BROWN COLLEGE PRESENTS

PICASSO-WEEK
WELCOME TO BROWN!
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THE BASICS & THE TEAM
WELCOME TO BROWN

Dear Fellow Brownie,

We are so excited to welcome you to your new home within Rice: Brown College. You don’t know it yet, but you are about to begin painting your picture at Rice as part of an incredibly strong and vibrant community. Congratulations to yourself, because Brown is known for being an open, kind, and tight knit group of individuals who not only learn from each other, but also have their voices heard across campus. This book will guide you as you find your new family at Brown and Rice.

You will find out more as you read on, but we wanted to preface the book by telling you more about our mindset as O-Week Coordinators. We have many tasks as Coordinators, which we will explain later, but this year one of our goals as Coordinators was to choose an Advising team such that every question a new student had could be answered effectively. Last semester, we very carefully selected our team of Advisors to make sure this was the case. Over the summer, we’ll be doing our best to make every O-Week event as informative and accessible to you as possible.

A lot will happen this week, but you will have us (your Coordinators), your Advisors, and countless other resources to guide you as you move through the week and beyond. Don’t hesitate to reach out about anything and everything -- that’s what we’re all here for. So, no need to worry -- you’re already a part of the family. Think of us as providing your tools: your paintbrushes, your canvas, your art lessons. But YOU will provide your style, texture, and color, and YOU will paint your picture.

You have a unique perspective, so don’t forget that your story is valuable and we all have something to learn from each other. Keep an open mind, and go into O-Week prepared to meet people with all different kinds of perspectives and backgrounds. You’ll be joining Brown along with almost 100 others, but your connections don’t stop there -- students at Brown and at other residential colleges are all excited to meet you.

We’re so excited to meet you and can’t wait to see the masterpiece you create!

Your PicassO-Week Coordinators,
Erin Rawls, Akshat Patel, Saurabh Harohalli
Brown College Class of 2019
brownoweek@rice.edu
WHAT IS O-WEEK?

Something magical happens every August at Rice University, and it’s called O-Week. Plenty of other schools offer an orientation program, but only Rice has O-Week. Orientation Week (O-Week) is your first formal introduction to Rice University and Brown College, but it goes much deeper than that. If there’s one thing Rice doesn’t take chances with, it’s making sure you have a community that will help you prosper in every way imaginable. Every single member of the advising team has been handpicked and trained in order to provide you with a fulfilling week that will not only familiarize you with Rice academics but also with the Rice community and culture.

Rice is no ordinary university, and we pride ourselves on being “unconventional.” Introducing you to all the quirks and traditions of Rice and Brown will take a while, but don’t worry -- we will make sure you understand the ins and outs by the end of the week. O-Week will immerse you in the Rice community in a variety of ways. You will hear speeches from the President, the Dean of Undergraduates, and various faculty that will inspire and encourage you for all your years at Rice and beyond. You will also learn about all the academic opportunities Rice has to offer, and register for your classes for the semester with help from many resources. However, O-Week isn’t just about speeches and academics; it is also full of fun events with fellow Brownies and with students at other residential colleges.

After moving in at the beginning of the week, you’ll get to participate in activities like ice-breakers, late night food runs, impossibly ridiculous tasks, and some of our Brown and Rice traditions, just to name a few. In fact, many Rice alums cite O-Week as one of the highlights of their Rice experience. This does not mean that O-Week is the best Rice has to offer, but it definitely starts your collegiate experience off right. Rice students are so passionate about the preservation of Rice’s culture that many dedicated upperclassmen, who are called Advisors, give up weeks of their summers to come back early to help integrate you into our family. You may not know them yet, but they know you and have been waiting to meet you for weeks!

You might be surprised to learn that there is a support system even beyond these phenomenal Advisors anxiously awaiting your arrival. From the Magisters, the Resident Associates, the College Coordinator, the College President, the Chief Justice, the Associates, the Peer Academic Advisors, the Diversity Facilitators, and your extremely excited O-Week Coordinators who have working for the past 9 months to put together O-Week, your family just got a lot bigger.
The goal of O-Week is to thoroughly acclimate you to college life both socially and academically. While you might not have all the answers immediately, the structure of O-Week allows for each and every student to have many “go to” people for academics, social life, health, and any other part of life -- before classes even start. O-Week is about making the transition to college easier, and providing you with the information necessary for you to succeed in college and in life. No matter where you’re from, what your background is, or who you are, Rice University welcomes you with open arms. Welcome to Rice University, Brown College, and PicassoO-Week! We hope this O-Week Book provides you with all the information you need before you arrive at your new home, Brown College.

WHAT IS AN O-WEEK GROUP?

During O-Week, you will meet an abundance of new people. However, you will do most of your O-Week activities with your amazing O-Week group! Each group has a name, which is usually a pun based on the theme. Your O-Week group will be together most of the time during O-Week, but will also continue to do things together and stay involved with each other throughout the year. For example, groups have weekly O-Week lunches and often make plans to go to Rice events or explore Houston together. At Brown, there are 12 different O-Week groups, each with about 7-8 new students. Each group is put together to be diverse, so you will closely interact with all kinds of new people. Each group also has 2 Advisors, a Co-Advisor, and an Affiliate, who are all current Rice students. In this section of the book, you’ll get to meet them!!
O-WEEK THEME

PicassO-Week uses art as a metaphor to describe the impact that every new student has on Rice and Brown. It captures the idea that everyone has a unique background, culture, and personality, but all can come together in the tapestry that is Rice University. Rice is a canvas that allows students to share their unique ideas, skills, and experiences. We pride ourselves on our diversity in every form imaginable, and think that that diversity can be compared to the diversity of forms, shapes, and colors found in art. Describing Rice as a piece of artwork also represents the creativity of the Rice spirit and allows for ingenuity to be perceived as a value from day one. PicassO-Week emphasizes the fact that every new student has a place at Rice and at Brown, and also that everyone can learn from each other. New patterns and forms will be actively created every day by Rice students. We hope that this metaphor is accessible to students who are both familiar and unfamiliar with Rice.

OUR MISSION

The goal of Brown O-Week 2017 is for new students to join and shape a cohesive Brown community where everyone uses their diverse styles and colors to paint a unified picture. We aim to connect Brown community members to the greater Rice campus by encouraging cross-campus ties and building an appreciation for the extensive Rice network. After O-Week 2017, new students should not only be familiar with their academic and social resources but also feel comfortable actively engaging with them.
WHAT IS AN...
O-WEEK COORDINATOR?

We are your O-Week Coordinators, and we are part of the team of students helping to make your O-Week experience the best it can be! Each residential college has 3 student leaders, called O-Week Coordinators, who are chosen to oversee the preparation and execution of O-Week for the college and also the University. We are three upperclassmen members of Brown College, and we have been working on O-Week since January and throughout the summer here at Rice.

We chose to do this job because we love Brown, we love Rice, we love O-Week, and most importantly, we love you and can’t wait for you to join our community! Our main jobs as Coordinators have included selecting the theme, choosing the Advising Team, planning events and determining the schedule for the week, reading your forms and matching you with your roommates, and making sure everything else runs smoothly before, during, and after O-Week.

We’ve also created this book, so that you can learn about all the resources available to you as you transition to Rice and Brown! We are the ones who have dedicated the most time to your O-Week experience, and we can’t wait for you to get here and enjoy it. We’re here for ANY questions you have about Brown, Rice, Houston, or anything else you can think of! Feel free to contact us at brownowneek@rice.edu; parents are welcome to contact us too. We can’t wait to see y’all on move-in day!
Hey everyone! My name is Erin and I’m a rising junior from Atlanta, GA. I’m so excited you’re finally reading our book, but even more excited to meet you in August! I wanted to be a Coordinator so that I could try to inspire in you the same amount of passion I have for Brown and for Rice, so it brings me eternal joy that you are reading through this book and learning more about the wonderful, quirky place we call Brown College. I was worried about starting out at a new place, but immediately felt at home in my O-Week group and in the Brown family -- and I know you will too.

I started out at Rice with very little idea about what I wanted to study or do for a career. Ask anyone what my major is, and they’ll probably all give different answers based on when I last talked to them about it. Luckily, I discovered people and activities at Rice that inspired me; I eventually decided to become a Policy Studies and Linguistics double major so that I could express my passion for social issues and language on a daily basis. My favorite types of conversations are those that revolve around deep, unanswerable questions; I may not have an answer, but I’ll happily discuss a situation from every angle with you. I want my career one day to involve engaging with different types of people about issues in society.

I’ve never watched a TV show regularly, which confounds many of my friends. What do you do in your free time, they ask? My answer is that I spend an absurd amount of time surfing Spotify, and as a result I have an absurd amount of playlists. I also have probably watched more latte art videos on Instagram than the average person. Other hobbies include: rereading the Harry Potter series for the 16th time, going running late at night, listening to podcasts, and drinking too much coffee.

I participate in a couple activities at Rice that fit with those interests. I serve as Internal Vice President of the Baker Institute Student Forum, which helps students engage with policy and Rice’s public policy think tank, the Baker Institute (BISF); through this, I get to have long discussions about political theory and current events with other BISF officers. I’m also a barista at Rice Coffeehouse, which allows me to practice my latte art regularly. If you can’t find me at Brown, I’m probably at Coffeehouse playing tunes, catching up with friends, or attempting to write a paper. I can’t wait ‘til you’re one of the people I get to hang out with at Brown or at Coffeehouse, or out in a hammock on a sunny day!
Hey y’all! My name is Akshat and I’m a rising junior from Houston, Texas. I study Biochemistry/Cell Biology and Sociology and am on the pre-med track. If you hear a voice yelling a greeting across the quad or see a guy randomly running around the commons, odds are that it’s me. I’m always smiling and laughing (often at my own jokes) and if I randomly come up to you and ask about your day, don’t be surprised. I love chatting with people and can’t wait to get to know all of you!

Some of my passions include aspiring to be 6’3” while actually being 5’8”, smiling at dogs, and being the most extra Houston Rockets fan out there (James Harden has fist-bumped me, which is easily the greatest moment of my life -- ask me for the video). I consider myself a binge-watching enthusiast (I was devastated when Scrubs was taken off Netflix); talk to me about Game of Thrones at any time of the day (TV Show or the books). While I’m not spending time at the Medical Center across the street doing GI cancer research, I’m trying to hit up Taco Bell (it’s not a restaurant, it’s a lifestyle). My collection of hot sauce packets speaks for itself.

I’m also involved in some other things at Brown and across campus; I work as an intercollegiate committee head to help connect Brown to the rest of campus so we can meet all the wonderful people Rice has to offer. I’m also a member of the staff for Impact, a leadership retreat that aims to inspire students to engage with their passions and make an impact (haha get it) within and beyond the hedges. Last semester I served as a Brown Beer Bike Coordinator (BEER BIKE? BEER BIKE!); it was one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve ever had to see the whole college support our bike team at the races, and it all stemmed from the love Brown College members have for the community we have here.

One of the biggest reasons I wanted to Coordinate O-Week was so that I can be a part of the process that welcomes each and every one of you to the family! I’m so thrilled for y’all to not only join the community we have here, but help shape it for years to come. When I’m not busy leading tours and studying for the MCAT this summer, I’ll be planning for your arrival and O-Week, so stop by and say hi if you’re around!
SAURABH

Who is that boy chasing birds and making bird calls? Saurabh. Who is that guy that has been baking snacks for the college for the past two hours? Saurabh. Who is that person slaving away at a thermodynamics problem set at 2am in the Commons? Saurabh.

Hi everyone! My name is Saurabh (saw-rub, or so-rub) Harohalli. I am a rising junior originally from Kansas City, Kansas, and I am studying Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (CHBE) with a Certificate in Engineering Leadership. Yes, all three of the above describe me pretty well. I am an avid ornithologist. When I was External Vice President of the college, I would make all sorts of food to bring people down to Cabinet (bi-weekly “town hall” meetings). Finally, I am proud to call myself a passionate CHBE as I can’t stop talking about chemical engineering no matter the time of day (or night).

When I am not doing the above three, I love playing raquetball, running, going to the park, having deep conversations, and just getting to know people. While I may not be a music connoisseur like Erin, or a basketball fanatic like Akshat, I can be your go to for any information on animals because my entire childhood was based on Animal Planet and NatGeo WILD. When I started my time at Brown, I was New Student Representative to the Executive Cabinet (you can read more about our government system in this book). I then became Secretary and then External Vice President. I have recently moved away from the government side in favor of event management, currently serving as a College Night Coordinator and O-Week Coordinator! I am also a Peer Academic Advisor and Academic Fellow and have been on all sorts of committees as Brown. Across campus, I volunteer with the Student Admissions Council and the Science Olympiad Alumni Association.

As cliché as it may sound, I do love helping people, and that is one of the biggest reasons I am coordinating PicassO-Week! I love Brown, Rice, college, and life in general. On this 300 acre campus, I have found one of the most supportive, caring, cooperative, and humble group of people I have ever met. I want to help welcome you to this community and your family at Brown. As an O-Week Coordinator, I hope to help you also see that great parts of being at Rice, and help you succeed in your time here. If you ever have any questions about anything at all, shoot me a message, stop by my room, or catch me around Brown. Can’t wait to meet you soon!
WHAT IS AN...
ADVISOR? CO-ADVISOR?

Your Advisors and Co-Advisors are going to be your guides through O-Week and beyond. You’ll most likely meet them within first few minutes of getting out of your car on move-in day. They’ll be the ones way too excited to be up that early, screaming your name and moving towards you at impossibly high speeds. Don’t panic -- they’ve just been waiting to meet you for a while.

Your advising team will lead you through all the activities of O-Week and will be your personal point of contact as you get acclimated to Rice and Brown. They will bring a variety of experience to the table, and they’re excited to share their insights with you. Make sure you utilize your Advisors’ and Co-Advisors’ experience and ask as many questions as you can; even if they don’t know the answer, they’ll know the proper resource to direct you to.

Your relationship with your advising team won’t end after O-Week! Your Advisors and Co-Advisors will help keep your O-Week group connected after O-Week, with activities like weekly lunches and fun outings beyond the hedges. Class distinction isn’t a big deal here at Brown, so your team will look forward to becoming friends and remaining a good source of advice for you long after O-Week.

Your advising team will be made up of two Advisors, one Co-Advisor, and one Affiliate (we’ll explain the role of the Affiliate in a couple pages). The only difference between Advisors and Co-Advisors is that your Advisors are from Brown and your Co-Advisors are from a different college! Although they play a similar role, you have both Advisors and Co-Advisors for a reason: Advisors will generally help you acclimate more to Brown specifically, while Co-Advisors provide bridges out of the smaller college community to other colleges and the campus at large. Regardless of their home college, your advising team is excited to meet you and planning for a great O-Week!

Find your O-Week Group and Advisors in the next section!
Mason Tannenbaum
Bedminster, NJ
O-Week PAA
Brown ’19

Maryam Elizondo
McAllen, TX
Advisor
Brown ’19

The Man. The Myth. The Mason. Mason hails from the great state of New Jersey. BUT, unlike every New Jersey stereotype, he is unwaveringly caring, loyal, and optimistic. So even if you take as many L’s as the Knicks have recently, you know you can count on him to have your back. Whether he helps you choose the right classes (as a longtime PAA) or unwind from them in college sports (as Sports Committee Head), Mason is a valuable part of our sanity support system at Brown. Even though double majoring in Physics and Mathematical Economic Analysis keeps his brain full of numbers, he maintains an easygoing demeanor. Maybe it’s in the way he relaxes: listening to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and having a pint (of ice cream). Maybe it’s due to the euphoric effects of the cheese in the mass amounts of Kraft Mac n’ Cheese he consumes. Maybe it’s because he release stress through very aggressive Mario Kart-ing. Whatever it is, while he may look like one of the most chill guys at Brown, he is very psyched to meet you during O-Week and be your Advisor! -Agasty Tripathi, Brown ’18

Maryam [Mah-rrrr(roll it)-yam] Elizondo / 20-years-old / McAllen, TX. This passionate and emotional Cancer (the zodiac sign) is looking for new students to give her love to. As a girl hailing from the Rio Grande Valley, Maryam don’t play no games when it comes to her Bioengineering lifestyle, her hot sauce—it’s always in her bag (swag), or her winged eyeliner (tbQh, it’s as sharp as she is). On the weekends, she loves to wild out and throw it back… by watching cinematic classics. She’s always up for a good time, but most importantly you can be certain she’s got your back no matter what. BUT, there is one thing that this human embodiment of the red dress woman emoji can’t do, and that is tell you the title of the song she’s bumpin’. Maryam is one of those rare people who is genuine and can always be counted on to do her best to help anyone who needs it... She will indisputably be one of your most important resources here at Rice, so get ready for a week of fun and the privilege of a lifelong relationship with one of the coolest people you’ll ever meet (those others being us)! -Dessy Akinfenwa, Brown ‘19, Kendra Baldwin, Wiess ‘19, Abbey Odwuor, Duncan ’19, Mekedlawit Setegne, Brown ’19
Gabrielle Humphrey
Sugar Land, TX

Gabrielle “Ramen” Humphrey hails all the way from Sugar Land, Texas, and is a rising sophomore studying Sociology and Policy Studies with a minor in Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities. She was last seen flying down the inner loop on rollerblades to avoid an impending parking ticket. When she’s not cruising around campus, you can find her at Willy’s Pub, having a dance-off on 4th floor, or belting Dancing Queen—all with her roommate Hannah by her side. She listens to all the best music, is a KTRU DJ in the late hours of the night, knows all the best places to eat, and has the most #aesthetic Instagram (@oxfordcontra). Talents include: 1) photoshop prowess, 2) ability to order $50 of food in under two minutes, 3) Summer Heights High impersonations, 4) parallel parking, and 5) chugging tubes of water in 3 seconds for Beer Bike. Addictions include Sriracha, Vampire Weekend, and live music. If you’re in her O-Week group, get excited. She’s the best Houston tour guide, and is a great resource for anything happening around town. There’s no better introduction to Brown’s culture of love, acceptance, and care than spending a week hanging out with Gabrielle Humphrey, one of Brown’s Finest. -Eric Voigt, Brown ’20

Alex Du
Katy, TX

Alex Du is determined to bake her way into your heart. She will probably ask you if you want to bake something at unreasonable hours of the night, and since she is the sweetest person ever (like her cakes!), you will not-so-reluctantly go along with whatever she has planned because you know the result will be delicious. You might ask her how she has so much time to bake. The answer would be that she doesn’t, but she is just trying to find a way to procrastinate from her never-ending coding and tinkering with circuits. However, she also has the superpower of surviving on very little sleep, probably due to her vast amounts of tea drinking at all hours of the day and night. As a Canadian and a Bakerite, she will have a long commute to get to you in Brown, but that won’t stop her from doing whatever she can to make your day a little better. She is always willing to listen to you talk about life, work, and school, and as a Head PAA, she’ll be able to give you more than ample advice about academics at Rice. She is always down to dance on tables, share her extensive collection of scrapbooking materials, and make you laugh when she falls out of her chair. Befriend Alex, and you’ll have a friend forever (and a friend at Baker when you want the famous Baker breakfast!)

