of Political Science, sophomore Rachel Carlson partnered with the city of Houston to evaluate ways to improve recycling efforts.

Senior Jessica Coe developed and evaluated options for implementing recycling among the institutions in the Texas Medical Center. She was advised by Richard Johnson, director of sustainability and professor in the practice of environmental study and sociology, and worked with the Texas Medical Center Recycling Collaborative. Jessica was invited to continue her work into the fall semester.

Senior Emilia Stepinski worked with the University of Houston and the city of Houston to understand where water pollution comes from and how it affects the water flow in White Oak Bayou. Her adviser was Philip Bedient,

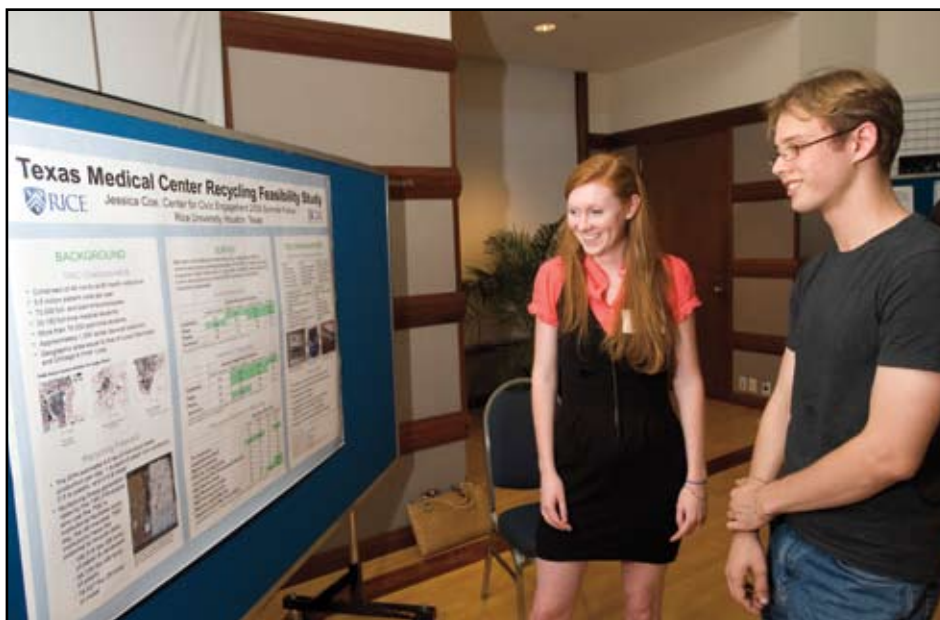
the Herman and George R. Brown Professor of Civil Engineering.

CCE Fellows also focused on housing and health issues. Senior Sharon Chiang worked with both SEARCH and Bread of Life to determine what factors influence the likelihood that homeless people will apply for subsidized housing. She was mentored by Rudy Guerra,

professor of statistics.

Senior Dayna Fondell worked with the Houston Department of Health and Human Services and Positive Efforts to analyze the HIV prevention outreach efforts targeted at high-risk populations. She was guided by Elizabeth Long, department chair and professor of sociology; Kristen Schilt, sociology postdoctoral fellow; and Bridget Gorman, associate professor of sociology.

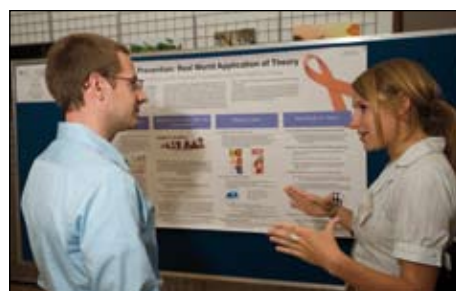
Senior Elizabeth Rowan used her engineering skills to refine a design for a refrigerator to be used in ambulances that was



SHARING THE RESULTS: Rice senior Jessica Coe discusses her recycling feasibility study.



