**Role of the Head Resident Fellow**

The Head Resident Fellow (HRF) role is crucial to the college system and to McMurtry in particular, working with the Masters to provide academic advising, cultural, intellectual, and social activities within the college community. Living among the students, he or she (or a couple) is in a unique position to be a role model and to provide counseling and leadership to all types of students. The HRF, therefore, must be a visible participant in college life, accessible to students, and willing to stand in for the Masters when appropriate.

The primary goal of the HRF should be to work with the Masters in the smooth and effective running of the college with an emphasis on intellectual life, academic advising and first year students. The specific role that any particular HRF plays within the college will vary with each individual and the HRF is encouraged to initiate activities where they feel they will be the most effective. The HRF should maintain a good line of communication with the Masters to ensure that he/she is meeting the needs and expectations of the position. In consultation with the Masters, the Head Resident Fellow will be asked to meet the following expectations:

* Establish personal relationships with a wide range of students, promoting a sense of community and initiating student interactions
* Maintain regular communication with the college Masters, other RAs, College Coordinator, and student leaders
* Attend meals, college functions, and college meetings (including Town Hall and staff meetings) with regularity
* Stand in for the Masters at meetings, programs, and parent conferences, when appropriate
* Be present, meet with parents, and work with the Masters at orientation and graduation events
* Support and/or advise the Orientation Week coordinators in their selection process, preparation of new student handbooks, and planning for Orientation Week activities as well as in other college decisions
* Foster and support cultural and educational programs in the college, including college courses, speakers, dramatic productions, concerts, art exhibitions, IM Sports, etc.
* Become knowledgeable regarding university policies affecting college life; in particular, the HRF should be familiar with the contents of the University Student Handbook
* Keep abreast of matters that affect the undergraduate experience at Rice; for example, curriculum changes, university programs, etc.
* Work with the Masters, other RAs and student leaders in promoting compliance with the University Alcohol Policy
* Attend relevant training sessions that enhance the HRF duties and interactions with students
* Assist the Masters during emergencies

As a Rice faculty member, the HRF should also be prepared to work with the Masters in academic advising within the college, taking leadership and/or participating actively in:

* Academic events
* Divisional advising
* Faculty associate program
* College PAAs (Peer Academic Advisors)
* College Fellows
* Identification and follow-up of students with academic problems

The HRF and their family live in a two-bedroom apartment on the first floor of the college. The apartment includes both a kitchen and laundry area. During the interview process you will be able to visit the apartment and speak with the current HRF, Lisa Balabanlilar.

**History and Culture of McMurtry College**

McMurtry first opened its doors in the fall of 2009, becoming the tenth residential college, as well as one of the newest. However, McMurtry’s history reaches far back to the very beginning of the residential college system, with our namesake, Burt McMurtry, serving on the committee that initially formed the college system. Burt and Dee Dee McMurtry have left a lasting impression on this college, their family name inspiring the Scottish heritage we so proudly follow. Indeed, the conch shell we blow whenever we are overwhelmed with college pride is derived from the translation of “McMurtry” to “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 this ear-piercing scream: “MUUUUUUUUUUUURRRRRRRTTTTTTT!”

The first generation of Murts (term used to describe the indescribable inhabitants of this college) shared their building with Will Rice College, whose residence was under construction at the time. During this time, McMurtry and Will Rice developed a special bond, and Will Rice imparted several of their traditions long after they left. With Will Rice as our sister college, McMurtry was able to take off running, starting new traditions from the moment the first class stepped on campus.

Despite our young age, McMurtry quickly blossomed into a force to be reckoned with around campus. The first O-Week Coordinators completed their first jack before the building was even complete, prefixing “Mc” to every sign and successfully “Mc-ifying” the entire campus. This earned us the reputation of being the “Mongol” college-one that can attack but defies all retaliation. Taking this reputation in stride, we now lovingly refer to our dome-shaped commons as The Yurt. The college also boasts many fantastic accommodations like a lovely rampant lion patio, designed by a McMurtry student, a handy campfire pit in the middle of the quad, a wide roof with a lovely city view and a kitchen on every level. Other facilities include a pair of volleyball courts, a game room, a theater room, a weight room, a plethora of study rooms and most recently a Murt Lounge for off-campus students.

Having recently turned five years old, McMurtry has found itself in a unique position. While we have grown infinite amounts since our birth and implemented a vibrant and distinctive culture, we have held on to that drive to innovate and constantly encourage new ideas. Just one of many examples is Burt’s Tea House, which was created in 2011 as the brainchild of a few Murts. A collection of pots, teas, and good conversation awaits all Murts in the fifth floor kitchen, becoming famous all across campus. Our government system has made significant changes in the past year alone, and students as well as the Adult Team have kept up a steady stream of new ideas intent on bettering the college. Notably, we ratified a new Constitution that will serve as a cornerstone for the McMinistry (what we affectionately call our college government) for years to come. Without the restriction years of tradition can bring, McMurtry has cultivated the attitude that all ideas are worth trying, that everyone is welcome and encouraged to leave their mark on McMurtry. This open-mindedness is what lies at the heart of our community, and will continue to be the characteristic we value above all else.

McMurtry College is home to the Murts, a diverse collection of students coming from all walks of life. Large in numbers, fierce in spirit and amazing in everything else, being a Murt is not just a transient college title but a way of life.

**McMurtry Head Resident Fellow Candidate Profile**

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Affiliation with Rice University:

Are you also applying for the Resident Associates (RA) or Master position at other colleges, and if so, where?

Will any family members (spouse, partner, significant other, children, pets, etc.) be living with you at the college? If yes, please tell us a bit about them (age, occupation, etc.).

Please describe briefly any past experiences that will contribute to your ability to be a successful HRF.

Besides your job, what other time commitments do you have?

What appeals to you about the HRF position?

What are your hobbies and interests? What are you passionate about?

In what aspects of the HRF position would you excel? What personal strengths will contribute to your success?

What aspects of the HRF position will you find challenging? Why?

Describe an event or two that you could see yourself hosting at the college.

As one of the newest colleges, McMurtry is still in the process of establishing traditions and culture. As such, we’re open and flexible to new ideas. How do you see yourself fitting into this process?

Of the following questions, please answer two:

1. What is your favorite book and why?
2. What is one of your favorite quotes and why?
3. If you could witness any event in the past, present or future, what would it be?
4. At what age did you become an adult?
5. In 20 words or less, tell a story.

Please provide a photo of yourself. If applying as a couple, please provide a photo of both of you.

**Contact Information**

If you have any questions concerning the HRF position or McMurtry College in general, please reach out to anyone listed here! We would be happy to answer any questions you have, as well as describe very excitedly how much we love our college.

**McMurtry College RA Search Committee**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Phone | Email | Year/Position |
| Mason Sanders | 254-220-1203 | msanders@rice.edu | Senior |
| Shivani Morrison | ----- | sim1@rice.edu | Junior |
| Matt McGee | ----- | mjm10@rice.edu | Sophomore |
| Jacob Schneckloth | ----- | jts7@rice.edu | Freshman |
| Dereth Phillips | x2343 | [derethp@rice.edu](mailto:derethp@rice.edu) | Master |
| Karim Al-Zand | x3740 | [alzand@rice.edu](mailto:alzand@rice.edu) | Master |
| Daniel Cohen | x2543 | [gdcohen@rice.edu](mailto:gdcohen@rice.edu) | RA |
| Brad Blunt | x2937 | bblunt@rice.edu | RA |