- Julia Wang, Baker ’19
Do you know what’s the best thing to ever come from Chicago? Brownies. Do you know what’s second best? Nicole Jaiyesimi. This Statistics and CompSci major is always down to talk and have a good time. Do you want to play football? Nicole will block for you. Wanna watch a show? Nicole has Netflix up on her computer ready to go (she’s partial to Scandal). Want to talk about a relationship? Nicole’s already formulated four theories about who she thinks you’d be cute with. If you ever happen to hear Nicole up at two in the morning, she’s probably coding or looking at the freshest new meme; either way, she wants you to stop by and say hello. Did I mention style? This fashion aficionado would rather die than wear the same outfit every day for the rest of her life, but she’d much rather wear the same outfit every day than see anything but a smile on your face. Buckle up for one heck of a ride with Nicole as your O-Week Advisor – you’ll love every second of it! -Jared Beshai, Brown ’20

Arturo Guzman
Reno, NV
Gopher
Brown ‘20
Advisor
Brown ‘19

Don’t let the six-foot two-inch stature of this junior MechE intimidate you: Arturo Guzman is basically a giant teddy bear at heart and gives some of the best hugs on campus. You can catch him on the IM fields—he plays soccer for the Brown College team and rows for Rice Crew, basically living in Brown Outer Commons—probably playing video games (League of Legends and Smash are classics), or just wandering around campus, hunting for shiny magikarp in Pokemon GO (this man wants to be the very best—like no one ever was). This polyglot—he knows both Korean and Spanish—somehow still finds time to play violin as part of mariachi. So don’t worry: Arturo might have a billion problem sets, but he’ll always be down to grab a meal or some boba. This always-happy, always-excited giant can’t wait to get to know you and truly make your O-Week an incredible experience. -Claire Luo, Brown ’19
I’m jealous of you. I really am. You get to experience one of the most exciting weeks of your life with probably the best person you will encounter at Rice. Izzy Patten is the complete package, and having her in your life is nothing short of a blessing. You ever seen the most beautiful hair in the world? Well get ready because you will soon. She owns the entire madewell collection, has a fiery passion for sociology, and loves like it’s her job. You want a new best friend? Too bad, Izzy’s already taken but she can probably definitely still be your friend. Are you interested in getting involved at Rice? Well you’re in luck because I-Z-Z-Y can answer all your questions. She’s helped plan two of the biggest events on campus (Bacchanalia and Beer bike—look em up) and is Brown’s parliamentarian. She’s as kind as a princess and a real smart cookie. Speaking of cookies, you can only HOPE that one day you can enjoy a baked good with her. Her company is more valuable than a damn fairy and I can promise you will be better off knowing Izzy. -Emma May Anderson, Brown ’19

He’s #1 on the court, in class, and everyone’s heart. Meet the one and only Raj Dalal, the premed who is balling day in and out. A rising sophomore at Wiess College (he makes it Wise College), this massive basketball fan (Instagram handle: @lakerscowboys10) can be found playing any one of many intramural sports throughout the year. If Raj is not busy working as a shift leader of the Patient Discharge Initiative at Baylor College of Medicine, mentor for Organic Chemistry, or a Camp Kesem Counselor, you can find him pampering some little kids with his energetic and adventurous personality. If you ever need an urgent question answered, immediately send him a message starting with “Taco Bell,” and you’ll be sure to get his attention. No one cares as much about their friends as Raj does and no one is as good at getting in a quick nap after lunch. Raj’s thoughtful and calm nature is just as infectious as his childish and humorous side. If you ever need help or want to have a deep talk at 2 am, Raj is your man. Raj Dalal is the hero that the new students deserve, but also the one that they need. #batmanreference -Snigdha Banda, Wiess ’20, Ariana Engles, Lovett ’20
Ashley Fite  
Brenham, TX

Brenham, a town far out in the wilds of Texas, has produced two great things: Blue Bell ice cream and Ashley Fite. Fite, like the ice cream, is sweet and always fulfilling, but despite this, she is not to be underestimated. She may be small, but she is a powerful force about Brown for she holds the coveted position of Mail Room Assistant. Get on the wrong side of Ashley, and you may never receive that birthday care package your mom sent you. And when she's not running the Brown office with an iron fist, Ashley can be found on the ultimate frisbee field, leaving opponents in the dust with her killer speed. Any of her Brown friends and Torque teammates will confirm it: Fite, a Psychology and Policy Studies double major, is an amazing person. And, even if you do wrong her, she probably will still give you your birthday care package. She's that awesome. -Julie Doar, Brown ’17

Khalid Yusuf  
Pearland, TX

Ladies and gentlemen, count your lucky stars for you have the beautiful opportunity to have Khalid “gametime” Yusuf as an O-Week Advisor. Khalid Yusuf is a rising star (senior) majoring in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Superhero Studies. While not all heroes wear capes, this one seemingly always wears athletic shorts. That's probably because he's so sporty! He's renowned on foosball tables from Hong Kong to Pearland, Texas and is also world class at soccer, FIFA, and Overwatch: no hyperbole. When not sportsing, he can be found further exploring the outer reaches of the Marvel universe or drinking orange juice. Khalid has an astonishing work ethic and even more astonishing ability to find crappy movies hilarious. Khalid loves to laugh (trust me, you’ll hear it) but he also loves to listen. If you ever want to shoot the breeze, no one shoots it breezier. But seriously, Khalid is a down to Earth kind of guy, who’ll lend you an ear and then lend you a hand to solve whatever needs solving. All in all, to have Khalid as your advisor means you’ll be making an honest and fun-loving friend. -Oliver Lucier, Brown ’18
CONGRATS on having this fun-loving Brown Sophomore as your Advisor!! Natalie hails from Arlington, Virginia, but you’ll catch her exclusively at cute coffeeshops because she’s obsessed with their ~*~a e s t h e t i c~*~. A proud seventh floor member, Natalie likes socializing late and rapping Look At Me Now badly, then complaining the next day that she has “so much work to do.” She’s always playing mashups from her “awesome” Soundcloud account (@nazur), and so it’s unsurprising that she’s a Brown music committee head. Beyond an affinity for coffee, gluten-free food, bad jokes, music and of course gluten-free food, Natalie’s a member of the Rice Debate Team and has been debating for years... which you’ll probably figure out the first time you disagree with her. She loves to play field hockey and softball - two sports that can accommodate her inability to jump - and roots exclusively for the Red Sox. Get HYPED to meet this Sunny D chiller during O Week!!! -Reginald Foley and Zachariah Hutchings, Brown ’20

Nick P. Wolf. 20% man, 80% Mountain Dew. This six foot-something individual possesses many fine qualities (ok maybe not many, but some). Need help with your mixtape? Nick might not have sick rhymes, but this MechE sure knows a thing or two about thermal fluids and how to keep that heat going. Need help with your selfie game? Well Mr. Wolf has created the perfect pose that goes great with all pictures and situations that puts even Derek Zoolander to shame (ask him to show you, it’s great). Need help writing song lyrics? Ok, maybe he can’t help you there, but he can sure as heck inspire you with the lyrics to any Blink-182 song. Don’t let his hardcore music taste fool you though. Nick is never afraid to get down to some Avril Lavigne, and he’ll straight up tell you “I don’t like your girlfriend.” The Wolf is a force to be reckoned with, but if you play your cards right, you’ll learn that he is also a great friend who will always be down for questionable adventures, late night Taco Bell runs, and meaningful but entertaining conversations. -Joe Holden, Baker ’18
Niki Parekh  
Memphis, TN

O-Week PAA  
Brown ’19

Niki is barely five feet tall, but don’t overlook this gem (either literally or figuratively) because there’s so much more to her than meets the eye. Although her physical frame falls short of the average American female height, this Memphis native claims to make up for it with her “six-foot personality”; she does, in fact, exude almost limitless amounts of compassion, loyalty, and sarcasm. As an Economics and Managerial Studies major, Niki is well-versed on the laws of supply and demand, but her interests go beyond academics into the realms of music, dance, basketball, and Facebook memes. Other than her aversion to chocolate, Niki is one of the highest-quality people you’ll ever meet. She’s exceptionally caring, intelligent, and generous, and she knows a vast array of movie quotes and song lyrics to fit any mood you’re in. Adapting to a new school can be challenging, but you’re already off to a great start with Niki as your Advisor -- get ready for a fantastic year with this one! -Catie Tsai, Brown ’19

Zach Hutchings  
Thousand Oaks, CA

Advisor  
Brown ’20

Sports. Okay, more than that. Sports sports sports sport management. Zachary Hutchings is a very live and truly incredible Brown Sophomore who is crazy excited to be your Advisor. This Los Angeles native has a jersey and hat collection to rival a professional athlete, and deeper knowledge on random sports trivia than I can handle. On the second week of school, I named every athlete I could think of, and Zach could name not only the teams they’ve been on, but the school he or she went to. Other than at Rice sports games, you can catch him serving beverages at Pub or coordinating Social events at Brown (like BACCHANALIA! SPRING 2018!!!). His roommate Robbie can attest to the fact that Zach downright hates mornings, but he absolutely loves people - seriously, he’s one of the most affable people you will ever meet. ALWAYS down to have a good time, he will be chillin’ every afternoon in the 7th floor suite with Kendrick playing and mellow vibes for all… so come hang. -Natalie Zur, Brown ’20
If there’s one thing you need to know about Drew Keller, it’s that he loves his roommate. That’s me. Hi! My name’s Harr—oh wait this is supposed to be about Drew. Yeah. That wicked smart, super genuine, and friendly guy who likes pineapples, who carefully grooms the most amicable beard for your viewing pleasure, who has a really cute spaniel-retriever dog named Sparky back in his sunny home of Palo Alto, who loves swing dancing on the weekends, who regularly enjoys sticky buns and iced coffee from Rice Coffeehouse (shameless plug!), who loves looking at maps and refuses to use automated Google Map directions, who is making a device in Mechatronics that zaps you in the face when you try to fall asleep, who pretty much runs The Thresher (Rice’s newspaper) as Editor-in-Chief, whose favorite song is “Mama I’m a Man” by Hot Sugar (it isn’t but I like to pretend), and who sleeps with a shirt draped over his face (affectionately called the sleep shirt)??? Yeah. That guy. You’re very lucky to have Drew as an Advisor. Trying not to hype the man up but he’s great. Also, try saying that sentence in one go. Also, there are a bunch of truths but one lie. Guess which. Happy O-Week and welcome to Rice. -Harrison Lin, Brown ’18

Eun-Bit Chang will one day be the world’s most fearless human rights lawyer. Think the next Amal Clooney. As a Psychology-Spanish double major, she is as diverse as her dual degree. When she’s not advocating against social injustice, or creating plans to travel the world, you can find her quietly sitting on a bench enjoying life’s simple moments with her dog. What makes Eun-Bit so unique is her paradoxical nature: she is one of the most chill, yet feistily energetic people you will ever meet. This Korean-American USC transfer exhibits the same fierce loyalty to the USC football team as she does to her friends. Anyone who knows Eun-Bit agrees that her most defining feature is her heart of gold: she touches the lives of those near and far with her compassion and love. You will never find her not smiling or laughing. New students, get ready for the O-Week experience of a lifetime—there is no doubt your week will be incredible with her as your Advisor! -Serena Tohme, Wiess ’19
As a native Houstonian and lover of all things Texas, Robyn is the epitome of southern hospitality. Wikipedia describes this as “particularly warm, sweet, and welcoming to visitors to their home” (in this case, Brown), a characterization that fits Robyn perfectly. When you meet her, you’ll feel like you’ve met one of your best friends. Robyn is one of sweetest and most genuine people you can find. It’s so easy to talk to her, whether it’s a deep talk or a talk about something as trivial as what the best type of ice is (although Robyn is very passionate about this topic). Get ready for many nights of your favorite desserts, because Robyn loves to bake, but more importantly, she loves to bake for other people. She enjoys trying new things and is always down for a challenge; just ask her about the time she ate a dog treat! When she isn’t taking four-hour naps or sending you exorbitant amounts of GIFS, this Sociology and Photography major can be found capturing the sights of Houston. Congratulations on landing Robyn as your Advisor – she’s one of the best you can have! -Catie Tsai and Niki Parekh, Brown ’19

Did you know the ice cream cone was invented in St. Louis during the 1904 World’s Fair? Well Whitney did. This St. Louis, Missouri native is extremely knowledgeable about the most random things and always ready to explain why St. Louis is the best. It wouldn’t be surprising to find her animatedly discussing the Obamas’ living situation with a group of people who are listening intently. Whitney exudes passion and excitement like no one else. Why? Because she cares. A LOT. About her friends, her family, and her acquaintances. This Bioengineering major will quickly become your best friend (like she did mine). When she’s not busy going on Global Medical Brigades trips or training for half marathons, she reads fiction, watches comedies, and eats Local Foods (a healthy, hip Houston restaurant) many more times a week than an average person. She cannot wait to be your Advisor and friend! -Erin Rawls, Brown ’19
Enter Matthew James Miller. This EBIO and History double major pre-med is one of the most loyal and kind people you’ll ever meet. That being said, don’t expect him to take it easy on you in Settlers of Catan. This board game fanatic is a man of many tastes; he loves the outdoors, peanut butter, and Lord of the Rings (if you’ve read and liked the books, consider your place in Matthew’s heart secured). When he’s not serving as a TA or spending odd hours at lab, you can find him at the rec, chilling with his friends, or waiting for the new season of Game of Thrones and Rick and Morty to start (the man has infinite patience). Matthew also loves poker, but he will never fold on his new students! The only thing that will match Matthew’s dedication to his O-Week group is his love for Jason’s Deli (they share a hometown of Beaumont, Texas). Get ready for a week and beyond of deadpan jokes, chats about the Mongols, and game nights with Matthew as your Advisor; he can’t wait to meet you! -Akshat Patel, Brown ‘19

Ameesh Shah, also known as Ameesh “Shooting Sleeve” Shah, is a rising junior studying Computer Science from his beloved hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Despite his dashing looks (tell him his hair looks good), Ameesh’s one true love will always be fast food. If you’re feeling a late night craving, he will have you covered, and don’t forget about his secret stash of “Fire” sauce. And if he’s not gloating about his darling Cleveland Cavaliers (or anything else Cleveland-related), he’s flexing his leadership skills as the Student Association’s Treasurer or trying to convince you to run the outer loop with him. If you need Ameesh for anything, you’ll find him in any college commons working through the latest COMP homework, playing ping pong, or goofing off and hanging out with new friends. Get ready to meet a reliable and incredibly witty new friend and advisor! -Spencer Chang, Jones ‘19
Radhika Sharma  
Monroe Township, NJ  
O-Week RHA  
Brown ’18

You can call her Radhi. Or Hot Rod. But you’ll probably end up calling her Radhika. This sometimes-vegan, sometimes-vegetarian, sometimes-pescatarian Jersey girl is the preppiest hipster you’ll ever meet. You can catch her zooming around campus on her golden bike (which she named Beatrix), behind the bar at Coffeehouse, or daydreaming about traveling the world. Radhika will be happy to chat with you in Chinese or Hindi (or sometimes English) about her majors in Economics and Asian Studies, or her biggest passions, food and coffee. Ask her to get breakfast tacos with you, and she will readily agree at any time of the day. But don’t ask her to do your laundry, that’s probably the only thing she hates. She aspires to work for a start-up one day (maybe even her own WOW), but no matter how successful she becomes she will always be wearing her favorite flannel, singing along to indie music, and eating popcorn at the end of a long day. -Hannah Park, Brown ’18

