



Application for the Mastership of McMurtry College

Term: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2020

Dear Prospective McMurtry Master(s),

Thank you so much for your interest in joining McMurtry College as our College Master(s). The College Master is extremely important to our thriving community and we are grateful for your interest. On the following pages, you will find descriptions of the residential college system, McMurtry College, and the responsibilities of McMurtry College Master. If you are not already familiar with these aspects, please take a few moments to familiarize yourself before completing the application on the final page.

Applications are due Friday, October 10th at 5:00pm. You may either e-mail your application to adam.s.bloom@rice.edu or submit a hard copy in the McMurtry College Coordinator's Office (in person at McMurtry Room 130, via campus mail at MS-761). The first round of interviews will take place during the weeks of October 20th and 27th. Selected candidates will participate in a second round of interviews with the committee during the month of November. The process then moves beyond the search committee: Dean Hutchinson will interview the finalists and appoint our new college master with President Leebron.

Throughout the entire search process, there will be many opportunities for you to interact with McMurtry students at various college events. All of the members of the Master Search Committee can't wait to meet you. If you have any questions concerning the McMurtry Mastership or McMurtry College in general, please reach out to any of us.

Best,

McMurtry College Master Search Committee

Name	Phone	Email	Year/Position
Adam Bloom	847-404-3386	adam.s.bloom@rice.edu	Senior, Committee Chair
Gabriel Teo	----	gabriel.teo@rice.edu	Senior, College President
Chelsea Zeller	----	cjz1@rice.edu	Senior
Dorin Azerad	----	dna5@rice.edu	Junior
Jared Elinger	----	jde5@rice.edu	Junior
Kyle Giubbini	----	kjg3@rice.edu	Junior
Isabella Yang	----	yy28@rice.edu	Sophomore
Stephen Hannan	----	sgh2@rice.edu	Freshman
Patricia Brogdon-Gomez	----	pbrogdon@rice.edu	McMurtry College Associate
Alexander Byrd	x2541	axb@rice.edu	Wiess College Master
Brian Gibson	832-687-3004	hoot@rice.edu	McMurtry College Head Resident Fellow

Purpose of the Residential College System

The purpose of the residential college system is to create a safe, stimulating and caring community of peers and mentors for Rice University's undergraduate students. Rice's eleven colleges each have a unique character, though their overall goal is the same: to enrich the social and intellectual lives of students and to help them succeed during their time as undergraduates. The colleges provide formative leadership experiences through student governance; academic engagement through direct contact with faculty and college associates; and career guidance through interaction with advisors, staff and members of the community. The colleges aim to create both a supportive and motivating environment for personal growth and development. Through its residential college system, Rice's educational approach integrates the classroom and residential aspects of its students' lives into a complete undergraduate experience.

History and Culture of McMurtry College

McMurtry opened its doors in 2009, welcoming the first class of students to call Rice's tenth residential college home. While we may be one of the newest colleges, McMurtry's history reaches far back to the beginning of the residential college system with our namesake, Burt McMurtry, serving on the committee that initially formed the college system. Burt and Deedee McMurtry have left a lasting impression on this college, their family name inspiring the Scottish heritage we so proudly embrace. Indeed, the conch shell we blow whenever we are overwhelmed with college pride is derived from the translation of "McMurtry" as "Son of Sea Navigator." This symbol has become the expression of unity within our community, and whenever this instrument of glory thunders, every member of the college lets out the ear-piercing roar "MUUUUUUUUUUUUUURRRRRRTTTTTTTT!"

In its early years, McMurtry quickly blossomed into its unique identity. Our "Mc-ifying" jack during O-Week 2009 let our presence be known; Burt's Teahouse was quickly recognized for its coffee-shop aura any tea-lover would envy; and of course, our unforeseen success in McMurtry's first Beer Bike let other colleges know we were a force to be reckoned with. We wanted everyone to know that we were not only here to stay, but here to compete.

It is with these same high standards that we have built our college internally. Murts pride themselves on being thoughtful and deliberate, always weighing the future outcomes. This approach has enabled us to create a community known for being well run, upheld by strong student and adult leadership. While we have the tendency to set the bar high, always striving to be the best, this intensity dissolves when it comes to how we treat and support each other. McMurtry offers a special kind of inclusive community that's rare to find. Events are welcome to all; Co-advisors will call

McMurtry home; and all those involved with the college – RA's, Associates, Advisors, even H&D staff – are branded with our purple seal of approval. In this way, the students of McMurtry have managed to strike a unique balance between strong communal care and ambitious performance.

