



Bistro-Week

Crafting Your Recipe For Success





Welcome to McMurtry.

From your McCoordinators



Welcome, new chefs! We are Essence, Ishani, and Marina, your 2023 McCoordinators for BistrO-Week, and we are beyond excited to welcome you to McMurtry and Rice this August.

First of all, congratulations for making it here! We know that each of you journeyed your own path to get here, and we are so proud of you for everything you have accomplished and overcome to get to this point.

We're excited to watch you embark on your newest journey as you begin your next years at Rice. These years will present their own mystery baskets to you, but we're confident that you will continue to succeed, perhaps in ways you haven't even cooked up in your mind yet. At McMurtry, you will never be at a loss for quality ingredients, help, and advice—as your head chefs, we're especially excited to see what you'll cook up and serve as resources for you in whatever way you need.

Within this "recipe" book, you'll find a lot of information to help answer your questions about McMurtry, moving in, and life after O-Week, so be sure to get a good read in. If you find you still have questions, don't worry! We will be following up with even more information soon, and you can always reach out to us.

Bistro-O-Week Menu

APPETIZERS

Important Information	5
What is O-Week?	6
About the Theme	7

ON SPECIAL

Overview of Move-In Day	9
Directions to McMurtry	10
Campus Map	11
Your Room	12
What to Bring	13

A LA CARTE

Our Kitchen (About McMurtry)	15
History and Values	17
The Executive Chefs (The McTeam)	19
The McMinistry (College Government)	26

MAIN

Meet the McCoordinators	29
Key Ingredients (Affiliates)	34
Meet Your Advisors	35
The Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs)	76

DESSERT

McM & Rice Lingo	80
Beyond the Hedges	82
Closing Address	83





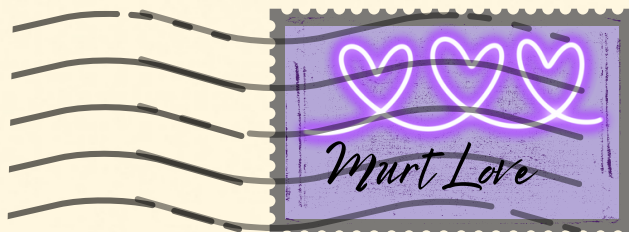
Important Info



Your McMurtry Mailing Address

IMPORTANT!!

PLEASE ONLY MAIL OR SHIP
THINGS TO ARRIVE AFTER AUGUST
15TH. OUR SPACE IS LIMITED AND
NOT SECURE, SO BRING IMPORTANT
ITEMS WITH YOU. THERE WILL BE
TIME TO SHOP FOR OTHER THINGS
AFTER O-WEEK!



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

Our Contact Information

O-Week Coordinators

mcmurtryoweeek@gmail.com

Essence Ratliff

efr1@rice.edu

(901) 279-7835

Ishani Kaul

ik17@rice.edu

(626) 485-0703

Marina Klein

mnk3@rice.edu

(832) 434-2341

McMurtry College Magisters

Jenifer Bratter and Noe Perez

jbratter@rice.edu

np17@rice.edu

(713) 348-4908

McMurtry College Coordinator

Jackie Carrizales

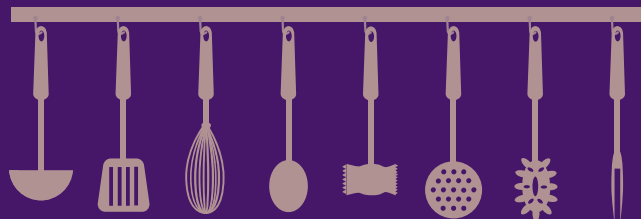
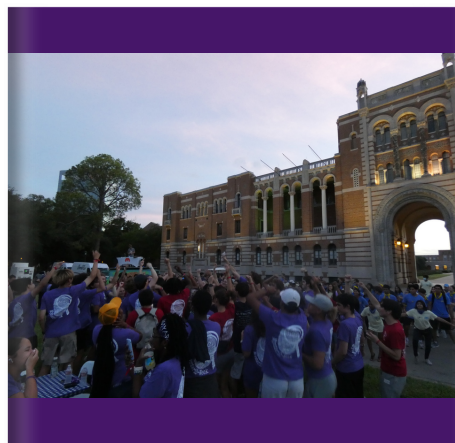
jlc3@rice.edu

Office: (713) 348-4583

Fax: (713) 348-3135

What is O-Week?

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



About the Theme

Our mission for BistrO-Week is to equip you with the tools needed to craft your own recipe for success here at McMurtry and within the Rice community. We know that being at Rice can feel like being at a restaurant: there are so many good options to choose from, and even O-Week can feel like a multi-course meal. While this can be overwhelming at times, during BistrO-Week we seek to boil it down to the essentials. We also recognize and appreciate that every chef draws inspiration from their home kitchen and brings with them their own batch of ingredients. We want our incoming Murts to know that all identities and backgrounds are welcome at McMurtry. These diverse identities and backgrounds will aid you in all of the new meals you'll begin to cook up here at Rice. We are ready and excited to watch you become confident and comfortable here at Rice as you develop new tastes and techniques that will stay with you forever!





Overview of Move-In Day

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Plan to arrive in the morning on Sunday, August 13th. When you arrive at Rice, please enter through Entrance #1 (the main entrance), take your first right, and follow the signs for McMurtry. After you unload, you will be given directions for where to park for the remainder of the morning. As you get closer to McMurtry, Advisors will be holding signs, yelling your name, and welcoming you to the college. They are super excited to meet you!

Your Advisors, and maybe some helpful football players, will empty your car and start moving your stuff into the building (that's right - you don't have to do ANY work). In the meantime, you and your family will be introduced to our wonderful College Coordinator, Jackie, who will give you your keys and other important information. After you check that all your belongings are in your room, you will meet the McTeam (our amazing Adult Team), who will welcome you to McMurtry and Rice. They are so excited to meet you and you can read more about them later in this book! You will also have some time to unpack and begin setting up your room.

Around noon, there will be lunch for you, your family, and your Advisors. Soon after lunch, it will be time to say a final goodbye to your family, and head off to join your O-Week group for the first time. While your family and loved ones stay behind for a New Families Orientation, you will be starting one of the most jam-packed and fun-filled weeks of your college career!





Directions to McMurtry



Arriving 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 right on Main Street and take an immediate right into Rice campus using Entrance #1.

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 an immediate left onto Main Street. Turn right onto Rice campus using Entrance #1.

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 right on Main Street and take an immediate right into Rice campus using Entrance #1.

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 an immediate left onto Main Street. Turn right into Rice campus using Entrance #1.

Arriving by Plane

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) / Houston Hobby Airport (HOU):

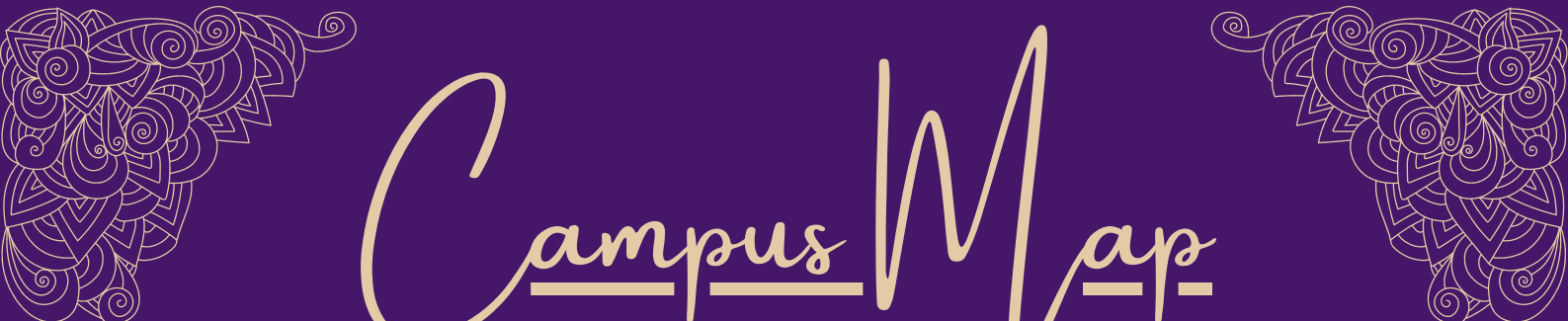
The travel time from IAH will be around 35-40 minutes and the commute from Hobby will be about 20-25 minutes, depending on the time of day. Car rentals and Ride Share services are available at both IAH and Hobby Airport.

Hotels Near Rice University

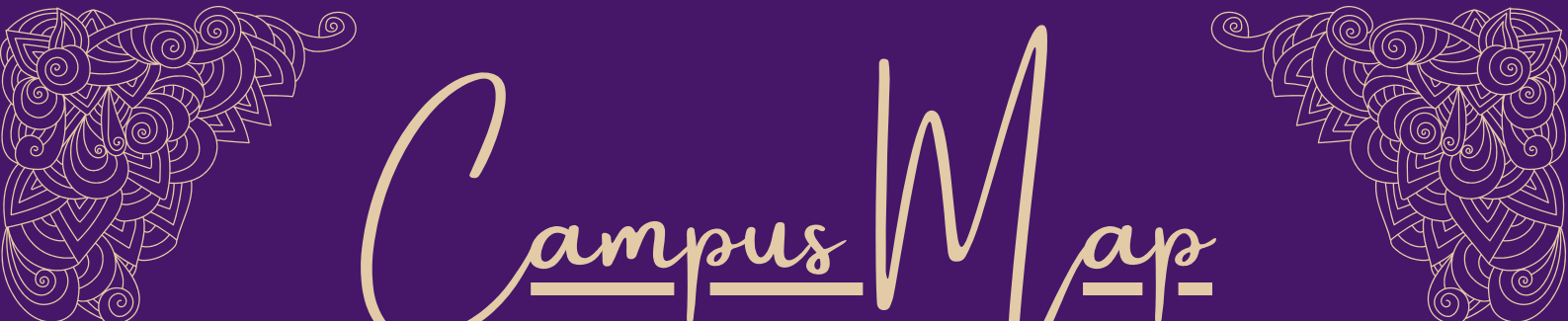
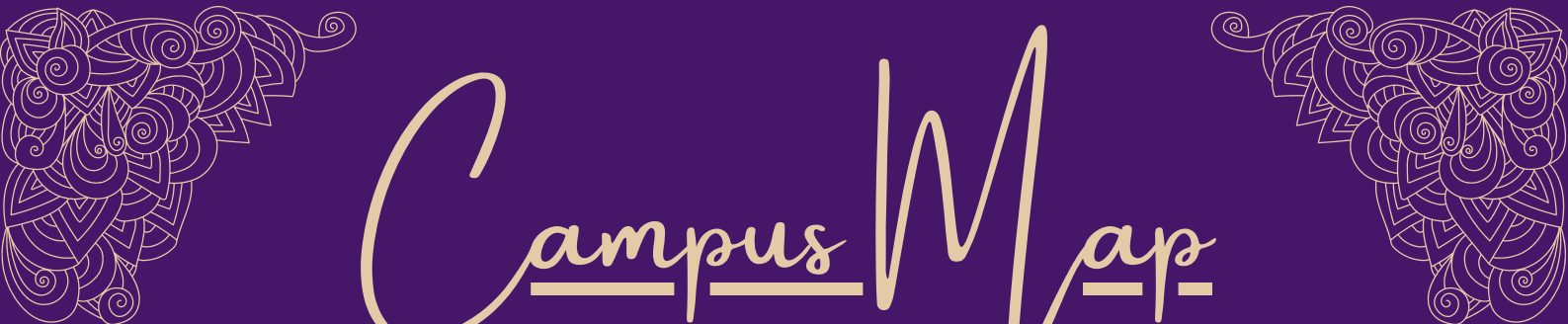
There are several hotels located in the Medical Center District. Some of the options include Hotel ZaZa, InterContinental Houston Medical Center, Houston Marriot: Med Center, and more. Some of these hotels have special Rice University rates so be sure to explore the various options at this site:

