



Rice MSA 2023-2024

# New Student Guide

# Message from Co-Presidents

Assalamualaikum everyone,

Our names are Mohammad Khuroo and Ramiro Cantu and we're so excited to be your MSA Co-Presidents.

It is such a joy to welcome you all to Rice. Starting university can be daunting, but we want you to know that MSA is here for you. Our entire board is so excited to welcome you to Rice and help make your transition into Rice a little bit easier. Our board this year has a diverse set of experiences and backgrounds and we are all working towards making MSA a more inclusive community that can help us find life-long friendships and connections as we strive to grow closer to our religion. This takes place with events such as Quran Reading Circle, Ramadan Galas, volunteering in Greater Houston, Seerah Series, amongst many other events to make MSA a second home for us at Rice.

Having been involved with MSA for our entire time at Rice, we are so grateful to have such a wonderful community here at MSA, where we have found some of our closest friends and learned more about Islam together. MSA has been home to our most meaningful memories here at Rice and we can't wait to work towards keeping that true for all of you now.

We also know how daunting it can be to find your niche as you embark on this new journey in your life, but we are determined to help by providing a welcoming and loving community that offers support in all facets of your life. Not only have we brought opportunities for social inclusion and religious education, but it has also been an integral part of our mission to provide direct inclusion efforts for all people with a connection to Islam and to cherish the diversity of our community.

In addition to awareness campaigns and education, a major goal for this year is to work proactively within Rice and across Houston to give back to our community and uphold Islamic values of altruism and social progress. Whether we are raising funds for Islamic Relief or contributing directly to the Houston community in soup kitchens and clothing drives, we are eager to provide support within and outside of our Ummah and represent an important tenet of our faith. We look to honestly reflect on our own shortcomings and continually determine ways to grow, and we hope you will join us in this mission.

We look forward to meeting you all soon and welcoming you to this amazing community!

Welcome to Rice!



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Board Members.....	4-10
Campus Resources.....	11-13
Prayer Room Info.....	14-15
Contact Info.....	16-17
Food Options.....	18-21
The Mosques of Greater Houston.....	22-24



# BOARD MEMBERS

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*"And verily this Ummah of yours is one Ummah and I am your Lord and Cherisher, therefore fear Me and no other." (Quran 23:52)*

# Presidents



## Ramiro Cantú, Co-President:

Assalaamu aleykum! My name is Ramiro and I'm one of your co-presidents this year! I'm a senior at Baker studying BioSciences concentrating on BioChemistry on the pre-med track. I'm from South Texas, on the border with México. MSA has been a huge part of my time at rice, I'm super excited to welcome y'all and be a part of building our community and our connection to our faith! Please feel free to reach at any time for any advice! Can't wait to see you all.

## Mohammad Khuroo, Co-President:

My name is Mohammad, and I am honored to be your Co-President for this upcoming year. I am a rising junior studying Biochemistry and Asian Studies on the pre-med track, so feel free to reach out if you have any questions! I am originally from Kashmir, but grew up in the Middle East. I have been on the Rice MSA board since the past academic year, and I am really excited to welcome you all in the fall to our community! My most enjoyable moments at Rice have been with people in the MSA and at MSA events (the food makes it even better). I want to spread that same joy and sense of oneness within our community with all of you.



# Vice Presidents



**Amna Sadiq, Sister's Vice President:**  
Assalamualeikum everyone! my name is Amna, and I am your sister's VP this year. i am a senior at Duncan studying social policy analysis on the premed track. I am so excited to meet y'all (esp the sistasss). MSA has played such a big role in my rice experience, so feel free to reach out if you ever want to talk or grab coffee (trust me i know the best coffee shops in Houston). see yall soon  
iA!!!!

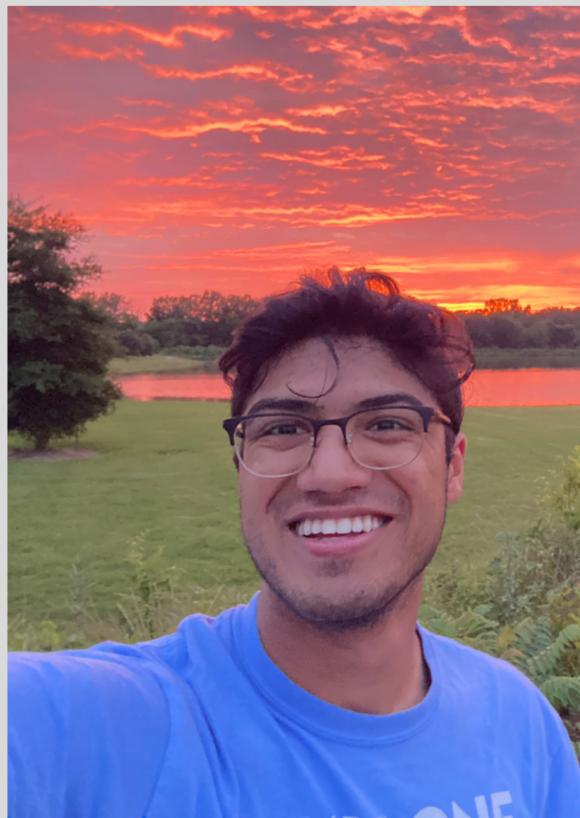
## **Murtaza Kazmi, Brother's Vice President:**

