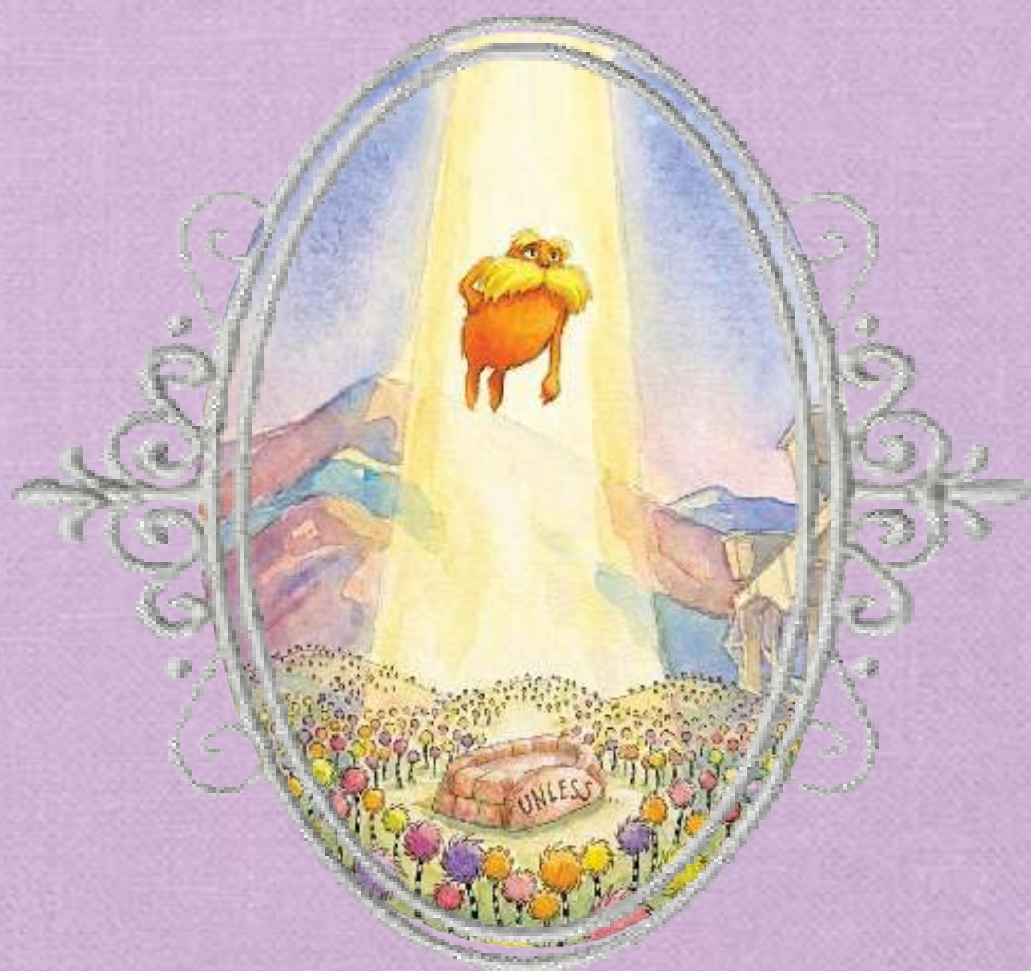


MCMURTRY COLLEGE
LET IT GRO-WEEK
AUGUST 2026, VOL. 1



UNLESS someone like you
cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better.
It's not.

-Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



The Let It GrO-Week Book

by the 2026 McMurtry McCoordinators

*This book was written, compiled, and designed by
Ava Casperson, Collin DeSoto, and Chad Federico
and dedicated to McMurtry's Class of 2030*

Thank you to Aidan Silva and Angela An for their guidance and the entire Coordinator Cohort for always being inspirations and for their collaboration in crafting O-Week Campus wide.

Thanks to our predecessors Yazmine Miles, Cara Brown, and Carlos Cruz along with Francesca Nemati for their mentorship and example.

Special thanks to our friends, family, and supporters, our wonderful advisors and affiliates, and the McTeam for helping us make O-Week 2026 a reality, and you for reading this book!

*with #murtlove,
your 2026 McCoords <3*

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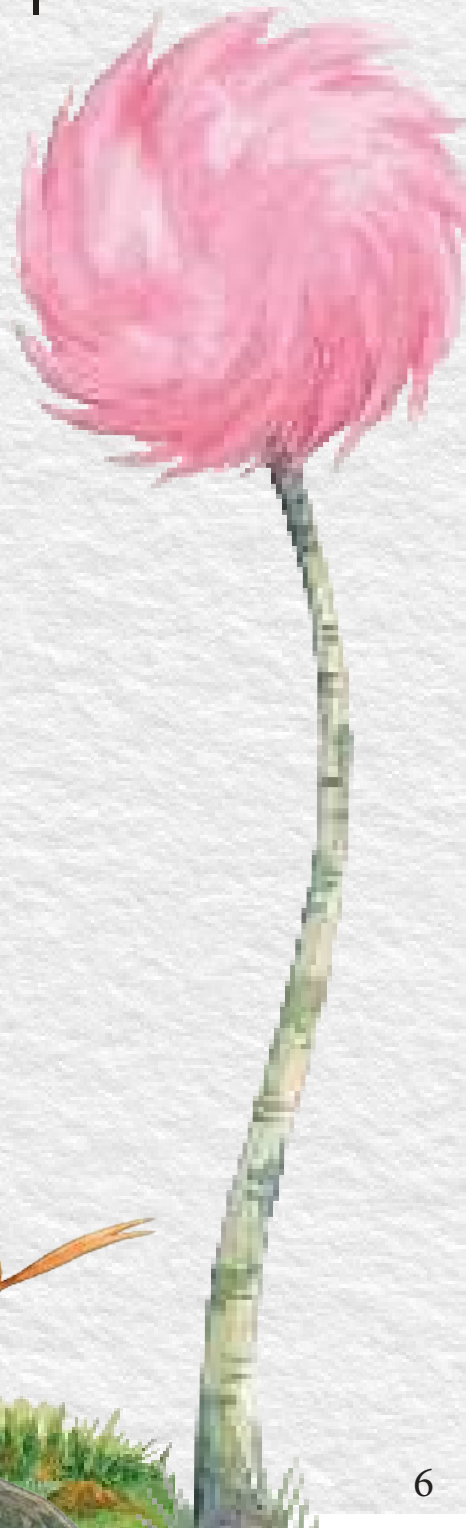
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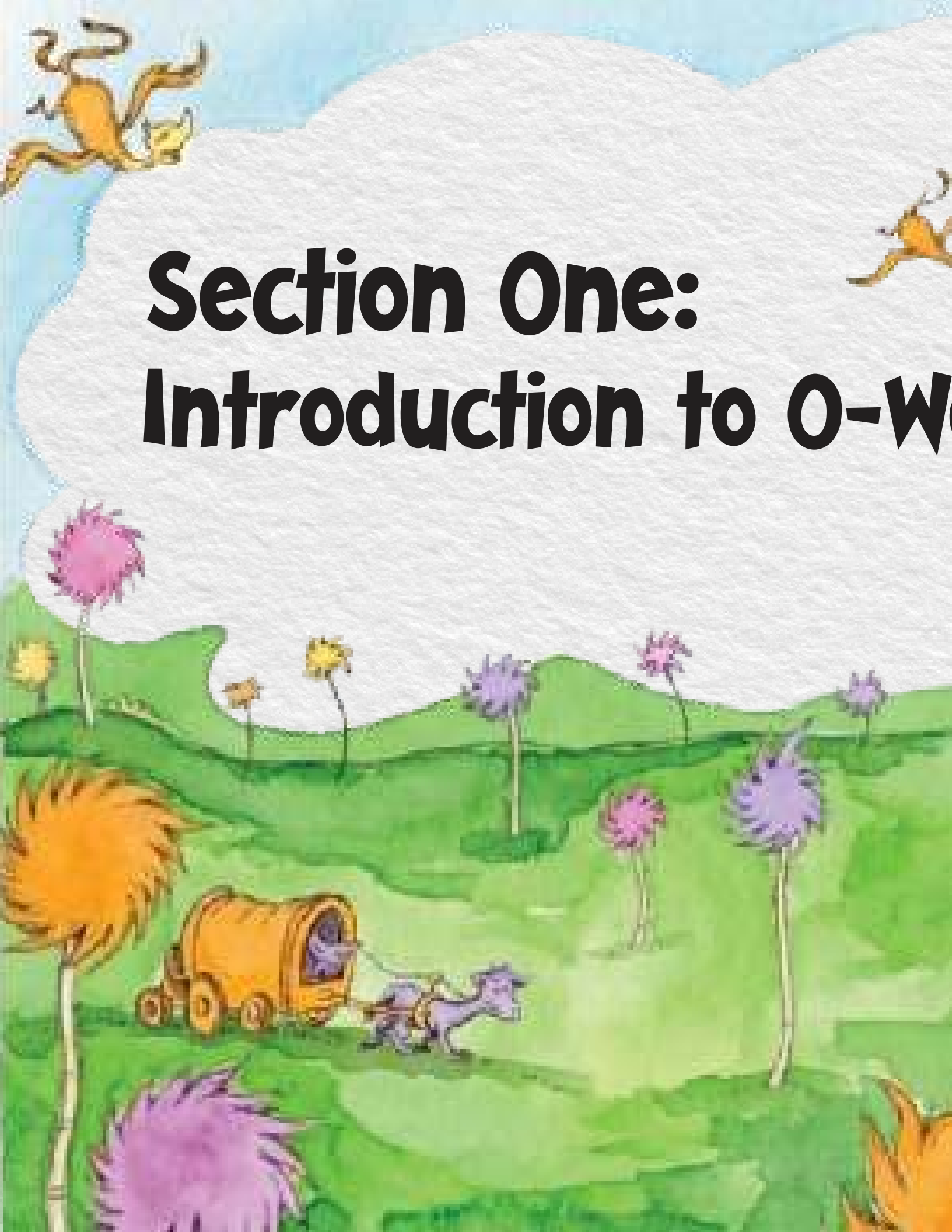
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The background is a colorful, whimsical illustration. It features rolling green hills under a light blue sky. Several tall, thin trees with spiky, ball-like tops in shades of pink, purple, and orange are scattered across the landscape. In the upper corners, two orange, bat-like creatures with long wings are flying. In the lower foreground, a small orange cart with four wheels is being pulled by a purple, donkey-like creature. The text 'Section One: Introduction to O-W' is written in a large, bold, black font across the upper middle of the image.