<https://success.rice.edu/parents-family/new-families-orientation/hotels>

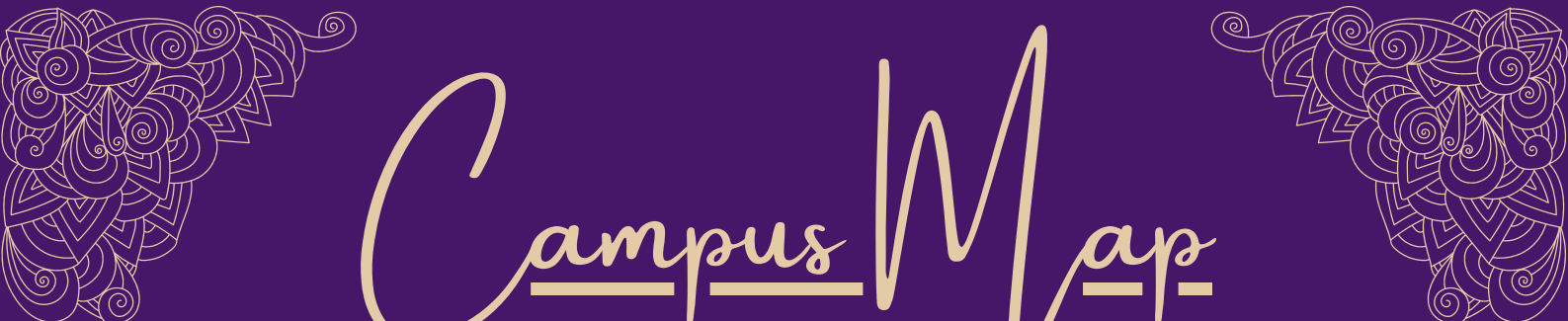




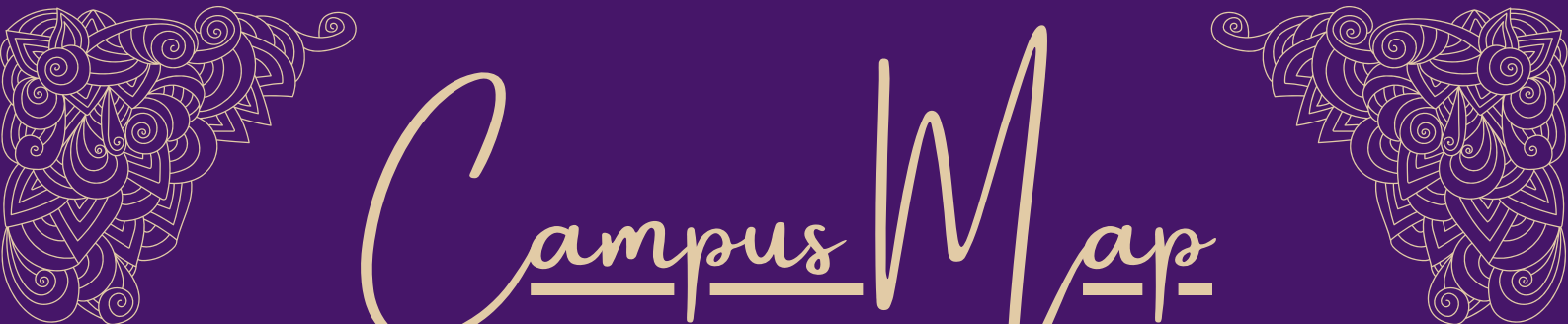
Campus Map



Campus Map

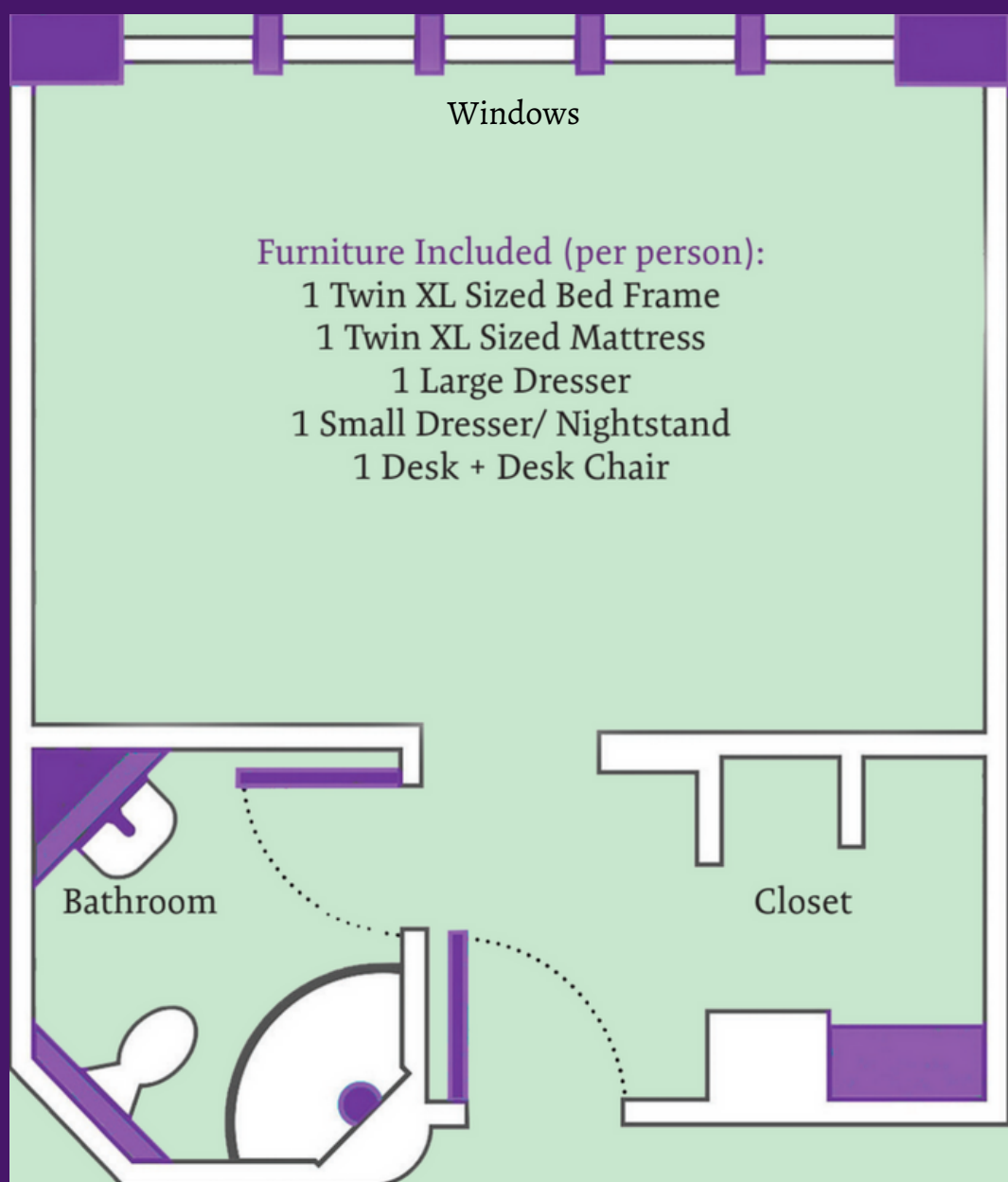


Campus Map



Your Room

Coming in as New Students to McMurtry, you will most likely be placed in a double (one room shared between two people) with your roommate. The diagram below is a floor plan which should give you an idea of what your 18'x18' room will look like!





What To Bring.



-4-

Every Room Has:

- Bed
- Dresser
- AC/Heating Unit
- Desk & Chair
- Ethernet Port
- Private Bathroom
- Built-in Closet
- Cable TV Outlet
- Towel Racks
- Trash Can & Recycling Bin
- Shower Curtain

Supplies to Bring or Buy:

- School Supplies
- Desk Lamp
- Shower Accessories
- Storage/Organizers
- Power Strips/Extension Cords
- Backpack
- Chargers
- Computer (see OIT article in Owlmanac)
- Clothing Hangers
- Hand Soap/Hand Towels
- Bath Mat
- Twin XL Bedding
- Pillows

Personal Items:

- Medicines
- High Efficiency Laundry Detergent
- Identification (i.e., Driver's License, Passport, etc.)
- Toiletries
- Towels/Washcloths
- Up-to-Date Insurance Card
- Clothes Hamper (we recommend one that's easy to carry)
- Clothing — make sure you have a week's worth of comfortable shorts and shoes for O-Week (it's a hot week full of activities!)

Optional or Miscellaneous Items:

- Mattress Pad
- TV
- Water Bottle
- Iron/Ironing Board
- Carpet/Rug
- Brita filter
- Mini Refridgerator
- Wall Decorations
- Full-Length Mirror
- Furniture
- Mounting Tape / Command Strips
- Broom or Vacuum

What NOT to Bring:

- TOO MUCH STUFF—there will be *plenty* of time to buy stuff you didn't bring. We strongly recommend starting out small with just the essentials and adjusting once you've been in your room in person!
- Candles or other flammable materials
- Your own microwave (there's at least one communal microwave on each floor)





Our Kitchen



McMurry: Ground Level

A, B, C, and D denote our four stairways, both on the map and in real life! You will often hear Murts say things like "meet me by stair **B**" or "leaving from stair **D**."

Aside from the RFA, no one lives on the ground (or 1st) floor. Instead, you will find essentials like our Laundry Room (fully equipped with washers and dryers), Study Rooms (furnished with chairs, tables, and couches), and Jackie's Office!

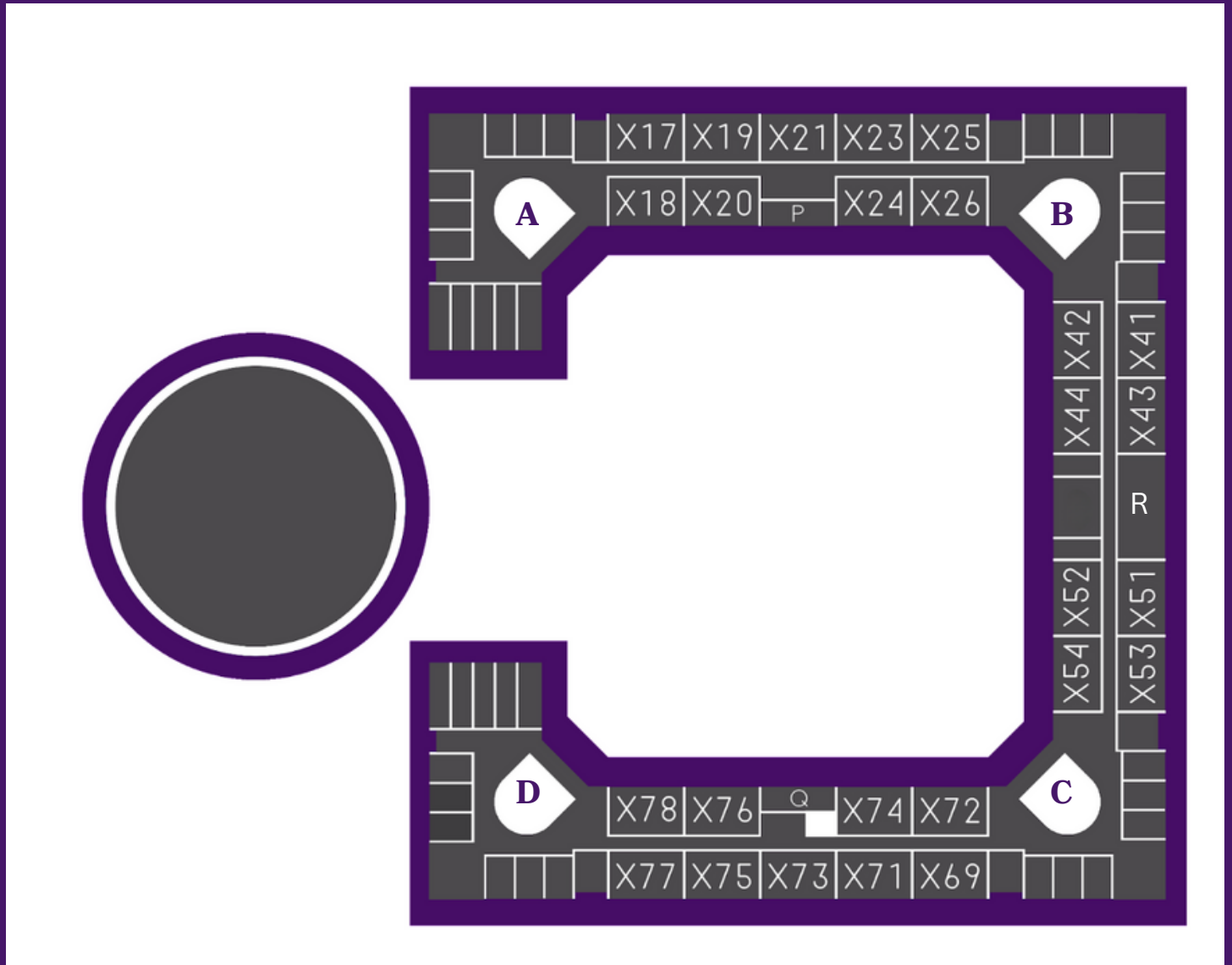
A few steps from the main McMurry building is our Commons, connected to West Servery. You will always find Murts eating meals, studying, and hanging out here; many Murt events also take place in the Yurt!





Our Kitchen

(continued)



McMurtry: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Floors

Replace “X” with your floor to find your room on the map above!

All incoming Murts living on-campus will be assigned to a room on 2nd, 3rd, or 4th floor.

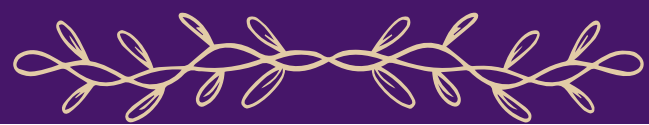
P - denotes a small communal study room-type space where you are likely to find a table and chairs, maybe even a microwave or a jigsaw puzzle!

Q - denotes a kitchen space containing a stove/oven, sink, microwave, and fridge!

Anyone is welcome to use these at any time as long as they clean up afterwards.

R - denotes an RA apartment on 2nd and 3rd floors (Tamara and Deirdre, respectively), and another communal space on 4th!

McMurtry 5th is a sundeck where some upperclassmen live and is also home to 2 more communal lounge spaces, and sometimes Murt-wide events are hosted up here!



McMurtry History and Values

McMurtry's history reaches surprisingly far back to the very beginning of the residential college system. Our founders, Burt and Deedee McMurtry, served together on the student-faculty committee that created the original residential college system. The McMurtrys graduated with the Class of 1956, got married, and went on to become successful in venture capitalism in California. The founding couple's efforts towards establishing the college system came full circle on August 16, 2009, with the successful opening of Burton and Deedee McMurtry College — your new home! Ever since then, each and every incoming class has worked to create traditions and culture that will last for years to come. Though there are many traditions in place already, you are all an essential part of creating even more throughout your time at McMurtry.

McRice: The first O-Week Coordinators prefixed every imaginable sign and placard on campus with the letters "Mc" to officially mark Rice with Murt spirit. From McFondren Library to McMcMurtry, the possibilities are endless as we venture across Rice to proclaim Murt pride.

"McMurtry is in-tents!": Our simple but proud beginnings were epitomized by the tents that reigned over the first McMurtry O-Week while we waited for the completion of our commons. This gave rise to the double-entendre cheer, "McMurtry is intense (in tents)!"

McWill: For its first year of life, McMurtry shared its building with Will Rice College, whose new wing was under construction. As Will Rice and McMurtry became roommates, the residential college culture was shared and a sisterhood was born. To this day, every new class of Murts and Will Ricers participates in the tradition known as McWill during O-Week, where the bond between the two colleges is rekindled and new friendships begin.

Beer Bike: McMurtry goes all out in the great tradition of Rice. Murts proudly wear banana suits and blast music throughout the week, making us the most hype college in Beer Bike. We also enjoy winning, most recently the 2020 Men's Beer Run and the 2021 Women's Beer Bike.

Powderpuff: Combined with Will Rice, our college reigned victorious in our first-ever appearance in the Powderpuff championship. Since then, we've already won the Fall 2016, Fall 2017, and Spring 2022 championships, making Powderpuff a common gathering for Murts to show their college pride.

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

Conch: The conch shell appears on our crest and refers to the fact that the McMurtry name derives from the Scottish "Son of the Sea Navigator". When this instrument of glory is blown, all Murts let out the ear-piercing scream of "MURRRRRRRRRRT!" that embodies the intensity and strong bond of McMurtry.

Cookies: Our spirit of inclusivity extends farther than our own college. As part of our Baker 13 defense, we bake and pass out cookies for the runners and get a peaceful truce in return.

McScottish Night: A uniquely McMurtry night dedicated to celebrating our Scottish heritage. The night has historically featured Scottish delicacies, student-led kilt-making, a bagpipe procession, the burning of a homemade Wickerman, and more!

Y2K: Each college hosts a public party at least once a year, where free food, drinks for people of age, music, and dancing are provided in the college's Commons. McMurtry's party is Y2K, a throwback 2000's themed party traditionally held in February!

Birthday Gong: At McMurtry, we like to celebrate birthdays by hitting our Birthday Gong. Usually during mealtimes, your friend will stand on a table in Commons and yell "Hey McMurtry! It's [insert name]'s birthday!" followed by Murts cheering "Birthday Gong!" repeatedly as you go hit the gong.

Fridays in the Quad (FITQ): When you walk back to McMurtry after class on Friday, you will be greeted by the mass of Murts in the quad playing volleyball, talking, or eating food. There's nothing like finishing the week off with some good food, games, music, and friends.

