

McMurtry College 2020

GAME SHOW WEEK





Important Information

Your McMurtry Mailing Address

(Your Name)
McMurtry College
1605 Rice Blvd.
Houston, TX 77005

Please only mail or ship things to arrive after August 16th. Our space is limited and not secure, so bring important items with you. There will be time to shop for other things during and after O-Week.

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Welcome to...



Hello Contestants! On behalf of the entire team, we would like to welcome you to McMurtry College! We are Tya, Aaron, and Alyson, your 2020 Game ShO-Week Coordinators, and we could not be more excited to introduce you to the game show that we call Rice University! It is a major accomplishment to get in and you should be extremely proud of yourselves. We want to say congratulations, as this is a sign of all of your hard work paying off. These past few months have been especially challenging due to COVID-19, racial injustice, and other global events, but we are so proud of your resilience and we are so excited to join you on this next journey. We know that this is the start of your academic and social career, as you continue to chase your goals and ambitions. Also, we would like to congratulate you on being the 12th matriculating class at McMurtry college! We are thrilled to welcome a new round of Murts into our community and can't wait to see you represent McMurtry and Rice all over campus.

In these next few years of your life, you'll be working hard, studying, meeting new friends, and enjoying yourself. The time will be filled with plenty of opportunities as well as challenges for you to face and overcome. It's going to require you to dig deep, ask questions, study an extra hour (or 2!), and maybe stay up late a couple of nights. But do not be dismayed! You are not on this journey alone. You are going to be surrounded by other students, professors, and advisors who have been in your shoes before and can help you get the resources that you need for you to succeed. We have been preparing these last 9 months in order for you to be integrated into Rice and McMurtry smoothly, so we hope that Game ShO-Week creates an environment where you can open up and really get to know each other well.

McMurtry!



One of the most wonderful and unique aspects of Rice is the residential college system. You have the great honor of being the twelfth matriculating class of McMurtry College. During your time at Rice, we hope that this will be your support system and your home. We are one of the newest colleges on campus, which means that each Murt gets the incredibly unique opportunity to contribute to the future of McMurtry through their ideas, involvement, and initiative (and we definitely have the nicest dorms on campus). New Students, remember this: We. Are. Murt. It's not just a rallying call, it's an identity. We know there's no possible way to convey everything we'd like to impart on you through writing, but we made this book to give you an introduction to Rice and to McMurtry, as well as to answer a few of the questions you may have. Inside this book, you'll find the biographies of our core staff, affectionately called our McTeam (Magisters, Resident Associates, Head Resident Fellows, and College Coordinator), biographies of the Advising Team, information about your new home, and much, much more! Use it as a resource, but feel free to contact us at any point during the summer (mcmurtryweek@gmail.com) - we are here for you!

For campus-wide information on O-Week, please visit success.rice.edu, "like" Student Success Initiatives at Rice University on Facebook, and check out the super cool 2020 Owlmanac. Before we leave you to your preparation, we ask that you make sure to bring the one thing most essential for this level of production - your open minds. Rice is an open space to explore and we want to help you make the most of it.

Come on Down!
Tya, Aaron, and Alyson
2020 McMurtry Game ShO-Week Coordinators

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McMurtry:



Your New Home



What is O-Week?

An orientation that you'll never forget!

This is an entire week dedicated to getting to know your peers, picking classes during holistic and intensive academic planning sessions, learning about Houston and its surroundings, and so much more. Orientation Week, or O-Week, is Rice's special way of welcoming New Students! When you come to Rice, you are randomly assigned into one of the eleven residential colleges. Each college has its own student O-Week Coordinators who spend the summer planning O-Week in order to create a welcoming and supportive orientation program. You will be placed in a group with eight to nine fellow New Students and will be guided by four Advisors, all of whom are current Rice students here to offer you advice and experience from both an academic and social standpoint. These groups are meant to be a source of continuous support, and you will be interacting and spending time with them during the many activities planned throughout the week and beyond. Don't worry, there will also be opportunities to meet everyone outside of your O-Week group! No matter how ridiculously excited, cautiously optimistic, secretly apprehensive, or just downright ecstatic you are about coming to Rice, the transition to a college lifestyle will probably seem a little overwhelming. The purpose of O-Week is to serve as an introduction to a new world of academics, residential colleges, Rice culture, and McMurtry culture. The social ties you build both within McMurtry and at Rice will shape your college experience just as much as your classes will, and O-Week jumpstarts those formations in a fun yet meaningful and memorable way. Essentially, this week is for you to learn about and explore the place you'll call home for the next few years, so kick back and relax! At the same time, there will be new opportunities, connections, and as much exploration as you want, so don't stress if you feel overwhelmed now, because you will have plenty of time during the year to get connected as well. While everyone's transition looks a little bit different, this is an experience you will share with your entire matriculating class, so have an open mind and get ready to have a ton of fun!!!



About the Theme



We chose to focus this O-Week on game shows because of the ability that game shows have to bring people together, as well as highlight different strengths and experiences. There are countless game shows out there, but each one has its own objectives and skill sets necessary in order to succeed. Additionally, game shows are able to create memorable and even life-changing experiences for the contestants involved. In a game show, one's experiences and knowledge are crucial in order to succeed. We believe that game shows, in a way, are a metaphor for the Rice experience. While the form of a Rice education is relatively uniform across the student body, no Rice experience is the same. At Rice, you have the ability to choose your own path, and to engage with your own interests and skill sets in order to create your own future. As New Students and Rice Owls, you have the chance to embrace what makes you unique, and channel those experiences and attributes towards a path that you can be proud to walk on. However, one of the beauties of game shows is that you rarely go through them alone. We believe that one of the most important aspects of your Rice career is being able to recognize resources that are available to you, and feel comfortable "phoning a friend" if you need help. Furthermore, in game shows, no contestant gets every answer right, and that's okay! With Game ShO-Week, we want to encourage vulnerability within everyone involved, because we're not always perfect or happy, but we're nonetheless worthy of being here! Nobody is alone, and it is so important to recognize that it's okay to share and ask for help, and to give this help in return. Finally, game shows are fun! During O-Week and at Rice, we want you to have fun in all that you do! We know that these next few years will be ones that you never forget, so we encourage you to take risks, challenge yourself, and play to win!

Move-In & Directions to McMurtry

Due to Covid-19, Rice is following CDC guidelines for social distancing in order to maintain student safety during O-week. Because of this, move-in day will look different this year compared to previous years. You will receive an email with detailed instructions for move-in later this summer that will provide the time and date for your specific arrival to Rice.

Arriving By Car

From the west on I-10E:

Take 610 South to 59 North and exit at Greenbriar. Follow Greenbriar to the light at Rice Boulevard. Turn left onto Rice Boulevard. Stay on Rice Boulevard until it becomes Sunset. Turn right on Main Street and take an immediate right into Rice campus using entrance #1.

From the east on I-10W:

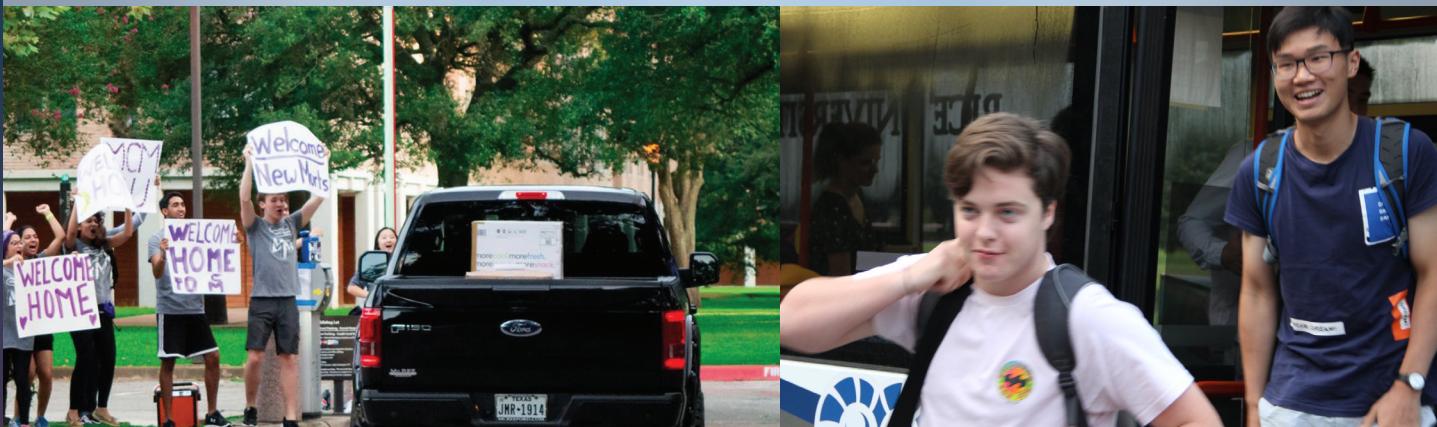
Take the US 59 South exit. From US 59 South, take the Fannin Street exit and travel south on Fannin until you reach Sunset Boulevard. Take a right on Sunset and an immediate left onto Main Street. Turn right into Rice campus using entrance #1.

From the south on US-59N:

Exit at Greenbriar, stay on the frontage road, and turn right (south) on Greenbriar. Follow Greenbriar to the light at Rice Boulevard. Turn left onto Rice Boulevard. Stay on Rice Boulevard until it becomes Sunset. Turn right on Main Street and take an immediate right into Rice campus using entrance #1.

From the north on US-59S:

Take the Fannin Street exit and travel south on Fannin until you reach Sunset Boulevard. Take a right on Sunset and an immediate left onto Main Street. Turn right into Rice campus using entrance #1.



Arriving By Plane

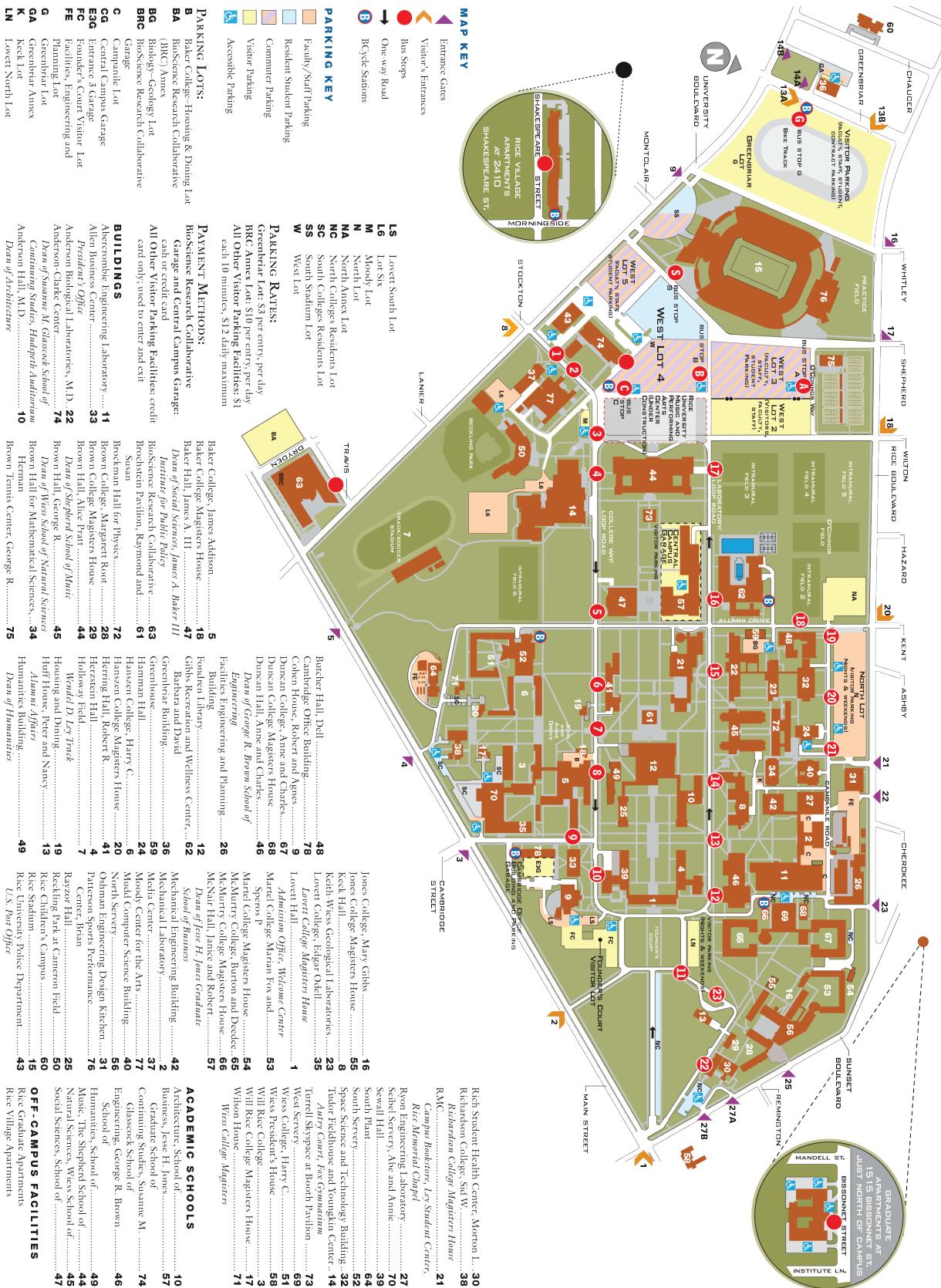
George Bush (IAH) Airport:

Supershuttle (713-523-8888 or supershuttle.com) provides services to and from Intercontinental and fare is \$33 using discount code OWLS1 for being a Rice student! All departures are from the lower level baggage claim (southside area) where they have agents on duty.

Houston Hobby (HOU) Airport:

The Airport Express also runs to the Medical Center and also leaves every 30 minutes starting at 6:10am. The fare is \$31 and will take 30-45 minutes. Supershuttle is also available at Hobby Airport and costs \$31 (again, use code OWLS1).

Campus Map



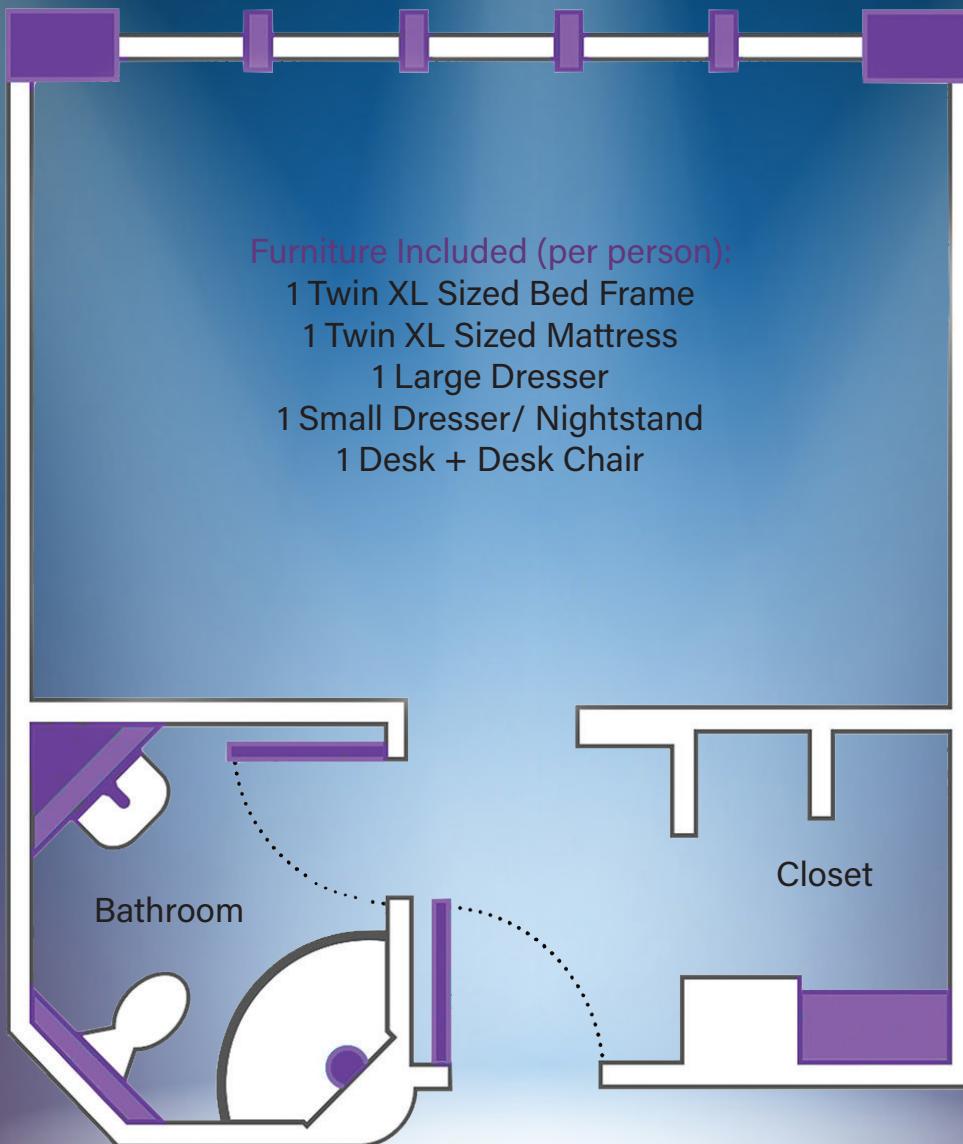
The Building

It's very exciting that McMurtry is Gold LEED certified (we have a low environmental impact!), but sometimes strange things will happen in our rooms. If your lights suddenly turn off for no reason, do not be alarmed -- it's because you were sitting so still that the sensor doesn't notice you anymore. Try waving your arms in front of it or opening and closing your door. If this is ineffective, you can also contact our SMR (Student Maintenance Representative). We will give out contact information for the SMR during O-Week and beyond. Pod bathrooms are also very exciting. They're similar to bathrooms in Europe, with the toilet, shower, and sink all within the same room. That's right, no doors! But you'll notice that there is nothing to block the water in the shower from flowing into the bathroom. The best option is to ensure that you have been provided with a long enough shower curtain (if it's too short, call the SMR) and fold it in towards the shower to block water. Some students have also purchased a squeegee to clean up after-shower water messes. Is your bed too low or too high? Would you like it lofted or bunked with your roommate's? Call the SMR! They have the supplies and the know-how to take care of most of your rooming needs. If it is out of their area of expertise, you can put in a work order at campushousing.rice.edu/home/submit-a-work-order. Just make sure to specify your college, room number, and request. If you are locked out of your room and it is after our College Coordinator's office hours, call RUPD (713-348-6000).