Taylor Morin  
Apex, NC  
Advisor  
Brown ’19

You’re in luck if you get Charles Taylor Morin, better known as “Table” or ctm3, as your Advisor, as he is a man of many valuable traits. Likely a Spanish flamenco dancer in another life, his most remarkable accomplishment is being able to recite every single word of the traditional Spanish song and cultural gem, “Salsa Tequila,” while jumping up and down, very much on beat, in an oversized turquoise suit jacket. This Math Econ/Policy Studies major knows all the ins and outs of Rice, including the highest point on campus, and you should definitely ask him for one of his famed tours. If you’re hungry, the North Carolina native can cook up some mean barbeque while talking for hours about the Rice Student Association, gnocchi, and his qualms with the deeply-embedded and severely detrimental racial and socioeconomic issues society faces today (he’s a good time). His love for the Florida Gators runs deeper than the average person’s love for their first-born child, and his love for coffee runs much deeper than his knowledge of it (on a trip to Barcelona he consistently asked for an “Americano con leche,” which is objectively not a drink). But his love for both of these things will never be stronger than his love for his new students. Everyone agrees: this recent pageant queen contender--there are videos--has a heart of gold and the potential to be one of the greatest people you will continue to deny that you know. -Emma May Anderson, Brown ’19, Nuria Gallego, Brown ’19, Danielle Manahan, Brown ’19, Brennan Han, Brown ’18
As a Rice legacy, Hannah was born and raised to attend Rice. Her parents may have met at Lovett, but this Chemistry major is solely dedicated to Brown. When she isn’t playing basketball, you’ll probably find her playing volleyball, or softball, or soccer, or flag football, or basically any other Brown College sport. Her competitive nature makes her extremely dedicated on and off the court, and she’ll do anything to make sure you have the best Rice experience possible. Hailing from Bloomington, Indiana, Hannah has ~objectively~ the softest hair at Brown, and, less objectively, the best snickerdoodle-making skills. She walks too fast, but if you can keep up, you’ll make a friend who will gladly give her umbrella up for you, even if it means she’ll get soaked walking back from class. Some people think that she’s quiet, but once you get to know her, you’ll be glad she isn’t. Her constant supply of new YouTube videos and Spurs game updates, plus her sarcastically sweet sense of humor means that you’ll have an amazing O-Week with an even more amazing Advisor! -Robyn Maddux, Brown ’20

Latané Bullock
Arlington, TX

Latané (“Laht-nay”, “Laht-neh”, “Lat-knee”, “Laht-knee”, and occasionally “Luhn-tahn-yay”, “Latté”, “Plantain”, “Lantern”, “Patent”, “Planaria”, “Snob-uh-né”) is a tall, lanky string bean. He’s been told his spirit animals are the Gazelle, the Giraffe, and the Greyhound, but he knows he can’t be all three. After living the first 16 years of his life in the same house in Dallas, Texas, he got bored and went to boarding school. He then got “board” of the United States as well and procrastinated life by living in Spain for a year before coming to Rice. Although he’s studying Linguistics and Computer Science (or maybe Electrical Engineering), he truly aspires to be a trophy husband / stay-at-home dad. This boy is ~quirky~ out the wazoo. Quirks may include: using spoonerisms such as “bater wottle” (only the realest will understand), using headbands to pretend his floppy hair isn’t floppy, squawking under stress, wearing a cheetah print blanket over his clothes, staring into space because COMP has hypnotized him, being too good at IM sports, and always wanting cuddles. His immediate weirdness may make you ask, “why are you this way?” but rest assured, you’ll find him to be one of the most genuinely kind and caring people at Rice. He can’t wait to show you around campus and introduce you to the wonders of college.

-Kaarthika Thakker, Lovett ’20, Rose Kantorczyk, Lovett ’20, Veronica Zheng, Baker ’20

Hannah Whitney
Bloomington, IN

As a Rice legacy, Hannah was born and raised to attend Rice. Her parents may have met at Lovett, but this Chemistry major is solely dedicated to Brown. When she isn’t playing basketball, you’ll probably find her playing volleyball, or softball, or soccer, or flag football, or basically any other Brown College sport. Her competitive nature makes her extremely dedicated on and off the court, and she’ll do anything to make sure you have the best Rice experience possible. Hailing from Bloomington, Indiana, Hannah has ~objectively~ the softest hair at Brown, and, less objectively, the best snickerdoodle-making skills. She walks too fast, but if you can keep up, you’ll make a friend who will gladly give her umbrella up for you, even if it means she’ll get soaked walking back from class. Some people think that she’s quiet, but once you get to know her, you’ll be glad she isn’t. Her constant supply of new YouTube videos and Spurs game updates, plus her sarcastically sweet sense of humor means that you’ll have an amazing O-Week with an even more amazing Advisor! -Robyn Maddux, Brown ’20

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-Kaarthika Thakker, Lovett ’20, Rose Kantorczyk, Lovett ’20, Veronica Zheng, Baker ’20
Ana Paula Pinto-Diaz  
Quito, Ecuador/Firestone, CO

Photographer  
Brown ’20

It’s somewhat surprising that English major and rising sophomore Ana Paula Pinto (bean) doesn’t just appear as an afterimage; her presence is felt all around campus. You’ll be hearing from her as Brown Secretary, seeing her out on the field for Brown sports, and writing for Rice’s newspaper, The Thresher. If you find a new photo pop up on Facebook, one with the perfect exposure and nice depth of field, it was most likely taken by Ana Paula. The smiles on the people she photographs are no coincidences either—there’s something incredibly infectious about her laugh and optimistic attitude towards life. If you’re up late, you can most likely find her in Brown Outer Commons and trek with her to obtain her drink of choice—caffeine—at Coffeehouse. If you’re feeling stressed, Ana Paula is the perfect person to rant to: she’s sympathetic and always open. If you’re looking to just relax, ask her about her art! Ana Paula, jack of all trades, wearer of many (mostly metaphorical but always fashionable) hats, is ready to share what she loves about this weird, wonderful university with you during O-Week and beyond. -Claire Luo, Brown ’19

Rachel Carlton  
Oakton, VA

Advisor  
Brown ’20

Although she is only a mere 5’2”, Rachel Carlton carries herself like she’s 6’0”. A bundle of competitive energy and fun, Rachel partitions her time between watching Arrested Development, cheering on FC Barcelona, and pursuing a Material Science and NanoEngineering Major (she’s a smart kiddo). Even though her puns are TRULY atrocious—like, actually awful—Rachel does an amazing job organizing the students of Brown to participate in any and every sports competition (that’s why she’s a Sports Coordinator for Brown College next year, get hype). Rachel cannot back down from a bet and will go to extreme lengths to prove she is not a “chicken,” but is always down to simply relax and eat some Ben and Jerry’s ice cream. Sassy, hilarious, and just an awesome person to be around, Rachel will guide you through O-Week and beyond with a dedicated, kind, and very small hand. -Frances Williamson, Brown ’20
Hailing from the Golden State itself, Brennan “Thicc Boi” Han, the self-proclaimed “Kanye West” of Brown College, is a rising senior studying film and Computer Science. The first thing you need to know about Brennan is that he loves hugs. In fact, the only thing he loves more is his bed. Don’t let this fool you though. Despite his lazy panda façade, Brennan is an expert at getting things done while seemingly doing nothing at all. Brennan is the kind of person who can make the most of what you give him, no matter the circumstance. Lose a single match of FIFA to this guy, and you’ll never hear the end of it. If you catch him on the basketball courts, you know he’s got his head in the game. His love for the Disney Channel has stood the test of time. If you’re ever feeling the need to reminisce and watch a few episodes of American Dragon: Jake Long, he’ll probably drop everything, including any work due in the coming hours to join. Brennan Han is not the Advisor you need; he is the advisor you deserve. Give this man an award. -Khalid Yusuf and Stephen Perkyns, Brown ’18

New students beware: this dashing Mexican man from El Paso from Will Rice College will make you swoon just at the sight of him. This Spanish-speaking hunk is a man among boys, a myth among legends. Apart from his amazing dancing skills and handyman skills... (for bikes), he’s got the brains and the brawns. As a Junior Mechanical Engineer and an next biggest soccer star of the Rice Lads Men’s soccer team, Eugenio, aka Mesta, aka Eugene (jk never call him that), is no doubt one of Rice’s best. If you ever need anyone to dance with, recommend you a great movie, study with, fix your bike, anything really, he’s your man. This guy will hype you up in literally any situation. You’ll see this guy jammin’ out while doing homework, jammin’ out while eating dinner, and even jammin’ out across campus. Seriously... Mesta is as fun as fun can get. Being a Will Ricer, although he dons the rust and gold, he will make your experience at Brown College the fullest and make your wildest dreams come true. So be on the lookout for the best person, co-advisor, friend you’ll ever meet. #staywoke -Joel Kim, Will Rice ’19
Voted as the third hottest college president, by himself, Colombian born Santiago is probably the best person to have as an Advisor. Not only is he knowledgeable about everything that goes around Rice, he also is one of the most well versed people in current issues as well. I don’t know how but Santi is able to handle both his Biological Sciences major and be Brown College’s president for the second year in a row. His love and excitement for Brown is highly contagious, and spending any time with Santi will make you want to get involved with Brown as soon as you get here. He may not seem like it, but Santi is a passionate gardener and he founded the first garden at Brown when he was just a Freshman. If you ever get the chance you should ask him about his fig tree! Even more surprising is this man’s love for soccer and biking; I didn’t even know about it ‘til this year. There are only three things that Santi loves more than Brown College, and in increasing order they are Hermione Granger, the Danger Zone, and Dragon Fruit. Santi is a good friend, a great president, and the best person in the world. So in conclusion, I would give Santi a generous 4/10.

-Brennan Han, Brown ’18

If you have been blessed by some higher power or fate (or the O-Week Coordinators) to get Prinon as your Advisor, consider yourself one of the luckiest people ever. Hailing from the city of Coppell, Texas, Prinon is a wonderfully honest activist who loves fresh memes, hype music, and bacon parm fries. When she’s not studying Cognitive Science or preparing for medical school, she’s probably volunteering with RSVP or fighting for your rights at the Capitol in Austin. She’s passionate about beautifully bad puns and social issues like women’s rights, public health, and vaccine advocacy and she’s always down to talk about them. If you need some music recommendations or want to share some late-night noodles, Prinon is your gal. She’s an amazing friend and someone you can spend hours with talking about almost anything. Prinon is probably one of the kindest, caring, and most genuine people you’ll ever meet and she’s so hyped to get to know you during O-Week! -Sarah Elizabeth Bradford, Brown ’20
Ever wondered if you would actually get to meet Picasso this week? I hope not, because he is most certainly dead. You may, however, come close when you meet Frances, a rising sophomore majoring in History on a Pre-Vet track. This warm-hearted Texan from Corpus Christi can paint you a masterpiece with a brush in one hand and a Chai Tea Latte in the other. Bubbly and talkative as can be (her voice rises above the rest during meals), Frances is still an amazing listener. Well, at least with one of her ears. And if you want to do something, or really anything for that matter, ask her. Not only is she willing to play any sport for Brown, but you can also find her racing mattresses on skateboards down the 4th-floor hallways. After making you laugh with her goofy demeanor, horrible phrasing of words, and playful wit, you’ll soon realize Frances is one-of-a-kind. Make sure to van Gogh out of your way to meet her during your time at Brown. -Rachel Carlton, Brown ’20

One momentous Tuesday morning in July of 1997, on the bustling streets of New York City, Adam Krupinski hatched from an egg. Five years later, he flew northward to the suburb of Ossining. His current nest is located at Rice's Jones College, where he studies Civil and Environmental Engineering with a minor in Sociology. He’s never read (or seen!) a single Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings, but he’s probably read every Humans of New York post to date. If you ever need to find him, he’ll likely be taking a three-hour nap, swinging aggressively on the swing set at Baker College, or snapchat-story-documenting every random thing on his frequent trips to random parts of Houston (hit him up if you want to join him and try some new foods or see some cool sights!). He can make a decent grilled cheese sandwich, and he can also make your dreams come true. Get ready to meet Adam, because he’s definitely ready to meet you. -Akash Ghosal, Wiess ’18
Elizabeth Goodnight  Brown Chief Justice
Waco, TX  Brown ‘18

How much Diet Coke is too much Diet Coke? This is not a question Elizabeth Goodnight would ever ask. Elizabeth (Lady Bess, Bessie, Liz, the-one-with-flailing-arms) Goodnight knows no bounds in her love of Diet Coke, nor in her love of Brown College. While she may sound official as the Chief Justice of Brown, a day in her life includes feeding squirrels, petting at least two dogs, lots of gifs and around three Lord of the Rings quotes. She is majoring in either Mechanical Engineering or Candy Crush (no one knows), but she is really involved with the Society of Women Engineers and Rice Center for Engineering Leadership. This Star Wars trivia queen leaves no Buzzfeed quiz untaken, and no Brownie unloved. Her greatest passion at Rice is mental health and wellbeing, which shines through her extracurriculars as a Rice Health Advisor and intern at the Wellbeing and Counseling Center. Whether you’re looking for a friend, a Jiu-Jitsu partner, or just someone to eat melty cheese with, she’s got your back! -Kelsi Wicker, McMurtry ‘18

Adam Bender  Advisor
Phoenix, AZ/ Columbus, OH  Brown ‘20

Hungry? So is Adam. This Economics major can always be seen with food. Disappeared for a couple minutes? Don’t worry, he’s just chatting with his regular postmates driver, Olivier. When he’s not eating Honey Butter Chicken Biscuits or defeating everyone in a grueling game of Catan, he can be found with the Track and Field team at Tudor training for decathlons. Hailing from both Phoenix, Arizona and Columbus, Ohio, Adam will show you the same loyalty and support that he does to both of his hometowns. Adam is one of the most vibrant and easy-going people you will ever meet. Whether you want to talk about sports or the latest Game of Thrones episode, Adam’s your guy. If you’re in Adam’s group, consider yourself lucky because you’ll have the guidance of one of the coolest kids in Brown. -Niki Parekh, Brown ’19, Robyn Maddux, Brown ’20
Danielle Manahan
Sugar Land, TX

Advisor
Brown ’18

Dan The Man—the woman, the myth, the legend. Hailing from the faraway lands of Sugarland, TX, this Philosophy, Psychology double major is more than a double threat. She knows the feeling of that late night paper that hits hard and can brew you a tasty cup of coffee at Coffeehouse to get you through. She is also known for her massive height, as she stands at 5’0, and she towers over everything the light touches. Her aspirations in life include law school, becoming a youtube superstar singer, but most importantly never going to the Recreational Center a single time in her Rice career. She also believes that the International Space Station is on the moon, and swears by this. Count yourself lucky—in any situation, this barista fashionista is someone you can count on. Whether at your poetry slam, dance recital, or big game, Dan supports everyone with relentless love and treats you like family. A true friend and confidant who knows how to have a blast, you could not ask for a better Advisor.


Kyle Bartsch
The Woodlands, TX

Co-Advisor
Jones ’20

How does one describe Kyle Bartsch of the House of Jones, First of His Name, the Hella Lit, King of 3S and the Fire Memes, Kyle of the Great Grass Quad, Maker of Chemical Bonds, and Father of Avocados? If he’s not shooting across the academic quad on his longboard, you can usually find Kyle at the center of a group of people hanging on his every word. This natural sciences major was a wrestler in high school, so he’ll definitely know how to help you tackle any problems you might face. But don’t worry, he’s really just a big softie who I’ve never seen without a smile. With Kyle as your co-advisor, you will always have a second home at Jones. Kyle is a person who stands out. No, really, he stands head and shoulders above just about everyone. Don’t be alarmed if you suddenly find your feet leaving the ground; it’s just Kyle giving you one his trademark bear hugs. So don’t worry about being overwhelmed on move-in day. You only need to look up to find a friendly face! -Daniel Koh, Jones ’20
Who is Stephanie? She’s sweet, she’s smart, she’s talented; can’t be anything less with the mind-boggling number of things she manages to do. Stephanie is like a perpetual motion machine, constantly rushing about to her innumerable commitments. Interested in, well, just about anything? She can tell you about it! Research? She does that. Volunteering at Texas Children’s Hospital? Does that too. TA-ing, Pre-med-ing, shadowing, planning campus-wide events as RPC Pres, advising as one of Brown’s Head PAA’s, or promoting Vietnamese culture as VSA’s Co-Pres? Yep, you guessed it – she does all those too. But don’t be intimidated either; she’s always down to hang out and chat, about anything, at any time. No matter what, she’ll greet you with a beaming smile or a tight hug (most likely both!), and maybe even a surprise cupcake. Typically described as a bright ray of sunshine, Stephanie is sure to brighten your day in some way any time you see her! If you’re one of the lucky ones to have this amazing girl as your advisor, prepare your heart for an amazing experience and a committed friend, because there’s none better than Stephanie! -Betty Huang, Brown ’18

If you’re reading this, consider yourself lucky because you’ve just gotten THE Grace Wickerson as your Advisor! She’s majoring in Materials Science and Nanoengineering, and is heavily involved in research. If there’s a new discovery in the field, she’ll know what’s up. Apart from research, Grace balances academics with other responsibilities such as Senator in the Student Association, running her own non-profit and creating her own startup company. All her accomplishments might be intimidating and you may be wondering if this girl is any fun at all. But Grace is the queen of puns, a profound vegan chef, an avid fan of theatricals, and a ninja in disguise. She has her not so graceful moments like spilling tea all over herself and almost falling off the ladder as she climbs out of bed for her 8am class, but that makes her even more relatable. Grace Wickerson will be the most resourceful, enthusiastic, caring Advisor you’ll ever come across and she’ll make your O-Week a memorable one. -Janice Jean, Brown ’20
With the smarts of a Chemical Engineering major and the good looks (and facial hair) of an Indian movie star, this bearded beauty’s got it all. He’s the man to go to if you want to find all the secret passageways in Fondren Library or cause an explosion in the kitchen. At times, his cooking may be hard to digest, but he’s mastered the art of lightly roasting someone. But if you peel back the layers of sass and charred food, Rakesh is one of the most compassionate, intelligent, and downright hilarious people you’ll ever have the pleasure of meeting. Whether you need someone to talk to, laugh with, or watch TV with while pretending to do homework, Rakesh is your man. Even though he’s an engineer, he has a diverse range of interests that include playing pool and tennis, watching Brooklyn Nine-Nine and Disney Channel, and crafting concoctions in the kitchen with his vast arsenal of Indian spices. While he may be completely oblivious to romantic advances, he’ll always be there if you need a helping hand or someone to talk to. And even though your first semester in college might be hard, becoming friends with this down-to-earth, loyal, and genuine person will be one of the easiest – and most rewarding – things you ever do. -Rishu Harpavat, Brown ’19