Section One:

Introduction to O-W

Week



Welcome Letter From the McCoords

Dear New Murts,

Welcome to Thneedville! We are Ava, Chad, and Collin, your 2026 McCoordinators, and we are so excited to welcome you into the forest of Rice University and, most importantly, McMurtry College.

First of all, congrats!!! You are officially part of the absolute best residential college on campus. We are so proud of everything you have done to get here, and we cannot wait to see what you bring to Murt. Right now, you are coming to Rice like a Truffula seed, full of potential, curiosity, and excitement. As your Coordinators, we are here to help give you the resources, support, and sunlight you need to grow.

This year's orientation, Let It GrO-Week, is all about helping you plant your roots, branch out, and begin your own Rice journey. No two Truffula trees grow the same way, and that is what makes McMurtry so special. From late-night commons conversations to campus traditions, from O-Week groups to your first real moments of feeling at home, each Murt adds something new to our community.

As your Lorax-approved guides to Thneedville, we have planned this week to help you settle into your new home, build real connections, and get comfortable with all the growth that comes with college life.

Throughout this storybook, you will find essential information about move-in, McMurtry College, the people helping Let It GrO-Week flourish, and more. If you still have questions, no need to spiral like a Once-ler with a business plan. We will send more information in the coming weeks, and you can always reach us at mcmurtryoweeek@gmail.com.

So get ready to unpack, take root, and let yourself grow. We are so thrilled to welcome you home and watch you become part of the Murt forest.

Murt Love,

Ava, Chad, and Collin



What is O-Week?

Orientation Week, commonly called O-Week, is one of the most meaningful parts of the Rice experience. Think of O-Week as your full introduction to life at Rice University and McMurry College. It brings together academic advising, campus resources, college traditions, social events, and community-building in one week designed to help you feel more prepared for your transition to Rice.

Every New Student at Rice becomes part of one of twelve residential colleges, each with its own culture, traditions, and personality. Your residential college will serve as a home base throughout your time at Rice, offering community, support, and a strong sense of belonging. Each college has a team of student O-Week Coordinators who begin planning in January to create a week full of helpful information, fun events, and meaningful connections.

For McMurry's O-Week, Let It GrO-Week, you will join a small group of New Students led by 4-5 upperclassmen Advisors. Your O-Week group will help you get settled both socially and academically. Your Advisors will answer questions, share advice from their own Rice experiences, and support you as you begin finding your place on campus and after you're settled. Being surrounded by other New Students will also remind you that you are beginning this journey alongside people who are learning and growing with you.

You will also meet the McTeam, our dedicated Core Team of faculty, staff, and adult leaders who play an important role in the McMurry community. Their support extends beyond O-Week, and they will continue to serve as resources throughout your time at Rice.

By the end of O-Week, you will have selected your first semester classes, learned how to navigate campus, met new people, and started building meaningful connections within McMurry. Through advising sessions, social activities, late-night conversations, and introductions to Rice's many resources, O-Week is designed to help you feel grounded, supported, and excited for what comes next.

Welcome to Rice!

Welcome to McMurry!

Welcome to Let It GrO-Week!