McMurtry Cup: To honor our competitive, sporting nature, and our strong floor culture, McMurtry hosts a yearlong McMurtry Cup to show which floor will reign supreme. Events have included trivia, tug-of-war, video game tournaments, and other competitions.

Cultivating New Traditions: This is a great freedom of our college, as the time is ripe for new traditions to be created, both during O-Week and beyond. As part of the fourteenth matriculating class, you have the incredible opportunity to help shape our ever-expanding, ever-changing college. Be ready, for you will be an unforgettable part of McMurtry's history.



The Executive Chefs: Meet the McTeam



Each college has its own Core Team. Here at McMurtry, we have our own special name for them: the McTeam. The McTeam is one of our most visible and helpful groups of advisors and mentors. It consists of 7 people, who, all except one, our College Coordinator, live in the college. In addition to being members of the McTeam, many also work for Rice in some capacity. There is a 1 Residential Associate (RA), 2 Resident Faculty Associates, 2 Magisters, and a College Coordinator. Among the McTeam there are several professors, administrators, advisors, and our favorites: dogs and children! The McTeam is a great resource to go to for personal or academic advice. They are also a group of great people to become friends with! You can find them down the hall in the college, at the Magisters' house, in classrooms and offices around campus, and even in West Served for most meals. To become part of the McTeam, each member had to apply to the program and must be reevaluated every few years at the end of each of their terms. You will get to meet them early on during O-Week, and they love it when you say hello to them around campus or at other McMurtry events! They have helped many of us in unimaginable ways, and they are truly invested in your well-being.

Magisters' Welcome

Jenifer Bratter & Noe Perez



Welcome to McMurry!! We are Jenifer Bratter and Noe Perez, the Magisters of McMurry College!! What does it mean to be successful in college- finding your people! Our mission as Magisters is to help students find connections to others, engage their interests, and see this place as home. We are entering our fourth year as Magisters! We love getting to know students and having them over at our home for food and fun, but also just chatting to get to know your hopes and dreams. To get that started, here's a little about us: Jenifer is a Professor in the Sociology Department specializing in race and ethnicity and its impact on identity, interpersonal relationships, and life chances. She has been working at Rice since 2006, and she enjoys the creative and intellectually dazzling graduate and undergraduate students. Noe is a freelance researcher. He loves biking as a way to exercise (ask him about the Bike paths in Houston!), getting to know the Rice community, carpentry, cooking-especially dishes that remind folks of home-and farmer's markets. We are a couple from all over – Jenifer was born in Brooklyn and Noe hails from south Texas (“the Valley”) and we met at the University of Texas at Austin in the graduate program in Sociology during a conflict about a desk – yes, please ask. We have two boys, Ricardo (age 18) is off to college this year, and Sam (age 13, 8th grade), and our dog, Sunshine Charlie, who loves people (and belly rubs!). Sam is a guitar player, video gamer, chess enthusiast, and programmer. Ricardo is off to Trinity University! His passions are Parkour, weight lifting, climbing, and his goal is to study architecture and urban studies. We can't wait to meet you all – Welcome to McMurry!

College Coordinator's Welcome

Jackie Carrizales



My name is Jackie Carrizales and I am the McMurtry College Coordinator. I have been the Coordinator here since the week before O-Week in 2015, but I have been an associate at McMurtry since it opened in the Summer of 2009. I was so excited to be able to be a part of a college from the beginning and see the start of all of the traditions that make each college unique. I can't believe that I'm lucky enough to spend every day here now and get paid for it! I have worked at Rice for 14 years. Away from McMurtry, I am married to my husband, Marc, and we have three adult sons, Max, Luke, and Leo. We also have three dogs, Azura, Shorty and Dagon, who think that they control the house (and they really do). My office is on the ground floor right outside the door to the commons. I love when students visit and tell me about what is going on with their lives, so please stop by any time to say "Hi." Grab some candy or a cup of coffee or tea. There are some very comfortable couches and chairs in my office, along with Squishmallows if you need a hug, and puzzles to challenge your brain. I'm always ready to talk about Asian dramas, Korean music, Astros baseball, or whatever interests you!

THINGS YOU CAN DO IN JACKIE'S OFFICE

- Buy stamps & get envelopes
- Borrow an extra room key
- Pick up mail and packages
- Do homework
- Use the staplers, packing tape, scissors, shredder, etc
- Take a study break
- Relax with other Murts

Resident Faculty Associate's Welcome

Sergio Chávez



Sergio Chávez is an Resident Faculty Associate (RFA) and also an associate professor with teaching and research specialization in theory, methods, and networks. He has been at Rice University for 13 years. Sergio is originally from California, Salinas Valley, where much of what he eats is produced- and is also the home of John Steinbeck (one of his favorite writers). His partner, Robin, along with their two kids, Abriel (age 8) and Aaron (age 6) all reside in Chicago. When they visit, you will see them running around and hear them yelling in the quad. Please look out for many of Sergio's events including a book club, a Spanish table during dinner, an educational wine-tasting event (for seniors, but hey now you have something to look forward to in four years!), and many other events. Sergio has lots of good stories about a variety of topics in case you are ever looking for some good conversation, many of which are pretty funny- others which are "good scary" (i.e., the time he spotted a UFO).

2nd Floor RA's Welcome

Tamara Jones



Hiii new Murts! My name is Tamara, and I am entering my sixth year as Resident Associate at the best college. I am the Student Services Administrator in the Dean's Office here at Rice which entails helping students navigate their way through college life – some paths are more arduous than others and that's where I can step in and help. I was born and raised here in Houston. I have an MA in Sociology and love learning about human variation in every form – cultural, familial, personality, life choices, etc. This means I will want to learn all about your life story, from the mundane to the deep! I have many hot takes on food. I hate the 5 C's: chocolate, cinnamon, caramel, coconut, and coffee (it's just an elevated palate thing; only the real ones would understand) and love strawberry, guava, passionfruit, vanilla, and Funfetti. My hobbies include curating music playlists (ask me about my playlists for each day of the week), birdwatching, nature photography, color consulting, consuming pastries, and games of all sorts – bowling, board games, video games, trivia, you name it. I enjoy reading, exploring new cities, and finding new, random Netflix series to watch. I live here with my daughters Seraphina, Aura, and Lila. Seraphina is a rising 5th grader who enjoys slime, dance performances, swimming, hot chips, and unhinged what-if scenarios. Aura is a rising 3rd grader who enjoys building things, turning our apartment into a DIY parkour arena, Pokemon, shopping, and being literal. Lila is a rising 1st grader who enjoys sing-alongs, marble runs, using people as furniture, convincing Murts to toss her in the air repeatedly, and spelling. I look forward to getting to know all of you and The Gems (the shorthand collective name for my daughters) can't wait to play with you!

3rd Floor R.F.A.'s Welcome

Deirdre Hunter



Welcome to McMurtry! I am Deirdre Hunter. I live on 3rd floor with my two pups, Sandy and Nexus. We are thrilled to welcome you with open arms and paws to the best College. I am an Assistant Teaching Professor at the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (OEDK). In addition to teaching engineering design courses at the OEDK, over the summers I co-lead the Summer Experience in Engineering Design (SEED) Internship, teach in the Rice Emerging Scholars Program (RESP), and teach a study abroad course in Mexico. I received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Syracuse University and a PhD in Engineering Education from Virginia Tech. My research has focused on developing learner-centered environments in engineering classrooms, and teaching and learning metacognitive skills. I love thinking deeply and philosophizing about higher education systems and learning more broadly. Some of my hobbies include: playing games (from cards and board games, to organized sports and wacky competitions, I am game!), cheering for the Houston Astros - I have season tickets and love attending games—drinking coffee (totally addicted, and no shame!), hosting Dogs & Donuts on 5th, and finding great conversations. But most of all, I'm passionate about people. For me, it has always been more about who I am sharing moments with, than what I am doing in that moment. My personal life vision is “to build inclusive community” and I think every person has a deep desire to be known. Knowing someone starts with listening, and when we are truly known we begin to feel like we belong to a shared experience. So, let's sit together over a meal or a cup of coffee; I am eager to hear your story!! Sandy is a dachshund-beagle mix. She was born on the streets in Mexico, crazy story you should ask me about sometime! She loves naps, sun bathing, belly rubs, and doesn't miss a meal!! Nexus is an Australian shepherd mix. He struggles with anxiety (can you relate?), but loves spending time with students, giving hugs, and long walks. This crew will be welcoming a baby to the mix in October - we are so excited!! If you ever need some puppy time you can find us in 347, just knock!

President and Chief Justices Welcome



My name is Jackson, and I have the privilege of being your President at McMurry College this year! I hope to be one of the first people to welcome you here to Rice and to McMurry, which you'll soon call your home here at Rice for the next four years. But before I get more into that, I want to congratulate you for all of your effort in doing something that very few people do, which is actually reading this blurb. I'm just kidding. Congrats on making your way through high school and we are so happy that our admissions staff accepted y'all!!! Over the next four years, you have the opportunity to learn an immense amount of information, meet hundreds of new people and explore who you want to be for the rest of your life. The residential college system at Rice will allow you to have a support network through all of that. McMurry will be a place you can always come to in order to find help and resources. We have all sorts of events for all sorts of people, from coffee breaks, to sporting events, to all-day hangouts. We offer events of all shapes and sizes, so every Murt can choose how they wish to interact with the college. All that being said, as president my number one priority is you. Whatever you might need, let me know! I'm excited to see you in the fall, but until then, relax and enjoy your time, there's no need to worry or rush into college.

Now go have some fun,
Jackson Hughes



Welcome to McMurry College at Rice University, New Murts! I'm Jacob Wong, a senior majoring in Kinesiology with a minor in Cell Biology and Biochemistry. As your Chief Justice, I'm here to ensure your safety and support you throughout your time here.

McMurry College offers endless opportunities for growth, engagement, and fun. From exciting events to spirited sports teams, there's always something happening. And don't forget about our legendary Beer Bike!

I'm thrilled to have you join our close-knit McMurry family. Whether you have questions, need assistance, or just want to make new friends, reach out to me anytime. I'm here to make your transition smooth.

Get ready for an unforgettable experience filled with lifelong memories, personal growth, and a strong sense of belonging. Welcome to McMurry College, and let's embark on this incredible journey together!

Feel free to approach me or send a message if you need anything. See you soon!

Cheers,
Jacob "Chief" Wong



Hey Murt Freshman! Welcome to the best college at Rice and the only college with two CJs! I'm Timmy Mansfield, and I grew up in Hamilton, NY and I'm now studying Chemistry. Our Chief, Jacob, explained most of what our role is and why McMurry's the best, but again, don't be afraid to reach out to either of us for anything you might need. I won't be here for most of O-Week because I'll be Co-Advising at Will Rice, but throughout the year I'll be around since I'll be on campus (next door to our Chief AND President). I'm so excited to meet y'all after O-Week, and be sure to reach out whenever you need!

Cheers,
Timmy "Justice" Mansfield



At Rice, all 11 residential colleges have an internal, student-run government designed to deal with various aspects of the college. At McMurry, our student government is known as the McMistry. Within the McMistry exists the Executive Council (EC), which includes the President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Prime Minister, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian (all elected in the spring). The EC conducts various functions, including running the McMurry Town Hall meetings, overseeing the committee system, sending out announcements, reserving rooms at our college, creating the budget, and much more. In addition to the EC, there are nine Hall Representatives (including one off-campus rep) and one At-Large Representative. There are also Class Representatives, including three First Year Reps elected by first-year students in the fall (and you can be one!). Hall Representatives are members elected to represent their respective hall within the McMistry. The At-Large Representative represents the interests of McMurry College as a whole and organizes meetings between the Hall Representatives and Class Representatives, collectively known as the People's Council (PC). With the exception of the President and Parliamentarian, all of the previously mentioned positions are voting members of the McMistry. The rest of the McMistry comprises non-voting members, including the Chief Justice, the Historians, the SA Senator, the RPC Representative, and the Honor Council Representative. Many of the events planned by and for McMurry students are organized through various committees. Getting involved in a committee is a great way to get involved with the McMurry government as a New Student. Additionally, the McMistry meets bi-weekly for Town Hall meetings that are open to everyone. Town Hall meetings discuss current McMurry issues, hold voting sessions, and are an open forum for any Murt to voice their concerns (free snacks too!). These meetings are where you will learn what is going on at McMurry, so make sure to attend and stay involved!

Executive Council '23-'24

President: Jackson Hughes

EVP: Vidal Saenz

IVP: Adeel Sumar

Prime Minister: Anusha Srivastava

Secretaries: Jackson Harvey and Kile Stenoien

Senior Treasurer: Shreyan Das

Junior Treasurer: Conner Huang

At-Large Rep: Zoe Wang

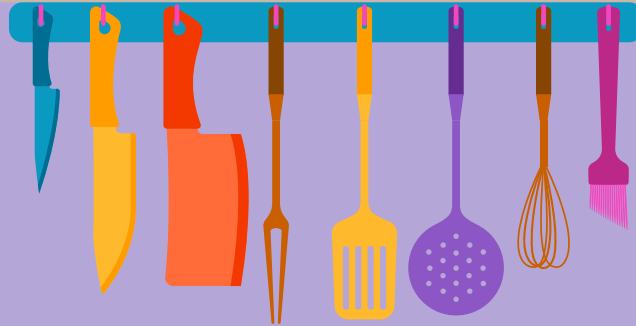
Chief Justices: Jacob Wong and Timmy Mansfield

Senator: Lauren Verthein

Parliamentarian: Davis Jackson







Meet the
McCoordinators





Essence

(she/her)



Hi New Murts!! My name is Essence Ratliff, and I'm a Junior here at McMurtry (the best college on campus)!! I'm originally from Memphis, TN, which you'll probably be able to tell from what many call my "strong Memphian accent." Although Memphis is my hometown, I've found myself feeling more at home here at Rice and I hope that you all will too!

Here at Rice, I am majoring in English with a Creative Writing Concentration and I am minoring in Anthropology and Sociology. Upon entering Rice, I had no idea that I was even slightly interested in Anthropology or Sociology.

However, after taking a couple of classes in those departments for distribution credit, I quickly fell in love and wanted to learn more. Therefore, I want to tell you all that it's okay if you don't know what it is you want to do yet, or if those things change, because Rice allows you the space and resources to explore several fields until you find THE ONE.

Outside of academics, within McMurtry I have served on the Diversity Committee and now as one of the Committee Heads for McMurtry's Black Caucus. While on Diversity Committee I helped plan cultural events, such as the Hispanic Heritage Month FITQ (Fridays in the Quad) and the Black History Month FITQ. I am also a member of our infamous Powderpuff team, which we are always excited to have new additions to!

In my spare time, I love hanging out with my friends and exploring everything Houston has to offer (which you will soon see as well)! Some of my hobbies include: crocheting, writing, reading, watching anime, binging the latest dating reality tv show, and upgrading my latest pair of Crocs with jibbitz (#ifyouaintcrocyouaintrockin).