Your Room

Coming in as New Students to McMurtry, you will most likely be placed in a double (one room shared between two people) with your roommate. Below, we've attached a floor plan to give you an idea of what your 12'x17' room will look like!



What Should I Bring?

Every Room Has:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bed | <input type="checkbox"/> Dresser | <input type="checkbox"/> AC/heating unit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desk & chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethernet port | <input type="checkbox"/> Private bathroom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Built-in closet & shelves | <input type="checkbox"/> Cable TV outlet | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel racks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trashcan & recycling bin | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower curtain | |

Supplies to Bring or Buy:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> Desk Lamp | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower accessories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calculator (optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage/organizers | <input type="checkbox"/> Power strips/extension |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack | <input type="checkbox"/> Plate/bowl/utensils | <input type="checkbox"/> cords, chargers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer (see OIT article in Owlmanac) | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin XL bedding | <input type="checkbox"/> Pillows |

Personal Items:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicines | <input type="checkbox"/> High efficiency detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> Necessary identification cards (for campus jobs!) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towels/washcloths | <input type="checkbox"/> Up-to-date insurance card | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes hamper |

Optional or Miscellaneous Items:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mattress pad | <input type="checkbox"/> TV | <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Iron/ironing board | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet/rug | <input type="checkbox"/> Brita filter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refrigerator | <input type="checkbox"/> Wall decorations | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethernet cable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee maker/blender | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike and accessories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Mounting tape | <input type="checkbox"/> Broom or vaccuum |

What should I NOT bring?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too much stuff! There will be plenty of chances to buy stuff you didn't bring. | <input type="checkbox"/> Candles or other flammable materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Microwaves (there are communal ones on each floor) |
|---|---|---|

Questions? Email mcmurtryweek@gmail.com

Amenities

A: Commons (The Yurt) - The best commons on Rice's campus (named by FlavorWire as one of "The Most Beautiful College Dorms in the World!"). This expansive circular room functions as our cafeteria, theatrical venue, party room, and a variety of other things. There are also couch spaces on the sides and back of the commons where Murts can hang out or do homework. You will have many fond memories here over the course of your Rice career.

B: Music Room - If you feel the need to jam out and relieve some stress, McMurtry's music room is at the bottom of staircase A and is equipped with a piano and an organ. Feel free to store your own musical instruments there and rock out whenever you want.

C: Exercise Room/Game Room - This room includes free weights, a treadmill, a TV, and more for your convenient fitness needs! The other half of room includes ping pong, a billiards table, and vending machines, so essentially, there's something for everyone!

D: Computer Room - Need to print a paper? McMurtry's computer lab is conveniently located on the first floor with printers connected to both Macs and PC's for use 24/7.

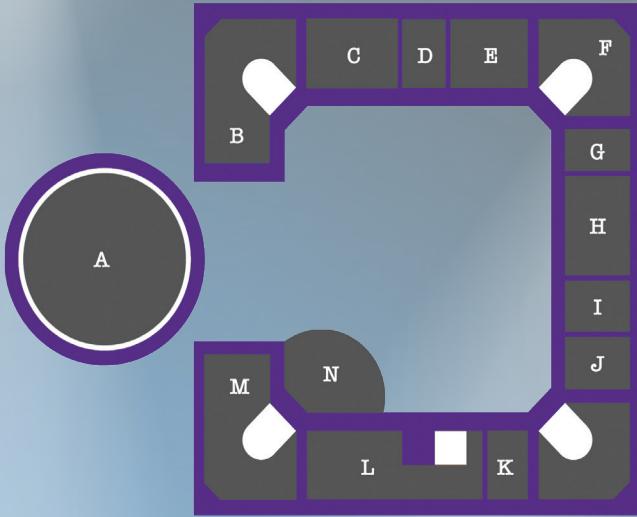
E: Innovation Space - A unique feature of McMurtry College, this room provides students with the means to explore ideas through artwork and design. There is a color printer, 3D printer, work tables, easels, and a vinyl cutter. Also computers with software for CAD, photo and video editing, music production, animation, etc.

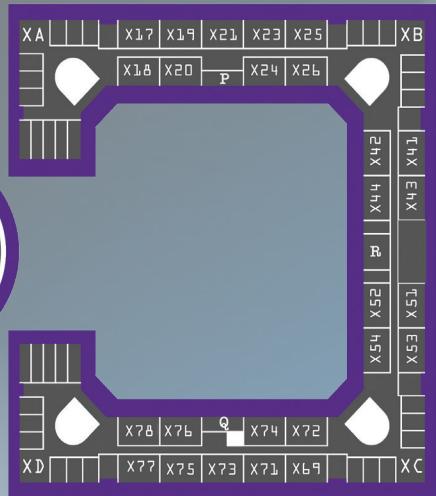
F: Bike Closet - BEEER BIIIIKE! We have an incredible bike room that houses the speed machines that will be used to dominate the other colleges during Beer Bike 2021. Get to know the place and start riding and preparing now!

G: Laundry Room - Put away those quarters! All laundry rooms on campus are FREE. Grab some detergent and feel free to wash your clothes as often as you want. McMurtry's laundry room is located on the first floor next to staircase B (but seriously, wash your clothes please!).

H: McTeam Apartments (1st-3rd Floor) - Our truly amazing HRFs and RAs live here with their families and dogs. This is their space, but they are always welcoming to students stopping by (and are frequently looking for babysitters and dog sitters!).

I: Study Room 114 - This is a classroom-esque area, complete with tables and a whiteboard wall, for some quiet studying time outside of the hallways of the building. It's located on the first floor and is big enough to fit a ton of study buddies, snacks, and caffeine. Use this room; it will help your GPA.





J: Study Room 115 - Nicknamed the Murt Study Room, this is much more than a study room! McMurtry decided to create a unique, cozy little room of purple walls, a big table to study with friends, and squishy couches. This is a wonderful place to meet with a group or get some quiet study time in. Embrace the Murt room's simplistic ambiance and feel free to study here late into the night.

K: TV Lounge - There is a huge flat-screen TV in the lounge as well as a plethora of really comfortable couches, bunches of board games, and tables for snacks and hanging out. Take advantage of this room to play video games, watch movies, or watch Rice dominate baseball.

Replace "X" with your floor to find your room on the map to the left!

L: H&D Facilities - Housing and Dining cooks for us, takes out our trash, cleans our bathrooms and maintains our building overall. Be sure to thank these workers anytime you see them!

M: Jackie's office - Jackie is all about coordinating the college. Her office is where you can go to get your mail, pick up packages, buy envelopes/stamps, get a spare key in case you get locked out, and so much more. She is really the best.

N: The Quad - Our awesome quad has a bunch of picnic tables, an awesome patio, lovely trees, a swing, and a wondrous barbecue pit. Expect to mill around, grill stuff, and generally have a great time enjoying our beautiful building alongside fellow Murts.

P: Study Room (2nd-4th Floors) - An open space with a table and chairs for anyone at

McMurtry wanting a quiet place to study alone or with friends. On 5th floor, we have our beloved Burt's Tea House, which serves two purposes. This is the largest kitchen at McMurtry, with a fridge, oven, microwave, stove, sink and water filter. There is a cabinet that houses all of the cooking equipment. It also has couches and a coffee table for the more social aspect of this room. There is always free tea here, and you'll often find people gathering to talk about anything and everything.

Q: Kitchens (2nd-4th Floors) - Stocked with a fridge, oven, microwave, stove and sink, this space serves everyone on the floor. If you cook extras, there are always hungry people willing to help you out! On 5th floor, we have DeeDee's Lounge, which houses a large entertainment area with a flat screen TV, Wii, and other gaming consoles. A great place to prove your Super Smash Bros skills.

R: Lounge (4th Floor) - This is a new McMurtry amenities addition that includes tons of comfy couches, making it a great space to hang out at any time of the day!



McTeam &



McMinistry



History & Traditions

McMurtry's history reaches surprisingly far back to the very beginning of the residential college system. Although the most amazing college wasn't created until ten years ago, our founders, Burt and Deedee McMurtry, served together on the student-faculty committee that created the original residential college system. The McMurtrys graduated with the Class of 1956, got married, and went on to become successful in venture capitalism in California. The founding couple's efforts towards establishing the college system came full circle on August 16, 2009, with the successful opening of Burton and Deedee McMurtry College -- your new home! Ever since then, each and every incoming class has worked to create traditions and culture that we hope will last long after we are gone. Though there are many traditions in place already, you all will become an essential part of creating even more through your contributions to McM.

McRice: Even before its inception, McMurtry sent waves across campus with its first jack (Rice's term for a practical joke). The first O-Week Coordinators prefixed every imaginable sign and placard on campus with the letters "Mc" to officially mark Rice with Murt spirit. From McFondren Library to McMcMurtry, the possibilities are endless as we venture across Rice to proclaim Murt pride. Through McRice, McMurtry's first Orientation Week helped establish the college by bringing the freshmen class together and attracting many of the upperclassmen from other colleges who would eventually join its ranks.



"McMurtry is in-tents!": Our simple but proud beginnings were epitomized by the tents that reigned over the first McMurtry O-Week while we waited for the completion of our commons. This gave rise to the double-entendre cheer, "McMurtry is intense (in tents)!" The tents eventually disappeared as our beautiful circular commons (affectionately known as the "yurt," because of the uncanny resemblance to the Mongol dwelling) replaced them, and McMurtry was well on its way to glory.

McWill: For its first year of life, McMurtry shared its building with Will Rice College, whose new wing was under construction. As Will Rice and McMurtry became roommates, the residential college culture was shared and a sisterhood was born. To this day, every new class of Murts and Will Ricers participates in the tradition known as McWill during O-Week, where the bond between the two colleges is rekindled and new friendships begin. The first McMurtry freshmen class coalesced into an especially strong group, and within two months, the university sent out invitations to select upperclassmen to join McMurtry. Many months and agonizing decisions later, McMurtry had accepted three classes of transfers to join the original Murts in a now full McMurtry college. Then, in the fall of 2010, those first Murts and new upperclassman transfers joined together to greet the newest and largest class of McMurtry New Students. Roughly one hundred and fifteen new Rice Owls joined McMurtry that year, marking the beginning of our college's accepting and unstoppable spirit.

Beer Bike: Our first Beer Bike exhibition against Duncan College ended with a new tradition being born: winning. In our first full Beer Bike, after only two weeks of practice, our Women's Bike Team finished second and our single McMurtry alumnus valiantly biked all ten segments and chugged all ten canisters allowing us to finish our first full alumni race beating Duncan, Martel and Sid. We also added on to this winning culture by winning the Men's Beer Run last year (don't listen to what Will Rice might say lol).

Powderpuff: Combined with Will Rice, our college reigned victorious in our first ever appearance in the Powderpuff championship. Since our first championship, McMurtry hasn't slowed down. We've already made multiple appearances in the championship including championship wins during the Fall 2016 & 2017 seasons! Powderpuff has now become a common gathering for many Murts and a great way to show our Murt pride.

Bananas: We cheer on Murts with loud screams of "McMurtry is bananas!" Murts in banana suits have fondly been adopted as our unofficial mascot, and if you ever see people in banana suits at music festivals or events, don't be surprised if you recognize their faces.

Conch: The conch shell appears on our crest and is a reference to the fact that the McMurtry name derives from the Scottish "Son of the Sea Navigator." As sons and daughters of Murt, the conch has become the most important symbol of the unity that exists within our community. When this instrument of glory is blown, every member of the college lets out the ear-piercing scream of "MURRRRRRRRRRT!" in response. This call to battle embodies the intensity of McMurtry, and reminds us of our strong community and bond.

Burts: Another McMurtry tradition we value falls more on the intellectual side of life. Burt's Teahouse was established in 2011 as a dedication to our founder as well as a super chill outlet for Murts. A collection of teapots, hot chocolate, flavored teas, and stray mugs are stocked in the fifth floor kitchen (adjacent to the gorgeous view of downtown Houston from the sundeck) awaiting any Murt who wants anything from an evening of simple talk and relaxation to a deeply philosophical conversation.



Cookies: Our spirit of inclusivity extends farther than our own college, as shown in another Murt tradition -- Murt love for Baker 13. As part of our Baker 13 defense, we bake cookies for the runners and pass them out as the runners come through the final college on the course. We offer these sweets and get a peaceful truce in return from the exhausted runners.

McScottish Night: As members of one of the newest colleges, Murts possess an opportunity not as readily available to other Rice students: the opportunity to innovate and create new traditions for their college. In most recent years, our Head Resident Fellows and the latest generation of Murts spearheaded the inception of McScottish Night, a uniquely McMurtry night dedicated to celebrating our Scottish heritage. The night has historically featured Scottish delicacies, student-led kilt-making, a bagpipe procession, the burning of a homemade Wickerman, and its agenda is only growing!

Cultivating New Traditions: While we prize each of these existing traditions as a part of the Spirit of McMurtry, the greatest characteristic of McMurtry is its inclusive nature. We value our differences, and Murts can't be defined by any one type or personality. McMurtry will always be a place where diversity is valued and different opinions are welcomed. McMurtry has already established an open attitude towards people of all backgrounds, and we must channel this spirit towards making a better college. In his charge to the college, Burt McMurtry urged us to maintain a collaborative approach in all things. This means that everyone's contributions are valued and desired. This is a great freedom of our college, as the time is ripe for new traditions to be created, both during O-Week and beyond. As part of the twelfth matriculating class, you have been given the incredible opportunity to help shape our ever-expanding, ever-changing college. Be ready, for you will be an unforgettable part of McMurtry history.

What is the McTeam?



Each college has their own "adult team", called A-Team for short, but here at McMurtry, we have our own special name for them-- the McTeam. The McTeam is McMurtry's version of one of Rice's most visible and helpful group of advisors and mentors. It consists of 7 people of which 6 live in the college and 4 work for Rice in some fashion. There are 2 Residential Associates (RAs), 2 Head Residential Fellows (HRFs), 2 Magisters, and a College Coordinator. Among the McTeam there are several professors, administrators, advisors, and, our favorite: dogs and children! The McTeam is a great resource to go to for personal or academic advice. They are also a group of great people to become friends with! You can find them down the hall in the college, at the Magisters' house, in classrooms and offices around campus and even in West Servery for most meals. To become part of the McTeam, each member had to apply to the program and must be reevaluated every few years at the end of each of their terms. You will get to meet them early on during O-Week, and they love when you say hello to them around campus or at other McMurtry events! They have helped many of us in unimaginable ways, and they are truly invested in your wellbeing.