A LIFESAVING IDEA: Rice senior Elizabeth Rowan talks about her design of a refrigerator to be used in area ambulances.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Rice senior Dayna Fondell presents the findings of her HIV prevention study.

started in a senior engineering design course. She was advised by Maria Oden, professor in the practice of engineering education, and Dave McStravick, professor in the practice of mechanical engineering and materials science. Rowan also worked with the Houston Fire Department EMS.

Seniors Robert Dahnke and Ben

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RUPD Leads School-Supply Drive

The Rice University Police Department (RUPD) made the ringing of school bells this fall a little less traumatic for low-income parents with children in HISD schools Scott Elementary and Furr High School.

Captain Dianna Marshall conceived and organized a school-supply drive at Rice with the help of Jared Goldman, RUPD officer, and Jessica Rico, department coordinator. The group collected close to seven boxes of items.

Goldman did not have to use his investigative skills to determine that poor parents would be challenged to purchase all of the school supplies listed on HISD's list. "As I shopped for my daughter, who entered kindergarten this fall, I realized that this would be a challenge for parents who could not afford the numerous items on the list," he said.

The RUPD team delivered the supplies to the High School for Law Enforcement, where Gwen Sample, from HISD's Department of Strategic Partnerships, received and distributed them to the two schools and expressed appreciation for the gift on behalf of the

district.

Artice Hedgemon, principal of Scott Elementary, also expressed her sincere thanks for the supplies, which were distributed among the kindergarten classes. "The 5 year olds are always so excited about getting new supplies and using them to work on and create special projects," she said. "We will explain to the children that these supplies were donated by people who care about them." ■

—JAN WEST

Assistant Director

Multicultural Community Relations



IN GOOD SUPPLY: RUPD staffers Dorothy Anderson, Jessica Rico, Arlene McMeekin and Jared Goldman load supplies from the Rice community for HISD students.

De Lange Conference to Address Sustainable and Humane Cities

Many of the world's leading experts and practitioners of innovative urban solutions will gather at Rice University for the De Lange Conference VII on March 2–4, 2009, to discuss “Transforming the Metropolis: Creating Sustainable and Humane Cities.”

Among the topics to be addressed are globalization and the transforming metropolis, governing cities of the future, engineering solutions, education and the economy, sustainable humane architecture, transportation and movement, smart planning, technology and the transforming metropolis, climate change impacts on cities and the role of faith commu-

Engineering; the School of Architecture and the Rice Design Alliance; the Department of Sociology; and the University of Houston College of Architecture.

“It is a great privilege to assist with the preparations for this conference because the focus is on key issues for the habitation of this planet,” said Ellen Butler, program coordinator for the History of Science Institute.



nities in building better cities.

The speakers will include: Jaime Lerner, an architect and urban planner who served three times as mayor of Curitiba, Brazil, a city known worldwide as a model of ecological city planning; Antanas Mockus, a mathematician, philosopher and politician, who served as mayor of Bogotá, Columbia, for two terms and frequently used humorous initiatives to improve city life; and Bill White, who has served as mayor of Houston since January 2004 and has been successful in improving neighborhood water sewage, reforming the city's pension fund, cutting property tax rates and pinpointing areas of high crime to curb criminal activity.

The conference is organized and hosted by the Rice University Center on Race, Religion and Urban Life; Center for the Study of Environment and Society; Department of Civil and Environmental

A preconference film series will also be held on select Mondays in January and February at 7 p.m. in the Rice Media Center. All films are free and open to the public and include:

- January 12: “Metropolis”
- January 19: “Chinatown”
- January 26: “City of God”
- February 2: “A Night on Earth”
- February 9: “Social Life of Small Urban Spaces”

Additional details and registration information for the conference can be found at www.delange.rice.edu. ■

—KRISTAL SCHEFFLER

Marketing Specialist

Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing

Studies

Graduate Students Help Organize Annual Spirit of Texas Food Drive

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) helped organize Rice University's involvement in the 21st annual Spirit of Texas Food Drive. Collection bins were located at three different sites on campus for a week this summer.