Introducing Claudia Middleton, lover of language [insert wordplay here], sunny days, and pudgy babies. This junior is a double major (English and VADA) who channels most of her creativity into thinking up fun ways to spend her free time, whether she actually has it or not. She’s always up for a mid-week pool day, a yoga class at the rec, or a chat turned hour-long homework detour outside coffeehouse. Catch her outside, for real, when she runs (walks?) the outer loop or spends her weekends taking a hike. If you ever need anyone to talk to, she will drop literally anything she’s doing to hang out. With Claudia as your Advisor, you already have a sure-fire friendship with one of the happiest people at Rice, lucky you! -Sarah Torresen, Sid Richardson ’19
There are only two types of people on campus: those who are Jessica’s friends and those who have not yet met Jessica. Jessica Weng is a rising sophomore studying Biochemistry and Cellular Biology on the pre-med/med track. This easily amused girl will not hear the end to Minnesnowta puns. She’s involved in publicizing for Rice Program Council, organizing speaker panels for the Rice Pre-Medical Society, coordinating volunteer trips for MusicMDs, hosting prospective students and their families for the Student Admissions Council, and managing cultural events for the Chinese Student Association. Ask her about her antibiotic resistance research and watch her fangirl over bacteria. She’s also your friendly neighborhood Peer Academic Advisor! A self-proclaimed nerd, she giggles over kdramas and anime in her free time and waits for the next season of Game of Thrones. You’ll find her invading rooms for impromptu dance parties and jamming out to Taylor Swift (    ) and Disney music. When’s she’s not hiding in Fondren, she’s out accumulating food experience. -Angela Gao, Brown ’20 P.S. Bonus points if you get the blank space reference

Who’s that beauty with the flowing, golden locks? It’s Jared Beshai! Jared (a.k.a Goldie Locks, even though he’s as hairy as one of the three bears) is a Colorado native, so, naturally, he’s an outdoorsy mountain man. Jared stays in touch with his athletic side by playing in numerous IM sports. On the field, he’s known as ‘Becky with the Good Hair’. Don’t be shai! Come out to a flag football, basketball, soccer, floor hockey, or softball game to see the man in action. If you’re lucky enough see a bee out on the fields, Jared will probably inform you of the importance of saving the insects and tell you of his bee-keeping hobby- one of many strange ones. Others include Frisbee golf, making dank Spotify playlists, and tacos made of chunky peanut butter, honey (shout-out to the bees) and potato bread. Within Brown, Jared is active in the Brown Gardening, Music, and Events Committees, showing that he is a Brownie who cares. Unlike Goldie Locks, Jared would never fall asleep on the job. With an Advisor like Jared, you’re in for an O-Week as fun, fascinating, and unique as the man himself. -Nicole Jaiyesimi, Brown ’20
Deeksha Madala  
Houston, TX

Have you ever walked in to find your roommate napping in the middle of the day in a semi-upright position, fully wrapped (like face included) in their comforter underneath 4 layers of unfolded laundry? If so you are already intimately familiar with one of the daily habits and favorite activities of Deeksha Madala. When she’s not busy napping or trying to manage her severe pollen allergy, this Biochemistry major/Neuroscience minor can be found practicing with Rice's Bhangra team, Chowl Bhangra, or re-watching episodes of The Office for the 14th time. Her top three interests currently include changing her clothes no less than four times before starting her day, applying to medical school, and Hanszen College. She's always ready to go out and have a good time and will always bring you up when you’re feeling down. Deeksha is an unbelievably sweet and caring friend who will help you out no matter what so count yourself lucky because you just won a truly incredible Advisor. -Lianna Amezaga, Brown ’18

Christina Mezmur  
Nashville, TN

Chances are that before you even meet Christina, you will have already heard about her love for Nashville. The city mourned the loss of their low-key Ethiopian princess as she left to conquer Texas with her charm and wit. Just as the rest of Baker has, you will soon come to realize that she is, in fact, the answer to all of life’s questions. Need a gal to belt out to country music with because no one else will? Look no further my friend, Christina...is the answer. Lost, confused, and contemplating your life decisions as you slave through physics? Don’t worry, Christina’s been there, survived, and is still a MechE! Not sure whether to go with an aquamarine, burnt beige, or salmon colored comforter to match your cute new tapestry? Christina is not only well versed in the language of bedding but will steer you in the right direction—salmon, obviously. So, get ready to have an amazing O-Week and year with Christina at your side! -Monika Karki, Anu Dwarumpudi, and Bill Duong, Baker ‘19
For someone who loves sports as much as he does, you’d think Anthony Tohme spends his time outdoors, running around, seeking adventure. You’d be wrong, unless you consider his daily treks to North Servery and the Humanities Building ‘adventures’. This Political Science and History double-major loves Roman history so much, you could say he wears a toga of bed sheets for 40% of the day (the boy likes his sleep). Anthony is ready to welcome you into his family. He already has 2 triplet siblings here at Rice, and would love to make a video welcoming you into his historic clan (YouTube search “triplets at Rice” if you’re doubtful). A Houston heart through-and-through, this man loves the Rockets so much he grew The Beard on himself. Not to worry, though, there’s still room in his heart for you. Anthony is a self-deprecating, easy-going guy who makes everyone smile with the occasional sarcastic comment and pointed roasts. He’s of the smartest and sweetest guys we know, and if you’re his New Student, you’re in for an amazing first year. -Natalie Croitoru and Ev Kakadiaris, Brown ’19

Amani Ramiz
Houston, TX
O-Week RHA
Brown ‘19

Amani is one of the sweetest, most caring people on the planet. She has a beautiful smile, and her fashion sense is second to none. Amani will never hesitate to ask you about what’s going on in your life (especially if it involves romantic endeavors), and is always available to talk and offer “real” advice. You’ll probably see her walking around campus—her walk and talks are some of the most comforting, reassuring things to do when you’re stressed. But more importantly, her character and kindness stand out, even amongst the great culture of care at Brown. Amani is an RHA, so she has you covered if you need to talk or even if you just need a cough drop. She is also a major foodie, and being from Houston means she knows the best places to get food in this awesome city. Above all, she is a great friend, always ready to support those around her. Get ready for an awesome O-Week with an incredible, wonderful person! -Claire Luo, Brown ’19

Anthony Tohme
Houston, TX
Advisor
Brown ‘19

For someone who loves sports as much as he does, you’d think Anthony Tohme spends his time outdoors, running around, seeking adventure. You’d be wrong, unless you consider his daily treks to North Servery and the Humanities Building ‘adventures’. This Political Science and History double-major loves Roman history so much, you could say he wears a toga of bed sheets for 40% of the day (the boy likes his sleep). Anthony is ready to welcome you into his family. He already has 2 triplet siblings here at Rice, and would love to make a video welcoming you into his historic clan (YouTube search “triplets at Rice” if you’re doubtful). A Houston heart through-and-through, this man loves the Rockets so much he grew The Beard on himself. Not to worry, though, there’s still room in his heart for you. Anthony is a self-deprecating, easy-going guy who makes everyone smile with the occasional sarcastic comment and pointed roasts. He’s of the smartest and sweetest guys we know, and if you’re his New Student, you’re in for an amazing first year. -Natalie Croitoru and Ev Kakadiaris, Brown ’19
Youssef Machkhas is a rising senior (who really knows what grade he’s in) who will be graduating with a major in Chemical Engineering and a minor in Energy and Water Sustainability…if he doesn’t sleep through his finals again. This University of Houston transfer truly embodies the meaning of “friendly giant.” He genuinely cares about people, and you can tell by his willingness to lend a helping hand (or his car) and his unwavering loyalty. You can find him trying “The World’s Strongest Coffee” or poppin’ pills (caffeine pills!). But he’ll never prioritize caffeine over his new students <3, so get ready for an awesome O-Week filled with endless (and I mean ENDLESS) jokes. -Eun-Bit Chang, Sid Rich ‘18

Anusha Gandhi
Katy, TX

advisor
Brown ‘20

Anusha is a rising sophomore, studying Kinesiology and livin’ that pre-med life. She is extremely motivated and hardworking - if you give her a request to draw a meme she will legit drop everything for you (so if you’re looking for some dank room decor, hit this girl up). A mix between Sleeping Beauty and Belle, she’s got the sleeping and studying balance down to a tee. Honestly, her time efficiency skills could save the entire nation of sleep deprived students. On top of that, she’s always willing to make time for others, so whether you just feel like screaming into a pillow or need someone to help you get your schedule and life together, she’ll be there to do it with you. If you were to play 2 truths 1 lie, she would always win with hidden facts about her that will keep you on your toes (like the fact that she never saw a single episode of Spongebob before coming to college). Also, you should be friends with her because she doesn’t like boba which means you will receive all of her free boba portions to have as your own. Anusha’s the kind of friend that will cheer you on through the last page of your essay but also try to distract you with food because she knows you need a break. With her as an Advisor, you’re sure to have an awesome O-Week and beyond!! -Jessy Feng, Brown ’20

Youssef Machkhas
Houston, TX

Co-Advisor
Sid Rich ‘18

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WHAT IS AN... AFFILIATE?

Affiliates fill a variety of roles in our O-Week team. An affiliate may come in the form of a Peer Academic Advisor, a Diversity Facilitator, or a photographer, just to name a few. The Affiliate in your group is just like an Advisor -- they have the same training and went through the same application process as your Advisors -- but they also have another role in addition to advising you. However, we also have affiliates on our team who are not part of O-Week groups but are still important resources for you during O-Week and beyond!

MEET YOUR O-WEEK PAAS

Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs) are students who volunteer their time to provide academic advice to others in their respective residential colleges. They are trained to offer accurate advice regarding academic rules, regulations, and procedures and know to ask an expert when they are not certain of an answer. They significantly increase advising availability and accessibility for new and returning students, at regular and extended hours throughout the year. Our O-Week PAAs, Stephanie, Mason, Niki, and Jessica, have been hard at work for months preparing to meet you and help you through the process of registering for classes, so make sure to consult with them as often as you need during registration -- not only do they know all kinds of tricks to make the process easier on you, they can also provide unique and personal perspectives that you might not find elsewhere.
MEET YOUR O-WEEK RHAS

RHAs are students who have been trained on a variety of wellbeing topics, such as mental health and physical wellbeing. These students work at their college to provide health education opportunities, health supplies and peer guidance. RHAs also act as a liaison between the Student Wellbeing Office and the residential colleges, staying up to date on campus-wide wellbeing programming. Our O-Week RHAs are Radhika and Amani, and they’ll be around during O-Week if you ever need anything -- they are a great resource if you’re feeling tired or homesick and just want someone to talk to, and they also carry kits with band-aids, cough drops, and other first-aid items! For more information about them, check out the “Wellbeing at Brown” section later in the book!

MEET YOUR STUDENT MAINTENANCE REPRESENTATIVE

The SMR’s role is to serve as a liaison between students and H&D (Housing and Dining). If anything breaks in your room (a light out, a faucet dripping, etc.), let Robyn know and she’ll take care of it! One of her major roles during O-Week and the beginning of the semester is lofting beds; when you get to Rice, you may want to change the height of your bed. If you decide to do so, contact Robyn and let her know what you need!
Rice is an open community, a place where freedom of expression is uncompromisingly protected and where civility is powerfully affirmed. We embrace diversity, and you will notice that amongst your fellow new students. We celebrate that you all come from different backgrounds, environments, beliefs, and traditions and value the educational experiences that come from living in a diverse community. We have to acknowledge, however, that the diverse community we prize at Rice may be new to many of you, so the Diversity Facilitators are here to help ensure that everyone feels welcome and valued as a new member of our community, and that our sense of civility towards each other is, indeed, shared and cherished.

Additionally, the facilitators are a great source of information on our plethora of cultural student organizations, cultural events on campus, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. On top of that, the facilitators are just really cool people. Our diversity facilitators this year are Ivan and Karen, and they can’t wait to get to know you!
Ivan Hurtado is actually one of the kindest souls you will ever meet. Not only does Ivan have one of the sweetest smiles and most carefree attitudes of anyone I know, but he’s also the perfect person to order Taco Bell with at two in the morning while doing homework in the commons. But don’t take his super sweet demeanor for granted; he will absolutely destroy you at ping pong, because he plays nearly every day (and is one of the few people who actually knows the rules). Beyond loving pursuing a major in Sociology and a minor in Statistics, he partakes in long binge-watching sessions of It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia and still, to his own frustration, cannot decide if his favorite Studio Ghibli movie is Spirited Away or Princess Mononoke. Did I mention he’s also environmentally conscious? You can find him working to make Brown activities more sustainable as a part of the Social Concerns Committee. Get ready for a fantastic O-Week, because you lucked out in landing this wonderful person as one of your Diversity Facilitators. -Lily Wulfemeyer, Brown ‘20

Karen Qi is one of the most interesting people I’ve met. Upon entering the sixth floor of Fondren Library, you’ll notice dozens of students laboring away at their problem sets and papers…and one girl…taking Buzzfeed quizzes? That’s Karen! Just like Buzzfeed quizzes, she can be silly or surprisingly deep: whether you’re seeking an intellectual conversation about diversity or looking to hear about her daily embarrassing moment(s) to boost your self-esteem, she’s here for you. When she’s not taking personality quizzes, you’ll find her studying Cognitive Science and Business, doing health psychology research at the BRC, performing on the Rice Owls Dance Team, tutoring as a Hanszen Gen Chem Fellow, coaching high school debate, and planning what she’s going to eat at her next meal. Last but not least, she loves dogs, and she has a dog whose name is Dogbama (like Obama, sorry to get all political). Much like her desire to meet every dog in existence, she also hopes to meet all the new students and make their O-Week experience amazing! -Reagan Borick, Brown ‘20
Throughout the week, you’ll see Ana Paula floating around and capturing photos of some of the memorable moments of O-Week. These photos will come to represent some of your favorite memories from your time at Rice, so make sure to say hi and smile for the camera!

One of Brown’s favorite O-Week traditions is the O-Week video. During the week, don’t be surprised to find Robyn videoing some of the crazier things we do -- at the end of the week, everything will be compiled into an amazing video, and Robyn’s the one to do it!

Gophers are super important to making O-Week run smoothly. They do behind-the-scenes work to make sure that everything you and the advisors need during O-Week (ex. Food, crafting supplies) is taken care of. Our gophers, Ashley and Nicole, are Advisors, but don’t be surprised to see them running around to take care of various things during O-Week!
ASK ME ABOUT...

Do you want to make your Advisor’s day? Ask them about something they do! The Advising team has a diverse set of interests and experiences, and we want you to know about them so that you can find your path and explore your interests at Rice. Ask your Advisors about the items below. It will make them very happy!