But most importantly of all, this year I have the great honor of being one of your O-Week Coordinators. During my own O-Week, there were so many different experiences and things I learned that have shaped me into the person that I am today, and for that, I will forever be grateful. O-Week helped introduce me to a community of people who were all so welcoming and to this day I am still friends with my O-Week siblings and advisors. So we are trying our very best (and have been for the past couple of months now) to ensure that O-Week is an experience that you will never forget as it'll be filled with lots of fun activities and beneficial information that will help jumpstart your next four years at Rice and Murt!

We absolutely cannot wait to meet you all, and please feel free to reach out to us if you ever need anything!





Ishani
(she/her)



Welcome Murts! My name is Ishani Kaul, and I am excited and honored to be one of your McCoordinators for BistrO-Week 2023! I'm from Frisco, Texas, but I've lived in cities all over the country including Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and El Paso. I am so happy to have made Houston my home for the past few years and I can't wait to welcome you to the city and to Rice!

I am a rising junior double majoring in Health Sciences and History on the pre-law track. I am particularly interested in the intersection of healthcare and policy. I've done my fair share of exploring when it comes to classes and majors at Rice. If you're in the same boat, don't worry!

Rice has numerous resources for you to utilize in order to find the right path for you.

Over the past two years, I have had opportunities to get involved in McMurtry government as the head of the Alumni Committee and a Junior representative. Outside of McMurtry, I am involved in the Baker Institute for Public Policy and Rice Emergency Medical Services (REMS). I also play for the Rice Women's Club Basketball team and DJ for 96.1 KTRU!

Our goal for O-Week is for you to feel welcome and comfortable in your transition to Rice! Essence, Marina, and I have been working on planning O-Week for over seven months and we hope you enjoy O-Week as much as we have loved coordinating it. Whether you enjoy large, hype events or prefer more chill activities, BistrO-Week has something for everyone.

As former new students ourselves, we understand the pre-O-Week nerves and are here to help ease the transition. Please reach out to us with any questions you may have about O-Week and Rice! Once again, congratulations and welcome to McMurtry!





Marina

(they/them)



Welcome to McMurry everyone!!! My name is Marina Klein, and I am a rising junior at McMurry! I am from Rockford, IL: a small town about 1.5 hours from both Chicago and Madison, WI. However, after two years of being in Houston, I can't help but love the city, the weather, and many people I've encountered here.

I'm double-majoring in Mathematics and Sociology and minoring in Environmental Studies. That's definitely a mouthful, but all it really means is that I like to learn about patterns (both in a pure sense and in a people sense) and how people and the environment affect each other both historically and presently. Beyond that, I'm hoping that this trifecta of academic weaponry will help me to solve issues of systemic inequality both now and into the future.

Although my studies keep me on my toes, I prefer to be on my toes dancing: I'm a member of Rice Bhangra! When those beats stop, I keep the music going by playing my French horn in Campanile Orchestra. Within McMurry, you'll find me serving as a Year-Long PAA as well as the Hall Representative for 2O this year! And come Beer Bike, you'll catch me out on the track putting the pedal to the metal. Around campus, I work in the Student Success Initiatives (SSI) department as a FLI Ambassador to help plan events and provide support for my fellow First-Generation and/or Low-Income students.

People have asked me, "what don't you do?" I usually respond with something silly like "eat celery!" (it's my dealbreaker food). All jokes aside, though, I make a point to prioritize my friends and fellow Murts no matter what else may be going on. On that note, please feel free to reach out to me for any reason, at any time! I hope I help can make McMurry feel like home for you.

Get hype for O-Week! See you in August :)





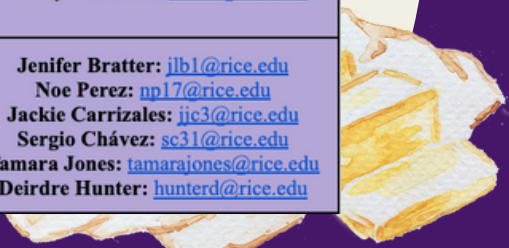
Bistro-Week

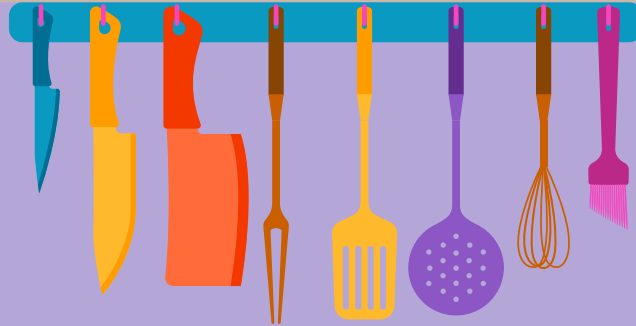
Key Ingredients



Position	Description	Name/Contact
<u>Coordinator</u>	The three students at each college who oversee and prepare O-Week for your matriculating class. We've been planning this for the last 7 months!	Essence Ratliff: efr1@rice.edu (901)-279-7835 Ishani Kaul: ik17@rice.edu (626)-485-0703 Marina Klein: mnk3@rice.edu (832)-434-2341
<u>Advisor</u>	Amazing Murts who volunteered their time to help ease your transition! They are great people and resources!	Check the O-Week group section to find your Advisors!
<u>Co-Advisor</u>	Fantastic leaders from other colleges who will help introduce you to life at Rice outside of McMurtry!	Check the O-Week group section to find your Co-Advisors!
<u>Peer Academic Advisor (PAA)</u>	Student experts on Rice academics who will help you with all your class scheduling during O-Week!	Elliot Chae: ejc12@rice.edu Jade Xu: jx35@rice.edu Karen Martinez Perez: kmm10@rice.edu Zabrina Sidhu: zks1@rice.edu
<u>Diversity Facilitator (DF)</u>	They run educational diversity workshops and are here to make sure you feel comfortable being yourself!	Christie Vieux: csv2@rice.edu Neyida Michel: nm68@rice.edu
<u>Gopher</u>	The Coordinators' best friends. They'll get anything, from Sharpies to body paint to make O-Week a smoother experience for you!	April Chung: adc9@rice.edu James Hwang: jkh7@rice.edu Miki Law: mal21@rice.edu
<u>Rice Health Advisor (RHA)</u>	They're your resource on well-being at Rice and how to be the healthiest and happiest self you can be!	Sophia Peng: sp95@rice.edu
<u>Athletic Liaison</u>	A student-athlete Advisor who ensures our athletes' situations, both during O-Week and after, are understood and accommodated!	Timothy Hays: tw5@rice.edu
<u>Student Maintenance Rep</u>	Go-to person if you need your bed lofted or have any other issues with your room.	Berny Guerra-Arthur: bgg1@rice.edu
<u>President</u>	The President of McMurtry College for the upcoming school year!	Jackson Hughes: jth9@rice.edu
<u>Chief Justice (CJ)</u>	They're your resource on the justice system and other regulations such as the Alcohol Policy!	Jacob Wong: jcw12@rice.edu Timmy Mansfield: imm5@rice.edu
<u>McTeam</u>	The McTeam is McMurtry's version of one of Rice's most visible and helpful group of adult advisors and mentors.	Jenifer Bratter: jlb1@rice.edu Noe Perez: np17@rice.edu Jackie Carrizales: jic3@rice.edu Sergio Chávez: sc31@rice.edu Tamara Jones: tamarajones@rice.edu Deirdre Hunter: hunterd@rice.edu







Meet your
Advisors

Avocado Toast Malone



Getting Toasty for O-Week!



Ananya Kar
McMurtry '25
Major: Psychology
Hometown: Erie, CO

What do you get when you mix sudden 0.5x selfies, “,” holiday text check-ins, and friendly smiles together? None other than the amazing Ananya Kar and her iconic habits. As a native Coloradan, Ananya is a junior Psychology major on the Pre-Med track with a knack for creating adventures. On the weekends, you may find her at the best Bollywood dance club in Houston or introducing her friends to eyebrow threading. One day, you will see her biking to her research lab at the BRC jamming to Still Woozy, and the next day (or night), you will see her killin’ it on the dance floors like no other (look out for desi pub and y2k). Despite her hectic schedule and mini-dancing sessions sprinkled throughout the day (beware of Zumba classes you’ll suddenly find yourself in), she won’t hesitate to help you with whatever you need—from late night cookie baking session to rant sessions or simply creating an epic Spotify playlist. She is a master of making anyone feel at home and is the epitome of the sweet, attentive, friend who will celebrate your success or be there when you are feeling down. Whether you need study tips for organic chemistry or advice for your quarter life crisis, Ananya is an advisor beyond O-Week!

P.S. Be sure to ask her about her new restaurant recommendations!

-Zoe Wang, McMurtry '25



Avery Janenda
McMurtry '26
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Minor: Engineering Design
Hometown: West Palm Beach, FL

Right hand green, right foot yellow, left foot red, and right hand blue. Here comes Avery Janenda! Twisting and turning to Mo Bamba (don't worry she doesn't actually look like she's playing Twister), this Florida native and professional* dancer will catch your eye on the Rice Dance Theatre floor! And while she is really good at dancing, that's not all she can do! She can probably build you an iron man suit (or whatever it is a superb Class of 2026 Mechanical Engineer does). Also, even though she is vegan, she is not allergic to the outdoors. You can find her cookin' fools up in Powderpuff, or whitewater kayaking, snowboarding, wakeboarding, or even trapezing outside of school! Jokes aside, Avery is one of the sweetest, most down-to-earth, and most outgoing people you will ever meet, and you will have a fun time if she is your advisor!

*Not actually professional but very good!

-Ethan Kao, Sid Richardson '24



Jay Srivastava
Hanszen '26

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Minors: Engineering Design,
Entrepreneurship
Hometown: Glastonbury, CT

Jay Srivastava is one of Hanszen's finest. With a face known around campus, this ambiguous Engineering student of the class of 2026 represents his college's blue and yellow with pride from intramural sports to the biannual Jello-Scoot. One of Jay's greatest points of pride is his self-proclaimed athleticism—and who would blame him? Towering at just over 6'4", this absolute enigma of human anatomy has almost won a game of 1v1 pickup. In fact, Jay is a man of many talents. Sure, he can fly small planes; sure, he builds electric cars and rockets; but perhaps Jay's most impressive skill is telling people how much smarter he is than them despite his fumbling knowledge of long division. When he's not hanging out in Murt Commons or losing at pool, you'll likely find Jay in his room playing Minecraft until 4 AM or explaining to someone why they're unhealthy for drinking fewer than 8 bottles of milk per day. A native of Glastonbury, the infamous "Jay from Connecticut" has his great home state flowing through his veins and will make sure you know it. However, maybe the one thing he loves more than his mother Nutmeg State is the people around him, and you'll soon find he's one of the most attentive and considerate people you'll ever meet. Overall, a solid 6/10.

-AJ Shin, Hanszen '26



Timmy Hays
McMurtry '24

Majors: Chemistry, French Studies
Minor: Biochemistry
and Cell Biology
Hometown: Nashville, TN

Timothy Hays, or "Himothy" (class of 2024) to those who know Him well, is the definition of work hard play hard. Despite being a double major in Chemistry and French, pre-med, REMS, and a D1 track star, this guy, originally from Nashville and now Iowa City, knows how to party. In the stressful storm that Rice can easily become, Timmy knows how to put work aside when the time is right and let loose with his friends. Whether it be concerts, music festivals, cool restaurants, thrifting, or any other miscellaneous indie activity, Timmy is always down for an adventure. When things go awry, there's no one you'd rather have by your side. Despite all of his many commitments, he is never too busy to be there for the people he cares about, and he never lets his stress infect other people. On the surface he is almost always calm, cool, collected—especially cool. If you ever hear the skrrt of a REMS golf cart being driven borderline recklessly or the pitter patter of his signature Nike blazers, you know Timmy is on the way.

-Charlotte Cambor, McMurtry '24

Banh Migos



Excited to banh-meet you!



Anuska Santra
Sid Richardson '25
Majors: Neuroscience,
Health Science
Minor: Medical Humanities
Hometown: The Woodlands, TX

Crocheting (sid knits), CRAZY dance moves, BEYONCÉÉÉ, eyeliner on fleek, BOMB outfits, RHA (always down for deep talks).

Hailing all the way from Woodlands, TX is none other than Queen Anuska! This junior Neuroscience and Health Sciences major from Sid Rich will make sure you have the best o-week ever!! She's known for her extensive repertoire of crocheted trinkets, LITERALLY carrying decorations at Sid. She not only knows how to move her hands, but this girl can dance!! Member of Basyk and chief of Hip-hop, Anuska knows a thing or two about how to pop, lock, and drop it. Along with her swaggy moves is her BOMB eyeliner, just ask and she shall provide. Anuska is always down for deep talks and knows how to give comforting advice. She'll always bring a smile to your face with her insane unicycle skills so definitely ask for a trick or two. Seriously, you have truly lucked out with Anuska as your advisor! GET HYPEE, GO BANANAS!

-Aliya Belay, Alejandra Jimenez, and Bryant Polanco,
 Sid Richardson '25



Charlie Maxson
McMurtry '26
Majors: Cognitive Science,
Spanish
Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Can you recite the bridge to Taylor Swift's "Death by a Thousand Cuts"? Do you have every line from the pilot episode of Our Flag Means Death memorized to perfection? Did Lewis Capaldi steal your look? Perhaps not, but all these things are true of Charleston Maxson! This sophomore Cognitive Science and Spanish major takes on each day with a zeal for life, a cool pair of earrings, and a daily cat photo (they will show you if you ask, and even if you don't). A member of the MOB (sometimes) and McMurtry powderpuff team, Charlie definitely has more school spirit than most, but not to fear, they'll show you what it means to be a Rice Owl. Atlanta-native by chance, Houston lover by choice — being an advisor leaves some big boots to fill, but this partner just rolled into town. Everybody say, "HOWDY CHARLIEEEE!" If you ever need someone to cheer you on through the ups and downs of your first year at Rice, they'll be there with a good ol' Choverb (Charlie proverb), solid hug, and a "go get 'em, tiger." We are so excited for you to have them as your advisor!

— Soren Freund and Cal Mascardo, McMurtry '26



Richard Chan
McMurtry '24
Major: Bioengineering
Minor: Neuroscience
Hometown: Sugar Land, TX

Just took an X-ray of Richard Chan's chest — we found that DAWG in him. Actually wait jk, we found the Lion in him from the Rice Lions cultural dance team, which he leads with PRIDE. Lion's pride?? And you know what else he's proud of? His ULTIMATE WORKFLOW™ planner on Notion that has enabled him to grind through his past three years as a pre-med Bioengineering major and Neuroscience minor. When he's not at the OEDK, you can find him leading Camp Kesem as this year's Director and whipping around in a golf cart during his Rice EMS shifts. But be warned, your future O-Week father might not have enough tetra to give you sweet coffee despite being from Sugarland, Texas. Also, be sure to LET HIM COOK, but only on the sticks when playing Overcooked 2 or you might find your Kraft™ mac and cheese burning. However, he is also known to cook kids at the rec in pickup basketball, so stay in your lane. Richard is also active in the Vietnamese Student Association, where he's a pho-bulous leader. But real talk, Richard is one of the most authentic, caring, and passionate people you'll ever know; hit him up if you ever need anything and he'll be there for you (his prime hours of operation occur after midnight).