A special event was also held at Valhalla, the graduate student bar, in which patrons who submitted two or more items received a discount on food and drinks. The food drive was a huge success, with the Rice community donating a total of 231 pounds of food, more than doubling the group's goal of 100 pounds.

Local TV station KHOU Channel 11 annually sponsors the month-long food drive that is specifically targeted to help families who struggle to provide their children with enough food during the summer months, when free meals are not provided at school. This year, co-sponsors included Kroger, Shell and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

The generosity of the Houston community led to a total collection of 387,352 pounds of food and \$223,984 being donated to the Houston Food Bank. Each year the Houston Food Bank distributes more than 35 million pounds of food and other essentials to a local service group and service organizations in 18 counties.

“This is just a small example of what Rice graduate students are capable of when given the opportunity to serve the greater Houston community,” said Michael Contreras, president of the GSA. “This has been just one of many successful efforts by GSA to be at the forefront of the student population in reaching out to the community.” ■

—EMILY DAY

Chair

GSA Community Service



Rice Soccer Players Score With Volunteer Work

Rice soccer players and sophomores Kate Edwards and Elizabeth Nesbit know from their summer outreach experiences that many people around the world endure tougher times than they do during practice on a hot Houston afternoon.

Nesbit, a midfielder and forward, spent four weeks this summer volunteering at a rural hospital in Malawi, located in south-east Africa, while Edwards, a midfielder, traveled to Nicaragua to help a small sea-side village recover from a tropical storm that heavily damaged almost three-fourths of the town's dwellings.

"We put together a care package of rice, beans, salt, sugar, cooking oil, coffee, tooth-paste, toilet paper and laundry soap, most of which a lot of us take for granted," said

Edwards, who delivered aid along with seven members of her church. "We went door-to-door around the village and distributed the food. Faith is important to a lot of people in that community, so we often prayed with them. We were able to reach out to 220 out of the 300 families in the town."

Nesbit had a similar experience on her trip to Malawi. She, along with her mother, brother and boyfriend, volunteered at a hospital that is about as far away — literally and figuratively — from the Texas Medical Center



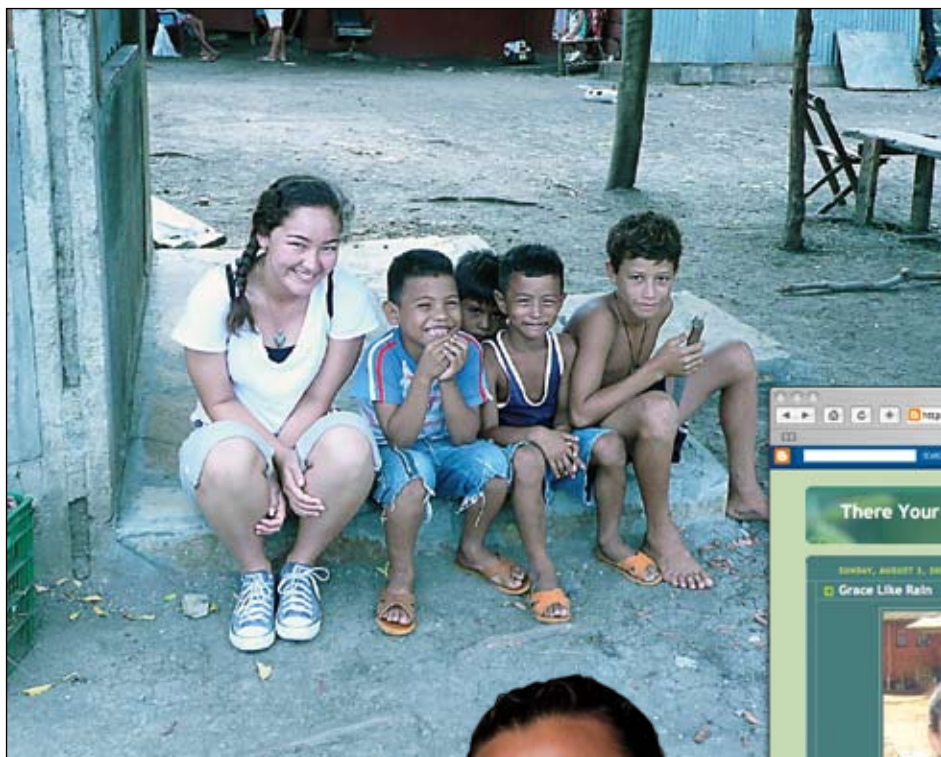
GOING FAR TO VOLUNTEER: Elizabeth Nesbit in Malawi.