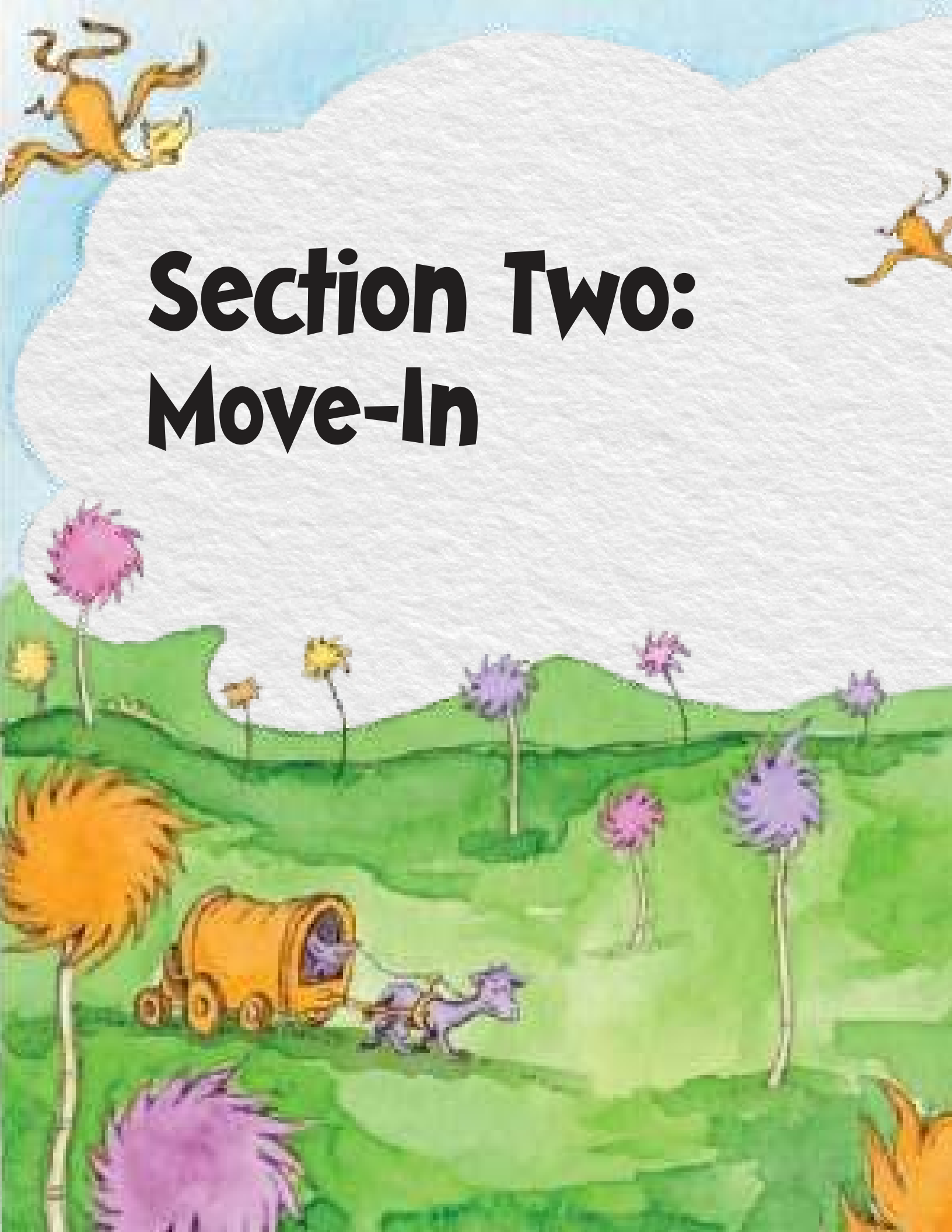
Let-It-GrO-Week Mission Statement

In the McMurTREE forest, every New Student will have the opportunity to grow, change, and adapt to their new environments. Just like a **truffula seed**, students need the right conditions to thrive. **Let It GrO-Week 2026** nurtures those conditions through **connection, guidance, and empathy**. With these resources, the newest sprouts can begin to plant their roots into both the McMurtry family we hold so much pride for and Rice University as a whole. New Students may think that college is daunting, but *how bad could it possibly be?* Through being encouraged to **step outside their comfort zones, try something new, and learn through experience**, they will have all that they **thneed**. By the end of **Let It GrO-Week**, New Students will understand that growth comes from **asking for help, making mistakes, and taking initiative**. After all, **you can't reap what you don't sow**. A forest will flourish through community; advisors, the McTeam, affiliates, and fellow Murts are eager to offer the water, light, and nutrients needed to **celebrate each Murt's rebirth** in their new community.

This is the place to Let It Grow!!!





The background is a whimsical illustration. It features rolling green hills under a light blue sky. Several tall, thin trees with spiky, colorful tops (orange, yellow, purple, pink) are scattered across the landscape. In the upper corners, two orange, winged creatures are flying. In the lower foreground, a small orange cart with four wheels is being pulled by a purple creature. The cart has a purple figure inside. The overall style is that of a children's book illustration.

Section Two: Move-In



Move-In Day Instructions

Plan to arrive in the morning on Sunday, August 16th. When you arrive at Rice, please enter through Entrance #1 (the main entrance), take your first right, and follow the signs for McMurt-ry. After you unload, you will be given directions for where to park for the remainder of the morning. As you get closer to McMurt-ry, 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 Core Team), who will welcome you to Mc-Murtry 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!





Important Contact Info

O-Week Coordinators

mcmurtryoweb@gmail.com

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832-696-3530

Chad Federico

cf70@rice.edu
631-381-2607

Collin DeSoto

cd112@rice.edu
972-249-6110

McMurtry College Coordinator

Jackie Carrizales

jjc3@rice.edu
Office: (713) 348-4583
Fax: (713) 348-3135

McMurtry College Magisters

Libby Vann & Jeffrey Fleisher

evann@rice.edu
(281) 889-1159
jfleisher@rice.edu
(713) 339-0589

Directions to McMurtry

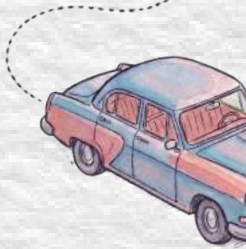
Arriving By Car

From the West on I-10 East: Take 610 South to US-59 North and exit at Greenbriar. Follow Greenbriar and turn left at Rice Boulevard. Stay on Rice Boulevard until it becomes Sunset Blvd. Turn right on Main Street and take an immediate right into campus at 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. Turn right on Sunset and make an immediate left onto Main Street. Turn right into campus at Entrance 1.

From the South on US-59 North: Exit at Greenbriar, stay on the frontage road, and turn right (south) onto Greenbriar. Follow Greenbriar to the light at Rice Boulevard. Turn left onto Rice Boulevard and stay on it until it becomes Sunset. Turn right on Main Street and take an immediate right into campus at Entrance 1.

From the North on US-59 South: Take the Fannin Street exit and travel south on Fannin until you reach Sunset Boulevard. Turn right on Sunset and make an immediate left onto Main Street. Turn right into campus at Entrance 1.



Arriving By Plane

Houston has two airports. George Bush Intercontinental (IAH) is about 22–25 miles north of campus (roughly 35–50 minutes by car). William P. Hobby (HOU) is about 10 miles southeast (roughly 25–35 minutes). Hobby is the closer and usually cheaper option if you have a choice.

Rideshare (Uber / Lyft): The most common choice and available on demand at both airports. From IAH, expect roughly \$40–\$60, depending on time of day and surge pricing. From Hobby, expect roughly \$30–\$40. Follow the airport's signs to the designated rideshare pickup area.

Taxi: Available at both airports' ground transportation areas. Fares run a bit lower than rideshare from Hobby (about \$25–\$30 plus tip) and comparable or higher from IAH. Confirm the fare or that the meter is running before you depart.

Private/pre-booked shuttle: Services such as ShuttleFare.com and ShuttleFinder.com let you compare and reserve shared or private rides to Rice in advance, often starting around \$15–\$33 per person.

Public transit (not recommended): There is no rail line directly to either airport. METRO local buses connect both airports toward the city, and the METRORail Red Line stops at Rice University (the Texas Medical Center / Rice U area). It's the cheapest route (a few dollars) but the slowest, typically involving a bus-to-rail transfer and around an hour or more of travel.



Campus



RICE BLVD

NORTH LOT ENTRANCE

LABORATORY LOOP ROAD

MURT

FOUNDERS COURT VISITOR LOT

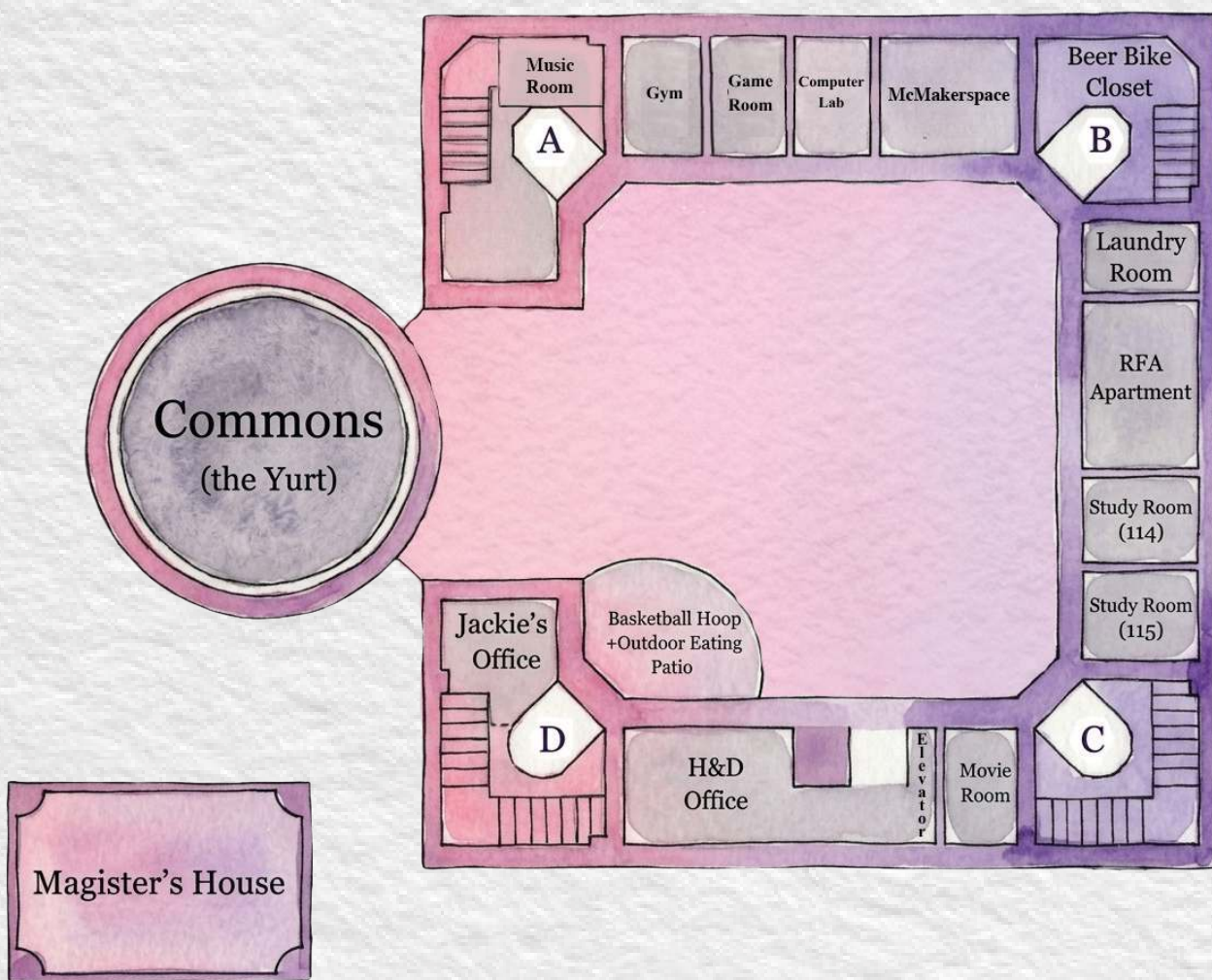
SZEUNKCE GARAGE

MAIN ST

SUNSET BLVD



Map of McMurtry + Spaces



A,B,C, and D- denote our four stairways. You will often hear Murts say things like "meet me by stair B" or "leaving from stair D."