We have proven to be spirited, creative, and different; we have developed a culture and traditions that will carry this college forward; but we are always looking forward to new opportunities to enrich our home. Without the restriction years of traditions can bring, McMurtry has cultivated the attitude that all ideas are worth trying, and that everyone is welcome and encouraged to leave their mark. This open-mindedness is what lies at the heart of our community, and will continue to be the characteristic we value above all else.

Ultimately, McMurtry College is home to Murts, a diverse collection of students united on their common ground of support for this community. Large in numbers, fierce in spirit, and amazing in everything else, being a Murt is not just a college title but a way of life.

Role of the McMurtry College Master

I. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

The McMurtry Master(s) is appointed by the President of the University to oversee student life and activities in the College, and have responsibility for its general operation and well-being. The McMurtry Master(s) serves on the Committee of the Masters, reports to the Dean of Undergraduates, and serves as an administrative liaison between the College and the University.

The four primary responsibilities of the McMurtry Master(s) is:

- To develop a healthy intellectual, social, and cultural atmosphere at McMurtry. To this end, the Master(s) should initiate and encourage student-faculty interaction at McMurtry through cultural and educational programs, social events, and other activities that enhance the undergraduate experience.
- To promote responsible student government and proper judicial procedure by the delegation of authority to duly elected McMurtry officers, and to supervise the student government and judicial body, lending advice and counsel in order to maintain the continuity and application of McMurtry policies and their consistency with those of the University.
- To oversee the physical use of McMurtry, and assure, through communication with the Office of Housing and Dining, as well as the Facilities and Engineering Department, proper maintenance of, and appropriate improvements to the physical environment of the McMurtry.

- To advise and assist McMurtry students in personal, academic and other matters and to respond to emergency situations.

II. MASTERS' INVOLVEMENT

The areas of the Master's direct involvement in College affairs shall normally include:

- Working with McMurtry students to attract faculty, university and community associates for the College.
- Developing participation of associates in a wide range of College activities, such as college courses, lectures, cultural programs, and social events.
- Working with McMurtry faculty associates and pertinent student leaders to plan and implement all aspects of orientation week for new students.
- Working with McMurtry faculty associates and pertinent student leaders to plan and implement academic advising for all McMurtry students.
- Fulfilling the role of the Master in the University's disciplinary processes. Acting as an adviser to the College student government, attending its meetings and assuring that its decisions and policies are consistent with those of the University at large.

III. MASTERS' SUPERVISORY ROLE

The McMurtry Master(s), in supervising the College's affairs, shall:

- Direct, supervise, and work closely with the College Coordinator to ensure efficient and effective operations.
- Supervise and work collaboratively with the Head Resident Fellow(s) and Resident Associates to achieve the overall goals of the College.
- Work with the College President and Treasurer(s) to supervise the College budget
- Serve as an adviser to the McMurtry Court, receiving notice of all impending complaints, cases, and decisions, following the Rice University Code of Student Conduct, and acting independently of the Court whenever necessary to keep good order at McMurtry.
- Review plans for McMurtry-sponsored social activities to assure that such plans comply with the University's guidelines.
- Supervise the assignment of McMurtry rooms to students
- Review requests for capital improvements to McMurtry.
- Review the use of public areas at McMurtry by student groups or others.

Application for the Mastership of McMurry College

Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Department: _____

Please attach answers to the following questions:

1. Why do you want to be a College Master?
2. Do you have any previous experience with the residential college system? If so, in what position and with which colleges?
3. What has been your favorite experience at Rice University?
4. What is your favorite memory from when you were an undergraduate?
5. What are your hobbies and interests?
6. Briefly describe one or two college events that you see yourself hosting.
7. In what aspects of the Master position do you think you will excel? What personal characteristics will contribute to your success as a Master?
8. What aspects of the Master position will be most challenging for you?
9. Please answer two of the following questions:
 - a. What is your favorite book? Why?
 - b. What is your favorite aspect of Scottish culture and why?
 - c. What is your spirit animal?
 - d. At what age did you become an adult?
 - e. What is one of your favorite quotes and why?
10. Please attach a picture/document (photos/drawings/poems/music score/others) that best represents yourself.
11. Is there anything else you would like us to know?