-Ethan Yang, Will Rice '24, Robert Heeter, Hanszen '24, and Shreya Jindal, Hanszen '24



Sean Nyangeri
McMurtry '26
Major: Psychology
Minors: African and
African American Studies,
Spanish, Portuguese
Hometown: Houston, TX

Are you Pre-Law? Pre-Med? Psych major? History major? Ask Sean Nyangeri about it, he's done it all! Standing at 6'0 tall, there's nothing this man can't do (or reach)! He's the best friend you'll have and if you have him as an advisor, consider yourself blessed. You'll never see him walking around campus without his city girls shirt with boba in hand and his RASA tote bag. As an avid barb (#BackTheBarbz!!) you know he has GREAT music taste, stay tuned for his beyoncé concert debrief!! This sophomore native Houstonian never fails to impress. He is fluent in Spanish (ask him about his summer in Madrid!!) and was named FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR for RASA!!! He'll be continuing his reign of success as the Social Consciousness Coordinator for the Black Student Association this year! Sean never fails to look out for his friends and community and as an advisor, he'll continue to do the same <3.

-Imaje Harvey, Sid Richardson '26

Breaking Bread



Bready to welcome you home!



Anadaysi Lopez
McMurtry '25
Major: Architecture
Minor: Environmental Studies
Hometowns: Miami, FL & Granada,
Nicaragua

Picture this: you enter Rice University on move-in day and see a woman with the brightest smile and sharpest eyeliner cheering your name. Anadaysi is a junior at McMurtry and is a woman of many talents. She's the brainchild of Nicaragua and Miami, the quirky and artsy side of architecture, the epitome of Thai tea with boba, and an avid red nail polish lover. She is the perfect companion for crocheting granny squares, watching atrocious horror movies, aggressively thrifting, or sharing sensitive stomach problems with! Also she might have a pair of hair-cutting scissors that she is not afraid to use if you ever need a haircut. In need of comfort? Whether it be secret parties to dance your troubles away at 3am or words of encouragement, Anadaysi is your girl. You'll immediately see that her heart is full of kindness, empathy, and laughter which will only grow stronger from the day you meet her. Her love for her future O-Week children can only be matched by her passion for fashion and love for her Gogo boots! Don't worry, this means she'll shower you with affection and stomp on anyone causing you distress while absolutely serving a new look. She is so generous with her time and love – you should be thanking your lucky stars you ended up with this woman as your advisor!!!

-Laxmi Giri and Lauren Ginn, McMurtry '25



Anusha Srivastava
McMurtry '24
Major: Chemical Engineering
Minor: Politics, Law, and
Social Thought
Hometown: Redmond, WA

Rumor has it that Anusha can hike over 20 miles up a mountain without breaking a sweat. You may even catch her carrying around bags of soil in her backpack for her dorm garden. Anusha started biking for beer bike, so I started biking for beer bike. She has been REMSed at least once per semester (think falling off a scooter, burning her hand on a hot plate, and an accident involving cutting an avocado) and she has no plans of stopping that streak. Hailing from Washington state, Anusha Srivastava is a senior majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. And if there's one thing she loves more than the PNW it's Murt, at which she has poured (literal) blood, sweat and tears into running events from beer bike and Y2K to captain of powderpuff and bike team. If she's your O-week mom, the universe must have aligned in your favor, because you're one lucky O-Week kid. If you see her around Murt, she's probably either cooking up perfect rice, walking really fast somewhere, or raving about her latest trail report on Washington Trails Association. Just know that you're going to have an incredible O-Week experience, and she will probably be a large reason why.

-Rachel Lee, McMurtry '24



Liam Ruiz-Steblein
Sid Richardson '25
Major: Computer Science
Hometown: Ft. Worth, TX

Is it a Ferrari? Maybe a bullet train? No, it's Liam Ruiz-Steblein, putting up Lance-Armstrong-like times on the bike track like usual (without the performance-enhancing drugs!). This absolute unit of a man is a Sid junior ('25) hailing from Fort Worth, TX, and he's the captain of the best Bike Team on campus. As much of an academic weapon as he is an athletic weapon, Liam is a Computer Science major, but he breaks the stereotype by showering more than once a week (his personal record is three times)! He has the hair of a Greek god; many people across campus call him Rapunzel (I'm lying, no one calls him this). He also is a Michelin-star chef, and will make you a high-class gourmet meal any time (ramen or eggs, you choose). On a more personal note, Liam is one of the most genuine people you will ever meet and an incredible friend. Whether you need life advice, a rock-climbing buddy, or someone to talk about the latest episode of Vinland Saga, Liam is your guy. Just don't ask him about what happened in the air vents at Sid during freshman year. The less you know about that, the better.

-Pratyush Mohapatra, Sid '25



Max Lai
McMurtry '26
Majors: Computer Science,
Business
Hometown: Hinsdale, IL

What's up McMurtry, let us introduce you to the greatest O-Week advisor around, Max!! This Murt sophomore comes from Hinsdale, Illinois, and he's majoring in Computer Science and Business. When it's 3AM and you need a professional chatter to vent to, head to the McMurtry laundry room and you will DEFINITELY see Max doing 5 loads of laundry. Aside from literally never sleeping (unless it's daytime), you can find him at Target or at the skating rink. He's also got a taste for cuisine (AKA Torchy's and Chipotle) to fuel his 10 hour study sessions at Fondy. That being said, this man is cracked at what he does, because he ACTUALLY reads the textbooks. If you're ever strolling by 4B and hear music blasting at an extremely unhealthy noise level (probably the Weeknd or Bazzi lmao), then you have found Max Lai's room. From the North to the South side of campus, Max has branched out quite a bit. To make sure you meet new people and have a healthy amount of connections from all over campus, O-Week with Max will be a great way to start your journey at Rice.

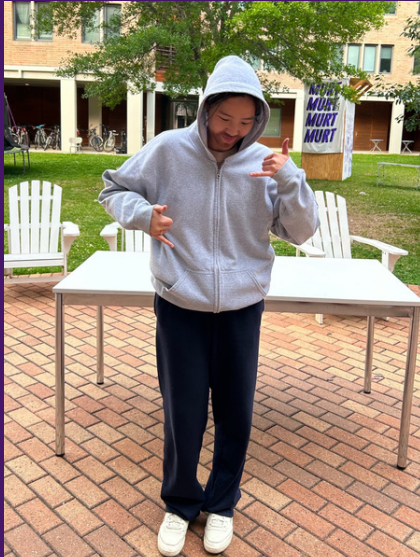
-Tina Huang and Adarsh Gadepalli, McMurtry '26

Champagne McPapis



PARENT
ADVISO
EXPLICIT CON

(Jimmy) Cookin' up some fun!



April Chung
McMurtry '24
Major: Business
Minor: Entrepreneurship
Hometown: Frisco, TX

Get ready to meet the biggest Netflix reality show enthusiast you have ever seen, April Chung! This Senior from the Dallas area came to Rice as a Violin Performance major at Shepherd but is now a Business major with plans of becoming a consultant. That doesn't mean that her violin skills are going to waste, though - April has been Concertmaster for the non-music major orchestra for the past 2 years. Unless she's studying for her exam that's 42 weeks away, April will always be down for binge-watching her latest Netflix obsession, going on an adventure, or going out to eat (even though she never has more than \$5 to her name). But no matter what, April will be a great friend and a great O-Week advisor who always brings life to any situation and will be there for you during O-Week and beyond!

-Jamie Stewart-Aday, McMurtry '25



Daniel Bacuyag
Baker '25
Major: Bioengineering
Minor: Biochemistry and
Cell Biology
Hometown: Urbandale, IA

Meet Daniel Bacuyag, your soon-to-be favorite Co-Advisor: an annoyingly proud Bakerite and BioE major! Hailing from the midwest lands of Des Moines, Iowa, this junior is your go-to guy for professional advice on corn, college sports, or lengthy road trips. However, don't let his mild Des Moines manners fool you. He'll shock you with freakish athleticism, mastering new sports in minutes. Daniel will throw you the perfect dime of a frisbee or dash away from water-gun-bearing assassins at breathtaking speeds. Yet he still somehow trips on Houston's flat roads ~frequently~. The king of spontaneity, Daniel always makes time for anything (except sleeping). Catch him up at 4am doing homework (he has plenty, being BioE premed), then at 4:01 watching his latest show obsession to avoid work. Despite his procrastination, he gives the best time management advice. If you're lucky, he'll concoct his world-famous thai or matcha bubble teas. He'll always have kind words for you, move mountains to help when you need it most, and be your hype man when you're nervous. How is this Co-Advisor so amazing?? It's all thanks to his stubborn compassion, patience, and unwavering Iowan spirit. This Co-Advisor will make your O-Week, and beyond, unforgettable.

-Isaiah Chen, Baker '25



Logan Golia
McMurtry '25

Majors: Computer Science, Math
Hometown: Long Island, NY

Logan is a junior studying Computer Science and Math, hailing from Long Island, New York, with a great sense of humor and fashion. When he isn't studying, you'll find him either sleeping, binging K-dramas, or impulsively buying new clothes. He loves solving logic problems, and will relentlessly pursue answers to his questions. An avid soccer player and fan, he is a big supporter of Manchester United and strongly believes that Messi > Ronaldo. Logan has a wide repertoire of music interests, and he claims that he will relearn how to play the piano over the summer. He can't play anything right now, but maybe try asking him during O-Week! :)

-Bryant Huang, McMurtry '25



Samrithaa Balakrishnan
McMurtry '26

Major: Bioengineering
Minor: Global Health Technologies
Hometown: Downingtown, PA

Congrats, Sam Balakrishnan is your new Advisor!!! You might want to buy a lottery ticket with that luck ;) Don't let her surprisingly amazing British accent fool you, this 5' 2" BIOE sophomore and former vegetarian (Chick-fil-A got the best of her) hails from good old Downingtown near Philly. Sam is easily one of the kindest and funniest people you will have the pleasure of knowing – I promise you're in good hands. One thing about Sam is she will laugh even if she doesn't get the joke or know the TikTok sound you're quoting. She loves reading (Harry Potter), a dark academia aesthetic, emeralds, stir-fry from Honeygrow, and the color sage green. When she's not holed up in Fondy studying Chem, you can find Sam singing along to her faves Bad Bunny, Harry Styles, Jack Harlow, Dhruv, and more (she's slowly getting into K-pop courtesy of her friends). She also treasures her culture; she speaks Tamil (and Telugu), loves eating Indian food, and enjoys Bollywood movies and music. Basically, Sam is an amazing and caring friend who you can always depend on and make lasting memories with. Y'all will surely have a memorable and fun O-Week and Rice experience with Sam!!

-Trisha Chinnimeni, McMurtry '26

Cloudy with a Chance of Murtballs



Forecasting a great O-Week!



James Hwang
McMurtry '24
Major: Biosciences
Minor: Medical Humanities
Hometown: Seoul, South Korea

As the dad of every friend group he becomes a part of, James has been training to become an O-Week parent since forever! James loves tennis, guitar, eating just about anything, Korea (he's from Seoul), and ringing his bell obnoxiously loud as he scoots past people on campus. If you ever need a ride, he'll pull up in his trusty Honda Civic ready to serve; just make sure to let him know weeks in advance because he has a packed schedule as a Biosciences pre-med. But in all fairness, when James is free you definitely want him around to lighten the mood and keep the conversation flowing. He's a great guy to lean on who always thinks of ways to help other people as much as possible, so don't hesitate to reach out to him! Even as a senior, he would never let his senioritis get in the way of helping someone out!

-April Chung, McMurtry '24



Jasmine Liew
McMurtry '25
Major: Biosciences
Hometown: Frisco, TX

Hailing from the illustrious suburb of Frisco, Texas, Jasmine "Johnny" Liew is our favorite resident junior Biosciences pre-med/REMS Crew member/armrest, and she's soon to be yours as well! What she lacks in height, she makes up for in her aesthetic fits, massive organic chemistry brain, and sincere curiosity to learn more about you. On campus, you might find Jasmine tripping over a curb, shrub, or even nothing—so much so that it might be easier to answer what she doesn't trip over. But beyond her clumsiness, you'll notice that Jasmine has a special capacity for appreciating what is right at Rice that others might miss, from the way she hunts down every free food opportunity on campus, to how she greets every dog/cat/squirrel/bird she meets. So if you want to know more about Jasmine, like what's up with the "Johnny" in her name, you're just going to have to meet her!"

-Katie Lee, McMurtry '25



Miki Law
McMurtry '26
Majors: Business, Managerial
Economics and
Organizational Sciences
Minor: Financial Computation and
Modeling
Hometown: Tokyo, Japan

Girl-bossing her way to H-Town all the way from TOKYO, JAPAN, Miki is the most kind-hearted, diligent, AND adventurous sophomore Business and MEOS (Managerial Economics and Organizational Sciences) double major and a FCAM (Financial Computation and Modeling) minor you will ever meet! Whether this absolute business queen is power-walking through McNair Hall (her home), or skipping up Stair C of McMurtry (her REAL home), her radiating friendliness and contagious laugh (averaging about 79 decibels) will immediately brighten up your day. Miki not only slays her elevator pitches and coffee chats, but also every dance floor she ever walks onto, especially if some Taylor Swift is playing. Despite her most frequently spoken phrase being “OMGGGGGGG” with 5 exclamation points, Miki also has the best shoulder to cry on and the most genuine heart that will make you instantly feel at home. Brace yourselves as you will be walking out of O-Week with the cutest and wildest 0.5x selfies, a LinkedIn profile-building tutorial, the most comprehensive list of top-tier Tokyo restaurants, the smoothest pickup lines you can put into use, 10 million lectures on the “power of connections”, and most importantly, the greatest friend and O-Week mom you can ever ask for!

-Grace Park, McMurtry '26



Samek Rangarajan
Lovett '26
Major: Computer Science
Hometown: Sunnyvale, CA

Samek (Sam on his Chaus order) is a sophomore at Lovett (EOL RRF) from Sunnyvale California, majoring in Computer Science. I know y'all are seeing Comp Sci and getting scared already; let me tell you, he ain't no geek. But he definitely will be a millionaire, his brain a little too big with all those innovative ideas. Probably gonna see him in the unveiling for the iPhone 20. Samek is truly a kind soul- “he picked up my pencil the other day I guess.” He will always be there for someone no matter the situation- he'll celebrate with you no matter the occasion and support you in anything. He's a man of his word and a true friend. On campus, you'll probably see him on his way to the True Dog late at night or dancing away to Bollywood mixes. When he gets going, he's the life of the party. Parties not your thing, no worries, he's also a top tier movie guy, versatile man what can I say. You are lucky if you're his O-Week kid, Samek is an amazing person who can make almost any environment comfortable for everyone!