Meet Our Magisters

McMurtry Magisters | Jenifer Bratter and Noe Perez

We are Jenifer Bratter and Noe Perez, the Magisters of McMurtry College, and we are thrilled to welcome you to the community! We feel the main ingredient to a successful college career is finding your people and developing a community. In our first year as your Magisters, we look forward to helping students becoming connected to the wonderful community that is McMurtry. Jenifer is a Full Professor in the Sociology Department whose research focuses on race and ethnicity and their significance for the ways individuals identify, form relationships, and experience well-being. She has been professor at Rice since 2006 and sincerely enjoys teaching and mentoring the creative and intellectually dazzling graduate and undergraduate students of the Rice community. Noe is a researcher with expertise in education and community health. He loves carpentry, cooking, volunteering, kickboxing, and biking. Jenifer was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and Noe hails from south Texas, known as "the Valley". We met at University of Texas at Austin in the graduate program in Sociology. As a first year grad student, Noe stole Jenifer's desk in the teaching assistant lounge. We became fast friends, eventually started dating, and later married. After moving across the country together, they decided to settle in Houston, where Jenifer started teaching at University of Houston and then moved over to Rice. We have two boys: Ricardo, 15, and Sam, 9. Our kids love watching movies, playing video games, and being creative. Ricardo's passion is Sasuke and American Ninja Warrior, the obstacle course shows - he was on the first season of American Ninja Warrior Junior under the name, "The Origami Ninja" and continues to compete in ninja leagues. Sam loves dancing and martial arts, especially Brazillian capoeira, which is almost a perfect blend of the two. Together, they have a shared love of creating short films. Sam and Ricardo were too happy to create a short video in honor of the 2020's beer bike theme, "The Mandapourian". We have lived in the Rice residential colleges as Head Resident Fellows for five years prior to becoming McMurtry Magisters and have enjoyed bringing some of our favorite hobbies to the students on campus.

We can't wait to meet you all – Welcome to McMurtry!



Welcome from the HRFs

Head Resident Fellows | Alana Lemay-Gibson and Brian Gibson

Hello Murts! We would like to tell you a little about ourselves so that you will know who keeps walking their heavy-breathing bulldog all around the building.

Alana is from Providence, RI, and Brian is from the rural town of Rehoboth, MA. Both of us have been in Texas for a long time so our accents have been diluted. Alana received her BA in Anthropology from UT Austin and her MED in Educational Anthropology from the University of Houston. Brian received his BA in Kinesiology, and his MA and PhD in Exercise Physiology from UT Austin. We were married in Austin, TX in December of 1995.

Brian accepted a faculty position in the Department of Kinesiology at Rice in 1996, where he currently serves as Clinical Professor teaching Human Physiology, Exercise Physiology, and preventative medicine related courses. In 2004, he also assumed a new role in Academic Advising, and with a few changes over the years, he currently serves as the Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduates. In this role, he has responsibilities for the Office of Academic Advising, Center for Career Development, Center for Teaching Excellence, and Office of Study Abroad. He is also responsible for support of the campus wide Residential Colleges and Associates Program.



After Alana finished her education, she transitioned to working in software development and technology management. Currently, she works as the Director of Project Management and part of the leadership team for OpenStax at Rice University. OpenStax is a nonprofit organization committed to improving student access to quality learning materials. For more information, please visit openstax.org.

We both have lots of personal interests. We absolutely love, and dote on our dog, "Bogie Theodore Gibson", and we enjoy travel, exercise, and spending time with family and friends. We also have separate personal interests. Alana enjoys books, music, cooking, and art. Brian enjoys playing and coaching sports, lifting weights, wildlife, and photography. We have been living with students in the residential colleges since we arrived in Houston in 1996, but we were "promoted" to McMurtry in 2014. As you can tell, we like college life. In fact, we're not sure we can remember what it is like to NOT be in college. We consider ourselves non-judgmental adults who are here to share our lives with Murts to whatever extent they wish.

Welcome from Your RA

Resident Associate | Tamara Jones

Hello and welcome! I am the 2nd floor RA, Tamara – but no matter which floor you live on, consider me your RA.

I am an Assistant Director of Academic Advising here at Rice and was born and raised in Houston. I have an MA in Sociology and love learning about human variation in every form – cultural, familial, personality, life choices, etc. This means I will want to learn all about your life story, so get ready! I hate chocolate, cinnamon, caramel, coconut, and peanut butter (I hope this isn't a deal-breaker for you) but love strawberry, cherry, vanilla, and Funfetti! I also enjoy color consulting, wildlife and outdoor adventure shows and books, and games of all sorts – bowling, board games, video games, you name it.

I enjoy reading, curating relaxing music playlists (ask me about my playlists for each day of the week), travel planning, and finding new, random Netflix series to watch. I'm also busy maintaining my 5-star island on Animal Crossing so please send me your friend code if you play, and we can visit each other!

Helping keep things mad litty at all times are my daughters Seraphina, Aura, and Lila. Seraphina will be your chatty best friend and insist you join dance-offs, sing-offs, games, dress-up, long walks to the servery and commons, and anything else that strikes her fancy. Aura enjoys running, jumping, climbing, cartwheeling, and high-fives. Lila enjoys coloring, her critic's choice cartoons, randomly shrieking, and hiding in a cozy nook. Lila is autistic and can sometimes find socializing overwhelming but she has been able to form strong bonds with some Murts! We appreciate your gentle patience when interacting with her.



We know norms have changed with the pandemic, but reach out to me and I will help you however I can!

Welcome from Your RA

Resident Associate | Deirdre Hunter

Welcome to McMurtry! I am Deirdre Hunter. I live on 3rd with my two pups, Sandy and Nexus. We are thrilled to welcome you with open arms and paws to the best College. I am a Lecturer of Engineering Design at the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (OEDK). In addition to teaching engineering design courses, I mentor students in the Sustaining Excellence in Research (SER) Scholars program, and teach in two Rice summer programs – Summer Experience in Engineering Design (SEED) and Rice Emerging Scholars Program (RESP). I received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Syracuse University and a PhD in Engineering Education from Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!). My research has focused on developing learner-centered environments in engineering classrooms, and teaching and learning metacognitive skills. I love thinking deeply and philosophizing about higher education systems and learning more broadly.

Some of my hobbies include: playing games (from cards and board games, to organized sports and wacky competitions, I am game!), cheering on our Houston sports teams (Go Astros!!), drinking coffee (totally addicted, and no shame!) and finding great conversations. But most of all, I'm passionate about people. For me, it has always been more about who I am sharing moments with, than what I am doing in that moment. My personal life vision is "to build inclusive community" and I think every person has a deep desire to be known. Knowing someone starts with listening, and when we are truly known we begin to feel like we belong to a shared experience. So, let's sit together over a meal or a cup of coffee; I am eager to hear your story!!

Sandy is a dachshund-beagle mix. She was born on the streets in Mexico, crazy story you should ask me about sometime! She loves naps, sun bathing, belly rubs, and doesn't miss a meal!! Nexus is an Australian shepherd mix. He struggles with anxiety (can you relate?), but loves spending time with students, giving hugs, and long walks. If you ever need some puppy time you can find us in 347, just knock!



Meet Our College Coord



College Coordinator | Jackie Carrizales

My name is Jackie Carrizales and I am the McMurtry College Coordinator. My office is on the ground floor right outside the door to the commons. I love visiting with students and hearing about what is going on with their lives, so please stop by any time to say Hi!

I have worked for Rice since 2009. Before coming to McMurtry, I worked for 6 years in the Office of Admission. I have been the coordinator here since the week before O-Week in 2015, but I have been an associate at McMurtry since it opened in the Summer of 2009. I was so excited to be able to be a part of a college from the beginning and see the start of all of the traditions that make each college unique. I can't believe that I'm lucky enough to spend every day here now and get paid for it!

I am married to Marc and we have three grown sons in their 20s. They are Max, Luke and Leo. We also have two rescue dogs, Azura and Shorty who were each adopted by one of our sons and then left with us to raise when the sons moved out.

Welcome to McMurtry! We're so happy to have you here.

Things you can do in Jackie's office:

- Buy stamps & get envelopes
- Pick up mail and packages
- Use the staplers, packing tape, scissors, shredder, etc.
- Get friendly jabs about liking a sports team other than the Astros
- Borrow an extra room key
- Do homework
- Take a study break
- Relax with your pals

President & CJ

McMurtry College President | Carolyn Daly

Hi and welcome to McMurtry! I'm Carolyn, and I'm a senior from upstate New York studying Social Policy Analysis and History, and a proud Murt. You can usually find me hanging out on McMurtry's 5th floor or the commons. If I'm not at McMurtry, I'm probably playing soccer, eating dessert, at a Civic Duty Rice meeting, or exploring Houston. In case you haven't heard yet, you are now a part of the best residential college. Our biggest focus as a college government is making McMurtry a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone, so know that Morts will always be here for you, both as your college and as your family. We want to be as accessible to all of you as possible, and we're always excited to hear your ideas for new Murt traditions, events, or anything in between. I love meeting new people, so feel free to reach out to me with any Murt government questions or just to hang out! I'm so excited to see you in August.



McMurtry College Chief Justice | Lola Torres

As McMurtry's Chief Justice and one of the toughest Powderpuff players on the field, Lola has every right to be as intimidating as she wants - but don't you worry - she's just a GOON at heart. You'll find this goon excitedly saying "Hi" to you across the entire quad, perhaps riding on her longboard like the sk8ter girl she is. Ask her to make you a Coke float and she'll excitedly run back into the servery to gather the ingredients. Ever need to go on a car ride with Lola? She'll pull up blasting Bad Bunny and even make going to a grocery store a fun time. Within the late hours of the night, you'll find her in the McMurtry study rooms while also managing to cheer up everyone around her. Lola is the type of person that will go out of her way to bake her friend's favorite cake despite her busy BIOE schedule. As you could have guessed, you've landed yourself an extremely kind-hearted and caring Chief Justice. With her main goal for fostering inclusivity, she will go out of her way to make sure you feel safe and at-home at McMurtry.

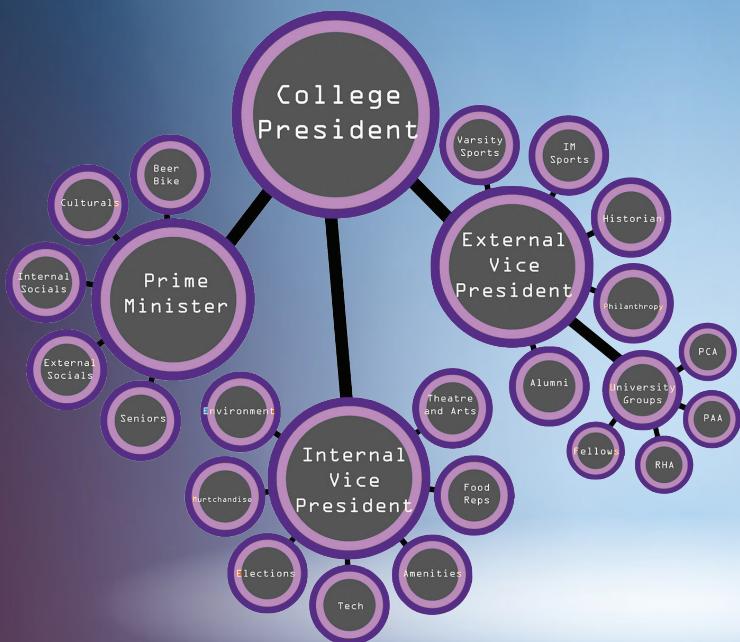


The McMinistry

At Rice, all 11 residential colleges have an internal, student-run government designed to deal with various aspects of the college.

At McMurtry, our student government is known as the McMinistry. Within the McMinistry exists the Executive Council (EC), which includes the President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Prime Minister, Secretary, and Treasurer (all of whom are elected in the spring). The EC conducts various functions, including running the McMurtry Town Hall meetings, overseeing the committee system, sending out announcements, reserving rooms at our college, creating the budget, and much more. In addition to the EC, there are nine Hall Representatives (including one off campus rep) and one At-Large Representative. There are also Class Representatives, including three First Year Reps who are elected by first year students in the fall (and you can be one!). Hall Representatives are members elected to represent their respective hall within the McMinistry, while the At-Large Representative, represents the interests of McMurtry College as a whole and organizes meetings between the Hall Representatives and Class Representatives, collectively known as the People's Council (PC). With the exception of the President, all of the previously mentioned positions are voting members of the McMinistry.

The rest of the McMinistry is made up of non-voting members, including the Chief Justice, the Parliamentarian, the Historians, the SA Senator, the RPC Representative, and the Honor Council Representative. Many of the events that are planned by and for McMurtry students are organized through the various committees. Getting involved in a committee is a great way to get involved with McMurtry government as a New Student. Additionally, the McMinistry meets bi-weekly for Town Hall meetings that are open to everyone. Town Hall meetings discuss current McMurtry issues, hold voting sessions, and are an open forum for any Murt to voice their concerns (free snacks too!). These meetings are where you will learn what is going on at McMurtry, so make sure to attend and stay involved!



McMinistry '20-'21

President - Carolyn Daly

Prime Minister - Isabel Sjodin

Internal Vice President - Luey Garcia

At Large Rep - Christa Westheimer

External Vice President - Rachel Moore

Secretaries - Jazmine Castillo and Morgan Gage

Treasurers - Brandon Zimmer and Eliot Solomon

Chief Justice - Lola Torres

Socio-Economic Initiatives

Starting in Spring 2017, McMurtry College has committed to making financial accessibility an utmost priority and to be a leader in the socioeconomic inclusivity initiative at Rice.

We recognize that every Murt's financial situation and needs are different and that the residential college experience should be accessible to all. We've implemented an initiative to address socioeconomic inequality with regards to social life at our college, namely to make all college events and Murtchandise financially accessible.

The prices of McMurtry events (e.g. McSkate in winter, McFloat in spring) and Murtchandise are capped at \$5/event or \$5/merchandise. Beer Bike shirts, which are required for participation in Beer Bike, are free.

We established the Magister's Fund so students can opt into extra funding. This fund is intended to cover ground we may miss with blanket subsidization, to offer extra support to students in difficult circumstances, and to avoid limiting students to college social events.

Funding can be used for a variety of things, such as: a Saturday dinner out, cleats for an intramural sport, or something else entirely. There is no hard minimum or maximum amount, nor strict criteria for eligibility, and you can email the magisters for more information.

All personal information shared throughout the application process will remain confidential and will not be released to any student. Beyond the college, many Rice organizations offer additional support and resources for financially needy students, from summer study abroad scholarships to assistance purchasing professional clothing.

Many of these resources are provided by specific departments. For example, the Center for Career Development refers students needing professional clothing. The Student Success Initiatives Office has a pantry that is open certain days of the week in order for students to get food/bathroom necessities. Please inquire with the McTeam and/or the related department -- just because you haven't heard about a resource doesn't mean it doesn't exist!



College Associates



College Associates are faculty, staff, and community members who are a vital part of the residential college and are committed to engaging, mentoring, and serving as resources for students. Associates get involved in the college in a wide variety of ways ranging from casual meals, sporting events, and social gatherings, to lectures, career panels, and theatrical performances, all with the goal of enriching intellectual, cultural, and social life at McMurtry. There is no set path for how associates contribute to the college because each associate brings a unique set of experiences and perspectives. During O-Week, you will be introduced to associates, but these meetings are just an introduction to the program. During your first year, you'll have many more opportunities to meet associates, seek mentoring, share interests, and ask questions. Associates are around on a regular basis, so if you see any of our wonderful associates in the commons, or somewhere around campus, be sure to stop, introduce yourself, and take advantage of the opportunity. You never know when your connections with these professional and wonderful individuals will help you in the days to come!

Meet Your



O-Week Team!