buildings overlooking the Owls' home soccer field as one can imagine. Nesbit chronicled her trip in an Internet blog, which is available at <http://elizabethnesbit.blogspot.com>.

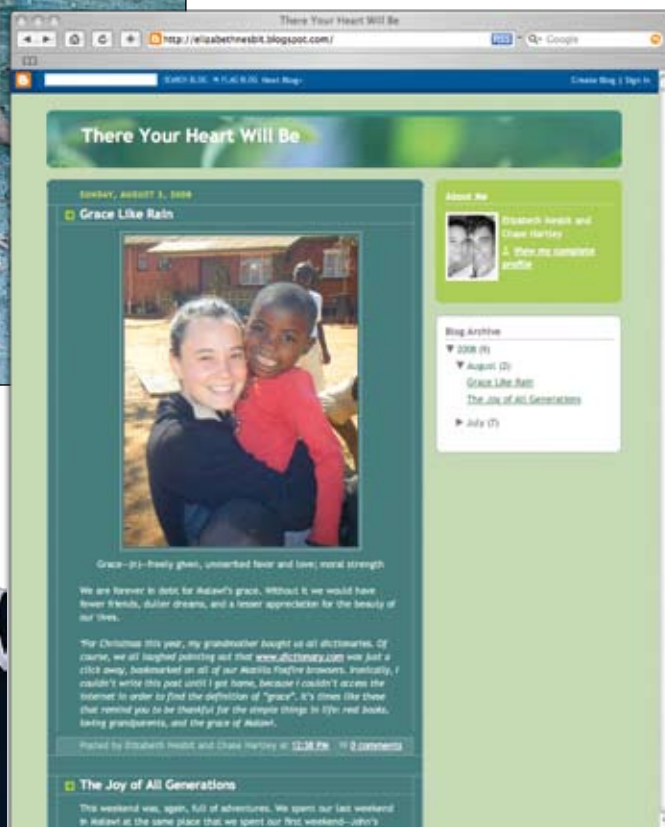
Both Nesbit and Edwards returned to the U.S. in plenty of time to start soccer practice and the fall semester at Rice, but they are approaching even these familiar activities with a new point of view. Nesbit perhaps said it best in her final blog post about her group's experience in Malawi: "Without it we would have fewer friends, duller dreams and a lesser appreciation for the beauty of our lives." ■

—JOHN SULLIVAN

Assistant Sports Information Director



LIVING THE STORY OF HELPING: (Above) Kate Edwards in Nicaragua. (Right) A chronicle of Elizabeth Nesbit's journey to Malawi is available at <http://elizabethnesbit.blogspot.com>.



Making a Statement Through Larger-Than-Life Art

Rice Gallery presents one kind of art: installation.

When you walk into Rice Gallery, you enter the art and move through it. New York artist Aurora Robson's recent installation, "The Great Indoors" was the perfect example. During the six weeks in September and October when the piece — composed of more than 15,000 plastic bottles — was on view, visitors could enter the gallery through membrane-like, translucent tunnels and walk toward a dome-like space, or they could exit the tunnels into a space filled with suspended sculptures which contained solar-powered LED lights that caused them to glow.

On view Nov. 6–Dec. 14 was "too much," another installation in which the artist employed reused material as his primary sculptural medium. Oregon artist Michael Salter manipulates Styrofoam used to pack and ship fragile objects to create "Styrobots." Like plastic bottles, Styrofoam is unfriendly to the environment and difficult to recycle. By using this material in his work, Salter makes a poetic statement about what we buy and what we throw away.