Aside from some RFAs, no one lives on the ground (or 1st) floor. There, you will find essentials like our Laundry Room, Study Rooms, and Jackie's Office!



The Yurt

The Yurt is what we call McMurtry commons! It's a circular building that is fully surrounded by windows, offering lots of natural light. Come to eat, work, play games, or just chill!



Mailroom / Jackie's Office

The mail room is where you'll receive all of your letters and packages. Come by to pick up your mail or just to say hi to Jackie :)



Laundry Room

McMurtry's laundry room is located on the ground floor. Here you'll find plenty of washers and dryers, all free, although it does tend to get busy so you might be waiting to catch a free one!



Movie Room

“Study Room 120” is actually our very own movie room! The room comes with couches and a TV available for hosting fun movie nights with friends.



Gym

Don’t feel like going all the way to the Rec to get a quick workout in? McMurtry’s got you covered with our very own gym, equipped with weights, a squat rack, a treadmill, and yoga mats!



Library & PDR

The McMurtry Library and Private Dining Room (PDR) are spaces located above West Servery, often used for quiet studying or club events.



McMakerspace

For all you creative Murts, take a short safety quiz and you’ll have access to equipment including hand tools, art + electronic prototyping supplies, computers, 3D printers, and more!



Game Room

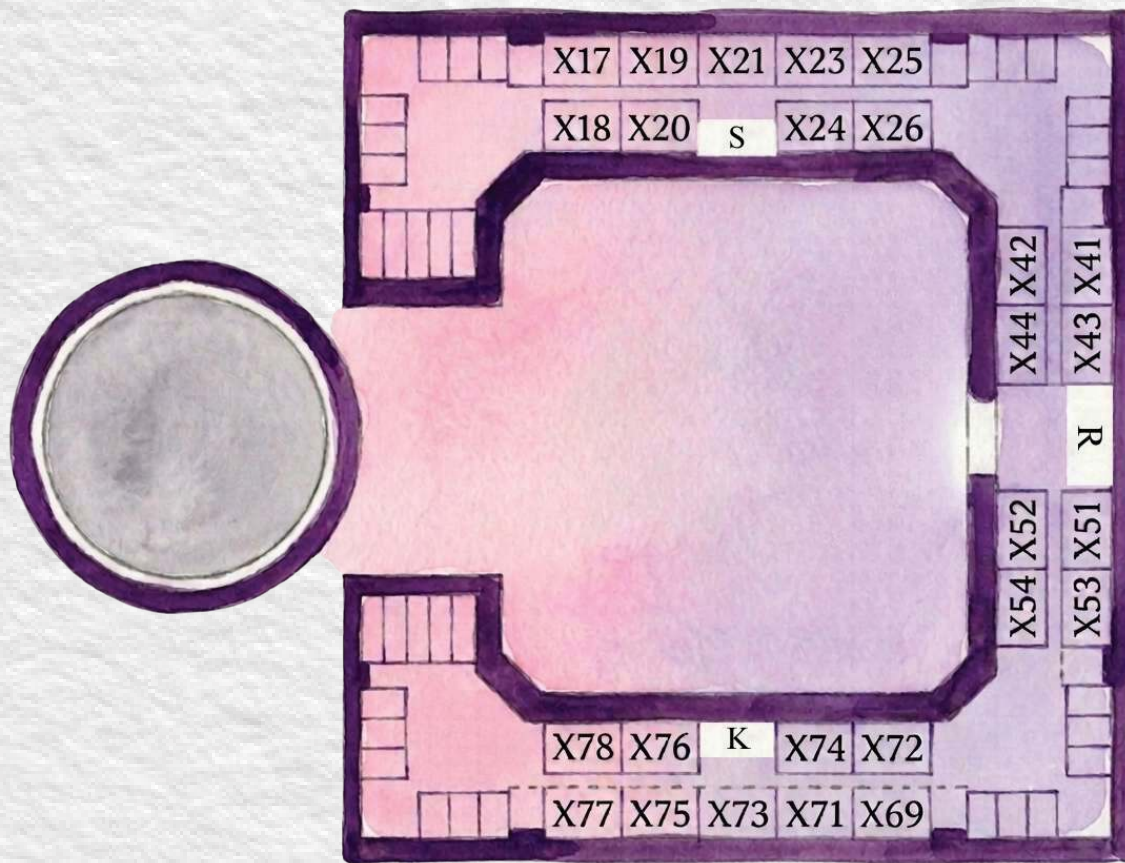
The newly renovated Game Room is home to McMurtry’s pool table and air hockey table. The yellow and orange walls pay homage to the former hallway colors of McMurtry college.



5th Floor

The rooms on 5th floor are reserved for upper-classmen, but the top floor sundeck offers a nice space for all Murts to hang out outside.

McMurtry Floor Plan



S- Study room
R- RA apartment
K- Kitchen



Kitchens

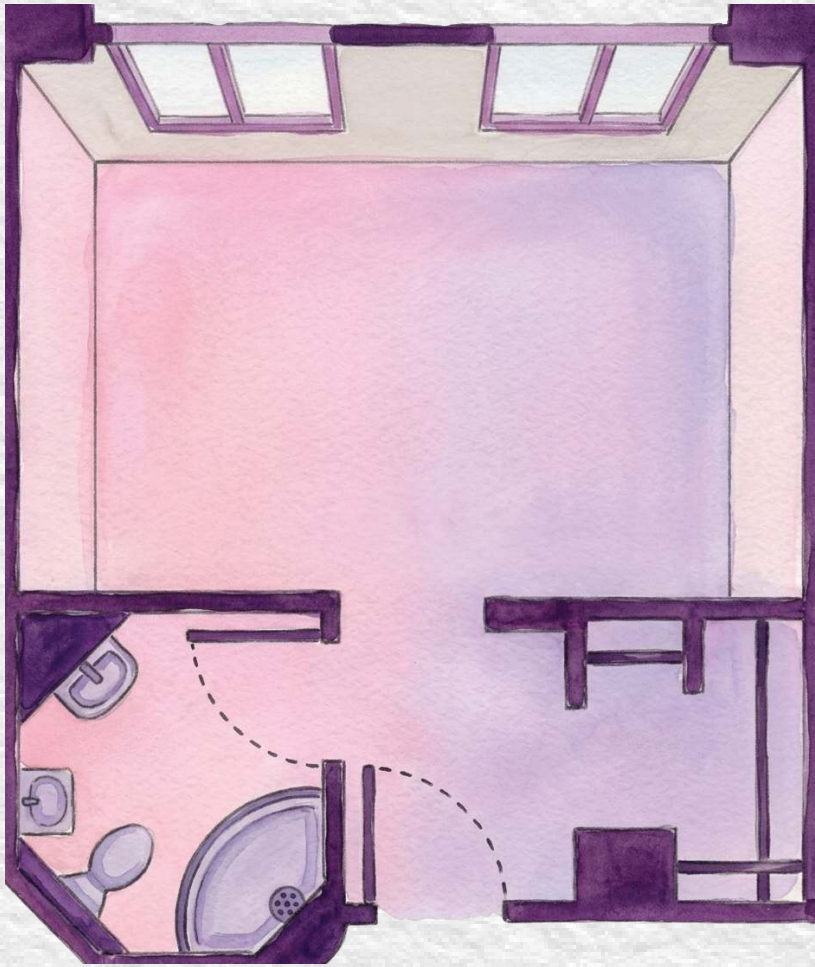
McMurtry has kitchens on each 2nd-5th floor, equipped with a fridge, stove, oven, microwave, and essential cooking supplies. Just make sure to clean up after yourself when you're done.



Study Rooms

McMurtry has two study rooms on the ground floor and one on each of the higher floors. Each study room offers a table and whiteboard for Murts to catch up on some work.

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 to the left is a floor plan which should give you an idea of what your 18'x18' room will look like!