Game ShO-Week Coords



Aaron Vaughan

Junior
Sociology, Psychology,
Certificate in
Civic Leadership
Melissa, TX

Tya Epps

Junior
Sociology,
Religion
Temple, TX

Alyson Resnick

Junior
Cognitive Sciences
Jewish Studies
Burlingame, CA

As O-Week Coordinators, it is our job to pour our heart and soul into creating your Orientation Week. We, your three Game ShO-Week Coordinators, have been planning for your arrival since well before you were placed in McMurtry. In fact, we have been working since January to select your Advisors and your Co-Advisors. This summer we have prepared this book for you, matched you with a roommate, and carefully placed you into an O-Week group. We also planned the majority of O-Week events you will be participating in at McMurtry. One of the best things about Rice is that the administration places a great deal of trust in students (i.e. us) to run things. In turn, we work extremely hard to make sure that you have a smooth transition into Rice, both academically and socially. Your Advisors will be your guides for most of O-Week, but we'll largely be working to make sure everything runs smoothly. We are elated that you will be joining us at McMurtry and we are beyond excited to meet you. See you soon!

Aaron Vaughan | Coordinator | McMurtry

Want a pal to drink strawberry banana smoothies with in Coffeehouse while simultaneously getting life advice and getting roasted? Look no further than your bomb O-Week Coord Aaron Vaughan! Can't find him? Just look for the guy with the brightest smile and biggest hand gestures on campus. Aaron Vaughan is the most hype person you will have the absolute pleasure of ever meeting. This absolute KING from Melissa, Texas is a Psychology and Sociology double major working on a Certificate in Civic Leadership (what CAN'T he do?!). He is pre-law AND pre-grad-- talk about the embodiment of academic excellence! Aaron is a civically engaged ICON and when he isn't out serving his community, you can find him serving as a McMurtry Resident Health Advisor. He is a former Murt Secretary and you can often catch him helping out in the McM College Coordinator's Office. He has a passion for his college that can't be matched. This junior is also a boba FIEND and you can often find him with a Dr. Pepper in hand. Looking for a laugh? Ask him about his talent for Mr. McMurtry and prepare to have your mind blown. Having a rough day? Ask Aaron to take you on one of his legendary walks and you will leave feeling 1000% better. He has a talent for befriending everyone he meets and can speedwalk his way right into your heart. He will be your biggest cheerleader and also keep your ego in check. What can't he do? Absolutely nothing-- well actually, he can't drive. But he's more than willing to walk with you down to Rice Village and grab some pho. There's a million things you could say about Aaron: he's smart, funny, kind, hardworking, dedicated, compassionate... the list goes on and on. Aaron in three words: an amazing friend. Consider yourself lucky because you scored an O-Week Coord who will stop at nothing to make your experience memorable, the one and only Aaron Vaughan.

-Alison Drileck, Sid Richardson '21

Tya Epps | Coordinator | McMurtry

Tya is a gem of a human being. As you see her around Rice, you'll probably wonder, what doesn't this gal do? She studies Sociology and Religion, is head of McMurtry's Diversity Council, conducts research on race and mental health, and is a Powderpuff queen. But despite her hectic schedule, she always makes time for the people she cares about. You might find Tya intensely playing Egyptian Rat Screw at 3 AM, chugging a liter of Sprite because her suitemates dared her to, spitting bars from any song in her massive music library, convincing everyone that Scooby Doo: Monsters Unleashed is one of the greatest movies ever, or eating oddly specific foods (like rice with soy sauce or a grilled cheese with 3 spinach leaves). As you probably could have guessed, Tya is an incredibly fun person to be around and is consistently the life of the party. The most amazing thing about Tya is that, somehow, as one singular person, she can make you feel the love of a whole family. She's the kind of person who shows up to your Thanksgiving out of town, knowing she's the only one, just so you feel a little less alone. She is a teammate, a mentor, and a friend. She pushes everyone around her to be their very best, and is at the same time a shoulder to cry on when the world pushes just a little too hard. We love Tya, not because of what she has done, or what she will do, but because of how she makes us feel when she is around. Tya is silly and kind, and although she acts tough, she's a softie on the inside. There is truly no one better to coordinate an O-Week, because she knows what it means to foster community, support growth, and overcome adversity. Not only will she be a great Coord throughout your O-week, but she'll be an amazing person you can go to for the rest of your time at Rice.

- Hannah Boyd, Vibha Sastri, Sarah Swackhamer, Arijah Forsyth, Kelsey Sanders, Gordan Liu, Lola Torres, Josh Verne, McMurtry '20-'23

Alyson Resnick | Coordinator | McMurtry

Alyson Resnick HAS games on her phone, but that's not all. 20 seasons of Big Brother, 10 of Amazing Race, and 10 of Survivor make Alyson more than equipped to be your Game ShO-Week host. A normal day in the life of Alyson may go as follows: wake up to seventeen alarms on her Alexa over the course of thirty minutes, go to cogsci, eat raw vegetables for genuine enjoyment, pronounce Florida "Flaw-rida," nap for three hours, watch the Browns lose a football game, dinner, homework, rinse, and repeat. But Alyson does more than root for losing sports teams. She is an active member in all aspects of McMurtry life, whether she is playing on the powderpuff field or planning almost every McMurtry social event. And no, she's not running away from you, that is her normal walking pace. While this seems like an impressive list of accomplishments and activities, what really makes Alyson so impressive is the friendship and joy she brings to the McMurtry community. We know Alyson will be an incredible O-Week coordinator because she is an incredible friend, and she puts her entire heart into everything she does, whether that be listening to the entire Taylor Swift discography, supporting a fellow Murt, or planning the best O-Week she possibly can for the class of 2024. The world is a better place with Alyson in it, and McMurtry is so lucky to have such a smart, fun, kind, and capable person as your O-Week coordinator.

- Julia Engelhardt, McMurtry '23 and Callie Carnahan, McMurtry '22



What is...



an O-Week Group?

Your O-Week group consists of 8-9 other New Students, 4 upperclassmen Advisors (one will be a Co-Advisor and one may be an Affiliate) who are beyond excited to welcome you to the best residential college on campus! All throughout O-Week, you will be preparing for registration and academic life at Rice and interacting with the rest of your incoming class at McMurtry, but your O-Week group is designed primarily to give you more of a personal support system during the week and throughout the year. From playing crazy ice-breakers, learning about each other's interests and passions, sharing possible course schedules, or having late movie nights, you will soon discover that your bond as an O-Week group runs deep. Be prepared for lots of fun & encouragement from the peers in your group. Don't be worried if your Advisors seem very enthusiastic when you drive up for move in day -- it's a sign of affection.

an Advisor?

Advisors are a diverse group of students from McMurtry who are so enthusiastic about welcoming you to Rice that they don't mind returning here almost two full weeks before classes start to help you move in and start your time at Rice! These fantastic people have been hand-selected to act as your guides throughout O-Week; they'll make sure you get to all activities and meetings, answer any questions you might have (or direct you to someone who can answer them), expose you to Rice's academics and student life, introduce you to the McMurtry culture, and serve as all-around resources. One thing that all Advisors have in common is their desire to help you have the best experience possible at Rice, so they'll continue to be resources for you long after O-Week is over and may very well become some of your closest friends.

a Co-Advisor?

Co-Advisors make up about a fourth of our team and are students who are equally friendly and enthusiastic about welcoming you to Rice, but they hail from other residential colleges! Co-Advisors love McMurtry so much that they choose to join McMurtry's O-Week as an ambassador of their home college. In addition to having the qualities of an Advisor, they can help show you Rice beyond the beautiful wood-panels of McMurtry and bring a little bit of their own college's culture and customs along with them. They are wonderful resources in helping you to branch out and explore other colleges!

an Affiliate?

Affiliates are O-Week personnel who serve specific roles designed to help you with your transition to Rice. Most O-Week groups will have at least one Affiliate. While they are paired with individual groups, they are an important resource for all New Students at the college. The Affiliate assigned to your group may often be floating around to meet other students and providing them with specialized knowledge and advice. Be sure to meet all the Affiliates present, as they are incredibly important campus-wide resources during O-Week and beyond. These Affiliate positions include: Peer Academic Advisors, Diversity Facilitators, Photographer, Videographer, Gopher, Rice Health Advisor, Associates Liaison, Athletic Liaison, Student Maintenance Representative, Chief Justice, and President.

Keeping Up With The Kash-Kabians



Megan Liu
Junior
Mathematical
Economic Analysis,
Data Science
Dallas, TX



Jazmine Castillo
Sophomore
Biological Sciences,
Psychology
Burnet, TX



Jennifer Ho
Senior
Social Policy
Analysis,
Kinesiology
Tomball, TX



Pablo Alarcon
Sophomore
Biochemistry and
Cell Biology
Neiva, Colombia

Megan Liu | Advisor | McMurtry

K. We'll give u a quick rundown on Megan. From Dallas, Texas, this Math/Econ junior knows all things finance, calligraphy, and obscure facts. If Megan was personified by a song, it would have to be "Ride or Die" by Megan Thee Stallion, because a) her name is Megan, and b) she is everyone's ride or die. Need a study buddy at fondy? Just text Megan--as long as she's not throwin it back at Rice Dance Theater, she is game. So what has Megan been doing in quarantine, you ask? Taking naps during class with her camera off. Go off, queen. What are Megan's talents? Megan dances, makes incredible lemon bars, and designs all the birthday cards for her friends. Is Megan basic? Definitely not. Megan wears Air Force Ones and her music taste is so avante-garde. Her 2019 Spotify top artists were Ariana Grande, Billie Eilish, Khalid, One Direction, and the Original Broadway Cast of Hamilton, in order. For real though, you're lucky to have Megan as an advisor. Megan is the puffle your penguin never knew it needed: she's one of the kindest people you'll know, will be your most loyal companion, and always has a scrunchie to share. And most importantly, her head is almost as big as her heart.

- Natalie Festa and Jackson Savage, McMurtry '22

Jazmine Castillo | Advisor | McMurtry

"If I had to go to the hospital, I would want Jazmine to drive me there."

"If Jazmine jumped off of a bridge, I would assume it was safe and follow her."

"Jazmine picked up Taco Bell for me one night, so I guess she's pretty cool!"

These are just a few reviews for your new O-Week advisor Jazmine Castillo. Jazmine, a sophomore majoring in Biological Sciences and Psychology (with a little VADA sprinkled in), is from Burnet, Texas, a small town outside of Austin. It's Burn't dern it! Can't you learn it! As your McMurtry secretary, she knows the ins and outs of this place. You'll usually find her up late at night studying (a.k.a procrastinating) or going for some late night runs to House of Pies with Susan (her trusty Envoy), but even still, she always gets things done. She's someone you can count on to be there for you even if she is slightly sleep deprived. And if you're ever craving for some bomb papas tacos, this girl is the go-to. Have we mentioned her spine-chilling, oscar worthy monologues? No? Well trust us when we say this girl is the QUEEN of speech. And if you ever just need a friend to talk to or get your mind off things, there's no one better than Jazmine. Just mention Marvel or Supernatural and you'll get her talking for hours. She's probably easily one of the best people you'll ever meet, and she's so excited for O-Week and can't wait to meet you guys, so get your game on!

- Jonathan De La Cruz, Brandon Zimmer, and Morgan Gage, McMurtry '23

Jennifer Ho | Advisor | RHA Affiliate | McMurtry

Jennifer Ho? THE Jennifer Ho? She's known as many different things: J. Ho (which is what inspired Jennifer Lopez to go by J. Lo) to her peers, @jenniferhopez to her Instagram fans, and @jennifurho to her loyal Twitter followers. You, however, are lucky enough to also get to know her as your incredible advisor: someone who will welcome you with all the heart she has in her tiny body, always hype you up, support you through the best and worst of times, and serenade you with the singular ukulele chord she's learned to play. You'll know when she's nearby when you see her extremely well-crafted outfit she threw together in 5 minutes for 5 dollars, hear her energetic, genuine laughter, or spot a blur roller-blading across campus at unrealistically high speeds. Chances are, though, Jennifer will already be at your side, no matter what. She is, objectively and undeniably, one of the kindest, warmest and most selfless people you ever will meet. While she is convinced she will win an Oscar for her home-made movies that Youtube has yet to see, Jennifer's main passion lies in helping people, whether it's through studying social policy, health disparities, or just through her everyday actions. This senior has abundant love for Rice and McMurtry, and being the #giving person she is, she's more than ready to share it with you, too.

- Amy Mu, McMurtry '21

Pablo Alarcon | Co-Advisor | Duncan

"What's poppin' and I ain't talking about no popcorn!" If you hear this, you're likely about to be graced by the presence of Pablo Alarcon. Born in Neiva, Colombia, this Duncan College resident may dress like your basic e-boy, but he's actually cultured as hell. Whether you're craving some Filipino-style spaghetti from Jollibee or some Colombian beans and rice, Pablo's foodie skills will help you find the perfect place to eat—if you're lucky, he may even come out to eat with you! This Biochemistry and Cell Biology major is also one of the smartest people you will ever encounter. From conducting research at Baylor College of Medicine to serving as the External Vice President of the Rice Pre-Dental Society to playing soccer on Duncan's Intramural Team, Pablo knows how to work hard and balance his many passions all while staying positive and relaxed. He's really a work hard, play hard kind of guy, always down to run up some FIFA or just ~vibe~ if you know what I mean. His objectively eccentric mannerisms like singing rap lyrics at random times will keep you laughing no matter how bad your day was. Consider yourself lucky if you're one of his new students because you may never meet someone as chill, understanding, and entertaining as Pablo again!

- Becca Mak, Duncan '23

The Price is Ripe



Myles Nobles

Sophomore
Neuroscience,
Entrepreneurship
Missouri City, TX



Ellice Gao

Sophomore
Mechanical
Engineering
Engineering Design
Katy, TX



Minjung Kim

Junior
Chemical
Engineering
Seoul, South Korea



Stephanie Ponce

Senior
Kinesiology Sports
Medicine, Global
Health Technologies
Modesto, CA

Myles Nobles | Advisor | McMurtry

Who's your favorite Houston local? It's yo boy, Myles Nobles! Myles is a Neuroscience major, and will probably do surgery on your brain one day. He was born in Atlanta and moved to H-Town soon after! He's ambitious and known that he was going to be a neurosurgeon since the day he came out of the womb. He'll probably be running his own business as a side gig with all his skills in entrepreneurship! But don't get fooled. Myles is a big fan of sleeping on the floor and acting childish, and he owns it. Don't even get me started on his love for The Office. Last year, he assigned a character to everyone of our O-Week group (weirdly accurate). Be ready for him to do that with your O-Week fam too. Myles is a Dallas Cowboys fan and loves Lebron James. He's super excited to take you under his wing during Game ShO-week!

- Saanya Bhargava, McMurtry '23

Ellice Gao | Advisor | Gopher | McMurtry

What's that crawling on the McMurtry 4th floor wall at 2:30 in the morning? Is it a bug? A waving piece of paper? A 5'4 asian woman frantically attempting to either find or cook ramen? If you guessed any of the above (seek counseling), and meet your new fitness mom Ellice!! Coming from Katy, Texas, this mechanical engineering sophomore is everything you could want in an O-Week mom and more! This soon-to-be walking bicep is the literal definition of boundless energy and dedication, whether it be dancing the night away or winning planking competitions without breaking a sweat. Needless to say, if you're looking to have fun and/or get swole, you have involuntarily come to the right place! (Like seriously, she installed a pullup bar in her room and does them at 3am). El isn't just amazing at climbing physical mountains, but emotional boulders as well. If you need a jacked shoulder to cry on or someone to confide in, there is no one as genuinely caring or compassionate on campus than this ramen-fiend. O-week may just last a week, but the connection you make with this friend will last you a lifetime.

- Julia Love and Hunter Brown, McMurtry '23

Minjung Kim | Co-Advisor | Martel

If you need someone to send you memes on the daily, serenade you on her cello, or make you laugh until your sides hurt, Minjung Kim is your go-to gal. This 5'3 bundle of love and joy from Martel College is one of the most down-to-earth (both literally and physically) people you will meet at Rice. Despite her busy pre-med schedule, this native-ish Houstonian (originally from Seoul, Korea) will always carve out time for you day or night. As a junior Chemistry and Chemical Engineering major, Minjung knows all about chemical bonds and is sure to spend her time bonding with you. When she's not busy being a light in your life, Minjung can be found working in lab, playing in Rice's Campanile Orchestra, saving lives as a member of Rice EMS, or scrolling through Tik Tok. Trust me when I say you'll want to introduce yourself to Minjung - but I bet she'll beat you to it.