For "too much," Michael Salter wrapped the gallery walls with a selection of his own icons and pictograms. Leaning against one of



A GIANT STATEMENT: Oregon artist Michael Salter creates "Styrobots" from manipulated Styrofoam.



ENTER INTO ART: Aurora Robson (right) transformed the gallery with sculptures that viewers could literally walk through.

the walls was a massive, slouching Styrobot, who appeared overwhelmed and defeated. This bigger-than-life figure presented the visitor with an intimidating experience.

By entering the gallery, the viewer risked sharing the Styrobot's fate of being bom-

barded by media. "too much" was a commentary on what Salter considers a "tidal wave of imagery that our visual culture crashes

down upon us every day."

Rice Gallery is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday until 7 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. The gallery is closed every Monday and also from Nov. 27–30, and from Dec. 25–Jan. 29.

The gallery is located on the ground floor of Sewall Hall and is best reached using

Campus Entrance 1 at the intersection of Main Street and Sunset Boulevard. Paid visitor parking (credit card only) is available in the Founder's Court Lot.

Free parking with shuttle bus service to the gallery is available through Entrance 13A or 13B off Greenbriar. Rice Gallery is also accessible via METRORail at the Hermann Park/Rice University station.

For more information, call 713-348-6069 or visit www.ricegallery.org ■

—ANNA FORET

Outreach Coordinator
Rice Gallery

Civic Humanists *Continued from Page 1*

tion to the humanities at the college level. Eight professors from the departments of history, religious studies, linguistics and English are scheduled to participate.

The professors were encouraged not to over-simplify their work, but to present their richest ideas and conclusions. For example, Alex X. Byrd, associate professor of history, will present the results of his project “Brown v. Board: Antecedents and Legacies.” Byrd describes it as “an exploration of the deep roots and ambiguous aftermath of the modern black freedom movement through the lens of an iconic American civil rights case.”

Terrence Doody, professor of English, plans to discuss “How the City Changed Everything We Think About Ourselves.” He will use the development of the novel as evidence for his claims.

From yet another discipline, Nancy Niedzielski, associate professor of linguistics,



PROFESSORS OF PARTICIPATION: Professors Alex X. Byrd (left) and Nancy Niedzielski (right) are just two faculty members who will take part in the Civic Humanists program.

will offer an introduction to “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Language (but Were Afraid to Ask).” She begins with the intriguing observation that “language is a fascinating phenomenon: a highly complex system with infinite varieties, but we pick it up and understand each other with amazing ease.”

Teachers of English who participated in Rice’s Advanced Placement (AP) Summer

Institute were the first to be invited to participate in the Civic Humanists program. Each summer, teachers come to Rice for the country’s largest AP Summer Institute, a weeklong academy designed to provide teachers with opportunities to deepen their engagement with their discipline and to enrich their AP teaching.

Many of these teachers expressed a strong interest in working with a Rice professor to plan a lesson that would fit the needs of their students and to provide the students an insight into college-level learning.

Houston area teachers who are interested in having Rice professors speak in their classroom should send an e-mail to K12@rice.edu. ■

—HANK HANCOCK

Assistant Director
Humanities Research Center

Urban Immersion *Continued from Page 1*

community faces — homelessness, hunger and educational challenges. As a sociology major, I realized that Rice was fostering my interests, and the positive connection and involvement with Houston really struck me as one of the many unique aspects of Rice.

My favorite part of Urban Immersion was meeting people who are just as passionate and eager as I am about being involved in the community and making a positive difference in Houston.