**Adam Bender:** Economics, History, CLIC Spanish Certificate, Track and Field (Decathlon), Brown Gardening Initiative, Black Male Leadership Initiative, board games, watching NBA basketball, playing sports

**Adam Krupinski:** Civil and Environmental Engineering, Sociology Minor, CCL (Houston Action Research Team, ASB), Jones Court and Government, Impact, summer study abroad for a month; CEVE clubs, Student Admissions Council, adjusting to Rice from a high school with different academic expectations, racquetball, navigating Houston using public buses, cheap authentic food near Rice, non-fiction, Jones

**Akshat Patel:** Sociology, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Pre-Med, Impact, Beer Bike, Academic Fellow, Intercollegiate Committee, BIOC 385 TA, NSCI 120 TA, CHEM 212 Grader, Brown Government, Houston Rockets, Research, Tour Guide, how to get to the nearest Taco Bell (and the second closest), Hanszen

**Alex Du:** Electrical Engineering, Financial Computation and Modeling Minor, PAA, SHElecs (Women in Electrical engineering), IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), academic mentor, research on campus, summer internships, scrap booking, reading, tennis, Student Association, Rice Solar House, late night baking, Baker

**Amani Ramiz:** Cognitive Sciences, Medical Humanities Minor, Pre-Med, Psychology research, Catalyst, RHA, CSA, Natural Science Magazine, KTRU, SAS, Urban Immersion, Neuroscience research, Project Rousseau, Culturals committee, U-Court Representative, Brown Government, Student Admissions Council, IM Sports, Center for Civic Leadership, summer classes and transferring credit, painting, piano

**Ameesh Shah:** Computer Science, Statistics, Student Association Treasurer, COMP and Data Science Research, COMP 182 TA, PAA, RPC, Jones Government, Academic Fellow, Alternative Spring Break, IM and College Sports, NBA, cooking, Jones

**Ana Paula Pinto-Diaz:** English, VADA, Politics, Law, and Social Thought Minor (?), Pre-law (?), Brown Government, Thresher, R2, art at Rice, Brown Gardening Initiative, powderpuff, IM sports, Humane Society, being undecided, Español, singing, playing guitar, photography, film, reading & writing, museums

**Anthony Tohme:** History, Political Science, Pre-Law, Alumni Relations Committee, Sports Committee, IM and College sports, Rice Historical Review, history research, reading, Houston sports, FIFA, Lebanese food

**Anusha Gandhi:** Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Kinesiology, Neuroscience Minor (?), Pre-Med, research in the med center, research at the Baker Institute, changing your major, Century Scholars, Rice/Baylor BS/MD, Houston food, Rice Pre-Med Society, Science Olympiad Alumni Association, Rice Program Council, Global Brigades, IM sports

**Arturo Guzman:** Mechanical Engineering, Rice Crew, video games, meme lover, afternoon naps, mariachi, karaoke, billiards, soccer (Barcelona fan), HACER, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), first generation, learning Korean

**Ashley Fite:** Psychology, Policy Studies (?), Pre-Grad (?), Torque (women’s club ultimate frisbee), IM and College sports, Brown Associates Coordinator, Nancy’s mail fairy, Brown committees, Psychology research, Tour Guide, Student Admissions Council, games, Broadway
Brennan Han: Computer Science, College Government, Student Success Initiatives & First Year Programs, Undecided Life Freshman Year, Starting COMP Sophomore year, Office of STEM Engagement, New Life Fellowship, film, FIFA, basketball, International School, giving hugs

Christina Mezmur: Mechanical Engineering, Business Minor (?), NSBE, RASA, Baker Powderpuff, Permanent Improvements, Doerr Institute, concerts, Baker

Claudia Middleton: English, VADA (Studio Art), Beer Bike, ROPE, museums, exploring, painting, being undecided, Sid Rich OC Floor Representative, Sid Rich

Danielle Manahan: Psychology; Philosophy; Pre-Law; Coffeehouse; Camp Kesem; Homecoming; Beer Bike; graduating early; psychology research; Law, Justice, & Society Scholars Program; Academic Fellow; College Night; Brown Government; Baker

Deeksha Madala: Biochemistry, Neuroscience, Bhangra, Neuroscience research at Baylor, High School Tutor, Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees, PAA, COMP 130 TA, BIOC 311 TA, College Night, Brown Sports Committee, college sports, Senior Events Committee, study abroad, Hanszen

Drew Keller: Bioengineering, CLIC Spanish Certificate, Thresher, bioengineering student advisory board, various Brown positions, KTRU, being undecided, switching from social sciences to engineering, road trips, hiking

Elizabeth Goodnight: Mechanical Engineering, RCEL Certificate, Brown Chief Justice, RHA, working at Wellbeing, Society of Women Engineers (Conference Chair), American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Student Admissions Council, PAA, Powderpuff, inner tube water polo, Beer Bike (biking), McMurtry

Erin Rawls: Policy Studies, Linguistics, Sociology Minor, Pre-Grad, Coffeehouse, Baker Institute Student Forum, Student Admissions Council (Lunch Host), Center for Civic Leadership (CCL), Student Association, Seibel Servery, changing my major weekly, podcasts, exploring Houston

Eugenio Mesta: Mechanical Engineering, Rice Bikes, Quad Committee, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), Rice Lads (Men’s club soccer team), mechanical engineering research, watching European soccer, sports, Will Rice

Eun-Bit Chang: Psychology; Spanish; Pre-Law; Law, Justice, & Society Scholars Program; Transfer Student; Psi Chi; Legalese; Transfer Student Association; Rice Owls Dance Team; Study Abroad; Sid Rich

Frances Williamson: History, Biochemistry and Cell Biology Minor, Pre-Vet, Academic Fellow, Beer Bike, CCF, Habitat for Humanity, Brown Theater, Culture of Care Committee, late night food expert, tennis, IM and College sports

Gabrielle Humphrey: Sociology, Policy Studies, Poverty Justice & Human Capabilities Minor, KTRU, RWRC, Beer Bike, Doerr Institute, switching from Pre-Med, exploring, concerts, meme connoisseur

Grace Wickerson: Student Association, non-profits, Kickin’ Violence, start-ups, Solver Labs, Liu Idea Lab Fellowship, Environmental Committee, Brown Gardening Initiative, Brown College Eco-Rep and Resident Vegan, Brown Where We Care Committee, Queer Resource Center, Rice360, ENGI 120, Design for America, Out in STEM, Biomaterials Research at the BRC, REU Student at Duke

Hannah Whitney: Chemistry, Pre-Med, Chi Alpha, Zumba, IM and College Sports, pretending to like running, ITYTWATFIC, H&D Appreciation Committee, baking, The Spurs, ping-pong, violin, arts n’ crafts

Taylor Morin: Mathematical Economic Analysis, Policy Studies, Financial Computation and Modeling Minor (?), probably Pre-MBA, student government (Brown and Student Association), Social Science research, passionate about environment & climate change & renewable energy, Culturals committee, college football, barbecue, coffee
Ivan Hurtado: Sociology, Statistics Minor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Minor (?), Brown Social Concerns: Environmental Committee, Thresher, Diversity Facilitator, HACER, Doerr Institute, changing major, first generation, Campanile Orchestra

Izzy Patten: Sociology, Policy Studies, Pre-Law, taking a semester off, American Association of University Women (AAUW), Beer Bike, Social Coordinator, Brown Government, Independent Research, Community Bridges, Center for Civic Leadership, summer Study Abroad, off-campus life, changing majors late in the game

Jared Beshai: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (BS), Psychology, Music committee, Events committee, Beer Bike (biking), Brown Gardening Initiative (The Leafy Greens), IM and College sports, Biology research


Karen Qi: Cognitive Science, Business Minor (?), Pre-Med, Academic Fellow, Diversity Facilitator, Rice Owls Dance Team, psychology/psychiatry research, Student Association committee, high school debate coach, snowboarding, Hanszen

Khalid Yusuf: Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, IM and College sports, foosball, superhero TV shows, FIFA, Overwatch

Kyle Bartsch: Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Earth Science, Business minor, Jones Treasurer, entrepreneur, DIY projects, video games, road trips, ping pong, pool, wrestling, making memes, board games, horticulture, smelting in my backyard

Latané Bullock: Electrical Engineering, Linguistics, French (?), gap year, IM Sports, Beer Bike (biking), traveling, Student Association, cloud9 club frisbee, ENGI 120, long-distance running, skiing and snowboarding, piano for non-majors, guitar, photography, Lovett

Maryam Elizondo: Bioengineering, Global Health Technology Minor (?), Pre-Med or Pre-Grad, HACER, STRIVE, Texans for Climate Change Action, National Society of Black Engineers, Rice African Student Association, research at Miller Lab, iGem (synthetic biology competition), Rice Student Volunteer Program, Spotify, sushi, photography, Rice MedHum club, biomedical engineering society

Mason Tannenbaum: Physics (BA), Mathematical Economic Analysis, PAA, Rice Rec Center, IM and College sports, Beer Bike (biking), Rice Finance Club

Matthew Miller: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, History, Pre-Med, on-campus biology lab, EBIO 202 TA, hiking, camping, video games, fantasy & sci-fi books, board games, the Rockets, being undecided

Natalie Zur: Political Science, History, Sport Management, Pre-Law, Rice Speech & Debate Team, Brown College Court, Brown Events Committee, Brown Music Committee, Social Coordinator, Student Association, Boston sports teams

Nick Wolf: Mechanical Engineering, engineering clubs, ENGI 120, OEDK, American Society Mechanical Engineers, Baker College positions, IM sports, Baker

Nicole Jaiyesimi: Statistics, Business Minor, CLIC Spanish Certificate, switching from Computer Science Major, Tapia Center for Excellence and Equity, IM and College Sports, Empowering Leadership Alliance (ELA) Program, Beer Bike (biking), Black Student Association (BSA), Rice African Student Association (RASA), National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE), RESP, Student Admissions Council, fashion, Rec classes

Niki Parekh: Economics, Managerial Studies, Business Minor, PAA, Academic Fellows, Campanile Yearbook, on-campus jobs, crafting/painting, Student Admissions Council
Prinon Shahed: Cognitive Science, Biochemistry and Cell Biology minor, Pre-Med, Rice Student Volunteer Program, Outreach Day, Center for Civic Leadership, Rice Alliance for Mental Health Awareness, Rice Neuroscience Society, Rice Medical Humanities Club, Rice Red Cross Club, Center for Health and Biosciences at the Baker Institute, RWRC, finding research opportunities, astronomy

Rachel Carlton: Materials Science and NanoEngineering, Energy and Water Sustainability Minor, MSNE Undergraduate Society, Brown Sports Committee, IM and College Sports, Beer Bike (biking), Habitat for Humanity, soccer (let's go Barça)

Radhika Sharma: Economics, Asian Studies, Coffeehouse, Rice Entrepreneurship Club, RHA, RWRC, Rice Moneythink, studying and interning abroad, Food and Culturals committee, changing majors, yoga & meditation, podcasts, cooking, exploring Houston food


Rakesh Vijayakumar: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, RCEL Certificate, Food and Intercollegiate committee, Engineering research, Fondren Library, Rice Undergraduate Biodiesel Initiative

Robyn Maddux: Sociology, VADA, Business Minor, Chi Alpha member, Kitchen Tsar, ITYTWATFIC Enthusiast, photography, videography, cooking, baking, arts n’ crafts, reading

Santi Avila: Biological Sciences, Pre-Med, College President, Beer Bike, Student Association, BIOC 211 TA, research in the Medical Center, Student Admissions Council, soccer, Colombia


Stephanie Zhao: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Biochemistry and Cell Biology Minor, Pre-Med, Rice Program Council, Rice Vietnamese Student Association, PAA, volunteering at Texas Children’s Hospital, Rice Alumni in Medicine mentorship program, Student Admissions Council, EBIO research, Rice Pre-Med Society, Brown College Events Committee, Brown College Spirit Committee, Rice Firsts, Camp Kesem, first generation, dance classes

Whitney Gartenberg: Bioengineering, RCEL Certificate, Global Health Technology Minor (?), Tour Guide, Global Medical Brigades, IM and College Sports, Rice Coalition against Hunger and Homelessness, tissue engineering & drug delivery research, ENGI 120, taking summer classes and transferring credits to Rice, running, St. Louis Baseball, reading

Youssef Machkhas: Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Environmental Engineering (BA), Energy and Water Sustainability Minor, Transfer Student, Rice All-Stars, END7, Hip Hop Club, IM and College sports, Sid Social, Rapping, Overwatch, Pub Night Coordinator, College Night Coordinator, Beer Bike, IT, French Tutor, Sports Writer, considered switching majors, places to get late night food, Sid Rich

Zach Hutchings: Sport Management, Business, Pre-Law, Brown Social Committee, IM sports, Willy’s Pub, Rice Men’s Basketball Video Coordinator, Rice sporting events
THE WAIT

As former new students, we know just how excruciating the wait to finally arrive at Rice can be. From checking every single notification on the various Rice-affiliated social media accounts to shredding open every envelope from your soon-to-be school, there will never be a comparison to having to patiently wait until summer comes to end. Our advice to you as your O-Week Coordinators is this: relax, have fun with your friends, spend extra time with your family, and lastly, remember that a bunch of people you have never met before (probably) are so excited for you to arrive too!!!

We’ve been working nonstop since January and our team has been with us since April. And we’ll be honest with all of you reading this -- you are in for an absolute blast! From the moment you arrive on campus, people will know you by name and will be completely ready to become some of your greatest friends. So don’t worry about having personal connections; we’ve got you covered.

As both a cross campus and Brown-specific team of Coordinators, we have been training each other to address all sorts of problems and questions in order to provide you with all the information you’ll need to begin life here at Rice. We want to be the best resources for you that we can possibly be! We’ve also been planning all of the themes, events, activities, etc. that will go into our current (and future) O-Weeks!

In the meantime, we want you to have access to any resources you want to explore before come to Rice. It’s not necessary that you look at them, but they are ways to learn more if you would like to!

Brown College website: brown.rice.edu
Rice General Announcements: ga.rice.edu
List of majors and programs at Rice: www.rice.edu/majors-programs
List of courses offered at Rice: courses.rice.edu
Registrar’s office: registrar.rice.edu

We’ve got so much in store for you all, so get ready to be welcomed with open arms when you get here. Despite the waiting, our Brown family will soon be together. <3
GENERAL INFORMATION
Welcome to Brown! This is your new address at Brown College. You can get mail and packages sent here, and you will have your own mailbox and key. You can also have packages sent here before you move-in, but try to send them as close to O-Week as possible, so we don’t get overrun with items!

GPS/Mailing Address:

Your Name
9 Sunset Blvd
Houston, TX 77005
GETTING TO BROWN

By Car

From the West on I-10 East:
Take 610 South to 59 North and exit at Greenbriar. Follow Greenbriar and turn left at Rice Boulevard. Follow until it becomes Sunset Blvd. Turn into Gate 27B.

From the North on US-59 South:
Take the Fannin Street exit and travel south on Fannin until you reach Sunset Boulevard. Take a right on Sunset and turn into Gate 27B.

From the East on I-10 West:
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 turn into Gate 27B.

From the South on US-59 North:
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 into Gate 27B.

By Plane

George Bush Intercontinental Airport:
Supershuttle (713-523-8888 or supershuttle.com) provides services to and from Intercontinental and fare is $27. The shuttle departs every 30 minutes beginning at 6:10 a.m. and takes 45 minutes to an hour. The express will take you to a Holiday Inn in the Medical Center (about five minutes from Rice). Normal Supershuttle can be requested to stop at Rice. Another option is Uber. Depending on what time of day you arrive, an Uber will cost around $30, and can be called at any time. Let us know if you want a promo code!

Hobby Airport:
The Airport Express also runs to the Medical Center and also leaves every 30 minutes starting at 6:10am. The fare is $20 and will take 30-45 minutes. Supershuttle is also available at Hobby Airport and costs around $20. Another option is Uber. Depending on what time of day you arrive, an Uber will cost around $20 as well, and can be called at any time. Let us know if you want a promo code!

Note: For Supershuttle, you can use promo code OWLS1 and get a discount!
If your family would like to stay in Houston for a bit before or after they drop you off at Brown, the Texas Medical Center is conveniently across the street from Rice and houses various hotels just a short walking distance from campus. Here are a few:

**MARRIOTT – HOUSTON MEDICAL CENTER**
6850 Fannin St.
713-796-0080
www.marriot.com

**WYNDHAM HOUSTON (MEDICAL CENTER)**
6800 Main St.
713-528-7744
www.holidayinn.com

**RESIDENCE INN HOUSTON MEDICAL CENTER/RELIANT PARK**
7710 South Main St.
713-660-7993

**EXTENDED STAY AMERICA**
1301 Braeswood Blvd
713-794-0800
extendedstayamerica.com

**HILTON HOUSTON PLAZA/MEDICAL CENTER**
6633 Travis St.
713-313-4000
www.hilton.com

**BEST WESTERN PLAZA HOTEL & SUITES AT MEDICAL CENTER**
6700 South Main St.
713-522-2811
www.bestwesterntexas.com

**MOTEL 6**
9911 Buffalo Speedway
713-668-8082
www.motel6.com
BANKING

Though it is useful to already have a bank account prior to Move-In, we can definitely assist students in opening an account at whatever branch they need. If you are looking to take care of finances before or during O-Week, here are the banks closest to Rice:

**Bank of America:** 1025 Holcombe Blvd 409-202-3002 M-Th: 9am-4pm, Friday 9am-5pm

**Wells Fargo:** 6651 Main #370 St. 713-285-2780 M-Th: 9am-4pm, Friday 9am-5pm

**Chase**: 6560 Fannin St. 713-795-7312 M-F: 8am-5pm

**Compass Bank:** 2401 University Blvd. 713-867-1111 M-Th: 9am-4pm, Fri: 9am-6pm, Sat: 9am-12pm

*Note: Chase Bank is the only bank with ATMs on-campus at Rice, located in Fondren Library and the RMC. These ATMs also allow for check-depositing.*

Additionally, one of the major ways students transfer money on campus is through the Venmo app: it can be attached to any bank account, and allows students to pay one another quickly and securely using only a smartphone (and it is becoming very popular). If you have any questions or concerns about this, please ask us!
IMPORTANT: Tag ALL of your bags, boxes, and general stuff with your **name and room number** (some duct tape and a sharpie works well for this). Your O-Week Advisors will be moving everything in for you, so they’ll need to know where to take your bags.

Get some sleep the night before! We know you’re excited (and maybe a little nervous -- we definitely were!) but O-Week is long and can be tiring in addition to being super fun.

We’ll contact you soon with more specifics (exactly what time to arrive, etc.) -- please pay close attention to everything. Trust that we’re giving you everything you need to know!

We’re here to direct you every step of the way (really, when you get to Brown we’ll have lines on the ground for you to follow), so if you have any questions at any point, just let us know!

We’ll have a time window in which you can move in -- while it’s helpful to arrive early so that you have time to unpack before O-Week begins, you may not move in early unless you are a specific student population advised to do so; if you arrive at any point before your assigned move-in time, you will not be allowed into the building. If this is an issue, please let us know as soon as possible.
On the morning of August 13, you will move into Brown College and officially start your career at Rice! The time and specific directions will be given to you as the day comes closer because the Rice Administration sanctions times for each residential college to move-in. Please be aware that coming early will not benefit you because the Advising team will be busy working on final preparations and you will not be able to enter the college until the official time.

When you get to Brown (Entrance 27B), you will see a lot of excited Advisors waiting for you there, ready to help move your things up to your room. Drive up into the Circle Drive on the right, and we will unload your stuff for you (make sure it is properly labelled with your name and room number)! Meanwhile, you should check-in in Vator Lobby. One person needs to stay with your car because once your car is empty, they will need to move it immediately to West Lot in order to allow other students to unload. There will be a shuttle to bring them back to Brown so they can help start setting up your room!

Much more detailed information on move-in will be provided closer to O-Week, so don’t worry if these basic instructions don’t answer all your questions at this point.