- Sarah Mozden, Sid Richardson '22

Stephanie Ponce | Advisor | Associate's Liaison | McMurtry

If you are looking for someone to get a good laugh with at bad jokes, to listen to some R&B, and to watch Chicago PD Stephanie Ponce is your girl! Steph is a rising senior, a proud MURT, a Kinesiology (Sports Medicine) major and a Global Health Technologies minor born and raised in Modesto, California. This girl can nap, dance, and laugh and she's always down to have a fun time at all hours of the day. Though she does not trust anyone who does not like mangoes, she's sure to earn your trust with her soft, warm, and caring personality. If you ever need a friend to go to concerts with, someone to explore Houston's coffee shops, or even just a shoulder to lean on, Steph is your girl.

- Luis Ponce

Shark Tank Tok



Kinsale Reilly

Junior
History,
Studio Art
Glen Head, NY

Angie Fan

Sophomore
Undecided
(Kinesiology,
Cognitive Sciences)
Katy, TX

Julia Robinson

Senior
Mathematical
Economic Analysis,
Financial Compu-
tation and Modeling
Summit, NJ

Chanel Ericsson

Sophomore
Psychology
Bristow, VA

Kinsale Reilly | Advisor | McMurtry

(K)orean BBQ. (I)ndie tunes. (N)iche internet memes. (S)catman John. (A)rtistry. (L)ifting heavy weights. (E)ating good -non-servery- food. All of these things are pretty rad, and they are also things that your advisor Kinsale enjoys greatly. But none of them are as cool as the man himself! Buckle up and get ready for a wild ride, because with Kinsale around, there will never be a dull moment. For example, sometimes Kinsale eats his bananas with the skin on- just one example of this rising junior's unique zest for life. Although he was once a computer science major in a life long ago, he is now living his best life as a scholar of history and a lowkey intellectual. Kinsale's passion for and knowledge of history will make you seriously reconsider whether you actually hated history in high school or just had a bad teacher - thanks to his #quirky sense of humor and strangely niche knowledge of fun facts, any conversation with him is lively AND enlightening in ways you could never predict. This renaissance man is also an incredible artist with a passion for figure drawing, a KTRU dj, an unashamed coffee addict, and the powderpuff team's biggest fan. Hailing from Long Island, New York, the only thing bigger than Kinsale's love for New York Pizza (specifically Umberto's) is his heart (and his collection of hipster striped shirts).

- Corinna Murphy and Sarah Swackhamer, McMurtry '22

Angie Fan | Advisor | McMurtry

A wise Rice student once said, "You know, Angie seems to be friends with everyone, but I have a theory: everyone is just friends with Angie." If you have fallen into the serendipity of having Angie as your advisor, you will come to find that this is entirely true. Angie is a kind, bubbly but also calming presence, an excellent listener, and extremely wise— once you've met her, you can't help but feel like you've made a valuable friend. This native Houstonian is also a cognitive science major, so she's obviously extremely big-brained. Angie Fan is a sophomore that does it all, from powderpuff defense, to advocating for the senate to pass refugee support legislation, to shaving her head in quarantine. I guess you can say... she's not like other girls ;). And finally, Angie will never fail to crack you up with her spontaneous humor and the most contagious laugh that you've ever heard; if by some sort of a lucky chance your ears are blessed with a loud, musical guffaw from afar, it's probably none other than Angela Fanglela herself. With Angie as your advisor, you're sure to have the most memorable o-week and become one of her biggest fans!

- Ynez Kerley and Kristine Yuan, McMurtry '23

Julia Robinson | Advisor | Videographer | McMurtry

Meet the Robinsons. Actually just Julia Robinson, who's a senior majoring in Math Econ and will be the first person to tell you her favorite Disney movie is actually Toy Story 2 that she's watched 1,000+ times. She's from Warren, New Jersey and the only bigger Jersey gal than her is Chris Christie. You can usually find her somewhere in the vicinity of Willy's Pub where she's worked as the Finance Manager for the past two years. I recommend you don't start talking to her about profitability or you might have to find a comfy chair. Things to know about Julia? She loves TV shows and movies like no one else and there's always a new show to watch or talk about. Do you consider Superbad to be an absolute classic? If so, well prepare to have a new best friend. A true intellectual, Julia enjoys reading novels from time to time, but to be honest I only ever see her frantically reading them the day before an essay is due. In her spare time, she often bakes and can make some bagels that would make a New Yorker shed a tear. She is a little picky with her food though and will actually go to a different zip code if you bring mayo near her. This is her second time advising and she's a firm believer that first is the worst, second is the best. In all honesty, Julia is one of the easiest people to talk to and can make a joke out of almost anything. She can't wait to meet you guys when August comes around and your most memorable 4 years begin!

- Krishna Chandra, McMurtry '22

Chanel Ericsson | Co-Advisor | Lovett

Chanel is a very optimistic girl but sometimes she can be a bit coco, hence the nickname Coco Chanel. Chanel, a sophomore, is a psych major on a premed track. She is one of my favorite people to be around there is never a dull moment. She will always make you laugh and is down to talk about just everything you bring up. She has lived in many states and knows how to make friends easily. She is very caring about others which I think is what makes her a great leader. She is on the Rice cheer team, McMurtry merchandise committee, and BSA. Chanel has been doing cheer for as long as I can remember and is always down to try new things like when she picked up gymnastics last year. I don't know what possessed her to do that. She loves to throw her money at concerts and festivals. She loves rap, r&b, and pop music and likes it when people put her onto new music. She watches Big Brother religiously and is always down for a Bad Girls Club rerun. She always facetime me to let me know the crazy things that happened, and how happy she is at Rice. Chanel has been wanting to lead O week since she attended it herself, so I know she is happy to give you guys the great experience she had!

-Chelsea Kumi

The Great British Bake-Office: Dunder Muffin



Christa Westheimer

Sophomore
Sport Management,
Managerial Studies
Friendswood, TX



Catelin Davis

Senior
Political Science
Michigan City, IN



Prathik Kalva

Sophomore
Biochemistry,
Business
Houston, TX



Jade McAdams

Junior
Mechanical
Engineering
Plano, TX

Christa Westheimer | Advisor | McMurtry

We can't wait for you to meet our best friend! Sooooo we're numbers people, so please bear with us, as we've kept an exact count of how many times Christa has...

Made us laugh & smile: TOO

Said a friendly "hi" to literally anyone passing her: MANY

Encouraged us when we felt stressed or had a problem: TO

Tried to beat us in board games but lost because she's too nice: COUNT!

For real, from the second you meet Christa, you know you've met someone special, someone who'll always be by your side as an encouraging, understanding friend. You can talk to Christa about literally anything, and you can always count on her to stay up till midnight with you to discuss life instead of starting your homework. Christa is always down to go on a fun adventure, jam out to country music, watch a movie, or go to Rice Village (although you should probably lead the way or else you'll get lost). Just don't go to a restaurant with too many choices, because you'll be waiting for hours for Christa to decide on what to order. But really, you are so lucky to have Christa as an advisor! Get ready to make incredible memories with a person who is one of the kindest people you will ever meet and will always have your back.

- Camille Villar and Ahalya Lettenberger, McMurtry '23

Catelin Davis | Advisor | McMurtry

Meet Catelin Davis, your friendly neighborhood political science major and existential vibes guide. Catelin is from Michigan City (the Indiana one, not Michigan), and is a senior political science major at McMurtry. Catelin loves any and all miscellaneous Youtube videos -particularly those pertaining to obscure historical facts and rap- and is super prepared at any point in time to grace friends with music suggestions, dynastic power play suggestions, or simply heart broken rebounding and healing suggestions. As former secretary, then VP of the BSA and cash money queen putting in major work at her campus job, Catelin is super visible on campus (except when she vanishes a couple days at a time – hence her mystic charm), is a hilariously sarcastic and insightful personality, and is always down for a spontaneous food finding adventure. She has 5 siblings, including a younger sister that even facebook's face identification software fails on many occasions to tell her apart from, a number of tattoos, and is named after a comic book character. Catelin is beyond pumped to meet you at O-week!

- Jolisa Brown, Hanszen '21

Prathik Kalva | Advisor | McMurtry

How much do you love LeBron James and basketball? I can guarantee you not as much as Prathik! This sophomore, hailing from Sugar Land, TX, is one of the most fascinating people you will ever meet and is the incarnation of the "work hard, play hard" mentality. This Biochemistry major is known for many things. He has some serious skills as a member of the Rice Riyaaz Indian dance team, and he will wow you with his unlimited knowledge in any STEM field, especially organic chemistry. Due to his pre-med courseload, Prathik is often found in the library or putting in long hours in the lab, but if he's not there, he's probably ripping up the Wiess fields playing ultimate football or breaking ankles left and right on the court. He's always willing to help anyone who needs anything, which is why he's a Rice Health Advisor. Not only is he a hard-worker, but his sense of humor will also have you cracking up from day one! Seriously, this man's jokes will make you laugh so hard you'll cry. If you're lucky enough to have scored him as your Advisor, you're sure to have an unforgettable O-Week and an awesome introduction to McMurtry – you'll love every second of it!

- Abin Antony, Brown '23

Jade McAdams | Co-Advisor | Hanszen

Hey y'all! Let me introduce you to Jade McAdams, a junior mechanical engineering major from Plano, TX. This co-advisor from Hanszen college is super involved both at Hanszen (which if you're her kid will soon become your second favorite college!), and the overall Rice community. Her 24 hours are stretched between being a Hanszen social, a sports committee head, a Hanszen powderpuff and IM basketball captain, a beer bike coord, and the assistant student director for the Rice Center for Engineering Leadership!! Don't be fooled by that list of responsibilities- she still makes time to be the best friend anyone could ask for, and is always down to spend a day doing whatever random activity pops into her head. She's an avid nighttime runner -which worries her friends- zoo goer, and baker! (She won't hesitate to offer you one of her various baked goods whenever you need some comfort, and don't be concerned by the fact that her desserts are vegan, they're still delicious!) She also loves to cuddle up with friends and binge watch trashy romance tv like the bachelor, love island, and most recently, too hot to handle! She's the best time at a party, casual movie night, or spontaneous beach trip at midnight, and is always sure to bring a smile to your face with her antics!

- Lexi Ellerbe, Hanszen '22

Hell's Kiltchen



Julia Engelhardt



Mary Liebig



Sana Mohamad



Caleb Hesita

Sophomore
Cognitive Sciences,
Jewish Studies,
Politics, Law, and Social
Thought
Boca Raton, FL

Junior
Undecided
Iowa City, IA

Senior
Social Policy Analysis,
Kinesiology,
Sociology
Orlando, FL

Sophomore
Chemical
Engineering
San Antonio, TX

Julia Engelhardt | Advisor | McMurtry

Julia Engelhardt thinks "Dance Monkey" is the song of the decade. Everything you need to know about her can be inferred from that, but we'll elaborate a little more anyway. 5'2 "on a good day," what Julia lacks in height she makes up for in energy. She is always quick to greet you with an high pitched "hiiiiiiii" as she walks through the quad in an impeccably styled outfit. If you need her for literally anything, just text and she'll be by your side faster than you thought possible. Just don't ask for help with math homework... she never finished Algebra 2 because of an injury, and she won't let you forget that. As a Peer Academic Advisor and Internal Socials Committee Head, Julia is a proud Murt who cares deeply about making McMurtry a fun and inclusive environment for everyone. This is an attitude that pervades all she does—Julia is a friendly and enthusiastic person who can cheer anyone up no matter the situation and always wants to make sure you're having as much fun as she is. We are so incredibly lucky to have Julia in our lives, and you should consider yourself just as lucky to have her as your advisor. During O-Week and the entire year, she'll be there to support you, cheer you on, and make you smile. So prepare yourself for an amazing year and the most enthusiastic greeting you've ever received when you meet Julia on Move-In day.

- Jillian Schwartz, McMurtry '23, Callie Carnahan, Alyson Resnick, McMurtry '22

Mary Liebig | Co-Advisor | Lovett

As Mary travels from her alma mater Iowa City High in Iowa City, Iowa to her second home at Rice, what will she bring with her?

- Her giant stuffed Ikea shark: Skubb, Wild stories from the midwest, Corn, @geicathegecko on Instagram, Never ending love for her O-week group, 5 foreign language classes next semester, Her massive hands, The inability to taste mint, Infectious energy and lots of laughs, Her love of Chili's, Her favorite memes (We're at the party, the big big party, Casey Frey, moth meme), Glasses that she won't wear

Whatever Mary brings, hanging out with her is a guaranteed good time. You'll soon find a friend in her, with abounding love and support. Let's just hope TSA doesn't take Skubb.

- Emmett Mccomiskey, Shreya Menon, Emily Plotkin, Lovett '22

Sana Mohamad | Advisor | McMurtry

What's crazy is that somehow, some way, you are blessed enough to have Sana Mohamed as your o-week advisor. How can one even be so lucky? I mean, she's only the crown jewel of Rice University. I know other bios you'll read will try to get you excited about all the new and amazing people you'll meet at Rice, and you SHOULD be excited. Rice is a fantastic place full of fantastic people. But, Sana is an unparalleled human being. Some stats about her: she's a Senior Health Sciences and Social Policy Analysis double major hailing from beautiful Orlando Florida, so not only is she incredibly smart, but she's also a ton of fun. This Sudanese beauty grinds on the daily, somehow getting her work done and still managing to be a positive presence both in McMurtry and across campus. She's the plug for what clubs to join, how to find research and internships, and where to get all the free food on campus – all very valuable skills. She can buss it with the best of them, rumored to give Megan thee Stallion a run for her money. You'll immediately fall in love with Sana, but once you get to know her, this soft spoken force of nature shows you how incredibly kind, sassy, empathetic, and hilarious she truly is. Sana is the type of girl who will be there for whatever, no matter the time, no matter the day, no matter the issue. She is the type of advisor everyone wish they had. Sana is the type of friend who shows you what a friend truly is. Once you find out, this girl will be your ride or die for life. Bask in the glory and privilege of having Sana as your advisor, and welcome to McMurtry.

- Leah Olivo, Will Rice '21

Caleb Hesita | Advisor | McMurtry

San Antonio must have been boring before 2001, because Caleb Hesita wasn't born yet. Although he only stands at a whopping 5'5", don't let his size fool you. This anime-loving chemical engineering major may appear quiet, but he is really the incarnation of chaotic energy. You can usually find him drumming like a maniac, tearing up a dance floor, or walking/skating around. He's open-minded and adventurous, so if you ever want to (safely) try something new, he is the best person to do it with. If you want to have late night, thought-provoking conversations in the hall lounge, he's also your guy. Caleb jokes around a lot and his humor might make you cringe, but this alpha nerd is fiercely loyal and responsible. He genuinely wants to help his friends, and his new students in any way possible. In conclusion, having this guy as your advisor might quite possibly be one of the best things that could ever happen to your life.

- Jared Smith, UTSA '23

Jeopardy in the USA



Hunter Brown

Sophomore
Political Science
Social
Policy Analysis
Houston, TX



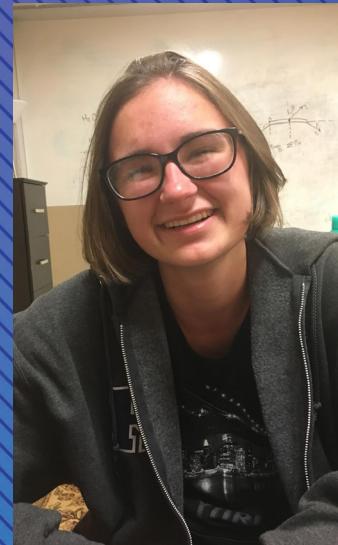
Matthew Castrillon

Sophomore
Economics,
Sport Management,
Business,
Environmental Studies
Atlanta, GA



Rohini Kumar

Senior
Neuroscience
Austin, TX



Rachel Moore

Junior
Economics,
Social Policy
Analysis, Math
Pearland, TX

Hunter Brown | Advisor | McMurtry

Imagine... you're alone, walking through the quiet halls of McMurtry at night, and then you hear it: a blasting, out of tune, melodica rendition of Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get it On" coming from five rooms away. Unfortunately for you, the person responsible for this is your new O-week dad, Hunter Clayton Brown. With this Houston local as your advisor, you're guaranteed to never have a dull moment during O-Week. When he's not winning games of Tetris and Smash Bros or trying to learn new small, loud instruments, this political science and SOPA sophomore works as McMurtry's official Senator. Be warned, if you do anything stupid or self-demeaning, Hunter will rush toward you (French tuck and all) and slap some sense into you, because he's just that type of great, caring friend who has their life together while everyone around him is falling apart. You'd always be welcome to barge into his room, steal some of his Oatmeal Squares--why is there cereal in his shoes?--and leave feeling better than before. With this kind hearted, compassionate Alex Turner-enthusiast as your advisor, you're sure to feel welcome here at Rice!