-Dresser Drawer:

D: 5.5" L: 61.5" W: 32"

-Nightstand Drawer

D: 22" L: 13.5"

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



What to Bring

Neccesities:

- Toiletries + Medicines
- Twin XL Bedding
- Laundry Detergent
- Towels/Washcloths
- Clothes + Hangers
- Hamper

(we recommend one that's easy to carry or has wheels)

- Clothing

make sure you have a week's worth of comfortable shorts and shoes for O-Week

- Identification

(i.e., Driver's License, Passport, etc.)

Up-to-Date Insurance Card

Popular Buys:

- Mattress Pad
- TV
- Water Bottle
- Iron/Ironing Board
- Carpet/Rug/Bathmat
- Brita Filter
- Mini Refrigerator (< 3.2 cubic feet)
- Microwave (<1.5 cubic feet)
- Wall Decorations
- Full-Length Mirror
- Furniture
- Mounting Tape / Command Strips
- Broom or Vacuum



Useful Supplies:

- School Supplies
- Desk Lamp
- Shower Accessories
- Storage/Organizers
- Power Strips/Extension Cords
- Backpack
- Computer (see OIT article in Owlmanac) & Chargers
- Bath Mat

What NOT to Bring:

- Toilet paper
- Trash cans
- Prohibited items
- Candles and incense
- Other cooking/heating appliances





Section Three: **The Let-It-GrO-Week**

x Team



Team Exp

Coordinators

Each residential college has three O-Week Coordinators who spend nine months planning and leading their college's O-Week. Their work includes creating the theme, selecting and training Advisors, forming O-Week Groups, pairing roommates, coordinating with Rice departments, and organizing McMurry's events and traditions. During O-Week, the Coordinators oversee the full schedule, support Advisors and New Students, and handle any challenges that arise. Our love for McMurry, Rice, and O-Week brought each of us to this role, and we are so excited to welcome you home!

Advisors

Advisors are returning Rice students who are ready to show you the ins and outs of McMurry and Rice. They will be among the first people you meet during move-in and some of your biggest supporters throughout O-Week and beyond. Three Advisors in your group will be Murts, while the fourth or fifth will be a Co-Advisor from another residential college. Co-Advisors bring new perspectives, introduce you to life outside McMurry, and help connect your group to the larger Rice community.

Affiliates

O-Week Affiliates and Liaisons are returning students who take on specialized roles outside of, or alongside, advising. They help O-Week run behind the scenes while connecting New Students with important people, programs, and resources across Rice. Throughout the week, you will see them taking photos, leading discussions, giving presentations, helping with course registration, delivering food, and jumping in wherever support is needed. These roles include Photographers, Diversity Facilitators, Peer Academic Advisors, Gophers, Rice Health Advisors, and many more.

Explanation

Groups

Your O-Week Group will include 10–13 New Students and four or five Advisors. You will attend most events, activities, and meals together, so these will quickly become some of the most familiar faces in your first week at Rice. Each group will have its own Let-It-GrO-Week-inspired name, along with inside jokes, traditions, and memories created throughout the week. Your group will also compete in challenges and take part in some of McMurtry's biggest O-Week traditions together!

Why Groups?

Starting college comes with plenty of new people, places, and experiences, and your O-Week Group gives you a home base through all of them. Your Advisors and fellow New Students will support you as you settle into McMurtry while encouraging you to meet people beyond your group. Together, you will meet students from our sister college, Chao, attend university-wide rallies, matriculate, and begin making your first memories at Rice. Your group is only the starting point, but the connections you build might last far beyond O-Week.

Advisor Expectations

Your Advisors have spent months preparing and training for your arrival, and they are eager to meet you! They will help with move-in, guide you through O-Week, answer your questions, introduce you to Rice's resources and traditions, and support you through the academic, social, and personal parts of starting college. Each Advisor brings different experiences and perspectives, giving you several people to learn from and turn to. They are here to be mentors, friends, and familiar faces long after O-Week ends, so never be afraid to reach out to them.

O-Week Roles

Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs)

Student experts on Rice academics who will help you with all your class scheduling during and after O-Week!

Haruka Araki | ha75@rice.edu
Safee Baig | sab21@rice.edu
Daira Posada | dp118@rice.edu
Lillian Alexander | la62@rice.edu

Rice Health Advisor (RHA)

They're your resource on wellbeing at Rice and how to be the healthiest and happiest self you can be!

Kamisi Adetunji | 919-271-0832 | oea6@rice.edu

McMurtry Chief Justice (CJ)

They're your resource on the justice system and other regulations such as the Alcohol Policy!

Rosario Castro | 512-216-5403 | rc152@rice.edu

Divisional Advisor (DA)

The DAs are members of various academic schools that will be available during O-Week to answer any questions you may have regarding academics.

Engineering

Geoff Wehmeyer | gpw1@rice.edu
Gary Woods gary.woods@rice.edu

Humanities

Tim Schroeder timothy.a.schroeder@rice.edu

Natural Sciences

Caná Ross cr53@rice.edu
Krista Kobylanskii kristakobyl@rice.edu

Social Sciences

Dogus Aktan dogus.aktan@rice.edu
Colette Nicolaou colette.nicolaou@rice.edu

Business

Ginger Vaughn ginger.vaughn@rice.edu

Community Facilitators (CFs)

Members of our advising team who run educational diversity workshops and are here to make sure you feel comfortable being yourself. They are great resources throughout O-Week and the school year, don't hesitate to reach out!

Bennett Reddig | 682-540-7344 | bjr8@rice.edu
Van Hernandez | 210-488-0648 | vh20@rice.edu

McMurtry President

The President of McMurtry College for the upcoming school year!

Yazmine Miles | 928-304-4418 | yam1@rice.edu

Athletic Liaison

A student-athlete Advisor who ensures our athletes' experiences, both during O-Week and after, are understood and accommodated!

Ava Casperson | 832-696-3530 | ac321@rice.edu

Student Maintenance Representative (SMR)

Go-to person if you need your bed lofted or have any other issues with your room.

McTeam

The McTeam is the group of adults here at McMurtry who are advisors and mentors for all students in the college.

Libby Vann (she/her) | evann@rice.edu
Jeff Fleisher (he/him) | jfleisher@rice.edu
Jackie Carrizales (she/her) | jjc3@rice.edu
Matt McCary (he/him) | mm160@rice.edu
Priscilla Martinez (she/her) | pm82@rice.edu
Hesam Panahi (he/him) | hpanahi@rice.edu
Lina Panahi (she/her) | linapanahi@rice.edu
Joe Young (he/him) | jy48@rice.edu



Meet McCoord



t The dinators



Ava Casperson

HEY MURT!!! (Hey what?!?)



Those chants you're hearing aren't just coming from any Murt... you're hearing McMurtry's very own POWERHOUSE of a hypewoman, Ava Casperson.

You may know her as an O-Week Coord or Murt's External Vice President, but everyone else (us included) know her well as THE. BACK.

TO. BACK. Swim and Dive Team conference champion (if you doubt it, ask her close personal friend

selena2trim). A Kingwood, TX native (she'll say she's from Houston), Business/Political Science/ChatGPT triple major, you KNOW you can count on Ava "Clap-that-asperson" to rally all of McMurtry college in the loudest and strongest way possible.

Doing all of that must make her tired, but luckily enough, another one of her favorite pastimes is phone. Ava wears her screentime like a badge of HONOR. And you can hear it too. Any conversation with Ava is genuinely like rolling the dice on a hidden sleeper agent – any given word will trigger an exact one-to-one replica of any viral or recognizable sound, quote, song etc.



MCMURTRY
COLLEGE

Get to know her at all, and you will automatically be the next lucky recipient of a free weekly subscription to a new vocal stim (seriously, we've been singing "Sunflower" for wayyyyy too long at this point). She gon call me baby boo.



Whether it's making the prettiest and most OD-looking color-coded spreadsheet, sharing her cursed "for you" page, or curating the perfect O-Week playlist, Ava knows what it means to be dedicated. That same dedication carries the most to her friendships, where it truly shows that Ava is a fierce, loyal friend who always stands all ten toes down when it comes to defending and helping the people she cares about.