After you are settled in, we’ll take a break for brunch and reception in the Brown Commons. This will be a chance for you and your family to meet your Advising team and fellow classmates. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the excellent food! Once 1:00 pm arrives, New Families Orientation begins. At this point, your parents will hear from the Brown Magisters and have a Q&A session with our Resident Associates, while you will be swept away by your Advisors. Give your parents and family huge hugs before this, because this will be the last opportunity you will get to say goodbye.
Welcome to college! This transition is going to be a huge one for you, and a big part of that is your new housing. To make sure you come prepared (and don’t overpack too much) we’ve compiled a checklist of things you might need! Although rooms at Brown are pretty big (by college standards, anyway), space is limited so make sure you talk to your roommate to determine who’s bringing which big ticket items so you don’t end up with two fridges, two futons, two TVs (if you want to bring these), etc. Keep in mind that this is just a general suggested list; it doesn’t encompass everything you might ever need here, but you also might not need every single item on the list.

Note that the entire Tower, where you will be living, is being renovated as you read this. When you arrive, there will be completely new furniture, flooring, lighting, etc. We are extremely excited for this and hope you are too! Each room also has one vanity with a drawer, a large mirror and lights for getting ready. There’s also some space for additional furniture such as futons, mini fridges, tables, or anything else you can fit. As for laundry, we have lots of washers and dryers in the Brown basement, and you can use them for free! No quarters necessary.

Visit campushousing.rice.edu for more information on general university housing policies or reach out to us for Brown specific questions!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Brown provides (per room):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ 2 beds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 2 desks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 2 chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 2, 3-drawer dressers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 2 closets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 2 trash cans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ 1 vanity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Items (depends on study habits):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Paper and notebooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Pens, pencils, highlighters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Stapler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Calculator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Backpack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Computer / Laptop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Index cards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Room Items:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Alarm clock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Pillow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ extra-long twin sheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ comforter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ blanket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ mattress pad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Desk lamp (there are built-in ones underneath the shelves but you may want additional light)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Iron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Clothes hangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Storage boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Plates, bowls, cups, flatware, food storage items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clothing:
- Dress clothes (at least for Matriculation on the first day!)
- Pajamas and slippers
- Umbrella, rain jacket, rain boots (It rains here. A lot.)
- Sweaters! (It can get cold, believe it or not)
- Socks and underwear
- Shoes (including shower shoes -- cheap flip flops work just fine)*
- Casual clothes*
*Make sure to bring at least one pair of shoes and clothes that can get dirty!

Laundry Items:
- Laundry basket
- High-efficiency detergent
- Fabric softener
- Dryer sheets

Personal Items:
- Pain relievers
- Cold medicine
- Allergy medication
- First aid kit
- Shower caddy
- Towels and washcloths
- Bathrobe
- Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, razors, etc.)
- Sun block
- Sunglasses

Other (Optional, but be sure to coordinate with your roommate!):
- Stereo/speaker system
- MP3 player/iPod, headphones
- Mini-fridge
- Bean bags, comfy chairs, futons
- Bike
- Television, DVD player, HDMI cables
REMINDERS

If you forget something, don’t stress! There’s a shopping shuttle that runs from Rice to Target every Saturday, so the longest you’d have to wait is a week. If it’s important, you’ll have a little time during O-Week to pick up the essentials.

Follow Rice First Year Programs on Facebook in order to stay updated on deadlines for forms and other important due dates!!

For Brown-specific O-Week updates, follow us on Instagram (picassoweek).

As O-Week Coordinators, we are here to help you, so please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. You can email us at brownoweek@rice.edu or call us (numbers in our bios).

BROWN AWAITS YOU
WHAT IS A....

MAGISTER

A Magister is a tenured professor, and his or her family take on this position and live in a house adjacent to the residential college. As a representative of the college, they often interface with other departments around Rice on behalf of Brown. Magisters also help promote a variety of cultural and intellectual interests among the students and aim to help young professionals. They became Magisters because they take a strong interest in student wellbeing here at Rice. If you run into academic trouble, concerns with your roommate, or just need advice, our Magisters are a great resource to turn to. As the adult heads of the college, they are wonderful people to connect to and form relationships with as you begin your time here at Brown College.

RESIDENT ASSOCIATE

The RAs (Resident Associates) are faculty and staff who live among the college students at Brown. Even though they are considered authority figures by the administration, they are very friendly and are always happy to help you. The RAs are not here to make sure your do your homework or go to bed on time. Instead, they are another integral part of the Brown support system. With study breaks and cookouts, the RAs put forth a lot of effort into making sure you feel welcome and comfortable in your new home. Like Magisters, RAs are a great resource to turn to for any kind of academic, professional, or social issue you may run into, and they’ll be living amongst us in Brown’s Tower and Quads. They’ll be excited to get to know you when you get here, so make sure to stop by and say hi!

COLLEGE COORDINATOR

The College Coordinator helps with all sorts of things around each College. They typically work in the office 9-5. They gather your mail and packages, help you mail things out, assist in housing, and can connect you to resources around Rice. College Coordinators are a great resource because they see so many people and are able to help you find what you need. If you ever have any question about something, feel free to ask them. Or just go to their offices to hang out!
José and I have been at Rice over 20 years. We have taught courses, been academic advisors for majors, written articles and books, directed undergraduate theses and doctoral dissertations, and been Magisters previously at Baker and Duncan Colleges. We are both faculty members in the English Department. Krista is also associated with the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. José recently finished an extended term as Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. He continues to be Director of the Latin American Studies major. We’ve raised two sons, Benito and Jesse. Benito just graduated from Rice as a History and Latin American Studies double major. He did a semester study abroad in Rio de Janeiro and was very active in Baker College. Jesse enters Rice as a first year student this fall, having completed a gap year in Ecuador in the countryside town of San Juan. He is still deciding on a major. I’m originally from Pueblo, Colorado, and grew up mainly in California. I have four sisters, mostly living in the Bay Area now, as is my mother, and nieces and nephews there, as well as here in Houston. We go out to California often. José was born and raised here in Houston. His parents and sister and brothers are frequent visitors to campus, especially around holidays. Next year will be our fifth year as Magisters at Brown, and we look forward to enjoying the renovations in Brown’s Tower that are happening now! There’s so much more to say about everything, so many amazing things just around the corner, but we’ll leave that for O-Week and beyond. So enjoy your summer and we’ll see you soon. Krista & José
Greetings incoming class of 2021! My name is Hunter and since you will be living somewhere in the tower this year, you will know me as the keeper of first floor. Believe it or not, I myself was a Brownie at one time and am happy to tell you all my old Brown stories in an exaggerated old man voice at any time. Originally from Iowa (go Hawks!) I moved back to Houston four years ago and last year I finished up my first year as a Brown RA. I’m excited to see what year two has in store!

I am a professional musician who has safely found employment in the confines of the ivory tower of academia. My position at Rice is “Chamber Music Coordinator” at the Shepherd School of Music. I basically manage and coordinate all students in the music school who are registered for chamber music each semester and, along with the music faculty, place them into string quartets, piano trios, etc. while also coordinating performances, lectures, masterclasses, and other items that occur each semester.

I am a double bass player, so when I am not doing my day job, I am usually playing gigs around Houston with various ensembles including the ballet and opera orchestras and doing a little teaching on the side. If I am not doing that, I am usually at home practicing, listening to music, reading about dead composers, cooking, or walking my dog Griffin (note: you will see me doing this most often).

Griffin and I are always up for hanging out when you need a break from studying and I am usually pretty reliable if you need a cup of flour or sugar (my apartment is next to the Brown communal kitchen). I will have several study breaks throughout the semester where I look forward to getting to know you!
THE RA’S

Jordan and Amber Szymczyk

We are Jamber (the artists formerly known as Jordan and Amber), 2 of your RAs (Resident Artists) at Brown. We live in the 4th floor quads apartment in #444 (a very symmetrical number) with our 3 cats, Leonard, Sheldon, and Penny. You can read more about the cats and their automatisms on their bio page.

As for us, we’re both big geeks, and although we sometimes defy classification, you might say that Amber is of the chemistry and K-drama variety while Jordan is of the computer variety. Amber works on campus as Assistant Director of Chemistry in the Rice Office of STEM Engagement. She also works for the Chao Center for Asian Studies as their Web Publication Coordinator. Jordan has gone back to school to finish his undergraduate and is currently working on a degree in Computer Science at Rice. You can say he’s a 3D virtual artist because he’s spent the past two summers developing for VR. We also love to travel! We’ve been as far south as Antarctica, as far north as Alaska, but are still missing the continents of Africa and Australia (hopefully one day soon!).

Every week we host a study break at our place where everyone eats ice cream and watches YouTube videos submitted by fellow Brownies that we curate into an immersive, interactive, and most of the time slightly disturbing hour-long audio-visual modern art piece. We call it “I Tube You Tube We All Tube For Ice Cream” or ITYTWATFIC for short. The brownie sundaes are also things of artistic beauty. You can help by sending your favorite YouTube videos to wealltubeforicecream@gmail.com. But ITYTWATFIC isn’t the only time students are found hanging out in our apartment; in fact, feel free to come over any time. If our blinds are open, then we’re home and would love for you to come visit, whether to talk, pet the cats, or merely to touch our fuzzy Star Wars wallpaper.

We are so excited to meet you. You’re going to love it here!

P.S. This is how we became RAs five years ago... goo.gl/gZW9I
Welcome to Brown. I’m Nancy and I am the Brown College Coordinator (more affectionately known as the Office Goddess). From that, I hope you can figure out that I am not your basic stuffy administrative type. My office is on the first floor of the Brown quad wing and my hours because the administration likes to think I work regular hours) are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. My office is right next to the mailboxes and it’s also a great place in which to procrastinate but don’t be intimidated by the regulars. Come in and mark your territory early.

As a 25+ year Rice employee and a long time resident of Houston, I am a wealth of information both useful and useless. I promise that together we can research an answer, an address, a source, a location, or a phone number for almost anything. Along with this information and lots of half baked advice, I can provide you with many necessary things ranging from class locations to bandaids, registration information to packages from home, postage stamps to rantings about random injustices, and tylenol to sympathy. As you can see from this brief description of my position, you need to get to know the College Coordinator. If I haven’t convinced you already let me just add that I am in charge of your mail. You know all those pink scented envelopes from significant others and care packages from Mom and Dad? Speaking of packages, feel free to ship boxes to the college prior to your arrival but please send them as close to your arrival date as possible so I don’t have to live in an office full of boxes all summer. Just send them to your name and the Brown College address.

Feel free to call or come by the college office during the summer if you’re around and you and/or your parents have any questions not answered by this book or you just want a sneak preview of the college. The phone number is (713) 348-4662, my email address is brown@rice.edu. Till then I look forward to meeting you and hope you enjoy the rest of your summer.
HOUSING AND DINING

Over summer, we’re starting Phase 2 of our Tower Renovations. When you get to Brown on August 13th, you’ll be moving into a tower with brand-new rooms, furniture, and lobbies, as well as a host of other updates. Brad Thacker and Anzie Gillmore are in charge of the project, so you’ll probably see them around the tower and at Cabinet meetings.

Brad is our Senior Operations Manager, meaning that he is in charge of all H&D operations, like the servery or building renovations, for all North colleges.

Anzie is the project manager for the tower renovations, and she works with a committee of students to make sure that the renovations reflect the interests of Brownies.

Some of the most important people at Rice University are the Housing and Dining (H&D) staff! From cleaning, cooking, and general housekeeping, the H&D staff are the true backbone of Rice University and it’s because of them that our campus looks so beautiful and our food is top ranked. During your time at Brown College and Rice University, don’t be afraid to say hello or to strike up a conversation with any of the H&D staff! They are some of the most friendly people on campus, and their work can never be appreciated enough. You might even find yourself working with H&D over your time at Brown as the Student Maintenance Rep or on the Staff Appreciation committee.

The campus wide Housing and Dining Office is located in the house just south of Baker, the same building as the Rice Bikes center. You can also visit them at housng.rice.edu for more information. dining.rice.edu is also great to check the menu at all the serveries each day!
ASSOCIATES

Rice’s Associates are Rice faculty, staff, and Houston community members that want to have a strong connection to the residential colleges but do not reside on campus like the RAs or Magisters. At Brown, our associates include professors, an RUPD officer, Rice Admissions staff, a track coach, and a construction enthusiast who built Brown the world’s greatest Beer Bike chug tower, just to name a few!

The reason why we have the associate program is because forming a connection with these professionals will be extremely valuable throughout your college career and beyond. Our associates provide a tremendous opportunity for networking and sage advice on your career and life that will be invaluable to you. While it can be hard to approach professionals for these things, Associates apply to Brown because they want to get to know the students and help however they can.

To facilitate making these relationships, Brown has an Associates Committee that plans events to integrate associates with the college and students further. Events range from informal servery lunches to dinners at associates’ houses to career panels. A particular favorite event is the biannual Associates Night, where the whole college dresses up in formal attire and joins the associates in the commons for a night of feasting and entertainment.

The Associates Program is something incredibly unique to Rice, and it’s something we should take full advantage of. Our associates have been carefully chosen to come participate in our community and they’re all wonderful people. So, if you see someone older sit down at your table at Brown during meals, introduce yourself! Getting to know your associates will benefit you not only as a college student, but each conversation helps prepare you for the world beyond.
As you attend study breaks and Brown events, IM sports tournaments and public parties, meeting the 300+ people that constitute Brown, you might start to wonder how such a large group of students manage to stick together and execute plans with minimal outside help (and often few precedents or resources).

The answer is the Brown Government. There are dozens of official positions at Brown, some of which are elected and others who are chosen by the Executive Cabinet. The Executive Cabinet (E.C.) is made up of all the members of the Cabinet (except the floor representatives), and they oversee the other positions at Brown, making sure everything runs smoothly by meeting once a week to discuss any issues or initiatives at Brown, or Rice-wise that affect Brown. The E.C. holds meetings that are open to the college once a week in the Magister’s house. Every other week, the E.C. holds Cabinet, full of delicious food and usually themed (like roommate reversal, Saint Patrick’s Day, and Coachella to name a few), where every student can come and give their feedback, bring up concerns, and vote on the variety of issues that the E.C. handles. Examples of some of these things are the contents of the Brown housing rules, Bylaws and Constitutional changes, representation of the Brown community in the campus-wide Student Association, how best to apply Student Association resolutions at Brown, and, most important, how best to use the $40,000+ Brown budget to make Brown even more awesome!

Below are some important people to know in the Brown Government:

**PRESIDENT:**
Santiago Avila

**INTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT:**
Brennan Han

**EXTERNAL VICE PRESIDENT:**
Robyn Torregrosa

**SECRETARY:**
Ana Paula Pinto

**TREASURER:**
Jack Weis

**NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:**
This could be you!

**SA SENATOR:**
Grace Wickerson

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:**
Izzy Patten

**CHIEF OF STAFF:**
Avesh Krishna

**CHIEF JUSTICE:**
Elizabeth Goodnight

**FLOOR REPRESENTATIVES:**
Each floor has a representative who is elected at the beginning of the year to represent that floor in Cabinet.
My fellow Brownies,

On behalf of all of Brown College, I am thrilled to welcome you to the BEST residential college at Rice! As you will soon find out, Brown is a special place to all who are part of it. We are counting down the days to your arrival in August.

The residential college experience plays a huge role in making Rice an incredible place to study, live, and grow. Within Brown, you’ll harbor some of your closest friendships and develop connections with students, professors, alumni, and associates of the college. Your college reaches far beyond a residence; it serves as a hub of innovation, leadership, and creativity. It’s a home and a family. The key to making the residential college system and Rice such a formative experience is student initiative and governance. During our time here, Rice places us (the students) in the driver’s seat. From academics, to student life, to campus safety, and even discipline – we take a pretty significant role in the decision-making. Much of this decision-making takes place at the college level.

Within Brown, I work with a group of people called the Executive Cabinet and the college A-team (Magisters, RAs, and College Coordinator) to ensure the smooth-sailing of the college. Outside of Brown, I work very closely with the other student leaders and Rice administrators like Dean Hutch to tackle issues that affect the greater campus community. My duty is to represent the values and best interests of Brown in campus-wide meetings with them.

Because of this vast independence (and the generous budget that goes along with it), I encourage you to make the most of your time here by getting involved at Brown. Whether you decide to join one of our 20+ committees, make a proposal to fund an initiative you have for the college, or serve in student government as one of the various New Student Representatives, the best way to help steer all these available resources in a positive direction is to dive in yourself. Aside from formal positions, the best way of getting involved, staying informed, and having your voice heard is coming to Cabinet. Cabinet takes place every other Tuesday (starting the first week of school) and always has awesome FOOD! College will make you love free food if you don’t already. Speaking of free food, another time to find it is during Friday in the Quad (FitQ) which is a great way to hang out with fellow Brownies and kick off the weekend. Lastly, this year, you’ll have the unique opportunity to get involved in an initiative called Brown to the Future which aims to set the course of the college over the next 5 to 10 years. Brown finds itself in time of transition which presents a perfect opportunity for us to take a step back to examine our priorities and values.
I, along with the rest of the Brown Cabinet, am always here for you. If you ever have any questions or want to talk about issues affecting the college or Rice, let me know. Odds are if I don’t know the answer, I’ll at least be able to direct you to someone that does. Feel free to stop by Quad 244 or just shoot me a message.

It’s going to be an incredible year and I hope you’re excited to put down roots here in your new home! O-Week will be here before you know it. Your O-Week Coordinators have been hard at work since January to prepare for your arrival, so you have an awesome week and year ahead of you. Welcome to the family.

BSWB!