- Julia Love and Ellice Gao, McMurtry '23

Matthew Castrillon | Co-Advisor | Will Rice

If you're in need of a good fun fact for O-Week icebreakers, you now have an ace up your sleeve—you may not know it yet, but you just won the O-Week advisor lottery! Matthew Castrillon is an absolute legend. A rising sophomore from Atlanta, Georgia, somehow, he's friends with just about everyone on campus, and chances are, they already followed him on Instagram before they ever met him. This man is an influencer. As an inhabitant of one of the most famous rooms on campus, Will Rice's Perch, you now have an open invite to a very exclusive locale. But more than that, he's one of the kindest people you will ever meet. He's a dedicated friend, hilarious study partner, incredible soccer player (shoutout LADS), and continually improving salsa dancer. It is often said that he has big golden retriever energy TM because it's literally impossible for a person to be as friendly as he is. Incredibly, he's found the time to pursue a double major in Econ and Sports Management, and depending on the day, between one and three minors. Rice students love him, professors love him, his LinkedIn network loves him, and you're sure to love him too!

- Paige Russell, Will Rice '23

Rohini Kumar | Advisor | McMurtry

If you're searching for the wisdom and calming presence of Master Oogway from Kung Fu Panda, but feeling downcast because he is a fictional tortoise, worry no more! Rohini Kumar possesses all of that poise and calm and she will also always go out of her way to support you, listen to you, and calm your soul with her soothing demeanor. Look for her on the dance floor, because she is an incredible dancer and captain of the Rice Rasikas dance team! Rohini is a neuroscience major, so she has a pretty big brain (that she also knows a lot about)-- but she also has a really big heart, both for her friends and for the world. She is one of the most thoughtful and reliable friends you will ever have, so don't let this one slip away!

- Macklyn Hutchison, McMurtry '20

Rachel Moore | Advisor | Gopher | McMurtry

Pawnee is to Leslie Knope as McMurtry is to Rachel Moore. She doesn't like when I say that she is like the main character of Parks and Rec, but if you ask any of her friends they will have a harder time finding an apt comparison. With the energy of a squirrel on caffeine, this girl from Pearland, Texas works as hard as she can to care about her friends and make McMurtry a better place. Whenever I see her, she is smiling, happy to see me. Her advice is some of the best and I know I can always count on her. If I were to use a person to describe McMurtry, I would use Rachel Moore. Her passion and murt spirit far outclasses everyone else's by a mile. Her first semester as a freshman, she led the team putting McScottish night together and did a great job. She then followed that up by being on three committees this year and not only putting on McScotting Night, but also Y2K and several college nights. In between dealing with all of the requests for the tech committee, she finds a way to be a beast on the powderpuff team. Between her McMurtry activities, Rachel is a junior economics and social policy analysis double major with a math minor. Overall, if you aren't inspired by Rachel's positivity and dedication then I weep for your heart of stone. Rachel can and will lead McMurtry to greatness and victory with trumpeting conches sounding in the background. Also, my O-week book told me how tall all my advisors were so for reference, Rachel is 5'7"

- Mac Carr, McMurtry '22

Family Feuture



Leah Hamann

Senior
Economics,
Data Science
Boston, MA



Prince Alino

Sophomore
Biological Sciences
Surprise, AZ



Amber Pitre

Sophomore
Psychology,
Medical Humanities
New Orleans, LA



Jacob Lu

Junior
Computer Science,
Cognitive Sciences
Rockville, MD

Leah Hamann | Advisor | McMurtry

You will never meet someone as interesting and quirky as Leah. You may think you know what she'll say or do next, but you really do not. Maybe it's randomly convincing you to go skydiving, or waking up one morning with a text from her telling you to pack a bag because you guys are going to Austin in 30 minutes; she always keeps you on your toes. For instance, not only is she a senior from Boston studying Econ, but she also casually had internships at NEA, Morgan Stanley, and Microsoft. If you can't find her one day, she's either out expanding her photography business, stopping by Juiceland, studying at a local coffee shop, or raiding the aisles at Whole Foods. As if nothing more could surprise you, she also speaks Spanish, boxes, plays guitar, ukulele, and piano.

She's the type of person that will keep you guessing, but you'll love her for it. She's adventurous and a free spirit, but she'll always be there to listen to your rant or comfort you while you cry. She is such a bright light in this world, and you are beyond lucky to have her as an advisor.

-Olivia Morris and Em Echeverria, McMurtry '21

Prince Alino | Advisor | McMurtry

Prince, a suiting name, but I would say he is more of a king. Prince Chiemezie Alino is a sophomore Biological science major from Surprise, Arizona. He is a family man, being one out of four kids, who adores his siblings and even has his little brother as his lock screen. Although he now spends his breaks in the hot sun of the desert he was once an inhabitant of Nigeria, his birth state. He is the king of everything he does from his studies to his comebacks in arguments. Prince is quiet at first, but I like to call him the silent killer because once you get to know him his personality is one that everyone loves to be around. You can always rely on Prince to have jokes at his fingertips and cheer you up if you need a laugh. Prince is always on that grind as a Pre-Med who is also involved in the Rice African Student Association and a member of the Rice Ucourt. If you're ever bored you could spend a night in with Prince watching Narcos and eating his favorite cereal Frosted Flakes. Prince is both compassionate and consistent as he makes a panini for dinner every single day. You will also routinely find him in a T-shirt with an inspirational quote tattooed across the front. Prince carries every quality that his name entails including responsibility, grace, and cleverness. Prince became one of my best-friends within only one week of knowing him, and I know that you all will have a blast in his O-week group. In tribute to his favorite rapper Notorious BIG, "If you didn't know about Prince, now you know."

- Grace Waterman, McMurtry '23

Amber Pitre | Co-Advisor | Hanszen

Amber Pitre, a resident of Hanszen College, is so excited to make Rice your home! A sophomore studying Psychology on the Pre-Med track, Amber hails from New Orleans and has brought all of the fun with her. She'll always be down for late night food runs, learning Tik Tok dances, and vibe sessions. When she's not studying, Amber keeps busy serving as a treasurer at Hanszen, performing at athletic events with the Rice Owls Dance Team, and painting for others, especially on jean jackets and hydro-flasks. Although she may be a little too obsessed with pickles (probably best not to mention it), Amber has a massive heart and will also obsess over making sure your transition to college and life at McMurtry is as amazing as possible.

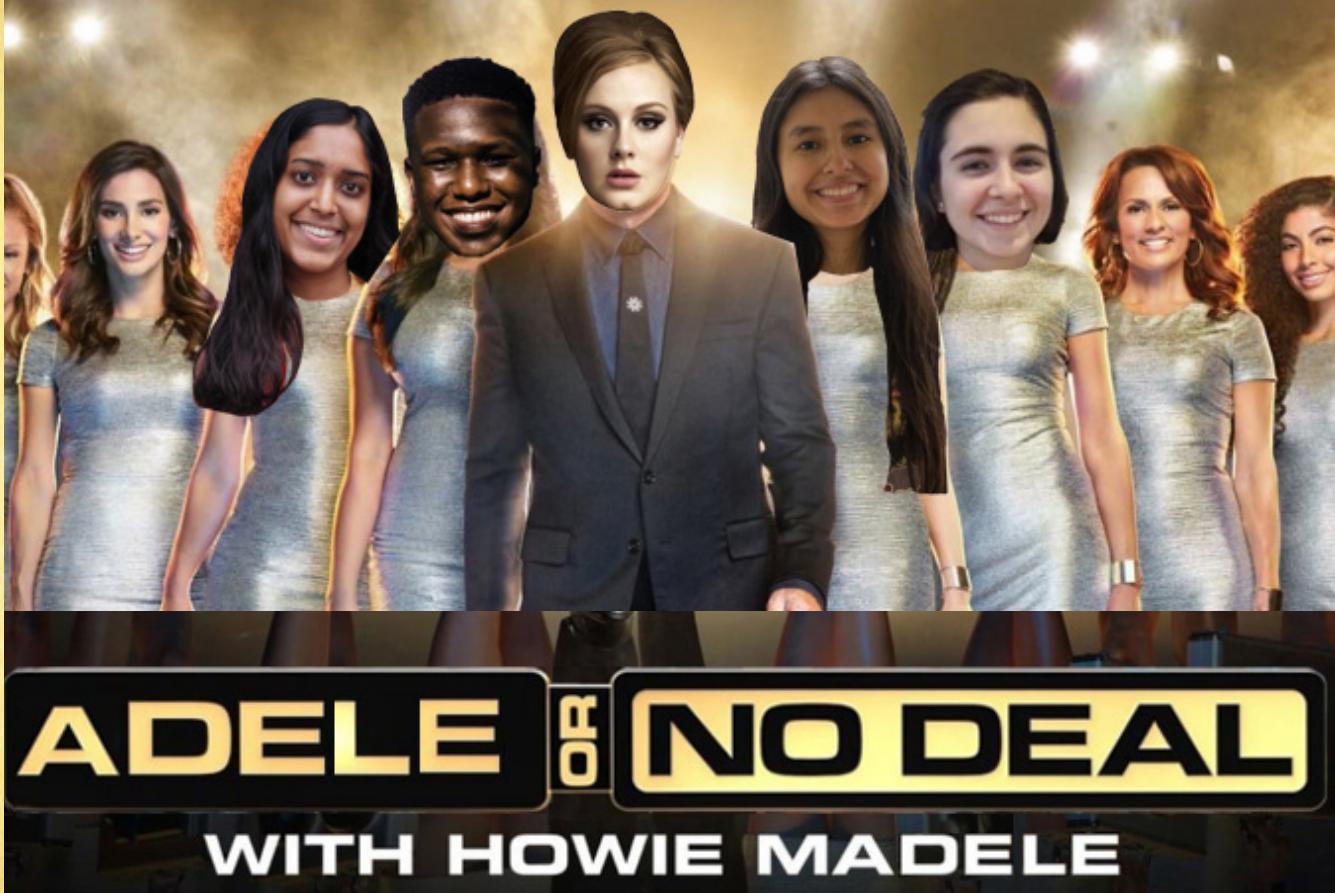
- Jarrett Prchal, Hanszen '22 and Dani Knobloch, Hanszen '23

Jacob Lu | Advisor | Photographer | McMurtry

I met Jacob because I was his O-week advisor. Because of this, you and I, we have something in common: we both won the O-Week lottery! I want to be the first to say congratulations. So, why did you win the lottery? In short, Jacob is exactly the type of person you want to surround yourself with. You will NEVER meet a bigger chiller, I can promise you that. Jacob's laid back and calm demeanor gives him an ability to get along with anyone. I swear, my friends at Wiess like him better than me and I cannot blame them. Also, do not expect to have artificial and meaningless conversation with this one. Jacob fosters real and genuine conversation. He is the type of guy to ask you how you are doing and really mean it -- he really listens. Our weekly 1-on-1 lunches were always highlights of my week because of this. I could write a whole essay on how talented and smart Jacob is, but you will discover this yourself. Jacob won't be saying it though! His humility is unmatched. For these reasons and a lot more, our advisor-advisee relationship has morphed into one of my strongest friendships at Rice. I foresee the same for you!

-Will Coben, Wiess '22

Adele or No Deal



Anika Jain

Senior
Economics, Social
Policy Analysis
Santa Clara, CA



Kwame Ntim

Sophomore
Chemical
Engineering
Baltimore, MD



Andrea Gomez

Junior
Architecture
Santiago, Chile



Ellie Kasradze

Sophomore
Mechanical Engineering,
Engineering Design
Houston, TX

Anika Jain | Advisor | Diversity Facilitator | McMurtry

Anika is the type of person that will always be there for you. No matter what. A senior SOPA/ECON major, she could have 2 midterms and 7 essays due tomorrow and she'd still make quesadillas with you at 2am to talk about life. She has like 9 jobs, but you wouldn't know it because she'll knock on your door in the middle of finals period and ask if you want one of her famous homemade smoothies.

If at some point you can't find her, and you've already checked Chaus, Whole Foods, SoulCycle, and Barry's, then she's most definitely in bed watching Netflix and sipping on a latte made with OATLY. And even though you'll have to suffer through talks about her favorite Instagram food bloggers, a random instructor from her home Soul in San Jose, or her ADDICTION to melatonin and Angry Birds, you are so lucky to have her as an advisor. She's the most reliable and loyal person you will ever meet.

-Em Echevarria McMurtry '21, Dylan Nguyen and Josh Holder, McMurtry '22

Kwame Ntim | Co-Advisor | Jones

Get ready for Kwame Ntim! He's definitely one of the coolest, friendliest people you will ever meet. A Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Major, hailing from Baltimore, Maryland and finding residence in Jones College (JIBA!), Kwame is extremely hardworking and driven. When he puts his mind to something, achieving his goal becomes inevitable (He is the only person I know that can have three on campus jobs while excelling in a packed academically rigorous schedule!). Notable for his famous cheeks, Kwame is the life of the party, he is also a talented rapper and dancer, be sure to spot him on the RASA dance team. Kwame is super hardworking and driven, but he's also very caring and supportive. He will be there for you anytime you need it, no matter how busy he is (as a CHBE that says a lot). Kwame's energy knows no bounds and he always takes the opportunity to connect with others. Ask anyone on campus and you're likely to hear about Kwame's caring and social personality. Whether he is studying hard in the Jones lobby, playing ping pong or busting some sick dance moves at Rice African Student Association (RASA) Dance practice, Kwame always exudes a warm, contagious energy. He is always down to hang out, just don't argue with him on Ghanian Jollof. You're lucky to have him as an advisor and I know he's going to do great. With Kwame, be prepared for a fun, and unparalleled O-Week experience!

-Nana-Kwesi Konadu, Jones '23 and Derin Okunubi, Sid Richardson '23

Andrea Gomez | Advisor | McMurtry

Andrea Gomez: one of THE MOST EXCITED and ENERGETIC people you will ever meet. An archi from Peru and Chile, both. You'll have to ask her how. Andrea loves to be "spontaneous", as she'll tell you twenty times a day. Though honestly, it's led to lots of fun events such as board game and movie nights, foosball tournaments, and karaoke concerts. She loves music from the 80s and early 2000s — basically anything upbeat — so if you love these genres, you'll definitely get along with her. But don't be fooled, Andrea is super competitive, and every game becomes a life-or-death match. Even though she'll remind you a million times that interior design is not architecture, Andrea has a fantastic eye for design and a vibrant and unique art style. She can always help you out if you're stuck on making a poster for a club or want to rearrange your room. All joking aside, Andrea will always be there to listen if you have a problem and is quick to help you try to solve it. She values her friends' happiness, and is always around for a comforting hug or an emotional rant. We know she'll make a great O-Week mom, and if you ever don't know what to talk to her about, just ask her about The Good Place.

- Annelise Goldman and Sally Yan, McMurtry '22

Ellie Kasradze | Advisor | McMurtry

When you first meet Ellie, you might not realize you're meeting one of the coolest people Rice has to offer. But don't be fooled! Your new advisor has a few aces up her sleeve - literally. Because she can do card tricks. This rising sophomore MECHE comes from the beautiful land of Georgia (the country, NOT the state) but grew up right here in Houston, Texas. And she can speak Georgian, Russian, and (a little) German in addition to English, so you know she's a communication pro. Truly, having a conversation with Ellie is like catching up with an old friend, except wait, isn't it O-Week and you only met each other three hours ago? Thanks to Ellie's warm, welcoming, and bubbly demeanor, she can connect with literally anyone and make them feel right at home. And although her favorite sweatshirt may rep Boring, Oregon, Ellie and boring are polar opposites. When she's not having deep convos or monopolizing the OEDK 3D printer for her awesome engineering projects, Ellie can be found crushing it on the Powderpuff field, trying to crush it at card games (but mostly just getting really competitive - watch out for her wrath, kids), or listening to "soulful" saxophone covers of pop songs. Much like the cheesy gifs she loves to send over text, Ellie is 100% unique and will never fail to make you smile. Get ready to experience McMurtry and Rice with one of the most genuine people around!