Salaam! My name is Murtaza Kazmi, and I am excited to be your brother's vice president this year! I am a junior majoring in neuroscience from baker college! iA I look forward to organizing multi-faceted events that foster community and diversity at Rice. I can't wait to meet all the new faces on campus and reunite with the old ones as well :) Feel free to reach out to me any time!



# The Board

## Ayaan Riaz, Secretary:



Assalamualaikum, my name is Ayaan and I'm excited to serve as your MSA secretary this year! I'm a Sophomore Will Ricer hailing from the suburbs of Memphis, studying Computer Science and Applied Math. I previously worked as the brother's New Student Rep and I'm looking forward to seeing lots of applications to fill that seat for this upcoming year. I can not wait to get to work spreading the word about all the events, community, and spirit we have to offer to the ummah at Rice and beyond. Outside of MSA, you will likely find me in Will Rice commons or stuck in Houston traffic. Find me in either spot if you want to talk about underrated or secret study spots on campus or just need someone to grab boba with.

## Mustafa Latif, Treasurer:

As-salaamu alaykum, my name is Mustafa, and I'm looking forward to being your Treasurer for the upcoming year. I'm a junior at McMurtry studying Cell Bio, and I'm originally from Dallas, TX. I'm really excited to get to meet the new faces and help plan a fun, event-filled year.



# The Board



**Deema Beram, Marketing Director:**  
Salaam, everyone! My name is Deema, and I'll be your Marketing Chair this upcoming year. I'm a senior at Duncan majoring in Studio Art on the pre-med track, and I'm from Houston, TX (as well as a bajillion other places which you should totally ask me about). This is my first year on the board and I'm so excited to put my own artistic flair on all things MSA . Looking forward to meeting everyone in a few short weeks!

# Activity Coordinators



## **Hira Tariq, Outreach Coordinator:**

Asalaamualaikum guys! My name is Hira, and I am looking forward to being one of the MSA Outreach Coordinators this year. I'm a junior majoring in Psychology on the pre-med track. I am excited to work with everyone in organizing our MSA events this year, and hope to see you all there! :)

## **Natasha Faruqi, Outreach Coordinator:**

Asalaamualaikum! My name is Natasha and I am so excited to be an Outreach Coordinator this year!! I am going to be a senior at Jones, and I'm majoring in the Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality on the Pre-Med track. I'm looking forward to meet you all and work on some exciting events with the Houston community!