Santi Avila
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832-316-1310

BROWN COMMITTEES

Committees are a huge part of the Brown community! They help Brown run as a whole; they’re responsible for everything from Beer Bike to the Brown Kitchen. Joining a committee is a great, easy way to get involved in the Brown community; all you have to do is sign up to be a part of the committee and start putting your energy towards continuing, changing, or improving one of the many parts of Brown! You can work with Permanent Improvements to bring awesome new additions to Brown like the gym or kitchen, with Social Concerns to promote clean energy practices, Food to campaign for bigger cups in the servery (you’ll understand soon), or Associates’ Night to assure that we all get to feast on potato-tinis and see our College Coordinator, Nancy Henry, in her finest. Once you’ve gotten involved with your favorite committee, you can run to be a committee head and take the committee in the direction that you want to.
LIST OF BROWN COMMITTEES

ASSOCIATES COORDINATOR: Ashley Fite, Ellie Dullea

CULTURALS COORDINATORS: Nuria Gallego, Taylor Morin

FOOD: Sarah Bradford, Alex Li

INTERCOLLEGIATE: Rebecca Chen, Akshat Patel

KITCHEN: Robyn Maddux, Tommy Stasko

MERCHANDISE: Sebastian Idrovo, Danielle Manahan

SOCIAL CONCERNS: Tracy Tse

SOCIALS COORDINATORS: Franz Brotzen-Smith, Zach Hutchings, Robbie Foley, Natalie Zur

SPIRIT: Kathy Yu

SPORTS: Rachel Carlton, Adam Stratham

WEBMASTER: Avi Debnath, Rishu Harpavat

BEER BIKE: Justin Bishop, Gabrielle Humphrey, Jason Lopez, Danielle Manahan, Frances Williamson

BROWN EVENTS: Natalie Zur, Jared Beshai

COLLEGE NIGHT: Saurabh Harohalli, Amina Matin

MUSIC: Jared Beshai, Natalie Zur

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS: Donaldo Almazan, David Peck, Agatya Tripathi

PHOTOGRAPHY: Rishu Harpavat

SENIOR EVENTS: Palvasha Deme, Deeksha Madala, Elizabeth Stone, Donaldo Almazan, Agatya Tripathi

CAMPUS REPRESENTATIVES

Campus reps help connect various groups at Rice to Brown. They keep us updated on events, policy changes, and serve as our advocates if needed. They are a great resource to contact if you need help with their departments or just hav a general question!

U-COURT REP: Carly Frieders

RICE PROGRAM COUNCIL REP: Ev Kakadiaris

HONOR COUNCIL REP: Franz Brotzen-Smith

IT REP: Robbie Foley

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PEER ACADEMIC ADVISORS

During O-Week you will have lots of people available to help you with academics. In particular, you have the four O-Week PAAs, or Peer Academic Advisors. However, many more students will join them during the academic year for a total of about 20 PAAs in the college. The PAAs are a great resource if you ever have any questions ranging from what classes to take to troubleshooting Esther (the platform used to select classes). PAAs can also help point you in the direction of other resources on campus that might help you such as Student Success Initiatives (SSI), the Office of Academic Advising (OAA), or even your professors! This year, your Head PAAs are Niki Parekh, Mason Tannenbaum, and Stephanie Zhao. Be sure to reach out and talk to them and their team because they have a wealth of information to share with you.

ACADEMIC FELLOWS

After the PAAs have helped you select your classes or even major, you have to get through them! The Academic Fellows are here to help you with that. They are upperclassmen who have done well in their previous classes and volunteer as tutors for Brown. They can help you with writing/editing essays, solving a physics problem, studying for a test, and more. Typically the Fellows have a meet and greet at the beginning of the semester, and you will be able to meet them all there. There is no cost associated with having a Fellow help you, so we hope you reach out to them! Your Head Fellows at Brown are Niki Parekh and Mekedlawit Setegne.

PEER CAREER ADVISORS

Well now you have taken a bunch of classes and maybe joined a club or two. Next up is your career! Whether you are off to medical school after Rice, going on for a Master’s, or headed to industry, the Center for Career Development can help you. The CCD also has student affiliates, Peer Career Advisors, at each college. The PCAs are there as a second set of eyes to look at your resume, offer interview tips, or uncover the wonder that is Handshake (employment portal). While the CCD can help in all of these as well, PCAs are trained to provide a student to student connection, and are there to help connect you to where you need to go.
THE BROWN COURT

The Brown College Court is comprised of five justices: the Chief Justice and four Associate Justices, all of whom are elected to their posts. The role of the Court is to interpret and enforce the Constitution, Residence Rules, By-Laws, and Judicial Code of the College. One of the most common ways the Court acts is by addressing noise complaints throughout the college and making sure things stay in order on nights of public parties. The Court is also responsible for administering any fines levied from Housing & Dining or the College. Lastly, the members of the Court serve as resources to the college on the policies (alcohol, fines, etc.) that govern the University overall. These roles might sound official, but remember that all of the justices are students just like you! Their ultimate goal and first priority is the health and safety of students at Brown and beyond.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICES

Andrew Porisch
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Jason Lopez
jal2@rice.edu
(832) 873-6498

Andrew Maust
arm7@rice.edu
(832) 647-0901

Natalie Zur
naz3@rice.edu
(571) 319-6604
LETTER FROM CHIEF JUSTICE

Hey guys!
Welcome to the Brown College family! We’re super excited that you’re a part of the sweetest college of them all, filled with genuinely nice people. My favorite part of Brown and Rice is the ‘culture of care’ we build around us, and my role as Chief Justice is to help facilitate this culture of respect and caring for others in our diverse community -- not only fellow students and friends, but also the Magisters, Resident Associates, custodians and other Housing and Dining staff. In addition, I’m here if you have any questions about any Brown College or Rice University policies. Working with me are four Associate Justices -- Jason Lopez, Andrew Maust, Andrew Porisch, and Natalie Zur -- who are happy to help you out as well. At the beginning of the semester, we’ll also elect a first-year student to be the New Student Representative to the Court; if you’re at all interested, don’t hesitate to reach out to me or any other justice!

I’m a senior from Waco, Texas majoring in Mechanical Engineering with a Certificate in Engineering Leadership. Outside of being CJ, I love working with prospective students via the Student Admissions Council as a tour guide and senior interviewer. I’m also a Rice Health Advisor and I work at the Wellbeing and Counseling Center; I get ~hyped~ about wellbeing in its many forms, and I try to prioritize health and safety in my role as Chief Justice -- first and foremost, I’m here to keep you safe!

I haven’t met you yet, but I can promise that I already love you and want to get to know you -- if you see me around, you’ll make my day by stopping to say hi!! I’m excited for this upcoming O-Week, and I hope you are too -- it’s going to be a blast!

Elizabeth Goodnight
browncj@rice.edu
(254) 722-1778
FELINES OF 444

Sheldon’s favorite pastimes include: snuggling on the couch, meeting new people, pulling twisty ties from thin air, rubbing his white hair on your black clothing, eating too fast and yakking it all up, being chill, and stealing Penny’s food when you’re not looking.

Leonard’s favorite pastimes include: lounging in boxes, fishing bottle caps out of the recycling, attacking bubbles, splashing water out of the water bowl, eating Sheldon’s yakked up food, being fat, and long conversations with whoever will listen.

Penny’s favorite pastimes include: snuggling on the couch, hiding from strangers, jumping at loud noises, sitting on your hands when you are trying to do homework, attacking chair legs, wrestling with Sheldon, snubbing Leonard, being small, and staring deeply into your soul.

Please note, these cats’ artistic talents are for hire. They mostly deal in distressed furniture, but have also been known to pose for the occasional tasteful nude. In terms of accepted payment, these feigning felines may try to trick you with their whole starving artist routine, but I promise you we just fed them. In lieu of food, they’ll happily accept payment in the form of a scratch behind the ears and a belly rub. All three are eager to meet you. Who knows? You may be their next “mews”.

1. Modern art is so confusing.
2. It seems he’s deeply inspired by the great splatter artist Jackson Pollock.
3. She takes her mantra from Picasso himself: “Without great solitude no serious work is possible.”
4. Searching for artistic inspiration or planning the feline revolution? We’re not sure...
5. Up until the split second when they suddenly want nothing to do with you. Artists are so fickle.
6. Buh-dum-dum-chhhh
CANINE OF THE TOWER

Previously a street dog of Southwest Houston, I was adopted by my owner Hunter in June, 2015. While my daddy is awesome, I love just about everyone! My first year at Brown was amazing! So many playdates with students who all appreciate my humorous antics and zany energy right until the moment I am exhausted and just want to cuddle. I have found that all I have to do is use my outrageously expressive eyes and endearing underbite to convince students to do my bidding. You have been warned. Like so many artists, I am a lover and not a fighter. While I may bark when you pass my door it isn't territorial, it is simply that I want to play and you happen to be there and, hey, let's play! Now! Please? I also appreciate other artists, particularly fine treat design. There is something about treats shaped like cubes, flowers, stars, spheres. While they all may be chicken flavored, there are unique subtleties that I can tell you about if you would just place some on the floor for me to….ummmmmm….inspect. Yes, that's right, inspect, curate so we can fully digest their magnificence!

MAGGIE BROWN BAND

The Maggie Brown Band evolved from conversations with Brian Barr and Cody Van Zandt (Brown ’17) about music, and rock ‘n roll in particular, that started their sophomore year. Between Brian and Cody, and others, it was plenty clear to me that there was just a lot of musical and vocal talent in the college. But not many reasons to perform, especially as a band. So this observation slowly morphed with this ancient desire I had growing up in Houston of having a garage band. So just before Brian and Cody went off to their summers in 2015, I proposed that we start a garage band, and literally use the Brown House garage for rehearsals.

They agreed, and so in September 2016 the band slowly got together. For a while, besides not having a name, the band had no drummer. Of course, there’s no rock without a drummer. After a few nerve-wracking weeks of search, we found our drummer, and then bang, the band had its first two gigs scheduled: Brown Associates Night dinner and the gala celebration of Brown College’s 50th anniversary since opening in 1965. In that first year, the Maggie Brown Band performed at Coffeehouse, Hanszen College’s pre-Beer Bike event, and Brown Day 2016.
MAGGIE BROWN BAND CONT’D

This past year Maggie Brown had a huge infusion of talent from our first year class: Jennifer Truitt, (vocals, bass), Kathy Yu (vocals), Ajith Kumar (guitar), Gabriel Lundquist (keyboards), and Hyemin Kim (drums). Maggie Brown even had its first off-campus gig in the neighborhood. And actually got paid for it. They went on to play at the fall Brown Associates Night, followed by their infamously successful HallowQueen, which combined the music of Queen and Halloween, culminating in a stirring rendition of Bohemian Rhapsody. Not ready to do only homework, Maggie Brown decided to push their creativity and reinterpret a few holiday standards, an event that came to be known as The Night Before Winter Break. On a creative roll, Maggie Band decided to compete in KTRU's annual spring Battle of the Bands—once again Bohemian Rhapsody takes center stage, rattling even the corners of Willy’s Pub. By 2 am, Maggie Brown took 3rd place proudly home.

Maggie Brown will be back rehearsing in late August, adding to their ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s playlists. Rumor has it the music of Rocky Horror Picture Show is making an appearance this Halloween. “It’s just a jump to the left.” Rehearsals are usually Sundays at 1pm. Come by and audition. We’re looking to make the Maggie Brown Band the best rock ‘n roll band in Texas.

But if you just want to listen, hang out with us, plenty of room in the garage. If you do, you’ll get to meet returning Brice Todd (vocal), Jeffery Horowitz (guitar), Jennifer Truitt, (vocals, Bass), Kathy Yu (vocals), Paul Meyer (sound master), and yours truly, José, (band manager). Join us in the fun. Rock ‘n Roll heaven is just around the corner.
HISTORY OF BROWN

So what was Brown like in the early days? Brown was founded in 1965 as an all-female college. The first Brown Magister was Frank Vandiver, who later went on to become the president of Texas A&M University. The first classes of Brown were girls who (wisely) transferred from Jones. In the early years of Brown, a “housemother” lived in the first floor apartment (where Hunter currently lives) and kept tabs on all the students, checking them in and out of the tower on nights and weekends. Today, obviously, you have the freedom to come and go as you please. As the years passed, most of the colleges on campus went co-ed. But Brown was one of the last to hold out (along with Sid Richardson, which at that time was an all-male college), until 1987 when it accepted its first male members.

Brown recently celebrated its fiftieth birthday; our College Coordinator, Nancy, has been with us for over half of that time! She’s truly a part of Brown history and has seen it all.

Today, Brown looks a little different than when it first opened as an 8-floor tower. In 2002, the new wing of Brown was completed, which added 15 “quad” student rooms, an RA apartment (where Amber and Jordan now live), a Private Dining Room, and two classrooms. A year later, the new Brown Commons was opened, and the old commons was turned into the Health Services Center. Now, the inside of the tower might not even be recognizable to old alumni because of our renovations the past two years.

And now it’s your chance to become a part of Brown’s history. At Brown, you’re going to make some of your best friends and have some of your best times at Rice. So make the most of it! And welcome to the best college!
When a Rice student is asked where they’re from, they’re just as likely to respond with which college they are part of as they are to respond with their hometown. The residential college system is a huge part of campus life here, and your residential college becomes a part of your identity. Each of the 11 colleges have different cultures that are unique to them, but it’s an undeniable fact that Brown’s culture is the both the most unique and strongest.

Ask people about Brown, and you’ll get the same responses: Brown has amazing floor culture, with each floor having a distinct personality. Brown is tight-knit, it’s a family, and it has a strong Culture of Care (that’s right, it’s even capitalized). That’s the great thing about Brown -- we care about each other, about the college, and about the university.

Another source of pride is that Brownies consistently leave a mark on this campus. Many Student Association Presidents have been from Brown, and our presence in other campus organizations and service groups is hard to beat. Often you can see Brownies working and managing at Coffeehouse, the Hoot, Rice Bikes, the Thresher, RPC, and more student organizations.

We Brownies have a lot of pride in our college and each other’s accomplishments. That’s why we’re already excited to welcome you into our family: because we know you’ll bring your own passions and achievements to our community. You don’t have to wait until you’re an upperclassman to make a difference here; you can dive right in. You can represent your class in Cabinet, join a committee, become our star soccer striker on Brown FC, lead our Beer Bike team to victory (we’re always excited to train bikers and water chuggers!), and help lead our college into the future. O-Week will help plant the seeds of Brown’s culture and pride within you, and we can’t wait to see where you take our college and our university during your time here.
COMMUNITY AT BROWN

One of the best parts about living in a residential college is the automatic membership you have in a strong community: Brown is truly our home, and our fellow Brownies are our family. A huge part of Brown’s culture, then, is about the dedication we have to our college and to each other.

You see it in our Caregiving program, which we first founded to take care of those in need. You see it in our adult team, who are always behind us in our endeavors, and you see it in our Office Goddess, Nancy Henry, who loves Brown so much she’s stayed at the same college longer than any other college coordinator. You see it in our college government, where students come to Cabinet in droves and take part in over 25 committees, from planning what music we listen to on Fridays to planning social events for the whole college, all for the betterment of Brown. You see it in the mob of people coming to support our PowderPuff Team (Girl’s Flag Football) and drowning out the opposing team’s fans with cries so loud that the referee had to tell them to quiet down (true story). Brown is a strong family and we take pride in our commitments to each other and the college.
One of the most distinct and valuable aspects of Brown college is our floor culture. At Brown there is no separation between gender or year on floors, but generally floors are made up of sophomores and freshmen. Each floor has a distinct culture to it, and each also has unique traditions. These traditions include special birthday traditions, annual parties to celebrate their floor and Brown as a whole, and Floorsgiving at Thanksgiving time. Floors also compete together in a variety of events, such as Floorlympics (see Traditions), water balloon filling, and the Floor Decorating contest around the holidays.

Being on one floor does not isolate you from other floors; in fact, there is a lot of mixed floor bonding whether that be at floor-hosted events, working on assignments together, or just hanging out with your friends. Never be afraid to go hang out on another floor to learn about their culture!

In addition to matching roommates, we Coordinators try to place you on a floor into whose culture you fit. With that being said, the new students coming in (you guys!) make up roughly half of each floor, so floor culture evolves every year based on what y’all want it to be. As people move off-campus or to the quads, a new generation of students move onto the floors and create new traditions. Floor culture is defined by the new students coming onto the floor, and the dynamic of the floor is truly in your hands.
TRADITIONS AT BROWN

BACCHANALIA
Each college hosts a public party at least once a year, where free food, drink for people of age, music, and dancing are provided in the college’s commons. Brown’s party is Bacchanalia, a good old-fashioned toga party traditionally held in April. For those of you who have never tied a toga before, have no fear; there’s at least one Classical Studies major who can help you out. For one night, our commons will transform in the jocund decor of the ancients, and you will dance the night away in this sacred rite of Bacchus, which is sure to become one of the highlights of your year. Make sure to get your bedsheet togas and laurel wreaths ready!

PUB NIGHTS
Each semester, Brown will have a night where we take over Willy’s Pub just for ourselves. Brownies will be served free food and can enjoy without people from other colleges. Students of age can drink at Pub Night, but there are other fun activities for people of all ages like Mario Kart, Ping-Pong, and enjoying the company of your friends in one of Pub’s iconic booths. Other colleges will have pub nights too, so you can tag along with your friends across campus for their pub nights to meet new people! Pub nights provide a great chance to change scenery and hang out with your college community outside of Brown.

COLLEGE NIGHT
Brown also takes a day towards the end of each semester where we just celebrate being part of the best college. Even though we call it College Night, it’s actually a day-long festivity including food, drink (for those of age), activities, and merriment with your fellow Brownies. These days always have a fun theme, with past ones including Chrismahanukwanzaa, a fake Martel induction ceremony, and an Occupy Wiess movement. Other colleges have College Nights too, so if you see anyone dressed up in ridiculous outfits in your physics class this upcoming year, you now know the reason why.