Sarah Swackhamer, McMurtry '22

Bachelor in ParaRice



Allen Lin

Junior
Chemical and
Biomolecular
Engineering
Hsinchu, Taiwan

Savannah Parrot

Sophomore
Economics
Humanities
Boulder, CO

Isabel Sjodin

Junior
Chemical
Engineering
Sugar Land, TX

Charan
Santhirasegaran

Sophomore
Neuroscience,
Electrical Engineering
Philadelphia, PA

Hannah Boyd

Junior
Biochemistry and
Cell Biology
Gaithersburg, MD

Allen Lin | Advisor | McMurtry

Although he may initially seem intimidating due to his quiet, brooding nature, Allen Lin is one of the kindest people you'll meet at Rice. He may have taken a year off from Rice to work for the Dow Chemical Company (so he's basically an engineer already) but that hasn't stopped him from staying connected to Rice—so you know you can always count on him to be there for you, even when he's hours away. A fan of animals, you can usually find Allen at Fondy, grinding out impossibly difficult CHBE problem sets, at the rec getting MASSIVE, building literal cars, or finessing his way to his next internship at the career fair. He's active across campus protecting the Taiwanese Student Association's cash as the treasurer and doing alternative spring breaks. No matter what Allen's got your back, whether you just want someone to talk to, if you're craving random Taiwanese snacks, or advice from the career master on how to get your dream job (he's a Peer Career Advisor!).

- Brian Hoepfl and Annie Lu, McMurtry '21

Savannah Parrot | Co-Advisor | Sid Richardson

Savannah Parrot (yes, like the bird) wants inner peace and roasted cauliflower. She is a sophomore from Boulder, Colorado, but she will put on an incredible Love Island British accent despite never living there. You can find her walking from her home college Sid Rich all the way to the North to maintain her long-distance relationship with her best friend Kennedy, who happens to be writing this. She is studying Econ, and as such, knows all about Stonks. Please ask her about them. She is a pro at Euphoria makeup and is in the possession of many rhinestones. Savannah is a hot pink neon light that is ready to brighten up your life, and you are so lucky to have this beautiful soul as your advisor! Some more fun, idiosyncratic facts about Savannah: She is a professional scuba diver with the unique and mysterious power of communicating with raccoons. She has a bad caffeine habit. One last thing: She knows the meaning of life, which she would like to share with you New Students, but she didn't know about the 200 word limit, so you will all have to—

- Kennedy Kovin Duncan, '23

Charan Santhirasegaran | Advisor | McMurtry

When you first meet Charan Santhisegaran, his deep voice and big muscles might throw you off, but just know that he has the humor of a middle schooler (trust me, it takes one to know one). Whatever this buff vegetarian says his major is, it will probably change month after month until he finally graduates as a super-senior with 4 degrees because he couldn't make up his mind.

At Rice, we are owls, but Charan is a night owl. This man pulls out his laptop to start doing homework at 1 am, and usually goes to sleep at 5 am after a few episodes of Netflix. He's doubled his tuition from the amount of 2 am iHop he's ordered and he will probably sleep through O-week dinners. If you see him going to class, make sure to congratulate him on being conscious during the day.

Despite his messed up sleep schedule, Charan still finds time on the weekends to kick back and have a good time. He'll always be down to hang out and doesn't mind procrastinating until the hour before an assignment is due. Should you find Charan around McMurtry on a weekend night, he will insist that he is good at rage cage, but in fact, he is terrible.

- Jordan Ngo, McMurtry '23

Hannah Boyd | Advisor | McMurtry

Hannah Boyd's only been at Rice for 2 years, but she's already solidified her status as a Murt ICON. Scored multiple game-winning touchdowns as McMurtry's powderpuff quarterback? Check. Braved through a hot wings eating competition until there were tears streaming down her face? Check. Conquered a cockroach on the first day of O-week and earned herself the title, "Roach Girl"? Check. This junior Biochem major was born in New Jersey but hails from Maryland. When she's not grinding on homework, you can catch Hannah playing every single IM sport, challenging people to Smash even though she always loses, or reading up on whether we live in a simulation. And besides being a rap queen (ask her to freestyle and witness her skills for yourself), Hannah's a gem of a friend. She's an extremely genuine person and someone you can talk to for hours about everything and nothing. If you made it into Hannah's O-week group, congrats on landing yourself a one-of-a-kind advisor and a friend for life.

Vibha Sastri, McMurtry '22

Isabel Sjodin | Advisor | McMurtry

Coming all the way from Sugar Land, TX, this McMurtry junior Chemical Engineering major is sure to shower you with love, as long as she can escape the enormous pile of clothing she purchased this week. Working at Tiffs treats for all of two weeks this summer, you can expect a SWEET O-Week with Isabel (and maybe even some free cookies). Every day is a new adventure with her, but also the same conversation about Y2K tickets last year. When she's not on the Powderpuff field, you can find her cartwheeling down the halls of McMurtry or getting her cardio in at the rec. She may show up late for your group photo (or basically any plans you'll ever make), but she's sure to give you her full attention, honest advice, and a safe shoulder to cry on. With Isabel as your advisor, you know you have someone who will always have your back and will drop everything to be there for you. Get excited McMurtry, cause O-Week Isa-bout to be amazing with Isabel!

- Lila Frenkel and Claire Cho, Duncan '22

McMinute to Win It



Julia Huang



Sanne Christensen



Bazin Sineshaw



Sarah Swackhamer

Senior
Kinesiology
Health Sciences
Rochester, MN

Sophomore
Piano Performance
Park City, UT

Sophomore
Computer Science
Washington, D.C.

Junior
Chemistry,
English
Houston, TX

Julia Huang | Co-Advisor | Martel

To be quite honest—Julia doesn't need a biography. Both the figurative and literal manifestation of an open book, she will open her heart and soul to you while being the heart and soul of your O-Week group. She loves a good intellectual discussion and challenging ideas, but there are some things she won't budge on—if you give this Minnesota a bottle of Orange Crush, she'll make sure you know, "it's POP, not soda". A bombastic and extremely social Martelian, she will invite you to every social event and take you around Houston to try some amazing food! Sure, she may not have heard of "Drake and Josh" or other pop culture references, but, don't let her high energy and scattered brainedness fool you! In between being a political & public health advocate as a Kinesiology major AND starting a podcast that interviews the stories of students across the WORLD... she will make all the time in the world for the people she cares about the most: your new family!

- L Diop, Dukan '21 ft. Shelbi Armstrong and Sonali Mitra, Martel '21

Sanne Christensen | Advisor | McMurtry

Ho ho ho! It's not Santa. It's Sanne (pronounce it like Santa minus the T)! If you can hear her singing all the way from Park City, Utah, you will definitely hear her singing musicals and pop songs from her dorm room. Sanne can not only sing, but she can also play the piano (really really well). She is a piano performance major at the Shepherd School of Music—and to top that off, she's also on the Pre-Med track as if that wasn't already enough. Talented with her hands, Sanne is also amazing with hair; catch her sporting double-dutch braids in her purple-dyed hair for Beer Bike! When she isn't too occupied doing genius things, Sanne is probably watching movies, reading, missing her dog, penny-boarding, or craving Korean BBQ. Sanne is genuinely one of the kindest, supportive, and most thoughtful people on campus. It'll only take an "Mc-Minute" to find out how amazing of a mom and best friend Sanne is. Get hyped for a victorious O-week with Sanne!!

- Teddi Yoo, Duncan '23 and Daniel Cho, McMurtry '23

Bazin Sineshaw | Advisor | McMurtry

So, you got assigned Bazin as your advisor. All I can say is he will make your O-Week experience one you will never forget. When you first meet the man from Washington DC, he'll probably seem like a perfectly normal person. However, you'll soon find that he is actually crazy. I'm joking of course, but in all seriousness, you'll probably never find yourself being bored when you're around Bazin (and as his freshman year roommate, I've spent quite a bit of time around him). You'll probably quickly learn that he is an incredibly driven and motivated person. He's not very good at ping pong? He'll go back to his room and spend hours watching tutorials and practicing with friends. He doesn't know how to play an instrument? He'll practice your guitar an insane amount until he learns. When Bazin puts his mind to something, he'll make sure he does it to the best of his ability, and I have no doubt he'll bring that same mindset as an advisor. And although he's not afraid to be on that grind by himself, make no mistake, Bazin is an incredibly social guy. He'll be willing to do just about anything with you, from asserting his dominance in Smash to binge-watching the Harry Potter movies or discussing the Mongol Empire at 3am. I know Bazin as many things, including McMurtry sophomore, computer science (probably) major, freshman class assassins game runner-up, roommate, and friend, and I'm excited to know that many will soon know him as an advisor as well.

-Josh Miller, McMurtry '23

Sarah Swackhamer | Advisor | McMurtry

Sarah Swackhamer? The name is appropriate because she is always nailing it. Sarah is a junior English and Chemistry double major. When asked to describe Sarah, most people choose the word virtuous. This thrift-store-loving, grandma-aesthetic bean hails from Houston Texas. Appropriately, Sarah loves to do things in the city and is the verifiable queen of light-rail travel. This girl loves to over-commit to on campus life, and has been involved in pretty much everything on campus, from KTRU, to theatre, to being the number-one fan of the McMurtry Powderpuff team. Did I mention that Sarah runs the Rice Tofu blog on IG (@tofus.of.rice)? As for music taste, Sarah's preferences can be described in two words: Kate Bush. Catch her working in Burt's teahouse, studying in Fondren, or slapping in during an overly intense game of ERS. Sarah is one of the most wholesome beans that you will ever meet, really open to talk about anything, and genuinely a really, really, REALLY nice person. She can't wait to meet everyone at O-week. 10/10, would recommend.

- Corinna Murphy, McMurtry '22

Murt Ninja Warrior



Aruni Areti

Junior
Anthropology,
Biochemistry and
Cell Biology
San Jose, CA



Brandon Khek

Sophomore
Astrophysics
Fairfax, VA



Singrhu Poltanawasit

Sophomore
Mechanical
Engineering
Bangkok, Thailand



Morgan Bates

Junior
Social Policy
Analysis,
Sport Management
Chappell Hill, TX

Aruni Areti | Advisor | McMurtry

Hey you! Yeah, you! Prepare for some jealous looks because you have just landed yourself the best advisor McMurtry has to offer! Aruni is a junior majoring in Anthropology and he is one of the most pre-med of the pre-meds out there (just ask him what he wants to do in the future and I guarantee you will be impressed). He is probably the loudest person at Rice University, so you'll definitely never miss him in a crowd, but he is also the most caring and genuine person I know. If you ever need help with anything from life to school to where to eat, Aruni is your guy. If you're the type of person to have random food cravings at absurd hours, Aruni will always be down for a late night food run (especially if it involves sushi). When he isn't hanging out with his friends at Murt, you can catch Aruni grinding at chaus (or just talking to everyone he sees) while sipping on a cold brew with 8752 shots of espresso or playing basketball to procrastinate his work. This stud hails from San Jose, California, so while you may have gotten a perfect advisor, unfortunately you've also got a 49ers and Warriors fan (I'm so sorry), but don't worry, his amazing personality makes up for it. There is no doubt Aruni will help make your first week (and beyond) at Rice the best it can be!

- Megha Reddy, Martel '22

Brandon Khek | Advisor | McMurtry

Who has the best dance moves, loves skating, and works out Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Rec from around 10-Lunch? Brandon Khek!!! Brandon is a Humble, Kind, Clean, Appreciative, and a Sk8ter Boi!! Not only is Brandon a beloved Murt, but just a great guy who is always there to listen! Is he excited to welcome you all? Yes. Yes. Yes. and Yes! This physics and (maybe Economics) major hails from Northern Virginia, the Old Dominion. Brandon is a fun guy but is always school first. A dedicated student and friend, you can always count on Brandon for being there for you. Sometimes reserved, his dance moves make him the literal life of the party (just ask him about 4C before Architectonica!!) In all seriousness - his smile will always light up the room and his calm, humble demeanor will make you realize you really do have a one of a kind Advisor. Brandon Khek has a heart of gold and will not only be an amazing Advisor, but a fantastic friend who can not wait to be a part of your journey here at Rice!

- Rajpal Bal, McMurtry '23

Singrhu Poltanawasit | Advisor | McMurtry

Does Singrhu like to SING? Oh yes. Is she good at it? Ehhh... you can be the judge, but that's alright because she's amazing at everything else! Singrhu (aka Sleepy Singrhu), a sophomore mechanical engineering major, is from Bangkok, Thailand (YES!! the land of smiles!). It's hard to believe, but this girl can sleep and eat at any time of the day, however that doesn't stop her from being a contributing individual in the Rice community! She's a sub-team lead for Rice's Engineers Without Borders, was a publicist of the Rice Program Council, and you'll catch her at any food event. On the topic of food, if you wanna hit up Yoyo's or Tiger Noodle House at 1AM, she's one step ahead of ya. On any day of the week, you'll find her still in bed when it's 1 PM. You can wake her up ten times, and she will still go to bed for the eleventh time (smh). Despite that, she's a very understanding individual and she can cheer you up in every situation. She can (and will) talk about anything (maybe except football, she ain't accustomed to the US culture just yet...), so hit her up to talk if you need help or if you just wanna have a conversation! She's hyped about O-week and can't wait to meet her new O-week family!!!

- Hin Rithirueng, UIUC '23

Morgan Bates | Co-Advisor | Wiess

She's beauty and she's brains. She's standing on a table screaming the lyrics to Mo Bamba with a pocket constitution in hand (and she has one for you too). Let me introduce you to your new bestie Morgan "Elle Woods" Bates, a SOPA & SMGT major from Wiess College on the pre-law track currently living on a beautiful horse farm in Brenham, Texas (no really, ask to see pics of her horses). Morg is super involved with Rice's Mock Trial team and, if you're lucky, she'll fill you in on all the juicy nerdy drama. Kicking butt in the corporate world, you can always catch Morgan absolutely stunting in business professional on her way to her job as a paralegal at a contract firm. Don't worry though — Morgan has her flaws too. She is the World's Worst Parker (peep her large red truck parked illegally on the inner loop literally any day of the week) and late to literally everything all the time (but trust me, she's worth waiting on, better late than ugly am I right). Morg is one of the most dependable and loyal gals you'll ever meet — sass and all — and she'll love you to the moon and back

- Marin Beal and Sierra Baker, Wiess '22

HypeOut



Gayatri Sawant

Senior
Computer Science
Mathematics,
Data Science
Mumbai, India

An Luu

Junior
Kinesiology,
Biochemistry
Houston, TX

Julia Love

Sophomore
Chemical and
Engineering
Wimberley, TX

Gordan Liu

Sophomore
Psychology,
Asian Studies,
Certificate
in Civic Leadership
Columbus, OH

Natalie Festa

Junior
Anthropology,
Social Policy
Analysis
Houston, TX

Gayatri Sawant | Co-Advisor | Sid Richardson

Gayatri Sawant is the greatest Gai you'll ever meet. This Computer Science and Math major from India is a multi-talented renaissance woman. She speaks somewhere between three and fifty languages, but mostly British English. (Bingo if you catch her calling glasses "spectacles.") When she's not coding a new app or doing Mysterious Math Things, you can find Gai sipping boba in Rice Village, hitting the gym like a legend, or discovering secret passages between the science buildings. This Sid senior is always down to try something new, and she WILL drag you along—so be prepared for anything from a fashion swap to a production of King Lear! Though she claims she's a Slytherin, Gai has the loyalty of a true Hufflepuff and she will do anything for you: a thoughtful compliment, yelling quotes from Lord of the Rings to motivate you during finals, or just sharing her stash of salty snacks. She may even share The Tea. How does she always know The Tea?? Lest you feel too intimidated, her weaknesses include being confused by potato salad and running into doors. But seriously, this woman will support you to the ends of the earth, or at least until graduation.