# Activity Coordinators



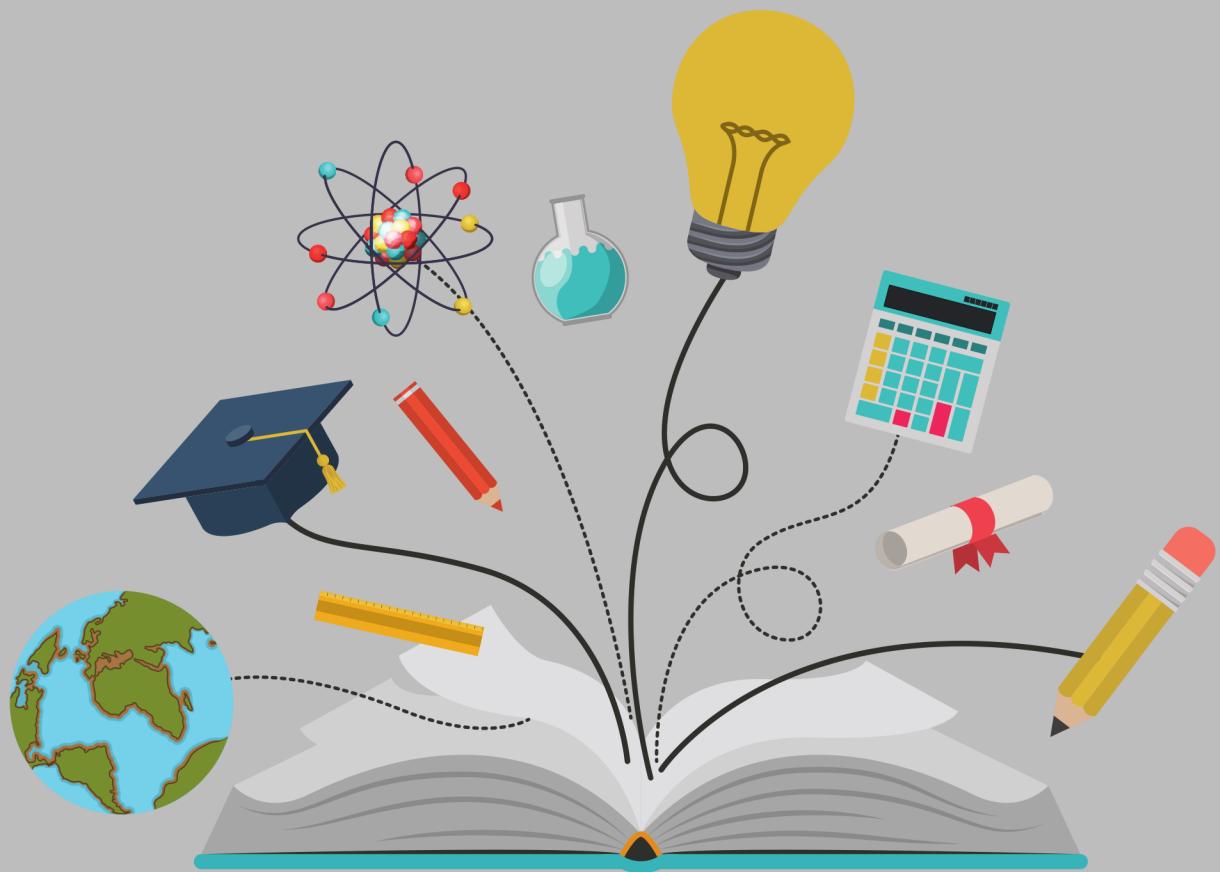
## **Adiv Ahsan, Jummah Coordinator:**

As-salamu alaykum my name is Adiv and I am thrilled to be the Jumu'ah Coordinator for this year 🌟🌙 I am a senior studying Computer Science originally from Orlando, FL. I can't wait to host weekly Jumu'ahs and foster a strong community to support the deen. Outside of academics you can catch me riding my bike or hanging in the MCC

## **Reem Abbas, Internal Activities Coordinator:**

Salaam everyone, my name's Reem and I'll be one of your Internal Activities Coordinators :) I'm a rising junior from Baker majoring in Civil & Environmental Engineering and can't wait to plan fun socials for the sisters, joint events, and get us ready for Showdown!! This year I hope to cultivate an inclusive community within the MSA and continue to make it a fun, supportive community for everyone to bond and grow their iman, especially the incoming freshman <3 Get hype for this year!!!





# CAMPUS RESOURCES

*"My Lord! Increase me with knowledge..."*

*(Quran 20:114)*

# Muslim Student Leaders

## PAAs

### JONES COLLEGE

**Rija Naqvi** '25 | rhn1@rice.edu | BioSciences; Medical Humanities minor; Politics, Law and Social Thought minor; Pre-med

### MCMURTRY COLLEGE

**Anas Yousaf** '24 | any1@rice.edu | Mechanical Engineering; Engineering Design Minor; Pre-Grad

### WEISSL COLLEGE

**Layal Haidar** '24 | lh55@rice.edu | Managerial Economics and Organizational Sciences ; Business

**Ayyan Ahmad** '24 | aia1@rice.edu | BioSciences; Business minor; Pre-Med

**Barakat Ibrahim** '25 | bai1@rice.edu | BioSciences; Medical Humanities minor; Pre-Med

### WILL RICE COLLEGE

**Fuad Gazi** '24 | gff1@rice.edu | Statistics; Mathematical Economics Analysis; Data Science minor; Pre-Grad



# Other Campus Resources

## Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)

- Exists to help all students feel comfortable, safe, and accepted at Rice.
  - **Catherine Clack:** OMA Director and Associate Dean of Undergraduates- clack@rice.edu
  - **Javier Carmona, Jr.:** OMA Assistant Director- javier.carmona@rice.edu