-Abhishek Kona, Lovett '26

Dairy Queen's Gambit



Ice-screaming for O-Week!



Adarsh Gadepalli
McMurtry '26
Major: Computer Science,
Operations Research
Hometown: Towson, MD

Standing at a vicious 5'2.5", Adarsh Gadepalli, a sophomore Computer Science Major, hails from Baltimore, Maryland, boasting tremendous basketball skills: In his first year, Adarsh took Murt's Freshman IM Basketball team to a championship, putting up a vicious 0 points, 1 rebound, and 2 assists in the finals. Adarsh has recently relocated to Austin, Texas, where he doesn't have many friends so please hit him up if you also happen to be from rural Austin. In his free time, Adarsh enjoys listening to Drake, Jhene Aiko, The Weeknd, or any other melodic artist that he can practice his dreamy stares to. In all seriousness, if you ever need someone to talk to, Adarsh might be there for you! And when he is there he's the epitome of trustworthiness. His calm-headed and surprisingly wise demeanor will make him a great mentor for most of you! In fact, one of Adarsh's life mottoes is a famous Drake IG quote: "My house is a wholesome place of confidence building and networking," so feel free to stop by his room anytime! Sincerely, he is our GOAT, and he'll be yours too.

-Akshat Shah and Shashank Aitha, McMurtry '26



Bela Nelson
McMurtry '24
Major: Biology
Minor: Anthropology
Hometown: Lexington, KY

As I write this, Bela Nelson is sitting next to me eating cheese with a pair of scissors. Bela is Rice's proudest (and only) Kentucky resident. You will see her wearing five different University of Kentucky t-shirts over the course of a week! Bela is adamant that everything is better when dipped in ranch. Once she was scared to ask us if we had extra toothbrushes, so she brushed her teeth with her own finger for three days straight!

Bela does everything at 100 percent. She's hated and feared by every other powderpuff team because of her history of roughing the passer. Bela dances so hard she wakes up with random bruises (maybe hairline fractures? we may never know) that occasionally turn into permanent dents. Her doctors say that nothing is wrong with her but we don't believe them. As a senior Biology major, Fondren Library is like a second home, and when she's not there she's killing it as a bartender at Pub. Bela is absolutely the most genuine, fair, loyal, amazing person you could ask for as an O-Week advisor; there's no one better to be your first friend at Rice. Get ready, because she's going to make this the best week of your life!

-Prayag Gordy, Kate Mischlich, and Nate Miller, McMurtry '24



Claire Dean
Lovett '25
Major: Civil and
Environmental Engineering
Minor: Environmental Studies,
Energy, and Water Sustainability
Hometown: Uvalde, TX

Heyyy, so THE Claire Shannon Dean is your Co-Advisor?!? Paving the way from the teeny tiny town of Uvalde, Texas, this caring, enthusiastic Civil Engineering major could not be more excited to meet you! A junior from Lovett, Claire is a woman of wholesome passions including being an alto for her acapella group, Nocturnal, and fixing urban infrastructure one bike lane at a time. She spends her time being studious at Brochstein, Chaus, or anywhere with access to coffee. Claire loves hearing and drinking tea (ask to see her collection of tea flavors) so you know she will always be there if you need someone to talk to *sipping tea noises*. She has a true heart of gold, strong enough to support you through thick and thin, and probably deadlift you and your family. In the daytime, you'll find her jamming to Fiona Apple or battling in an intense ping pong session. After the sun sets, she's baking sweet treats for movie night with friends (and now you!!!). With Claire Dean as your Co-Advisor, be prepared to sit in a circle and share your secrets. Nevertheless, your O-Week will be filled with plenty of frolicking and fun!

-Valentina Osorio, Hanszen '24, Katharine Bonilla, Justin Cruz, and Jesus Terrazas, Lovett '25, Ethan Peck, Duncan '24



Nishita Prasad
McMurtry '25
Majors: Biosciences, Business
Hometown: Carmel, IN

Though Nishita works in a lab with flying insects, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more down-to-earth junior pre-med. Bestie (a favorite phrase of hers) is unfailingly funny, ceaselessly dependable, and just really easy to talk to, about anything from four-year plans (she's a Head PAA too!) to her adorable and squishable "baby" cat. "Wichita" can be reliably found in the Murt Commons, either grinding out Biochemistry or recovering from tearing up the dance floor at the most recent public. All in all, Nishita is pretty much the closest you'll get to a modern-day Renaissance woman, the (near) perfect combination of smart, hard-working, witty, and just plain kind.

-Maria Hancu, McMurtry '24

French Onion Snoup Dogg



Stirring with excitement



Marc De Guzman
McMurtry '25
Major: Bioengineering
Hometown: Baytown, TX

Brace yourself for the week of your life, because Marc “Brewno Bars” De Guzman is here! Marc is a third-year Bioengineering major and the best Beer Bike coordinator McMurtry has seen since 2022. Hailing from one of the 7 wonders of the world, Baytown, Texas, Marc is a quadruple threat: he sings like Ariana, dances like Shakira, plays flute like Lizzo, and lifts like The Rock. Be glad that he’s moving off campus because this year on any given night you could hear him singing to the top of his lungs, blasting music, or playing TikTok videos at max volume. Marc was crowned Mr. McMurtry (aka Mr. Worldwine) in 2022 and is Rice’s Finest fan favorite. Despite all this talent, his biggest red flag is he stays up all night playing support characters on Valorant and Overwatch. Also, the way to Marc’s heart is through his stomach, so be prepared for him to beg you to UberEats with him and his numerous coupons as a sign of love. Marc will always be there to FaceTime in the middle of the night, be your shoulder to cry on, and tell you that you’re gonna slay. Marc is so McMurtry (Fun, Fine, and Friendly) so you are lucky to have him as an O-Week Dad!

-Ariah Richards and Shreyan Das, McMurtry ‘25



Maria Hancu
McMurtry '24
Majors: Chemistry, Biosciences
Minor: Art History
Hometown: Clifton Park, NY

If you’re looking for someone with the best life advice who can also make you laugh until you start crying, Maria’s your girl! This senior Chemistry/Biosciences double major and Art History minor is your go-to for climbing adventures in the Engineering Quad, museum trips, and a *great* British accent (ask her about studying abroad in London, but notice the asterisks). Hailing from Clifton Park, NY, this lover of Organic Chemistry puns, leg days at the Rec, Powderpuff, Buccee’s, and bread baking can also help you with anything from academic advice (as the former student director of the Peer Academic Advising program), to saving your life (EMT queen!), to sending you perfectly curated Spotify playlists (hot girl summer is her best one imo). But most importantly, you can always count on her to be there for you. Maria is the most humble, kind, funny, and down-to-earth person I know. You’re incredibly lucky to have her as your Advisor!

-Anika Sonig, Sid Richardson ‘23



Nancy Johnson
Duncan '26
Major: Neuroscience, Psychology
Hometown: Canton, MI

Introducing Fancy Nancy, your new O-Week Advisor!! Whether she's dancing her heart away as the president of Rice Bhangra, drinking the eye opener with a million shots of espresso from Chaus, or re-watching Grey's Anatomy for the fifth time, Nancy will always be there to make you smile. Hailing from the chilly town of Canton, Michigan, Nancy is nothing but warm. This kind-hearted gal from the class of 2026 at Duncan is guaranteed to brighten your day. When she isn't busy volunteering with REMS, you'll find our favorite Neuroscience and Psychology pre-med hard at work at McNair. She might be busy snacking on whole bell peppers or munching on another instant Kraft Mac & Cheese, but she's never more than a phone call away from being the most supportive friend on the block. With Nancy as your advisor, get ready for a fun-filled O-Week adventure!

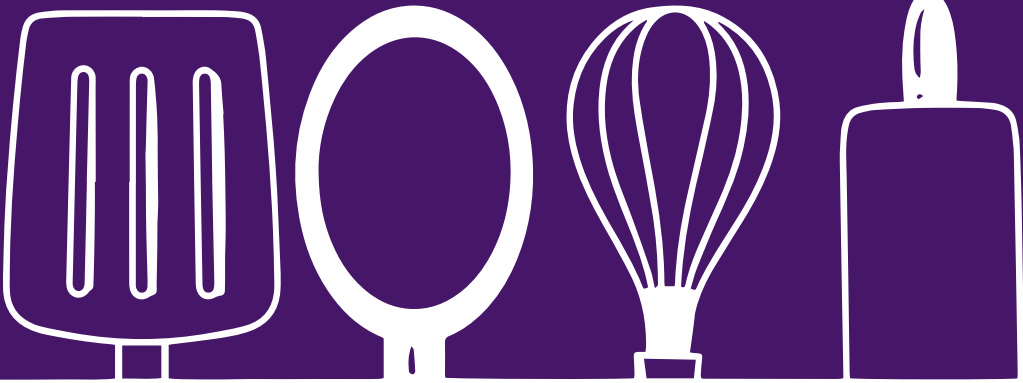
-Bela Koshy and Swaha Roy, Duncan '26, Anvita Wadhwa, Baker '26



Nevaeh Jammer
McMurtry '26
Majors: Biosciences, Psychology
Minor: Classical Civilizations
Hometown: Humble, TX

Hailing from Humble, TX as a proud, unhinged Biosciences and Psychology double major in the class of '26, Nevaeh Angelique Jammer is soccer mom personified. Jammer is the gal who actively spends her free time surprising her besties with homemade banana pudding. And she never forgets a steady supply of her favorite snack, Chex mix, in the tote bag she matches with her outfit each day. Speaking of fashion, if there's ever a time to ask Nevaeh about her wellbeing, it's on a day you cannot find some form of flower or butterfly on her clothing. And no matter what, keep her away from the plant section at any market you visit. She has too many "children" overflowing on her windowsill and desk that she no longer has room to study on. Speaking of her fixations, you can probably find her listening to the new Melanie Martinez album on repeat, or passionately describing the new Legend of Zelda release she has been waiting YEARS for. This girl is fiercely loyal, so you've got a great partner in crime for the many adventures of O-Week!

-Zabrina Kaur Sidhu, McMurtry '26



Lord of the Onion Rings



Fried up for O-Week!



Bivan Shrestha
McMurtry '26
Major: Computer Science
Hometown: Iowa City, IA

It's no small feat to find Bivan Shrestha without a smile. One of the Yurt's most iconic characters, this sophomore Computer Science major is known campus-wide for his contagious enthusiasm, incomparable freestyles, and arms the size of small tree trunks. Bivan may be from Nepal, raised in Iowa City, and currently living in Austin, but his true home is undoubtedly the Rice Rec center. This 175-pound walking mass of muscle has seemingly perfected the art of human anatomy and both can and will squat anyone who dares to tempt him. Outside of the gym, Bivan has a particular feel for music, especially the flute, which he both plays as first chair in the Campanile Orchestra and uses to charm dogs. He also plays guitar, plays piano, and sings very loudly in public spaces—usually unprompted but always appreciated. More than any talent or love for protein, though, perhaps the most distinctive thing about Bivan is his irresistible personality as one of the most outgoing and friendly people you'll ever meet. Bivan brings a certain excitement and energy to everything he does and through it, can brighten almost anyone's day. It's a real privilege to know Bivan, and with him around, I know you're going to have a fantastic O-Week and always feel at home at Murt.

-AJ Shin, Hanszen '26



Isabel Wang
Duncan '26
Major: Health Sciences
Minor: Data Science
Hometown: Great Neck, NY

As you walk through Duncan commons, past West servery and to the Yurt, you suddenly spy a girl lip-syncing Taylor Swift's All Too Well (the 10-minute version, of course), slaying her chemistry homework, and drinking her second boba of the day. That girl is none other than Isabel Wang from Long Island, NY! She's a sophomore at Duncan College majoring in Health Sciences with minors in Data Science and Biosciences on the premed track. When Isabel isn't grinding Chem or mastering the latest TikTok trend for her secret account (shhh, act like you don't know), she's on the ice, perfecting her latest ice dance, coaching group and private classes, or running her program, Adaptive Skating HTX! While Isabel is a stunner, her beauty is no match for her kindness, genuine desire to help others, passion, and creativity! From being a teaching director at Kid Power to starting her own adaptive skating club at Rice, Isabel is a go-getter. Despite her busy schedule, she always makes time to hang out with and support her friends, and will be there for any of her kids when they need someone to talk to. With Isabel as your O-Week mom, your O-Week will be better than your wildest dreams :)

-Rithika Iyengar, McMurtry '26



Jacob Wong
McMurtry '24
Major: Sports Medicine
Minor: Biochemistry
Hometown: Austin, TX

You just lucked out with the best Advisor ever. Jacob Wong not only carries a billion pounds (as the gym rat that he is), but he also single-handedly carries the General Chemistry department as the greatest TA ever. TA-ing is just one way that Jacob helps those around him. He is quite literally always helping other people – whether that be advising in O-Week and helping his O-Week kids adjust to college, helping other gym goers feel comfortable in a weightlifting club he created, helping students in their classes, or helping kids through Camp Kesem. Because of his relational outlook, Jacob is such a kind and friendly person to be around. He is one of the most honest people you will meet, and will give you some of the best pieces of advice. He'll introduce you to so many people that you'll never stop wondering "how does he know so many Rice Students?" The answer to that question is simply that he's Jacob Wong and that's what he does. Jacob is a friend first, and you will soon see how goofy and fun he can be. Everyone needs a Jacob Wong in their life!

-Christa Westheimer, McMurtry '23, and Jackson Hughes, McMurtry '24



Neyida Michel
Wiess '26
Major: Computer Science
Hometown: Miami, FL

Have you ever hoped to meet a warm hug in person? Well, keep hoping because that is not Neyida Michel. Hailing from the sunny side of Miami, Florida, Neyida is the absolute best Advisor and Diversity Facilitator you could ever ask for. This kind-hearted sophomore is a Computer Science major, so if you need help with COMP 182, she'll be there for you! Just not to help. Ask someone else for your sake and for hers! If you ever feel bad about procrastinating on an assignment just look around for the best-dressed Wiessman in upper commons and you'll find her taking a common L in foosball. When this Olivia Pope-sympathizer isn't talking about how much she loves being a muscle mommy, she's asking you to hold the steering wheel while she fixes her hair. For your safety, and the safety of those around you, don't get in a car with her. But if you need a pick me up, or a pep talk, she's your girl. She will make you feel like you can take on the world because it is ingrained in her to have the utmost belief in everyone she cares about. If you need someone to binge-watch Scandal with you, go on random spring break trips, shave your head for Beer Bike, or just listen to you vent, then Neyida is the one.