And you know for SURE that that dedication

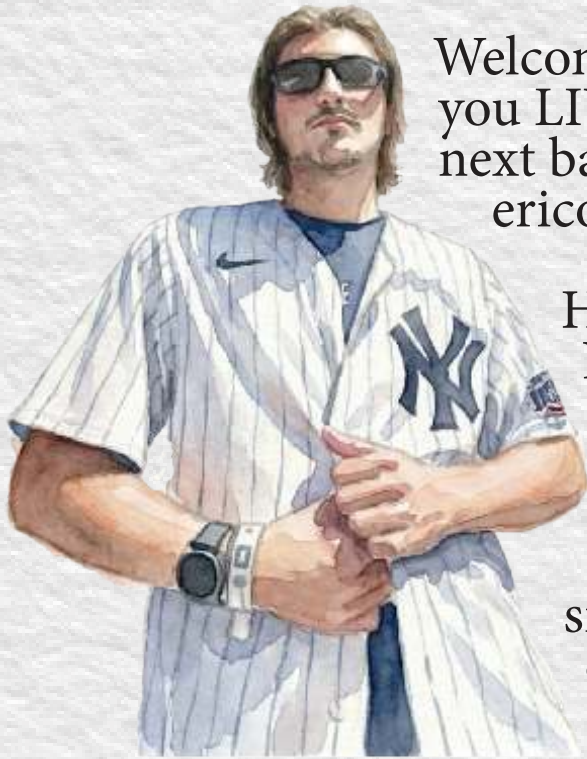
is what makes McMurtry what it is today- and what will make your Let It GrO-Week experience so special. We hope you're sufficiently hyped to meet Ava this year so that she can call you baby boo too <3.



*-Collin DeSoto (McMurtry '28) and
Chad Federico (McMurtry '28)*



Chad Federico



Welcome back to the broadcast, coming at you LIVE from MCM Commons where our next batter is up: Chaaaaaaaaaad “C-Fed” Federico!

Hailing all the way from Long Island, New York, Chad is our resident sports encyclopedia, Sports Analytics and Statistics double major, and the person you should find if you ever wished for the human version of ESPN and need a full explanation of a stat you did not know existed. As a general rule of thumb, if you want to know whether Chad

is in a good mood, check the Yankees score first.

When he’s not being McMurtry’s Sports Committee Head or working with the Rice Baseball Analytics Team, you can catch Chad living his y2k college student dreams, listening to a Rihanna or Katy Perry classic. Thought his baseball ball knowledge was impressive? Chad can name *ALL* 1,025 Pokemon just by seeing them. And somehow, he still has time to work on his Animal Crossing island, which probably took more hours to perfect than the Lorax movie. (crying face emoji)





More than that, Chad is one of those people who notices the details everyone else misses. Whether it was something you said and forgot about or something you overlooked in your work, Chad always pays attention and remembers. If you ever think he's wrong about something, he'll even patiently wait for about 10 seconds until you realize that you were actually in fact wrong the whole time. He's so dedicated to his teams, that he'll even ask if its ok to use the restroom or eat food while working on a group project. With Chad, no stone gets left unturned, no one gets left behind and no tears are left to cry.

We cannot wait for y'all to meet him, and he cannot wait to meet you- as long as the Yankees are doing okay ;)

*-Collin DeSoto (McMurtry '28)
and Ava Casperson (McMurtry '28)*



Collin DeSoto

If you see a pair of Birkenstock clogs moving through McMurtry with purpose, follow them. There is a strong chance you'll find Collin DeSoto, with AirPods in, calendar full, listening to his niche music, and already on his way to make someone's day 1000 times better. From Denton, Texas, Collin is resident host to any and every Murt ready for a fun time! Collin is a Psychology major, making him one of the wisest people in the Greater Houston Area. Collin is knowledgeable in more than just school, 67 times out of 10 he will understand ANY reference that you have seen online.



If you're ever looking for the definition of someone who "bleeds purple" for McMurtry, you don't have to look fur-

ther than Collin. O-Week Coord, McMurtry Prime Minister, and Socials Head by day, 5-star Doordasher/UberEats-er/Instacart-er by night. It's hard to miss Collin around McMurtry and around Rice.





From his infectious smile, common treks to working at his lab, or taking scooter shortcuts around campus (do NOT ask him what happened this past January), Collin's familiar face will be your constant reminder that this is where you belong. We can say wholeheartedly that Collin will do his absolute best to make you feel comfortable at your new home. I mean, have you seen how well furnished his room

is?!? But even more than that, just wait until you see the home that Collin has prepared to welcome you to at McMurtry.

With every McMurtry event throughout O-Week and the school year, you'll see Collin's heart and soul poured into it. In fact, the best public of the year, McMurtry Y2K, would not have happened without him!!! As soon as you arrive and join the Mc-

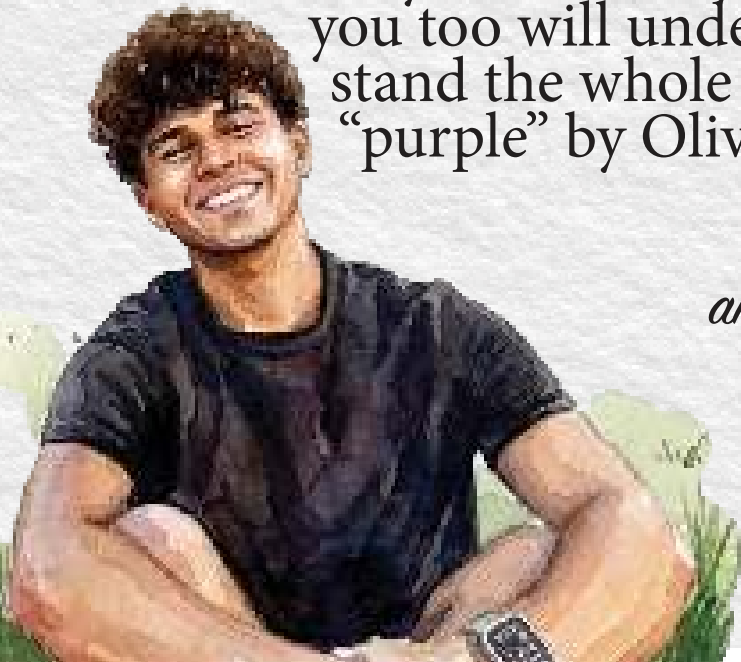
Murtry community,

you too will under-

stand the whole new meaning he's given to "purple" by Olivia Rodrigo.



*-Chad Federico (McMurtry '28)
and Ava Casperson (McMurtry '28)*



Meet The



Advisors



Seuss WRLD: D



Lucid Thneeds





Catey Thomas, *NEUR, 2027, She/Her, Perryton, TX, McMurtry*

The one and only CAITLYNN (Catey) THOMAS, is a senior genius at McMurtry studying neuroscience and your future doctor in the making! A Texas native who's as country as cornbread, hailing from the panhandle and the legendary small town of P-P-P-TOWN (a.k.a. Perryton)! With one of the best and most diverse music tastes on campus, you'll catch her vibing to everything from SZA to Carti or Faye Webster to Los Enanitos Verdes. Beyond the aux, come to Catey if you ever need to know if your milk is 1%, 2%, or skimmed, since she was once a legendary Milk Taste Tester in a past life. Also you can probably spot her whipping her green Bronco Sport to a niche Houston coffee shop. But she ain't no slump either, she's helped plan the best public Y2K, while absolutely demolishing (and mentoring) kids as a Rice Powerlifting board member & coach! As Head Academic Fellow, she is always down to help a Murt out and pep talk you through tough class. Sure, she may have bad eyesight, but trust her vision when it comes to giving clear advice. Catey's one of the most supportive, dependable, easy to talk to, and caring people out there. So if there's one person you can count on to be there for you as a

friend, peer, and advisor it would be Catey. :)

- Santosh Areti (McMurtry '27)



Nicholas Ortiz, *POLI/SOPA, 2029, He/Him, Houston, TX, McMurtry*

Somewhere in Houston near the East End, a six-foot-something beacon of chaotic good energy is probably trying a brand-new hobby, making three new friends, and accidentally creating a core memory for everyone involved. You can spot him instantly in any crowd, not just because he's tall, but because he radiates a warmth that makes people drift toward him like he's made of main-character gravity. One moment he's moving like a Looney Tunes character, the next he's dropping ancient-philosopher wisdom that makes you rethink your entire life trajectory, all while juggling volleyball, hoops, volunteering, acting, and being the wackiest, most open-to-anything friend you'll ever meet (my parents literally call him Kramer). Beyond the chaos, he's also one of the most reliable people I know.