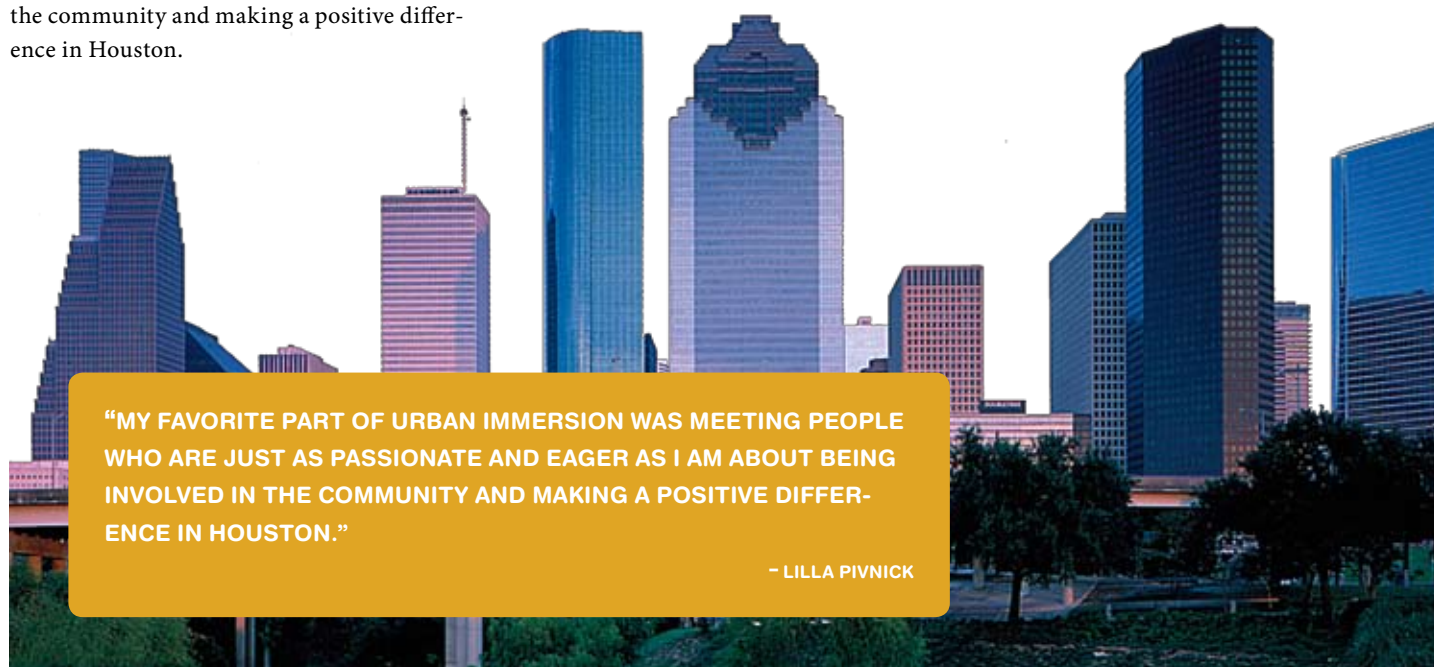
Every person I met during Urban Immersion, whether a counselor, a student or a site leader, empowered me to think outside the box, to formulate my own opinions on social issues and to further develop my character. I have learned from fellow participants that people with different expertise and experiences can come together and work for

the common good.

Rice is more than an amazing university with strong academics and a beautiful campus. After my experience with Urban Immersion, I have no doubt that Rice is the only place for me. ■

—LILLA PIVNICK

Rice Freshman



“MY FAVORITE PART OF URBAN IMMERSION WAS MEETING PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST AS PASSIONATE AND EAGER AS I AM ABOUT BEING INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN HOUSTON.”

— LILLA PIVNICK

Student Research Seeks to Improve Houston

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Stevenson, also advised by Stein, worked with the Houston Police Department to investigate the effects that red light cameras have on intersection safety.