-Kofo Thomas and Kiara Allen, Wiess '25



Zachary Woodley
McMurtry '25
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Bronx, NY

Hailing from the Big Apple, this Bronx, New York Native is always a joy to talk to. Zachary "Zach" Woodley is a junior studying Mechanical Engineering who can be often found locked in on whatever assignment is due that week. Zach is active around campus in clubs like the Caribbean Student Society (CSS) boasting a St. Kitts and Nevis Heritage, and with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) as treasurer. This bundle of joy is one of the biggest anime fans that I know and has evidence of such in his tattoo's. Whether you want to talk classes, anime, or just life in general Zach is your guy. I cannot count how many great and funny conversations we have had. If there is a way to be party New York drill, Zach has found that way. He is an avid listener of his hometown artists however does sport a diverse musical palate and is open to being enlightened. Additionally, rumor has it he knows where to get the best Oxtail in Houston. Zach will be a great advisor and friend to y'all both during and after O-Week.

-Julian Riley, McMurtry '25

McCentral Perk Cafe



Making O-Week F-R-I-E-N-D-ly



Christie Vieux
Baker '24
Major: Cognitive Psychology
Hometown: Grand Rapids, MI

Meet Christie - a vivacious and dynamic upcoming senior from Baker. Hailing in from Grand Rapids, Michigan, with roots from the sunny island of Haiti, Christie is majoring in Cognitive Science with a Psychology concentration. She is determined to become a doctor and is already putting in the hard work to make it happen. But don't be fooled by her ambition - she's also the life of the party and knows how to have a good time. A Rice cheerleader with a killer sense of rhythm, Christie is always down to dance. But cheering and dancing aren't her only talents - Christie is also a master storyteller. From the countless jobs she's worked to the multiple cities she has lived in, Christie's got more stories than you can count. Christie always seems to find herself in the most unexpected situations. But no matter what life throws her way, she's got a smile on her face, amazing vibes and a plan to come out on top. If you're lucky enough to have Christie as your advisor, you're in for an unforgettable ride. She'll be your biggest cheerleader, dance partner, confidante, and tu mejor amiga. Who knows - maybe one day she'll be your doctor too!

-Ronnie McDonald, Baker '24



Gale Gai
McMurtry'26
Major: Statistics
Minor: Data Science
Hometown: Shenzhen, China

Gale Gai is a sophomore majoring in Statistics. Originally from Shenzhen, China, Gale attended boarding school in Massachusetts, where he picked up a borderline concerning obsession with hockey (I mean, phone screensaver, really?). When the inevitable hockey conversation eventually ends, you will discover that Gale's interests and talents are about as extensive as can be. If you ever find yourself bored on campus, you need do nothing more than text Gale, who is no doubt putting on some form of show that day, whether it be performing with acapella group Rice Apollos, playing his violin, doing play-by-play announcing for Rice soccer, or putting together the worst fantasy football team in the history of the sport. Outside of his extensive extracurriculars, Gale somehow also manages to have an academic career, and will serve as an excellent resource for academic advice. If you are unsure about your major, fear not, for Gale is an expert in this dilemma, having just changed his major for the third time. More prepared than any student at Rice, his four year plan has been in development since day one, and adjustments are made years in advance. No doubt the perfect O-Week dad, Gale will play a huge role in making O-Week, and your Rice experience as a whole, a slap shot success.

- Camden Graham, Will Rice College '26



Michelle Fox
Hanszen '25
Major: Biosciences
Hometown: Chicago, IL

Drumroll please... get ready to meet THE GIRL BOSS, the one and only Michelle Fox! Her silky smooth moves during K-pop dances may surprise you when she COMMANDS THE ROOM as VSA fan dance head choreographer, but either way, Michelle is always down to let loose and have a good time. Hailing from Chicago, Illinois (but a current resident of Houston, Texas), this Minecraft streamer enthusiast is ready to show you the best go karting and activity spots around town. On campus, you can spot her playing volleyball in the courts and slaying biochem in the classroom. Anytime, anywhere, Michelle will be there to hang out or lend a helping hand! Michelle is the most LOVING and SUPPORTIVE person ever, a wonderful advisor to have!

- Vy Luu, Hanszen '25 and Elizabeth Quach, Duncan '25



Prayag Gordy
McMurtry '24
Majors: Statistics, Math
Minor: Data Science
Hometown: Takoma Park, MD

Standing at 5'1" and hailing from the DMV, Prayag's hobbies include listening to a single Adele song for hours on end, opening windows insisting the humid Houston air is "fresh and crisp" (!!!), and watching math youtube videos (like a good Statistics and Math major!). Prayag's life goal is to die in a mysterious accident (a.k.a. killed by the CIA) after writing a news story exposing the US government. As the editor-in-chief of the Rice Thresher he is well on his way.

But seriously, Prayag is the guy you want by your side. In a crisis, Prayag turns into a machine of efficiency, taking care of problems you didn't even know you had. Without him, we would not have couches, functioning windows, or housing. As a senior, he knows this campus inside and out. If you want to expose a Rice institution, he'll write a Thresher story about it. If your computer is broken, he'll fix it. If you're upset, he'll notice before you even say anything. If you're ever craving \$1 tacos or Ethiopian food, he's your guy. Our friend group frequently discusses how good of a father Prayag Gordy will be one day. You are so lucky to be his O-Week kid. Get ready for a kooky year.

-Bela Nelson, Kate Mischlich, and Nathaniel William Miller, McMurtry '24



Tracy Olea-Cervantes
McMurtry '26
Majors: Business,
Sports Management
Hometown: Austin, TX

¡Te ganaste la lotería con esta tapatía! Tracy is from the beautiful and weird city of Austin, TX but she is also proudly from Guadalajara, Jalisco! She is a sophomore ('26) double majoring in Business Management and Sports Management with the Sports Law concentration all while being pre-law. The amount of random facts and information she holds and brings up in conversation astonishes me every day. Tracy will listen and will likely have a playlist for almost any mood you are feeling. Play any Rihanna or Beyoncé song and she will probably know and perform the entire choreography for it, top to finish. She is an amazing dancer who choreographed an awesome routine for RITMO and you will probably see us dancing cumbias in Murt quad at least once during your time here. When you need help or want advice on your skin care routine, Tracy is your go to girl. She is a ball of energy who is kind, welcoming, funny and selfless. You really did win the lottery having her as your O-Week advisor especially since she cooks amazing Mexican food which you will likely try!

-Cielo Reyes, Baker '26

McChelin Stars



O-Week Connoisseurs☆☆



Felipe Mola Curi
Sid Richardson '26
Major: Business
Minor: Neuroscience
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PN

Felipe is your O-week Dad??? I'm jealous.

All jokes aside, Felipe is actually the funniest and most real person you'll ever meet. He gives great advice and is such a good person to all of the people around him. Last year, he was actually my O-Week brother, and we've literally been best friends ever since. He will make O-Week so unbelievably hype for y'all. As a retired pre-med and current sophomore Business major, he has become a finance bro all the way. He would be happy to help out anyone interested in business as a possible career path as he is a part of Rice Business Society and also Rice Undergraduate Investment Fund (RUIF). Felipe started off pre-med (and bailed after a semester), so he can also help you all in pre-med related majors with picking classes and possible clubs to join. Felipe is also a fitness king. There's nothing he can't/won't do. Random 5K? Sure, he'll do it with you. Half Marathon? Easy Saturday morning for him. Want to go to a Rec spin class? Felipe's already inside warming up. You like lifting? Felipe's squat PR is 315. Challenge him to pickleball? He's been training his whole life. Casual volleyball? He's always down for a friendly res college tourney. Dodgeball? You'll just have to wait and see how Felipe swings.

-Chrysamei Simbo, Sid Richardson College '26



Jamie Stewart-Aday
McMurtry '25
Major: Political Science
Hometown: Washington D.C.

Jamie is a junior majoring in Political Science from Washington D.C., which sounds just as basic as his diet that consists solely of meat and potatoes. But if you look past the fact that he only gets steak and cheese on his Chipotle burrito, you'll learn that Jamie is the best guy around. His dad-like dance moves at parties are sure to give you a laugh as well as his quick wit and sarcasm. If you're going through a tough time, Jamie will always be there for you since he never leaves the couch in our suite anyways (unless he's air frying steaks on the fifth floor). As a poli sci major, Jamie is the most woke person I know, but that just means he's incredibly open-minded and is always thinking of everyone's best interests. Having a friend like Jamie is a privilege and I envy his O-Week kids that will get the coolest dad ever!

-April Chung, McMurtry '24



Kate Mischilch
McMurtry '24
Major: Bioengineering
Hometown: Houston, TX

When Kathryn Mischlich was ten years old she suffered from severe insomnia and all her fingernails fell off. Once you meet her, every interaction you will have with Kate will make you say, “Oh, somehow that kinda makes sense.” She may have an extensive medical history, but fear not, the list of reasons why she will be the best O-Week mom is even longer. Kate is the best person to ever grace the campus of Rice University. She is a Bioengineering major (and kicks butt at it!). Find her in the OEDK being an absolute academic weapon grinding on her engineering design project by day, and being the life of the party by night. Kate is the queen of the Irish goodbye, inventor of the grossest sandwiches of all time (includes pickles and jam, eaten almost daily), wearer of the most incredible shark watch, and greatest consumer of sunflower seeds. Her only con is that she is a tripping hazard because she loves to sleep on the floor anywhere and everywhere. Under Kate’s influence, you will have the best time at Rice, and she just might convince you to join the water polo team.

-Grace Zhou, Bela Nelson, and Prayag Gordy, McMurtry '24



Tina Huang
McMurtry '26
Major: Biosciences
Minors: Asian Studies,
Business
Hometown: Houston, TX

As her freshman year ~~next-door~~ neighbor, let me tell you that getting Tina Huang as your O-week advisor is the BIGGEST W EVER!! Tina is a McMurtry sophomore from Houston, TX majoring in Biosciences (but NOT as a pre-med, as she often tells me) and minoring in Business and Asian Studies. You can always find her grinding through work in Murt commons or McNair Hall, but don't think that's all there is to her. She's a Starbucks fiend, always with the latest drink in her hand, and she's always down to play ping pong or pool (though tbh I could prob wipe her in both). On top of that, she's always there to sit down and listen to you, ready to talk through any and all of your troubles. Trust me though, if your trouble is what restaurant you should go to for dinner, DO NOT go to her because it'll be breakfast before she makes up her mind. Anyways, Tina is one of the most reliable and friendly people around. From her caring personality to her chill vibes, you're in for an amazing O-week experience (and yea, I'll admit that she's the better neighbor between the two of us lol)!!

- Max Lai, McMurtry '26

Murt-atouille



Any Murt can cook !!



Siddhi Narayan
Sid Richardson '25
Major: Computer Science
Minor: Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Hometown: St. Louis, MO

Straight out of St. Louis, Missouri, Siddhi Narayan is a junior at Sid Richardson College and everything you'd want from a co-advisor!! This 5'0" force to be reckoned with is an academic weapon majoring in Computer Science (probably) and the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (definitely). When she's not chugging coffee on the sixth floor of Fondren Library, Siddhi is slaying and serving as the President of Baker Institute Student Forum and Vice President of Sid Richardson college. Siddhi is a dependable friend and will make your first year amazing—from singing any song she can think of like it's an emo ballad to giving the best advice this campus can offer, there's never a dull moment with Siddhi. PS: One of Siddhi's amazing superpowers is singing Tia Tamera word for word. You're gonna be in safe hands; nobody does it better than her, trust us!

-Grace Wang and Nelly Zapata, Sid Richardson '25



Sophia Peng
McMurtry '24
Major: Anthropology
Minors: Medical Humanities,
Biochemistry and Cell Biology
Hometown: Shrewsbury, MA

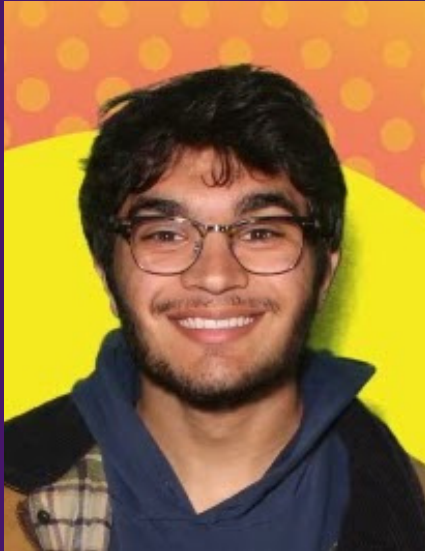
You're on the phone, it's a typical Tuesday night, and then, the world descends into chaos: you have an ANTH assignment due at midnight, you've somehow skinned your knee, and you can't remember which Taylor Swift song that line was from!! Who can help you in your time of need? SOPHIA PENG!!!! This Murt senior from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts is an Anthropology major — with a ~dash~ of pre-med — and can fix any problem under the sun. Whether she's helping the greater community by leading the Design For America club or helping her fellow Murts as a Head RHA, she's always looking out for others. She has such a way with words — with her poems and with people — that you can talk to her for hours and it feels like minutes. Sophia is the kindest, most caring person you'll ever meet, and if you ever need a band-aid, kickass advice, or just a hug, Sophia's got your back.

-Olivia Mudrick, Emma Chestnut, and Prerna Mohan, McMurtry '24

Murtberry Shortcake



Berry excited to meet you!



Jasir Rahman
McMurtry '25
Major: Social Policy Analysis
Hometown: Lexington, KY

Meet Jasir Rahman: Social Policy Analysis (SOPA) pre-med, part-time hooper, and one of the 4 (maybe 5? We're not sure) Rice students hailing from the great state of Kentucky! When he's not staving off endless mountains of work, catch him searching for new bops to play on his KTRU DJ shift, taking walks of a meandering nature, or probably destroying someone at Smash. Jasir is open to any and all conversation, from hot takes, to social policy, or just getting to know you (O-Week kid or not!). Sweating the meaningful details is important to Jasir, and it'll show upon first meeting him. So go up and say hi to him; you won't regret it!"

- Katie Lee, McMurtry '25



Eliana Yared
Lovett '26
Majors: Cognitive Science,
Sports Medicine
Hometown: Dallas, TX

Your O-week mom is certainly "Enchanted to meet you!" This Taylor Swift loving pre-PA, Cognitive Science and Sports Medicine major from Dallas, Texas is Eliana Yared, aka the most fun Co-Advisor (and Sophomore) on all of campus. Although a Lovetteer, she is so excited to be an honorary Murt this summer. Here, she is likely to not only show off her incredible talent of identifying any Taylor Swift song in less than 15 seconds, but you will also discover that she is able to bring so much joy and laughter into any room she walks...or most likely trips...into. Despite how clumsy she is, she still knows how to bust a move. When she isn't preparing to perform a traditional Ethiopian dance as a member of Habesha dance for Africaye, playing for the Rice club volleyball team, or sleeping, her talents can be seen on the dance floor at any party. So if you ever need someone to dance with, or literally do anything with, call Eliana! Whether it's going on a walk at 2 AM or spontaneously joining the Powderpuff team, Eliana will always be down. We cannot wait for you to meet this lover of all things Wicked, Taylor Swift, and a good time! It is quite literally impossible to have a "Cruel Summer" with Eliana as your advisor.