- Annabelle Crowe '21

An Luu | Advisor | Athletic Liaison | McMurtry

Whether it's riding full-throttle on his motorized scooter and tossing his backpack aside to jump onto the sand and play volleyball, 3 A.M. trips to yoyo's just because he's hungry, or jamming out to the latest bop (Joji?!?), An Luu is the most gung-ho person you can find at Rice. From the city of Houston, you simply can't contain An's passion for anything. He is the current Events coordinator for the Vietnamese Student Association, your McMurtry Culinary Committee head (you should see how much he loves to eat), and former officer of Men's Volleyball. When he's not on the volleyball court, you can definitely catch him watching anime, studying last minute for that upcoming exam, or making TikToks. Currently pursuing a Kinesiology major with a minor in Business, An hopes to make your O-week a fun and easy transition to college.

- Katherine Wu, McMurtry '23

Julia Love | Advisor | McMurtry

Imagine you're wandering the halls of McMurtry in a fever dream-like trance. You glance down and see a 1 inch tall green goblin baby resting face-down on the concrete ground. That's Julia Love!! Just kidding; it's one of her 200 plastic babies she mass-bought off Amazon. Julia is super smart and probably stresses way too much about exams she'll ace, but she also uses her free time to plot elaborate plans (and when I say elaborate, I mean 50 layers of lies, make you question reality, Megamind type elaborate) to sabotage freshmen games of Assassin and send mildly disturbing Tik Tok's to her friends with no context. She's also the most kind person you'll have the pleasure of knowing at Rice--maybe too kind (she might buy you coffee and then get mad and start a Venmo war when you try to pay her back). Julia is a sophomore who plans on majoring in Chemical Engineering (nerd) and is from the completely irrelevant but charming tiny town of Wimberley, Texas! Anyway, you're lucky to have the most LOVEly human being as your O-Week mom!!

- Ellice Gao and Hunter Brown, McMurtry '23

Gordan Liu | Advisor | Diversity Facilitator | McMurtry

Pure Energy. Outstanding. The definition of good vibes. These are just some words that have been used to describe my friend, Gordan. He doesn't like the first one, "pure energy," too much but feel free to ask him why. This sophomore psychology and Asian studies major from Columbus, Ohio is always ready to have a nuanced conversation. Even if his hair isn't dyed ruby, you can't miss him. His generous laugh booms from afar. Need to laugh, rap some Bbymutha or Rico Nasty songs, eat some home-cooked fried rice, or roll down a hill? Call Gordan. Rumor has it he's everywhere on campus, but he'll always make time for you. Gordan was born on the same day as the Buddha. That tells you enough. Get ready to smile and laugh with this truly wholesome human. He's super excited to meet you!

- Venus Alemanji, McMurtry '21

Julia Love | Advisor | McMurtry

So you're stuck with Natalie Festa, huh? Tough. Well, you're going to need some FestaFactsTM if you're going to survive. First off, this Anthropology/Social Policy Analysis double major is your very own local native Houstonian and devout Astros megafan. This girl has it all: Athletic? Um, have you seen her on the club soccer team? No-brainer. Exquisite taste in TV shows? She was the host of 3C's Spongebob Saturdays (ask her how well those went). A working keyboard? Depends when you're asking because half the time, you'll see her papers signed with "Naalie Fesa". But wait...There's more. Here's a short list of guaranteed conversation starters: folk music—what is it?, the consistency of condiments, and what exactly a Natalie Festa is and if you're invited. Spoiler: her answers may surprise you. Anyway, we guarantee that you'll have a grand time with this gal any day. Nat is always ready to lend a helping hand, so push your worries aside and get ready for a fun Festa-filled freshman year!

- Megan Liu and Meheret Adera, McMurtry '22

Who are the Affiliates?

Affiliates are O-Week personnel who serve specific roles designed to help you with your transition to Rice. Although they are paired with specific groups, they are an important and readily available resource for all New Students at the college. If an Affiliate is assigned to your group, they may not always be present for every group activity, as they will provide specialized resources as needed. Be sure to meet all of the Affiliates present, as they are incredibly important campus-wide resources during O-Week and beyond.

PAAs (Peer Academic Advisors)

Peer Academic Advisors are students who have been broadly trained in numerous areas of academic life here at Rice and serve as liaisons between students, Faculty Advisors, and the Office of Academic Advising. Generally speaking, college PAA teams coordinate numerous group and individual activities that attempt to strengthen the academic vitality at their respective residential colleges. They offer accurate advice regarding specific classes, research opportunities, studying abroad, academic rules / regulations / procedures, or any topic as it relates to academics. PAAs are not attached to a specific O-Week group.

DFs (Diversity Facilitators)

You have stepped into one of the most diverse places on the planet -- a college campus! Being in the most diverse city in the country at a campus as lovely as Rice offers so many great opportunities to learn about yourself and many others. At Rice, we take this to heart in every aspect of our education. We maintain an environment that allows us to facilitate healthy, open discussion on any issues pertaining to diversity within the student body. This is done with the help of wonderful diversity facilitators! They are an irreplaceable part of the O-Week Team and we couldn't make our journey without them.

RHAs (Rice Health Advisors)

It's widely known that RHAs have the psychological utility of a pint of ice cream and the emotive value of a purring kitten. You're pretty lucky to have these ethereal beings around at McMurtry. Rice Health Advisors are students that are trained to give mental and psychological support to their peers, along with aid for minor physical problems. While they may host events to alleviate common college stressors, much of the work RHAs do is behind the scenes. Thus, RHAs have wide campus involvement, from planning study breaks that relieve exam stress with copious amounts of finger-paint to individually discussing debilitating personal issues in a confidential setting. Lastly, RHAs are liaisons between university resources like the Wellbeing Center and the Rice Counseling Center.

SMR (Student Maintenance Representative)

The SMR, or Student Maintenance Representative, is our direct connection to Housing and Dining. The SMR is in charge of taking care of issues with McMurtry space and working with H&D to find solutions. If you need your bed lofted/unlofted during O-Week or if there are any problems with your room (like damage to the room, lights or A/C that doesn't work), schedule an appointment!

Photographer & Videographer

These people hiding behind the cameras work all day to capture all the great moments of you and your Advisors throughout the week, from bonding moments to rocking dance parties. They will keep the McMurtry Historian Facebook page updated throughout O-Week and throughout the year, so make sure to follow them to see all the cheesing smiles.

Athletics Liaison

As with many other universities, some students at Rice are also collegiate athletes. This means that they have other responsibilities in addition to those of a regular student. Because of this, the athletes must attend other information sessions and academic advising appointments. To ensure that our Student Athletes are on top of their additional O-Week schedules, the Athletic Liaison checks in with them periodically and helps them with any questions or problems that may arise.

Gopher

Just what exactly do the mystical Gophers do? While their Affiliate title may suggest subterranean activity, Gophers actually traverse the city of Houston and bring art supplies, food, sports equipment, and everything in between to McMurtry for all things O-Week. They love their cars almost as much as McMurtry and are go-to people to go-for things (go for = gopher, get it?).

Associates Liaison

Associates are Rice faculty, staff, alumni, or members of the community who are intended to be an additional resource to students throughout their time here. Each O-Week group will be assigned an Associate who they will have a dinner with during O-Week and continued communication with. The Liaison will arrange these meetings and serve to improve general communications and plans.

O-Week 2020 Affiliate List & Contact Emails:

Vanessa Garlepp, **PAA**, vmg2@rice.edu

Luey Garcia, **PAA**, slg7@rice.edu

Cassidy Kurita, **PAA**, cmk9@rice.edu

Nick Meisburger, **PAA**, ncm5@rice.edu

Anika Jain, **DF**, aaj11@rice.edu

Gordan Liu, **DF**, gtl1@rice.edu

Jennifer Ho, **RHA**, jh86@rice.edu

Jacob Lu, **Photographer**, jsl12@rice.edu

Julia Robinson, **Videographer**, jmr18@rice.edu

Stephanie Ponce, **Associates Liaison**, sap11@rice.edu

An Luu, **Athletics Liaison**, ahl4@rice.edu

Ellice Gao and Rachel Moore, **Gophers**, eyg3@rice.edu, rcm7@rice.edu

TBD, **SMR**

Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs)



Vanessa Garlepp
Sophomore
Bioengineering
Austin, TX



Luey Garcia
Sophomore
Economics, Social
Policy Analysis
Bulverde, TX



Cassidy Kurita
Junior
Biochemistry and
Cell Biology,
Medical Humanities
Houston, TX



Nick Meisburger
Junior
Computer Science
Portland, OR

Vanessa Garlepp | Peer Academic Advisor | McMurtry

Spotify playlists for anyone's vibe. *Rational* crackhead energy. Volleyball star. BIOE Queen. If this walking conundrum is your O-Week PAA, count your blessings because she's got everything you need to thrive. Don't be scared off by her intimidating demeanor—she's truly one of the kindest, funniest, and most caring people you'll ever meet. Her determination to help you will be even greater than her determination to find plain pasta on campus and make the perfect Thai tea.

- Shreya Jain, McMurtry '23

Luey Garcia | Peer Academic Advisor | McMurtry

Luey Garcia is a sophomore majoring in Political Sciences from San Antonio, Texas. Luey is pre-law and occasionally contemplates how one day he'll conquer the world—benevolently, of course. He's a Murt, but you can find him plenty of places besides McMurtry College—such as anywhere on campus that has either Smash Bros. Ultimate, a pinball machine, music (especially jazz), or secret hacks to scoring high on the LSAT. Do not ask him about the Mongol Empire HIST class he took last year, unless you want to experience the true meaning of time dilation. Do, however, ask him whatever's on your mind. For somebody who spends a quarter of his day playing Hearthstone, he's quite interesting and a really nice guy.

- Alex Susskind, Will Rice '23

Cassidy Kurita | Peer Academic Advisor | McMurtry

"Where is she? What's her name?"

"Who?"

"The girl that has lived in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Washington, and Texas, raps every Drake or Nicki Minaj song verbatim, gives amazing academic advice, and kills every Tik Tok dance or meme in existence!"

"OH! That's Cassidy Kurita! She's a junior at McMurtry College majoring in Biochemistry and Cell Biology with a minor in Medical Humanities on a Pre-Pharmacy track! The mighty queen hails from Houston, Texas, speaks fluent French, and manages to work as a CVS Pharmacy Technician on top of having a STRICT bedtime of 4:30 am! She is constantly smiling and is always looking out for her fellow Owls, BUT BEWARE, I hear she makes people rage quit Super Smash Bros Ultimate on the Switch when she plays as Jigglypuff!"

" :o "

- Juan De La Garza, McMurtry '22

Nick Meisburger | Peer Academic Advisor | McMurtry

Hailing from the trails of Oregon, this soccer player can think faster than he can run (which is already very, very fast). His brain emits pure binary that makes Matrix computers go to shame. You can always find him talking about programming, Oregon, his cats, or running off to find the best cookies on campus. Just don't ask him to spell something, because 9 out of 10 times, he won't be able to.

But in all seriousness, you really lucked out with having Nick as your O-Week PAA. He's very sweet, caring, has your back, and will always make time to help you in any way he can. Nick is one of the nicest people we know, and you're definitely in good hands.

- Akshaya Venkatesh and Shaquille Que, McMurtry '22

Common McM Lingo

Associate's Night: A formal dinner held in your college's commons once a semester to honor the Associates. Dress up and come eat good food with interesting people.

Beer Bike: A very competitive, inter-college race/event held every spring, in which ten bikers and ten chuggers from each college compete in an epic struggle for personal and college pride.

Birthday Gong: A beautiful, golden gong located in the Commons and carved with the McM crest that people ring when it's their birthday.

Burt's Tea House (Burt's): A McMurtry communal kitchen located on the Fifth Floor. There's free tea and mugs available to any Murt who wants to relax, enjoy the view, or engage in conversations.

Chaus: A nickname for Rice Coffeehouse. Located in the RMC, stop by when you need your daily dose of caffeine or a chill place to study.

Chug: One half of the Beer Bike race. Often preceded by one of Rice's most sacred chants: "They're forty yards out, they're thirty yards out, ready, set suck suck suck suck suck....!"

College Night: Not just a night, but actually a full day of themed partying held every semester, where your entire college celebrates its awesomeness together. Every college has its own.

Conch: Whenever you hear this beautiful instrument trumpeted, know that it is time to rally and show the other colleges our Murt pride!

DeeDee's Lounge: Located on the 5th floor, this room is a common space for people to watch TV or play Super Smash Bros on the Wii.

Fellow: Murts who are dedicating to helping other Murts in various subjects who you will get to meet shortly after O-Week.

FITQ (Fit Q): Friday in the Quad is a gathering for Murts every other Friday, typically with free food, good music, and good friends.

Fondy: Fondren Library is a great place to study, conduct meetings, rent out media equipment, do research, and many other things.



Housing & Dining: The administrative office in charge of all food service and residential buildings on campus. Often referred to as H&D for short. Make sure to thank them for all they do!

IM: Intramural. Informal, low-stress sports played among students. Not to be confused with college sports which are played between teams representing each of the colleges, with points going towards the President's Cup.

Ironman/Ironwoman: Someone who both rides and chugs at Beer Bike (not at the same time). A class act and a real hero.

Jack: To pull a prank, usually on another college. The more clever and over-the-top (without being destructive/offensive) the better.

Matriculation: Ceremony held during O-Week to officially welcome you to Rice.

McTriculation: Ceremony held during O-Week to officially welcome you to McMurtry.

McTeam: McM Adult Team (Magisters, Head Resident Fellows, Resident Associates, Coordinator)

Murt: A resident of McMurtry College (YOU!)

OC (Off Campus): People who live off campus are referred to as "being OC." People who live far away from Rice, or seem to spend a lot of time outside the hedges are referred to as "deep OC."

Private: A party thrown by a group of people in a residential college, rather than the whole college.

The rules and regulations are outlined by the Alcohol Policy.

Public: Party thrown by a residential college. Most colleges throw one per semester, some throw one per year. Open to any Rice undergrad. All are themed, so dress appropriately! Always feature a poppin' dance floor.

Quad: McMurtry Quad is a gathering place for Murts to eat at the picnic tables, play soccer in the grass, or just hang out. See also, FITQ.

RMC: Rice Memorial Center is the home of Chaus, Student Success Initiatives, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Office of Academic Advising, and many other great resources. This building can be found in the middle of campus.



Room Draw (Jack): The process we use to assign rooms for the next year.

Servery: The kitchen where your everyday food is made. The resident chef resides here. Every college either has its own servery or shares one with nearby colleges (McMurtry's is West Servery).

Sallyport: The huge archway in Lovett Hall. Once you pass through during Matriculation you are not to step foot through here until graduation.

Suite: The common rooms that are shared by 6 Murts found near each of the stairwells. Some are closed suites and you will need one of the suite owners to let you in while others are open suites and ready for any Murt to stop by and hang with friends.

Town Hall: Biweekly meetings used to discuss various Murt events and policies. All Murts are encouraged to attend and lend their voice.



The Hoot: Located in the RMC, this is a great place to stop by for some late-night food or snacks.

Willy Week: The week preceding Beer Bike, filled with college activities, alumni, and plenty of jacks!

Y2K: The best public party of the year! Get ready for awesome throwback music and lots of fun with friends. Every February in the McM Commons.

Yurt: McMurtry Commons named after its resemblance to the Mongol dwelling.

What to call people from other colleges?

Baker - Bakerite | Brown - Brownie | Duncan - Duncaroo | Hanszen - Hanszenite

Jones - Jonesian | Lovett - Lovetteer | Martel - Martelian | Sid Rich - Sidizen | Wiess - Wiessman |

Will Rice - Will Ricer

See You Soon!

Hello Again, Contestant!

We hope that this book was filled with a lot of useful information that just gave you a taste of the culture at Rice and McMurtry College.

We would like to leave you with a few encouraging words:

College is a roller coaster that can be filled with high highs and low lows. Hopefully, in this environment, you will develop as a person and academic, and you will learn important lessons to carry with you for the rest of your career. We want to reiterate that we, as a community at Rice and McMurtry, are always here for you. Whether you're going through a rough time or you have something that you want to celebrate, reach out to your peers, advisors, us as Coordinators, the McTeam, your professors, and anybody that you want to confide in. Welcome to the McMurtry family, and as you come to join us, we urge you to keep an open mind, challenge yourself, be willing to take risks, be willing to fail, and, most importantly, never be afraid to ask for help. We can't wait to see what you'll accomplish, how you'll develop, and how you will succeed as a part of the Rice community. We will always be here to help you in any way that we can. Buckle up and enjoy the ride!

Come on Down!

Tya, Aaron, and Alyson

2020 McMurtry Game ShO-Week Coordinators