## Islam-Related Courses

*\*Note: These classes are not offered every semester\**

- **Muslims in American Society** | Craig Considine | SOCI 364
- **Life of the Prophet Muhammad** | David Cook | RELI 221
- **Quran and Commentary** | David Cook | RELI 223
- **Gender and Islam** | ASIA/RELI/SWGS 315
- **Major Issues in Contemporary Islam** | RELI 356
- **Golden Age of Islam** | HIST 281
- **Introduction to Islamic Art and Architecture** | HART 221
- **Architecture and Literature in Islamic Cultures** | Farshid Emami | HART 385
- **First to Third Year Arabic** | Hossam Elsherbiny | ARAB 141, 263, 301



# PRAYER ROOM INFO

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*"And establish prayer and give zakah and bow with those who bow [in worship and obedience]"*  
(Quran 2:43)

# Prayer Room Directions

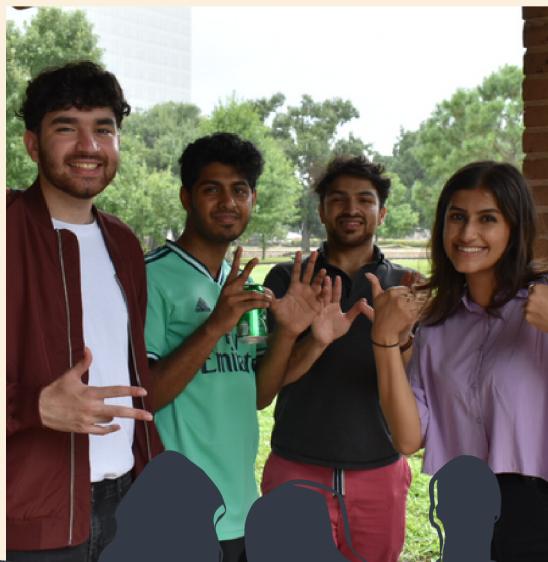
## RMC Prayer Room

- Located to the right of the RMC Chapel
  - Starting from the chapel's front doors, turn right and then left at the first walkway to your left. The prayer room door will be the first door on your right.
- If the Prayer Room door is locked on the outside, you can ask the RMC Information Desk to open it or send a message to the MSA GroupMe for help.

## Kyle Morrow Room (KMR)

- Main Jummah prayer location
- Located on the third floor of Fondren library
  - After entering Fondren Library from the front entrance, turn left into the small area, and take the elevator on the left to the third floor. The KMR will be the first set of double doors on your left.





CONTACT INFO

# Contact & Social Media

- **Email**- msa@rice.edu
- **Facebook**- @ricemsa
- **Instagram**- @rice\_msa
- **Website**- msa.rice.edu
- **MSA GroupMe**-  
[https://groupme.com/join\\_group/43232964/6SoMJD](https://groupme.com/join_group/43232964/6SoMJD)
- **Brothers GroupMe**-  
[https://groupme.com/join\\_group/43398680/AsaUjk](https://groupme.com/join_group/43398680/AsaUjk)
- **Sisters GroupMe**-  
[https://groupme.com/join\\_group/53414506/vNaDzEwb](https://groupme.com/join_group/53414506/vNaDzEwb)



*"And help one another in goodness and piety, and do not help one another in sin and aggression."*  
(Quran 5:2)





HUNGRY?