BROWN DAY
This event is a day filled with food, friends, and fun activities which in the past have included a petting zoo, jousting, and fun with zorb balls. There’s also always free swag that’s given away (fanny packs, t-shirts, socks, etc.) and always a good time to be had while celebrating Brown!

BROWN SKATE
Break out your inner figure skater and come to Brown Skate! For a night, Brownies take over the ice skating rink at the Galleria and we can have fun! It’s a great way to bond with other Brownies either as a clumsy novice or an experienced pro.
BIRTHDAYS
Everyone has their own birthday traditions, and at Brown we like to honor this passage of time by ceremoniously tossing the birthday boy/girl in our very own Fairy Fountain. You can try to outrun or struggle away from the ten people attempting to give you a bearhug, but eventually you’ll receive your annual dip in the fountain’s sparkling waters. But don’t worry, you get retribution: the best part of this birthday tradition is hugging everyone who threw you in once you’re soaked. And remember, the best friends bring a towel after throwing you in.

FLOORLYMPICS
Honoring our competitive, sporting nature and our strong floor culture, Brown hosts a Floorlympics event at the beginning of the year to show which floor will reign supreme. Events include a water balloon toss, a watermelon-eating contest, sand volleyball, tug-of-war, and the yelling of a specially composed floor cheer. The winner of Floorlympics gets bragging rights for the rest of the year, as well as some money to be applied to their floor budget for various activities.

SATURDAY EVENING CULINARY SESSION
Though the servery may not be open on Saturdays, you don’t necessarily have to leave Brown to explore the different cuisines that Houston has to offer! The Brown Culturals Committee will often have Saturday Evening Culinary Sessions (SECS) led by either the RAs or volunteer students (or often a combination of both!) that showcases different types of cuisines. If you sign up, you get to learn how to prepare a meal and then of course enjoy eating it afterwards! Examples of the different types of food that have been prepared are Korean, Indian, East-West Fusion, and Italian; the Culturals are always looking for ideas, so if you have a thought about what kind of food you think would be cool to learn about (or if you want to lead a session!), give them a shout!

FRIDAYS IN THE QUAD (FITQ)
When you walk back to Brown after class on Friday you will be greeted by a mass of Brownies in the quad playing volleyball, talking, or eating food. Brown has one of the most beautiful quads and we make sure we use it to its full extent. No matter what year you are or what floor you’re from you can chill and hang out after a week of classes. It’s a great opportunity to meet other Brownies and sometimes we even invite other colleges to join us. There is nothing like finishing the week off with some good food, friends, and games.
FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LAUNDRY ROOM
Located in the basement of Brown College right in front of the elevators is Brown’s laundry room. It’s home to 6 washers and 8 dryers that are absolutely free for students to use. Keep the laundry room clean and get your laundry out on time to appease the Laundry Ninja! There’s also a found sock wall and some bins already inside for our use.

COMPUTER LAB
Located between the kitchen and Vator Lobby is the Computer Lab. The Lab has 6 computers (both Macs and PCs!) to work on as well as a printer. If your laptop ever breaks or you just want a big screen, these are very useful resources and come equipped with any and all computer programs needed at Rice. While using the computers is free, you will have to pay for printing.

KITCHEN
Not even five years old yet, and still in pristine condition is the Brown kitchen. Located on the ground floor of the Brown tower, it is home to all the appliances you will need to make a meal. 2 stove tops, 2 ovens, 2 microwaves, a sink, 2 refrigerators, and other appliances are all free to use, just make sure you clean up or you’ll upset our Kitchen Tsar.

GYM
Located at the far end of Brown’s basement is the workout room. It has all the standard workout equipment like a treadmill, free weights, bars, and more. It’s very useful if you do not want to walk all the way to the Recreational Center or want to get a quick workout before your day starts. But make sure you wipe down your machines and put all the weights back or our you’ll have to answer to the Brown College Gym Leader!
SERVERIES

Food at Rice has been rated among the best in the nation. Each college’s commons at Rice is connected to a Servery that is usually shared between two to three colleges (with Baker and Sid Rich being the exceptions -- they both have their own smaller ones). The servery connected to Brown, North Servery, is the largest on campus (shared with Jones and Martel), and offers delicious options for everyone. The other serveries (from closest to furthest) are West, Baker, Seibel, South, and Sid Rich.

All you have to do to get a meal at Rice is swipe your ID when you walk in – when you get the meal plan at Rice, you get 3 meals every day of the week, except for Saturday dinner, so you can go out and enjoy Houston (don’t worry – there are plenty of options within walking distance or off the metro), and on Sundays, we have brunch (combining breakfast and lunch). The food is provided as a buffet, and you are free to eat at any of the serveries on campus; each servery even has paper plates so you can take your food to go. All of the menus and timings are posted online at dining.rice.edu, and can also be accessed from the Rice app. Additionally, you aren’t limited to one servery per meal; feel free to piece together a meal across campus!

Each servery at Rice is run by an executive chef, who cooks up a new menu for each week. For breakfast, there are a range of options, to bacon, eggs, hashbrowns, biscuits, cereal, yogurt, bagels, and fruit. You can even make your own waffles (with chocolate chips – yum), and on the weekends, you can get custom omelettes made to order.

At lunch and dinner, there is a full menu, including 4-5 entrees, pasta, salad bars, pizza, burgers, fries and dessert. The chefs are usually super creative, and they make scrumptious, healthy options, with highlights like a Pho bar (Vietnamese noodles), quinoa salad, and taco pizza. The dessert chef whips up new treats each week; you can even follow Rice Desserts on Instagram (@ricesweets) to stay updated on who's serving what! For drinks, there is water, juices, soda, teas, soy milk, regular milk, chocolate milk, and coffee.

The chefs are super open to suggestions and ideas – if you happen to have any dietary restrictions or needs, or simply want to see something on the menu, just talk to one of the chefs, and they will accommodate you! During the week, the servery is open from 7:30 to 10:30 AM for breakfast, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM for lunch, and 5:30 to 7:30 pm for dinner. On the weekends, the servery usually opens later (so you can sleep in!).
Brown is committed to making the Residential College Experience accessible to all students regardless of their background. At Rice, the college is at the heart of campus life and is charged with the social, cultural, and intellectual growth of the students that call it home. Because of this, limiting access or inclusivity in the college prevents many students from taking advantage of the complete Rice undergraduate experience. To this end, we’ve made financial accessibility in the college an utmost priority. In 2017, the Brown Cabinet passed By-Law XII which seeks to reduce both explicit and implicit costs in the college (college merchandise, floor tanks, etc.) and establishes the Magisters’ Discretionary Fund. What this means is that the college absorbs many of the costs that previously prevented participation or came out of students’ pockets. Further, the Magisters’ Discretionary Fund is available to low-income students to cover any costs missed by blanket subsidization. If you have any questions about financial accessibility in the college or across campus, or about the Magisters’ Discretionary Fund, please reach out to the College Magisters!

WELLBEING AT BROWN

Here at Brown, we have several resources to keep you as well as possible! A big reason that Brown has such a strong Culture of Care (always capitalized) is because of student involvement; there are several organizations on campus that are dedicated to student well-being and Brown always has some of the strongest programs.

STRIVE Liaison

STRIVE (or Students Transforming Rice Into a Violence-free Environment) is an organization geared towards preventing sexual assault and harassment on campus and supporting the survivors of assault. Our liaison, Maryam Elizondo, is a specially trained student who hosts prevention activities and seeks to support students by providing information about resources available on and off campus. If you have any questions about the program or need support in any related way, Maryam is here to help!

Maryam Elizondo
mee7@rice.edu
This is your Brown RHA team, and their job is to help y’all stay happy and healthy during your time here at Rice! They’re trained in a variety of areas -- from physical health (like how to eat right and stay active) to mental health and alcohol education. They can provide you with kits containing several useful first-aid/health resources and they are also mental health first aid trained, which means they can act as first responders in mental health crises (such as suicidal thoughts, panic attacks, etc.). They can provide general advice about well-being, including relationships, dating, conflict, stress, academic pressure and other related things. They also know a lot about different resources on campus, like the Wellbeing and Counseling Center or the Health Center right next to Brown. If you ever need anything at all -- be it band-aids or just a chance to vent, stop by and see them!! Their doors are (almost) always open, and they can’t wait to get to know you! One important thing about their role: your conversations with RHAs are entirely confidential, so everything you tell them stays private (unless they believe you are in immediate physical danger, in which case they can discreetly contact a licensed counselor).
Everyone here at Rice and Brown operates on truly unique schedules; no one person has the same combination of classes, clubs, and commitments. However, these are a few examples of our days to give you a glimpse into what your schedule may look like during the school year.

**SAURABH**

10:00 AM: Wake up and roll to breakfast  
11:00 AM: First class - Numerical Methods for Chemical Engineers!  
12:00 PM: Head back to Brown for lunch  
1:00 PM: Another class - Biomolecular Engineering  
3:00 PM: Last class of the day - Strategic Management  
4:00 PM: Study at Fondren Library for my test coming up next week  
5:30 PM: Dinner at West  
6:30 PM: Relax and read through emails  
8:30 PM: Workout at the Rec  
9:45 PM: Homework with my study group  
**Ungodly hour:** Go to bed

**AKSHAT**

7:00 AM: Wake up and get ready for the day (I’m a morning person!)  
7:30 AM: Make myself a breakfast quesadilla in the servery  
8:00 AM: First class of the day - Anatomy!  
9:25 AM: Next class - Cell Biology (I like getting most of my classes done in the morning!)  
10:45 AM: Go to Coffehouse to get some work done before lunch  
12:00 PM: Lunch at South with my O-Week group  
1:00 PM: Go to Fondren to do some homework.  
4:00 PM: Relax until dinner (probably binge-watching Scrubs again)  
5:30 PM: Dinner at Brown  
6:30 PM: Impact Staffer meeting  
8:30 PM: Go to my room and finish some reading for my sociology class  
9:45 PM: Play catch with my roommate and talk about our days  
**Reasonable hour:** Go to bed.

**ERIN**

8:30 AM: Wake up  
9:00 AM: Make my way over to Baker for breakfast with my roommate; we love their chocolate muffins  
10:00 AM: First class of the day - Sociology of Religion  
11:00 AM: Grab coffee at Coffehouse and do some reading for class tomorrow  
12:00 PM: Lunch with my O-Week group back at Brown  
1:00 PM: Second class of the day - Phonetics  
2:00 PM: Third class of the day - Crime, Punishment, and Society  
3:00 PM: Head to Coffeehouse to meet up with some friends  
4:00 PM: Walk back to Brown and go for a run on the Outer Loop  
5:30 PM: Eat dinner at Siebel with a friend from Lovett  
6:30 PM: Play a game of marbles in the Vator Lobby of Brown  
8:30 PM: Meet up with my group project team to finalize our research plan for our project on mental health at Rice  
10:00 PM: Head to Hunter’s study break on the first floor of Brown – a nacho bar!  
11:00 PM: Finish up reading for tomorrow’s sociology class  
**Appropriately late hour:** Go to bed.
RECEIVING MAIL:
Mailing at Rice is a lot simpler than most other universities -- you only have to have your mail addressed to Brown (9 Sunset Blvd.), and then Nancy and her office dwellers will sort your mail into your mailbox (everyone has one, so make sure to check yours regularly). If you have a package, you’ll receive an email and can come collect it whenever the office is open (9-5 on almost every weekday). When you pick up your mail or a package, make sure to stop and say hi to Nancy! She almost always has candy on her desk, and you never know what else you’ll find in her office.

SENDING MAIL:
You can send your mail straight from Nancy’s office! If you need stamps or envelopes, you can buy them straight from Nancy before you drop your letter into the basket on her desk.

Packages are a little more complicated -- if you want, Nancy has a scale that you can use to weigh your package, and then you can calculate how much postage you need. Again, you’ll be able to buy stamps from Nancy, and you can leave the package in her office.

Alternatively, you can also go to the USPS office on the other side of campus (by RUPD) to have your package weighed and mailed.

Nancy is truly our Office Goddess so please feel free to ask her any questions! But when you’re mailing or receiving things, be sure to be considerate -- she puts up with a lot of our problems already.
SHOPPING

RICE VILLAGE:
There are all kinds of stores in Rice Village; from restaurants to boutiques to bookstores, you can find almost anything you need here! Even though it’s only a short walk, Rice provides a shuttle that will take you from campus to the village every Saturday night. They also now have a weekday lunch shuttle leaving from the Recreation Center.

HEB:
5225 Buffalo Speedway
Houston, TX 77005
1701 W Alabama St
Houston, TX 77098

Target has most things a college student might forget to bring, or not realize they needed! So, luckily, there is a shuttle to Target (and Fiesta!) every Saturday throughout the morning and afternoon.

TARGET:
8500 Main St
Houston, TX 77025

FIESTA:
8130 Kirby Dr
Houston, TX 77054

KROGER:
7747 Kirby Dr
Houston, TX 77030

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WEATHER IN HOUSTON

A Weather Report from Tim Nonet:

As Brown’s Chief Meteorologist (an unofficial government position) I’d like to personally welcome you to Houston and its weather. Houston is a wonderful city with plenty of exciting things to do! One of the best I have found is kayaking down the inner road of Rice campus when we receive 10 inches of rain overnight. But don’t worry, even though Houston is one of the flattest cities I have ever seen the water drains away quickly and is replaced by beautiful weather for most months of the year. You can nearly wear shorts year round and be comfortable, but always pack an umbrella and a sweatshirt for the occasional afternoon shower or a freezing morning lecture hall. You won’t have to worry about snow or freezes in Houston. Rumor says if the temperature ever drops below 32 Fahrenheit, the day of classes will be canceled. One thing you have to deal with is the awkward backpack sweat stain everyone has when they enter a classroom and take off their backpacks for the hot months of the year yet no one talks about it.

All in all, Houston has great weather! We get occasional periods of heavy rain, and humid muggy weather, but most of the time is in between great sweater weather (my favorite) and balmy summer days perfect for reminding you how much you wish you were outside and not in your third lecture of the day.

And as always, Houston weather is always perfect for throwing Brennan Han in the fairy fountain!

Welcome to Houston! Get ready for a wonderful year! I look forward to meeting all of you!

-Tim Nonet, Brown Chief Meteorologist

P.S. If anyone knows about a nice pair of male rain-boots I am dying to find some.
This is a short list of jargon used around Brown! A more extensive list can be found in the Owlmanac that contains many more terms used around campus.

**Bacchanalia:** Brown’s public party, known across campus as it’s Greek-themed and everyone is encouraged to wear a toga!

**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. Brown ALWAYS fills the most trash cans of water balloons, typically close to 100.

**Brownie:** A resident of Brown College. Aka YOU!!!

**Brown Defense:** A Brown tradition around Halloween that involves barricading Brown and being ready to throw waterballoons at runners who attempt to attach Brown with shaving cream.

**Cabinet:** The governing body of Brown College. Made up entirely of Brown students. Meets every other Tuesday at 10 pm in the Vator Lobby. There is always free food. Be there and get involved.

**Floor Lobby:** The larger area at the end of every floor at Brown. Students often hang out and study in this area.

**ITYTWATFIC:** I tube, you tube, we all tube for ice cream. A weekly study break held by our RAs, Jordan and Amber. They invite everybody to their apartment and give people ice cream and brownies while showing youtube videos that Brownies have submitted.

**Jamber:** Jordan and Amber’s combined name.

**omw btb eta:** On My Way Back to Brown, my Estimated Time of Arrival is ______

**Outer Commons:** Foyer-like area as you use the main entrance to the Commons.

**Quad:** The area that the Brown Tower and Brown Quads wrap around, Brownies often hang out and study there. (Not to be confused with Academic Quad)

**Quads:** The part of Brown where juniors and seniors typically reside. They consist of 4 singles and a common room.

**Tower:** The first part of Brown that was built. Eight floors and full of history, this will be your new home!

**Vator Lobby:** The first floor of Brown tower. It’s where cabinet is held, in addition to various other study breaks. Also features pool tables, ping pong tables, and a projector screen.
Thank you for making it through this book! It’s a lot of information, but it marks the beginning of your life as a Brownie. We know this is a lot to process, so take some time to let all of this information sink in. We hope that afterward you’ll be a little more prepared, knowledgeable, and excited about your future at Brown and Rice. We know you have a lot of questions, comments, and concerns, and we’re looking forward to hearing from you -- just send us an email at brownoweeek@rice.edu. We’re in Houston all summer planning for your arrival, and we’d love to be able to answer any questions you have, or just to chat and get to know you! We’ll also be providing more resources, advice, help and information during O-Week, so for now just relax and enjoy your summer! Spend some time with your family and friends, and stay excited for O-Week!! In just a few short weeks, you’ll be starting your life as a Brownie -- we can’t wait to meet you!
CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send us an email at brownoween@rice.edu, or to contact any of us directly.

Follow us on Instagram (picassoweek) to keep up with our summer preparations! You can also find our individual contact information below. We can’t wait to hear from you!

Erin
emr4@rice.edu
(678) 906-6843

Akshat
amp20@rice.edu
(832) 766-2704

Saurabh
ssh3@rice.edu
(913) 742-9706

Feel free to add us on Facebook as well.

Magisters
Krista Comer: kcomer@rice.edu
Jose Aranda: aranda@rice.edu

RAs
Jordan Szymczyk: jordan.s@rice.edu
Amber Szymczyk: amber.s@rice.edu
Hunter Capoccioni: bassbowy@rice.edu

College Coordinator
Nancy Henry: brown@rice.edu
THANK YOUS

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Your O-Week Coordinators, Erin, Akshat, and Saurabh
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