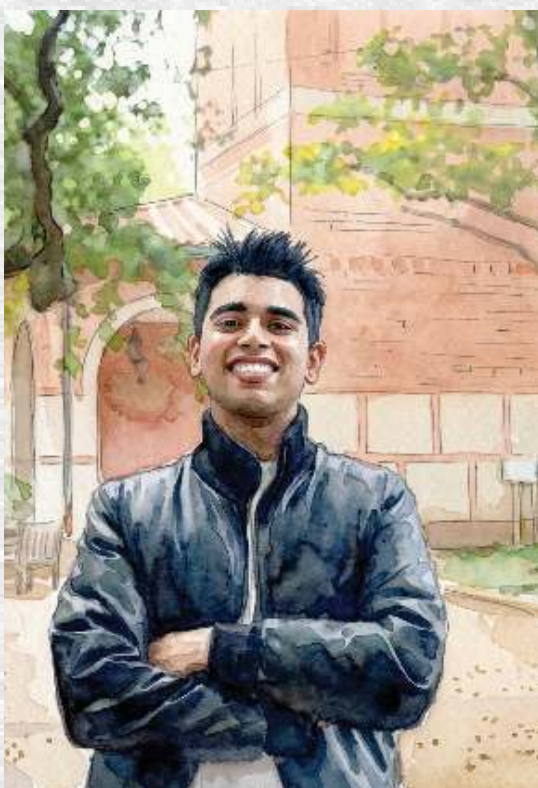
- Isaiah Alessandro Canjura ('29)



Alex Rousset, *PHIL/HART, 2028, She/Her, Paris, France, Will Rice*

You didn't just get assigned an O-Week parent — you somehow landed Alex. Straight out of Paris and straight into legend status, she's the kind of force of nature who can ragebait you, hype you up, and fix your life in the same five-minute conversation. Need an au-
raful BP edit of yourself or some looksmaxxing advice? She's got you covered, courtesy of an elite education in Clav reels. Need someone to teach you how to larp flawlessly in French, Russian, Italian, and English? Light work. Off duty, she's a demon on the club lacrosse field, certified french cheese scholar, and Roblox horror game veteran. She is wildly unserious, completely unpredictable, and guaranteed to have the whole group crying laughing by day two — but the second things get real, she locks in harder than anyone. Alex is the life of every party, the people's favorite touse mogger, and the type of woman to hit a flawless money spread and then calmly pick up a possum by the neck like it's another item on the to-do list. With Alex leading the way, expect chaos, expect comedy, and expect the best O-Week imaginable.

- Carter Wuensche (Lovett '27)



Aaqil Merchant, *AI/BUSI (finance), 2029, He/Him, Dallas, TX, McMurtry*

Did you know that Lebron has a hidden, fourth son? Standing at a whopping 5'3", Aaqil "Chud" Merchant comes from the streets of Dallas, TX. But don't worry if you miss him down there. You can find Aaqil anywhere around campus - whether it be dropping his peers at Murt's basketball hoop or intensely procrastinating for his exams in Fondren. Nevertheless, he is still able to be someone who will light up your day. Rain or shine, Aaqil manages to have a smile on his face in genuinely every interaction you have with him. His bottomless well of energy is infectious, and you're bound to catch a case of Aaqil-itis. Don't believe me? You don't need to, because you'll see for yourself in a few weeks. If there's someone you want to vent, procrastinate (NOT study), hoop (NOT lift), or eat with, Aaqil is your man. Get ready to have an S-tier O-Week parent because he's ready to be one.

- Carlos Cruz (McMurtry '27)

Once-ler Up



pon a Time





Nate Dominitz, *MATH/ECON, 2027, He/Him, Portland, OR, McMurtry*

Meet Nate Dominitz! A star quarterback for the McMurtry flag teams, Letterboxd *pro member and doomscroller, die hard Eagles and Phillies fan, Al Pacino fanatic, and expert Footloose line dancer, Nate is a man of many talents. But above all, Nate is someone I am honored to be able to call a friend - quiet but thoughtful, caring, and dependable. Some of the best moments with Nate are spent having casual conversations about literally anything, as you can always rely on him to be a great listener. To quote Pulp Fiction, one of our favorite movies: "That's when you know you've found someone special. When you can shut up for a minute and comfortably share silence." Consider yourself lucky to have Nate be that person for you as your Advisor.

- Theo Au-Yeung (McMurtry '27)



Victoria Owusu, *COMP, 2029, She/Her, Katy, TX, McMurtry*

Look to your left!!! Look to your right!!!! Now look down and meet McMurtry's resident Ghanaian princess, the world's best dancer, this century's best O-Week parent!! All the way from the streets of Killa Katy, Texas, and representing our fair college, Victoria is here to give you an O-Week experience that'll change! hour! WEEEFEE!!!! This CS major's mind works faster than ChatGPT, and she has a heart bigger than the huge MacBook she drags around everyday!! Vicky's an active member of RASA (Rice African Student Association), hit her up for African food recs, and a member of two of our most esteemed dance teams (she takes the basic out of BASYK and lights up every stage of with KASAMA). Vicky knows her way around functions, and she's about to make this family functional—so get ready to have a TIMEEE LAST NIGHTTT! (If you know, you know!!) P.S Text Amaka for skit recs ;)

- Amaka Gbulie (McMurtry '29)

Emily Yang, STATS/CMOR/Sport Analytics, 2028, She/Her, Shanghai, China, McMurtry

She's the one you'll find cheering the loudest at the basketball/football/volleyball/soccer game, and the most excited listener at the dinner table, ready to jump into a spontaneous McFloat run or any sweet treat adventure that comes her way (she's a loyal premium regular customer at Sunday Sundaes). Whether she's recounting her endless adventures trekking through Arkansas and Oklahoma or her travels around Indonesia, Vietnam, and Malaysia, her stories are guaranteed to leave you laughing. But it's not all about the fun—she's also a beast in Finance, Statistics, and Sport Management, effortlessly switching from deep talks about oil & gas to hyping everyone up out of nowhere. She's the kind of person who brings both energy and calm into any room, connecting easily with almost anyone, whether it's a random chat or a late-night bonding session. She'll make every memory so funny that you'll be telling your kids about them (real kids or the new generation of O-week kids shrug). And while she's ready to take on the world with her drive, she's also got that laid-back, fun vibe that keeps everyone on their toes—just be prepared for her to casually drop finance talk in the middle of the most random conversations.

- Freya Yao (McMurtry '28) & Judy Deng (Baker '28)



Sofia Orr, BUSI (finance), 2029, She/Her, Greenwich, CT, McMurtry

Meet Sofia: studying business, native of Greenwich, Connecticut, and mother of two adorable dogs. If you have dogs, show her pictures – she will adopt them into her heart forever. Sofia has woken up at obscene hours to watch F1 races (she is a big McLaren fan and has even been to a race in person), and still made it to her 8 AM classes. She's the live embodiment of coastal granddaughter and her room and closet are practically out of a Pinterest board. Ask her how her day went and she'll fill you in on all the details, but even though you might be there for 10 minutes, it'll feel like no time has passed at all. As a certified plant mom with a green thumb like no other, you can be sure that Sofia will help you gro(w) in the best way possible. You are in great hands!

- Sanjana Katti (McMurtry '29)



Stranger



Thneeds



Akshara Sankar, NEUR/SOPA, 2027, She/Her, Dallas, TX, McMurtry

Akshara is the kind of girl who somehow balances matcha in one hand and the chaos of life in the other. A certified EMT and an Orgo TA, she could save your life, tutor you through a crisis, and still show up early with candles from the farmer's market because she knew you'd like the scent. She's a Rasikas dancer, a devoted reader, a panda enthusiast, and a fearless golf-cart driver—occasionally on the wrong side of the road, but always with confidence. She plans four years ahead, is the one who makes the plans leave the group chat, and serves as your life coach, all while making you feel like you're her top priority. Most of all, she's endlessly kind. She listens, remembers the little details, and makes time for you no matter how busy she is, and turns movie nights and baking into core memories. Ask her about Arthur if you want to see her light up. Or if you're feeling brave, just ask her about the 15 candles she lights up at once in her dorm and she might just threaten you with a sleepover.

- Ann Antwi-Boasiako (McMurtry '27) and Fuka Adachi (McMurtry '27)



Pedro Cardon Unikovski, ELEC, 2028, He/Him, Porto Alegre, Brazil, McMurtry

Meet Pedro Unikovski, a Junior from Porto Alegre, Brazil. His natural habitat is Chaus or Brochstein, where he can usually be spotted with an iced caramel latte, a breakfast burrito, and a hot take he's ready to share with whoever sits by.