# FOOD OPTIONS

HALAL FOOD ON AND OFF CAMPUS

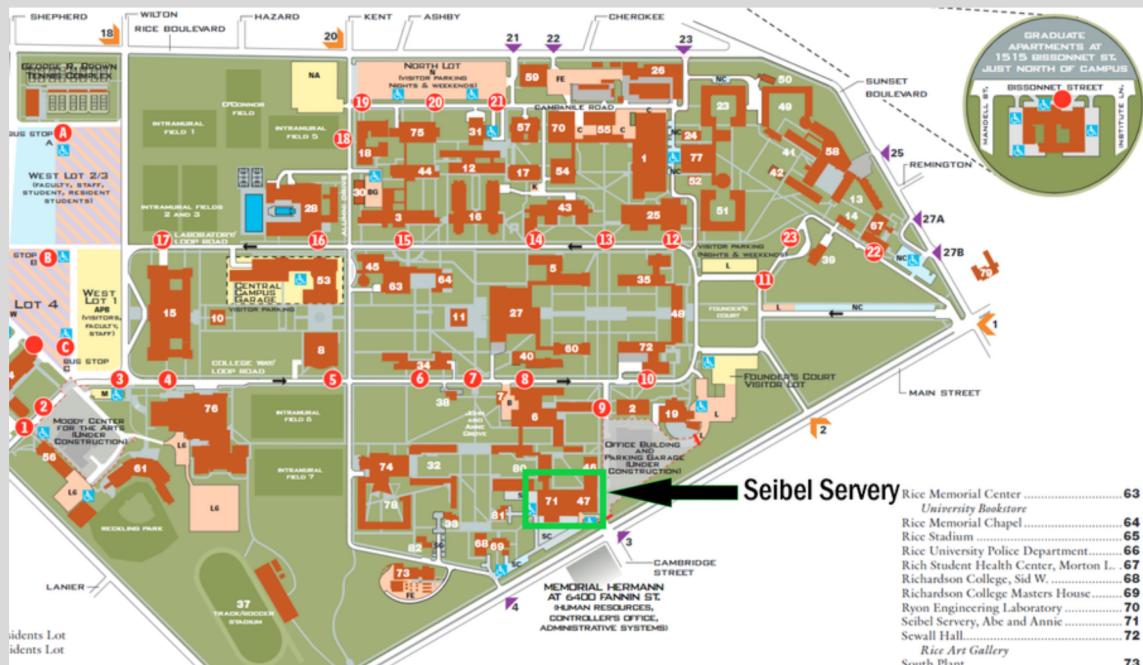
# On Campus Options

## SEIBEL SERVERY

- Located between Will Rice and Lovett College
- Daily halal chicken options (grilled chicken and chicken salad always available)
- Variable halal options based on the day (halal pho, pizza, sandwiches, beef option, etc.)

## WEST SERVERY

- Located between Duncan and McMurtry College
- Variable halal options based on the day (halal pho, pizza, sandwiches, beef option, etc.)



# Off Campus Options

## WALKING DISTANCE

**\*MBR = MSA Board Rating - Not biased at all :)**

Pasha | Turkish | MBR: 7/10 \$\$

Halal Guys | American/Mediterranean | MBR: 6/10 \$

Dave's Hot Chicken | American | MBR: 9/10 \$

## 10 MINUTE DRIVES

M&M Grill | American/Mexican/Mediterranean | MBR: 8/10 \$

- Popular item: Loaded Single burger

Abu Omar [Food Truck] | Mediterranean | MBR: 8/10 \$

- Popular item: Chicken Shawarma Arabi

Gyro Hut | Mediterranean | MBR: 9/10 \$

- Popular item: Mixed Platter

Russo's New York Pizzeria | Pizza | MBR: 10/10 \$\$

- **\*Only Kirby Dr. location is halal\***

- Popular item: Meat Lover's Pizza

Pepper Twins | Szechuan | MBR: 9/10 \$\$

- Popular item: Fried Spicy Chicken Cubes



Note: Most of these can be found on Postmates / UberEats for food delivery. You may need to utilize these more during COVID-19.

# Off Campus Options

## 20 MINUTE DRIVES

Aga's | Indo-Pak | MBR: 10/10 \$\$\$

- Popular item: Goat Chops

888 Beijing | Chinese | MBR: 7/10 \$\$

- Popular item: Chicken Lo-Mein

Pinkerton's | American BBQ | MBR: 10/10 \$\$

- Note: Call to make sure halal meat is available that day

Peri Peri | South African | MBR: 9/10 \$\$

- Popular item: 1/2 Chicken Breast

Phoenicia Specialty Foods | Grocery | MBR: 9/10 \$\$

- Halal Meat available

Tourão Brazilian Churrasqueria | Brazilian | MBR: 9/10 \$\$\$

- Note: Unlimited Steak; Call beforehand to reserve a table for halal only

Thai Gourmet | Thai | MBR: 8/10 \$\$

- Popular item: Pad Kee Mao

***Hillcroft: Dozens of halal South Asian restaurants within 2 blocks of each other***

## 30 MINUTE DRIVES

Bundu Khan | Indo-Pak | MBR: 10/10 \$\$\$

Bonsai Fusion Japanese Steakhouse | Japanese/Hibachi | MBR: 10/10 \$\$\$

- Note: Reserve a table beforehand



# THE MASJIDS OF GREATER HOUSTON

# Local Masjids

- River Oaks Islamic Center: [3110 Eastside St](https://www.riveroaks.org)
- Islamic Education Center: [2313 S Voss Road](https://www.icer.org)
- Medical Center Islamic Society: [2222 Mansard St](https://www.mcis.org)
- Al-Ghadeer: [9260 S Course Road](https://www.al-ghadeer.org)



# *Masjids of Greater Houston*

- Raindrop Turkish House: 9301 W Bellfort St
- Masjid El Farouq: 1207 Conrad Sauer Dr
- Maryam Masjid: 504 Sartartia Road
- Brand Lane Islamic Center: 610 Brand Lane