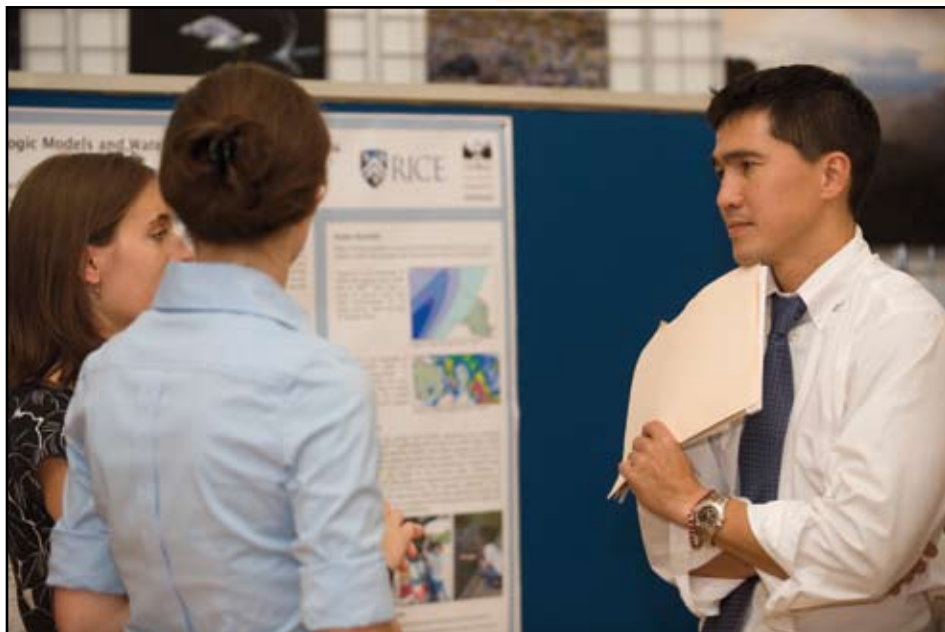
Senior architecture student Nick Elliott worked with the Gulf Coast Institute to examine the expansion of Houston's light rail system. Nick's mentors were Stephen Klineberg, professor of sociology, and Christopher Hight, assistant professor of architecture.

At the end of summer, many of the students commented that they learned the challenges of conducting original research, but they loved working with the community and addressing real-world problems.

More information about this program and the CCE is available at www.cce.rice.edu.

—STEPHANIE POST

Executive Director
Center for Civic Engagement



IN THE SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION: (Above) CCE Fellows share the results of their summer research. (Below) Professors, students and guests enjoy the September symposium.



Summer Business Institute *Continued from Page 3*

were selected to intern with Merrill Lynch. Among them was Kierra Lee from Yates. "I now can actually consider a career in business and have the confidence to believe that I am a capable applicant," she said.

Another student intern, Yamile Reyes from Chinquapin, said that she has learned how teamwork is a "way of bringing together different skill sets that complement each other."

The institute is directed and taught by Jones School faculty members Jill Foote, lecturer; Barbara Ostdiek, associate professor of management; Rick Schell, lecturer; and Gale Wiley, lecturer. The 2008 Teaching Assistant team was led by Rice junior Leticia Câmara and included RSBI's 2007 outstanding award recipients Jose Perez and Ashley Jones, who returned as assistants to share their experiences from last year's program and their internships with Merrill Lynch.

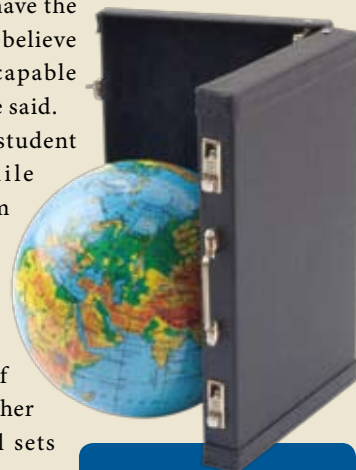
More than 70 hours later, RSBI participants had made new friendships, learned to express themselves more professionally and started looking into business as a college major, something many of them had never considered before. ■

—JILL FOOTE

Director
RSBI

—LETICIA CÂMARA

Rice Junior



**"I NOW CAN
ACTUALLY CON-
SIDER A CAREER
IN BUSINESS
AND HAVE THE
CONFIDENCE TO
BELIEVE THAT I
AM A CAPABLE
APPLICANT."**

—KIERRA LEE



INSIDE THIS EDITION: High school students learn business in the Rice Summer Business Institute. See Page 3.

David D. Medina, Director, Multicultural Community Relations, Office of Public Affairs



Rice University
Multicultural Community Relations-MS 700
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