-Alexa Vela, Alina Ngyuen, and April Tong, Lovett '26



Ilyas Kose
McMurtry '26
Major: Biosciences
Minor: Politics, Law, and
Social Thought
Hometown: Phillipsburg, NJ

RAHHHHHHHHH!!! WHAT THE FREAK!?! There's a half-broken bike zooming RIGHT towards you. It narrowly misses, thank God, but it's taking a U-turn... as you prepare to run, you realize that it's just the one-and-only Ilyas Kose! And would you look at that, he's just waving hi.

No, Ilyas is not a murderer (not counting his hydroflask. He dropped a dumbbell on it) — he's quite the opposite. If you break your leg, he'll give you a ten-mile-long piggyback ride to the nearest hospital, pay all of your hospital expenses, rent a wheelchair for you, AND refuse to let you pay him back all while having 12 broken bones himself.

Not only is he kindness personified, but this dude also somehow manages to stay in tip-top shape (he is a gym bro), gives you the best life advice at your lowest, and has the brains to overthrow all of med school (ask him about Anki, I dare you). A lot of bios will say that you have the best O-Week parent, but my God — I MEAN it when I say Ilyas is genuinely one of the best people in my life. YOU have the best O-Week parent for sure.

-Lucy Han, McMurtry '26



Vidal Saenz
McMurtry '24
Major: Bioengineering
Hometown: McAllen, TX

Meet Vidal, a Murt Senior and who hails from the border town of McAllen, Texas. Vidal is a Bioengineering major who's always on the grind, but that doesn't mean he's all work and no play. He's also heavily involved in McMurtry government and has served as FYR, IVP, and currently as External Vice President. When he's not busy with school or college government, Vidal enjoys spending time at Coffeehouse, working out at the Rec, and attending Trivia and Pub nights at Pub almost every Wednesday and Thursday. He's also a fan of exploring the city and has visited cool spots like House of Blues and POST. In addition to his love for Houston, Vidal is a big fan of music and always has a playlist ready for ANYTHING. He also knows an insane amount about Pokemon and can probably name each one and basically any fact about the franchise. Overall, Vidal is an awesome dude who's always down to try new things, whether it's exploring different areas of the city or trying out new restaurants. If you're looking for a great friend who's smart, funny, and always up for a good time, look no further than Vidal Saenz!

-Damian Gonzalez and Sathvik Kakanuru, McMurtry '24

Stranger Wings



One O-Week can change everything



Grace Zhou
McMurtry '24
Major: Biosciences
Minor: Sociology
Hometown: Irvine, CA

Get ready to meet Grace Zhou, a happy and hard working senior biochem major. As a SoCal native, Grace enjoys the finer things in life. Queen of protecting her peace, you can frequently find Grace in the bath, reading a Colleen Hoover book, or perhaps cooking up some brussel sprouts. If you see a girl in a bright pink matching set at the gym lifting as much as the big guys, that's probably her. Grace is a fierce League of Legends opponent, though she might deny it if you ask her about it. She is a loyal friend, and the life of every party! If you ever lose Grace at a social gathering, you'll find her at the nearest elevated surface. Grace is an EMT, so she is professionally certified to take care of you. Don't let her smiley demeanor fool you, there's nobody you would rather have on your side if things get rough. As her O-Week siblings we can personally attest that you could not find a kinder, funnier, smarter O-Week mom. Get ready for a great week! (She will never love you as much as she loves Spirit, though. Who is Spirit? You'll find out soon enough.)

- Kate Mischlich, Prayag Gordy, and Bela Nelson, McMurtry '24



Jackson Harvey
McMurtry '26
Majors: Political Science, History
Minor: Politics, Law, and
Social Thought
Hometown: Houston, TX

Jackson is a Political Science major (that means you should befriend him— connections, connections). His middle name, "Miles," is also just as fitting, because this guy runs them. A lot of them. A criminally sublime distance runner, Mr. Harvey decimated his opponents throughout his middle school and high school career at St. John's High School (a whole 15 minute drive from campus). Jackson is extremely well traveled, having visited 50+ countries (big diplomacy guy). Jackson also aims to save the Earth. A member of the environmental committee, we have our own Thunberg strutting through Rice campus. Beware though, Jackson still knows how to have fun. He is the life of the party—see for yourself at publics, as he dances the night away. Jackson will be a great role model and friend in your time at Rice.

-Austin Sim, UChicago '26



Julian Riley
McMurtry '25
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Minor: Engineering Design
Hometown: Houston, TX

Congrats! You hit the jackpot! Julian "Hammy" Riley, a junior studying Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Engineering Design, is one of the most down-to-earth people you'll ever meet. He's from all over the world, including Houston, London, and even Alaska! My man is a jack of all trades, and he knows what he's doing. When it comes to helping people as an assistant at the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen (OEDK), he always knows how to answer every question without fail. He is also an extremely decorated chef as well. Chef Riley can cook anything you desire, whether it's gluten-free cookies or brownies, a mean plate of eggs and bacon, or even an entire beef wellington! And if that wasn't enough for you, he's also an aspiring musician who can play the violin and makes the craziest beats using his nice speaker, microphone, and soundboard setup. When he's not busy changing the world, Julian loves to play games like cards, poker, or dominoes, and he is a true lover of nature considering he was an Eagle Scout in high school. Beyond all this, I'm proud to call Julian one of my best friends, and he's one of the most genuine and inspiring people I've ever had the pleasure to know. Once you meet him, I'm sure you'll agree, too.

-Adeel Sumar, McMurtry '25

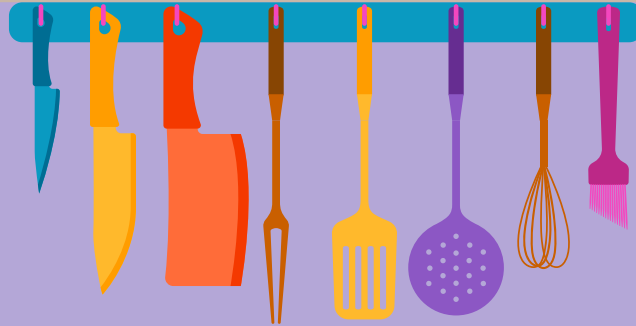


Kate Doherty
Will Rice '26
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Richmond, VA

Hailing from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Kate is a sophomore from Will Rice. Loving to bake everything from classic banana bread to chocolate chip cookies, she has you covered. If you need an internship, she is tight with the grad students, going to Salseros every Tuesday or Thursday, where she salsa dances with people from all parts of the Rice community. She is also a mechanical engineering major and pre-med curious. On the weekends you can find her 50% of the time doing work, 25% of the time somewhere interesting, and 25% of the time somewhere less cool than I end up. She was also the lead in Baker Shakespeare last year (the student-directed Shakespeare play at Baker). If you need a buddy to get off campus with to buy flowers and sit outside at croissant-brioche, she is your person. She can't wait to welcome you to a community which she loves (except her brother).

-Will Doherty, Will Rice '25





The Peer Academic Advisors



Elliot Chae
McMurtry '26
Major: Electrical and
Computer Engineering
Minor: Engineering Design
Hometown: Farmington, CT

Hello new Murts! I'm Elliot Chae, a rising Sophomore from Farmington, Connecticut. I'm excited to serve as one of the PAAs at Murt for your O-week. I'm majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering, as well as pursuing a minor in Engineering Design. When I'm not studying, I like to make origami (I have an origami art Instagram account), play video games (Hardstuck Diamond in Overwatch), and lift weights (skip cardio). I look forward to meeting the new class of Murts!



Jade Xu
McMurtry '26
Major: Health Sciences
Hometown: Canton, MI

Oh my, oh my God! ~~Jade Xu is~~ your O-week PAA! One of the sweetest people you'll meet, Jade will take care of all your academic concerns. A Health Sciences major on the Pre-Med track, Jade hails from Canton, Michigan and is a sophomore at McMurtry. When she's not studying for orgo, you'll find her learning K-pop dances or fiending for boba. Always down for a fun time, Jade is the life of the party (except when she eats something that she's allergic to and has debilitating stomach pain—please never offer her anything with nuts in it). A city girl at heart, keeping up with her speedy walking pace is a challenge (don't forget to make sure not to step on the cracks of the sidewalk). But wherever your final destination, hanging out with Jade is always a blast! Not only is Jade super fun to hang out with, she will make sure to always be there for you and help in any way she can!

- Sam Balakrishnan, McMurtry '26



Karen Martinez Perez
McMurtry '24
Major: Cognitive Science
Minor: Business
Hometown: Plantersville, TX

Hi! I'm Karen, a senior from Plantersville, TX (small town about an hour away from campus). I'm majoring in Cognitive Sciences (Psychology specialization), minoring in Business, with certificates in Mandarin Chinese and Civic Leadership. Aside from being a PAA and Head RHA at Murt, I'm also one of the Tour Guide Co-Chairs with the Office of Admission and Secretary for the Hispanic Student Association for Cultural Enrichment at Rice (HACER)! I proudly identify as Mexican-American and First-Generation, Low-Income (FLI), so you'll likely see me at HACER and FLI events. When I'm off campus, I'm probably running, grabbing boba, or driving around listening to Omar Apollo (con mí osito jeje <3). I'm super excited to be returning as an O-Week PAA this year to help y'all! Please feel free to reach out at any time, especially if it's academics related but also if you want to get to know each other, or just need a hug. Rice and McMurtry are amazing places to be, so I'm looking forward to welcoming the newest incoming class of Murts <3



Zabrina Sidhu
McMurtry '26
Major: Health Sciences
Minor: Medical Humanities
Hometown: Houston, TX

HELLOOOO! My name is Zabrina, and I am a sophomore hailing from Houston, TX. I am a Health Sciences major, pre-med student, Medical Humanities minor, Spanish certificate seeker, and Peer Academic Advisor that is SUPER EXCITED to meet all of you! You might see me wandering backwards around campus as a tour guide, sprinting to Bhangra practice at the Rec, or begging my friends to play sand volleyball with me. I am a night owl, lover of boba, and seeker of adventures big and small that will help me romanticize my life here. Please reach out if you have any academic questions, need a hype woman, or if you simply want to chat. I am looking forward to welcoming you all to McMurtry!



McM & Rice Vingo

Associates Night: A formal dinner held in your college's commons once a semester to connect with the Associates.

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

Birthday Gong: A beautiful, golden gong located in the Yurt and carved with the McM crest that people ring on their birthday.

Burt's Tea House (Burt's): A McMurtry communal kitchen on 5th Floor, with free tea and mugs available for all Murts.

Chaus: A nickname for Rice Coffeehouse, a student-run business located in the RMC.

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

College Night: Not just a night, but actually a full day of themed celebration and partying held every semester, each college celebrating their own College Night.

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

DeeDee's Lounge: Located on 5th floor, this room is a common space for people to watch TV or play video games. It is also home of our bi-weekly Sunday Sundaes event.

Fellow: Murts who are dedicated to helping other Murts academically in various subjects.

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

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

H&D: Housing and Dining is in charge of all food services and residential buildings on campus.

IM: Intramural: informal, low-stress sports played among students.

Ironman/Ironwoman: Someone who both rides and chugs at Beer Bike (not at the same time).

Jack: To pull a prank, usually on another college.

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

McM & Rice Vingo Pt. 2

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

McTeam: McM Adult Team (Magisters, Resident Fellow Associates, Resident Associates, College Coordinator).

Murt: A resident of McMurtry College (YOU)!

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

Private: A party thrown by a group of people in a residential college, rather than the whole college. The rules and regulations are outlined by the Alcohol Policy.

Public: Themed party thrown by a residential college open to any Rice undergrad. Most colleges throw one per semester, some throw one per year.

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

RMC: Rice Memorial Center is the home of Chaus, Student Success Initiatives, the Office of Academic Advising, and many other great resources.

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

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

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

Suite: The common rooms that are shared by 6 Murts found near each of the stairwells.

Town Hall: Biweekly meetings used to discuss various Murt events and policies, open to all Murts and their voices.

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

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

Y2K: The best 2000s-themed public party of the year held every February in McM Commons!

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

What to call people from other colleges?

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

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

Wiess - Wiessman | Will Rice - Will Ricer

Beyond the Hedges

As the nation's fourth largest and most culturally diverse city, Houston offers endless opportunities for exploration. As a Rice student, you will have close access to the Texas Medical Center, the Houston Museum District, Rice Village, Hermann Park, and much more! Here is more information on some Houston spots near Murt:

Texas Medical Center (TMC): A 15 minute walk from Murt, the TMC is the world's largest medical center. A variety of biomedical and life science-focused labs host Rice undergraduates to conduct independent research, and there are many opportunities for hospital volunteering as well. The TMC is also home to many food establishments such as Starbucks, Chipotle, MOD Pizza, and many more!

Rice Village: Located immediately west of campus, Rice Village is a 16-block bundle of boutique and chain stores, along with bars, coffee shops, and a variety of restaurants. Students frequently walk (about 20 minutes from Murt) or drive to this area to grab food, boba, drinks, etc. off-campus.

Museum District: About a 20-minute walk or short metro ride from Murt, the Museum District is home to 19 museums, galleries, cultural centers and community organizations, including the Museum of Natural Science and Museum of Fine Arts. The Museum District is a popular destination for Murts looking for a relaxing but fun weekend activity!

Hermann Park: One of Houston's oldest public spaces, Hermann Park is across the street from the North Colleges and consists of over 450 acres to host any outdoor activity you can imagine, including picnics, scenic runs, and sports! Some of the most popular points of interest are the Houston Zoo, the Japanese Garden, and McGovern Centennial Gardens– all of which you can get in for free with your Rice ID!



Hermann Park



Rice Village

See You Soon!

Hello again, Chef!

We hope that this book was filled with an abundance of useful information that gave you a tasty sampler of the culture at Rice and McMurtry College. We would like to leave you with a few encouraging words:

Your upcoming time at Rice will be full of vibrant flavors. However, you will also experience dishes that leave a bad taste in your mouth, or follow a recipe perfectly and still find yourself disappointed with the outcome. But at the end of the day, we hope you know that at McMurtry, you always have access to the equipment you need to keep cookin'. Don't be afraid to ask for help: even the most seasoned of chefs need a new perspective sometimes. During BistrO-Week, we want to encourage vulnerability and authenticity every step of the way. We recognize that not every meal can be the best one you ever ate, but we want you all to know that you should never hesitate to ask for help or to give help in return. No matter the challenges you may encounter in this kitchen, you won't be alone, as Rice has an abundance of resources available at your fingertips: around each corner you will find a helper whether it be someone at the OAA or Wellbeing Center, or even an Advisor or O-Week sibling.

Welcome to MURRRRRRRRRRRRT!

Essence, Ishani and Marina
2023 McMurtry BistrO-Week Coordinators