Pedro loves soccer, cooking, trying new foods, and talking about sports and music like it's a full-time job. He's a Brazil fan and a Messi fan, which sounds illegal but he swears it makes sense.

If you need café/restaurant recs, strong opinions, or someone to yap with, Pedro's got you. Get ready for a fun, welcoming O-Week with plenty of laughs and probably some unserious debates.

- ChatGPT

Van Hernandez, PSYC/HEAL, 2028, He/Him, San Antonio, TX, McMurtry

Van will always brighten your day with a smile and a hug. He would always check in with you on how you are doing, and asks what your plan for the rest of the day is. He remembers all the little details about you, and would surprise you on your birthday with a capybara plushie. Whether you want to start a conversation about the boba store that has the best Thai tea, or the anime he is currently watching, or his experience as an RHA at Rice, you will always see the passion in his eyes, and you will soon get a collection of .5 in your phone. If you haven't seen Van dances, you are missing out on some great moments in life. He is a literal face card and the control and texture of his movement onstage is absolutely incredible. Ever worried about how to mog in a dance video or a selfie? Wanna film a cute TikTok challenge? You should talk to Van.

- Jessie Xie (Duncan 28')



Angelica Hernandez Carpio, PSYC/CSCI, 2028, She/Her, Katy, TX, Lovett

Angelica is not your typical Junior Co-Advisor from Thneedville....I mean, Katy, Texas. She is a proud Venezuelan and a kind-hearted person who brings light to any room she enters (Get it, because Lovett doesn't get any sunlight).

At Lovett College, she is the External Vice President and has played a critical role in Lovett's proud commons culture. She works hard to balance being a triple major in Linguistics, Psychology, and Cognitive Science. Being an academic weapon isn't her only quality. She is a certified Lauver and will spend hours yapping to you about her favorite songs! Ever wondered about Houston's cafe scene? Don't worry, because Angelica speaks for the coffees! She will definitely recommend the best cafes and take you there!

If you don't spot her at a concert or hosting her weekly ktru show, you'll definitely find her in Lovett Commons working on her countless research projects, and showing off her aesthetic journal with the cutest stickers!. Whatever the case may be, you can always count on Angelica to be there for you. <333

- Ricky DeQuevedo (Lovett '28)



Claire Kevil, BIOS, 2029, She/Her, Shreveport, LA, McMurtry

Do you smell that? MMmmmm, that smells unreal... is that CLAIRE'S JAMBALAYA & GUMBO CAJUN WONDERLAND?!?! Yup, you read that right. Claire is a Louisiana baddie who is not only good in the kitchen but a beast on the dance floor and hostess/ cocktail mixer of ur dreams. Currently Mcmurtry's finest so you know she's got it. Funny as heck—like homegirl has million tiktok references in her pocket, friendly sweetie pie— I know her aura is intimidating but she's actually the sweetest, and freaking cracked educationally— Pre-med Pre-bestdoctorever. Murt government-maxxing as this year's co-secretary (ooh typing), internals socials head (ooh epic lit FITQs), and 3Y hall rep (ooh 3Y nation). Get a load of this baddie— you'd lucky to have her as a parent.

- Abyssinia (Abby) Waritu (McMurtry '29)



The Costco's We Bring to



Hare Guys: The Bloom!!!



Cristian Castillo, BIOE, 2027, He/Him, Chicago, IL, McMurtry

You hear a telltale jingling of keys as you walk past Chaus. Who could it be? IT'S CRISTIAN CASTILLO!! Cristian is a Chicago resident and will absolutely make sure you know it, along with the fact that he's Puerto Rican and a Sociology minor (very rare for Bioengineering majors). Officially from McMurtry College, but often mistaken for being from Wiess, Baker...honestly anywhere, because he's just so worldwide. As General Manager of Chaus, you will definitely spot him speed-walking back from the BRC, wearing jorts, coffee in hand, keys jangling, probably mid-joke with a perfect reference for the situation. And yes, if you hear "no mama" or "damn, I forgot," you're 100% in the right place! All jokes aside, Cristian is one of the most genuine, caring people you'll meet. Whether he's making you laugh or just listening when you need it, he shows up fully for the people around him. He is passionate about bioengineering, deeply invested in people, and always bringing good energy. He's the kind of person you want as your Advisor and who will make your O-Week amazing by just being in it!!

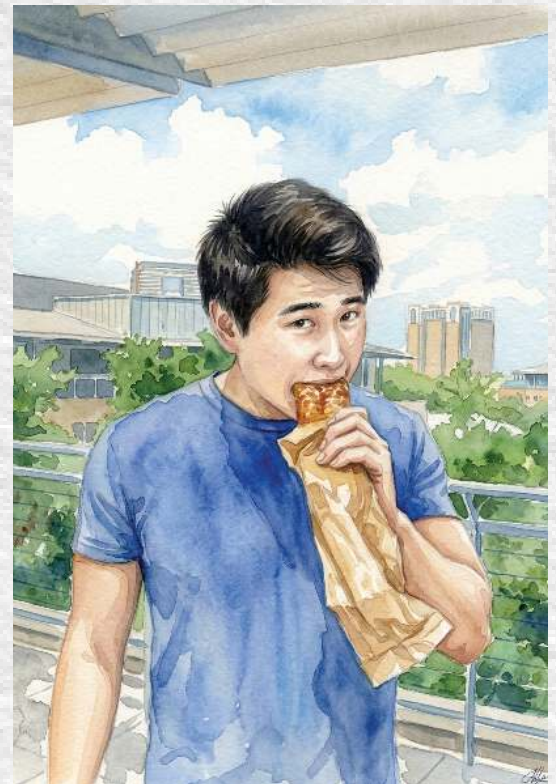
-Eman Fayyaz (Baker '27)



Kyle Chen, BUSI (finance), 2028, He/Him, Syosset, NY, McMurtry

Crazy. I was crazy once. That was before I met Kyle Chen. 6'7" ABB straight out of Long Island, New York. You won't find him on campus because he's probably eating. McDonalds, Dave's, Chipotle, it really depends on his mood and when his points expire. If you're looking for an on-campus j*b, "you just hit the jackpoooooot." His multifacetedness at the Backpage Thresher, the Rec Aquatic's Administrative Assistant, McMurtry Food Ambassador, and Athlete Tutor makes him shine. In fact, he shines so much that everything else is blacked out like a phantom (gloving theme song). He may be a great LinkedIn connection, but his heart truly lies with McMurtry. As his O-Week kid, you have the world's best glover, emoter, chugger, but most importantly, parent.

-Amy Park (McMurtry '27), Luke Hanson (McMurtry '28)





Madeline Pinches, NEUR, 2028, She/Her, Los Angeles, CA, Wiess

Wanna find the best spots for a sweet treat, caffeinated drink, and goated study spot? Just follow a day in the life of THE Madeline Pinches!! Coming straight out of LA, California, Maddie has found the best spots for matcha, boba, and munching. Starting her day bright and early at 11am (because she was up so late locking in and pre med maxxng), Maddie will start her day by making a required Brochstein Pavilion run. Then, she'll go and destroy her opponents in a tennis match, followed by her post tennis cool down involving squatting 3 hundred pound weights (on each side). After that, she'll head over to Chaus for her next dose of caffeine and study. She's so locked at this point that her average typing speed will be like 100 wpm easilyyyyy. Then, Maddie will take a break to go on her Chipotle or Poke run for the evening. During the walk, you'll really get to see the amazingly kind and outgoing person Maddie is as y'all yap about life. Finally, you'll see her at Fondren or comp lab "working" until you see a notification from her sending you the funniest tiktok you've ever seen (she's been doomscrolling for hours). She'll then be there until the wee hours of the night, and then she'll do it all over

again the next day!

-Akinda Damanik (Wiess '28), Valentina Alvarez (Wiess '28)



Ankita Nukala, KINE (sports med), 2029, She/Her, Columbus, GA, McMurtry

When she's not in class (or crying about how much work she has), she's usually working out at the Rec, grabbing a matcha, or taking a nap. She also loves to play tennis, so hit her up if you ever want to play. Like I said, she LOVES matcha and coffee in general, so 90% of the time you can find her with either one of those (or both) in her hand. In her free time, she loves to curate fire playlists on Spotify, watch Friends or The Office for the 100th time (she needs TV show recs seriously), or take spontaneous trips to Rice Village. If you see her on her phone, tap her on the back! She is either on TikTok, doing the Wordle, or ordering Taco Bell on DoorDash.

- Anna Chen (McMurtry '29), Haden Pulido (Duncan '29)

The Love Island



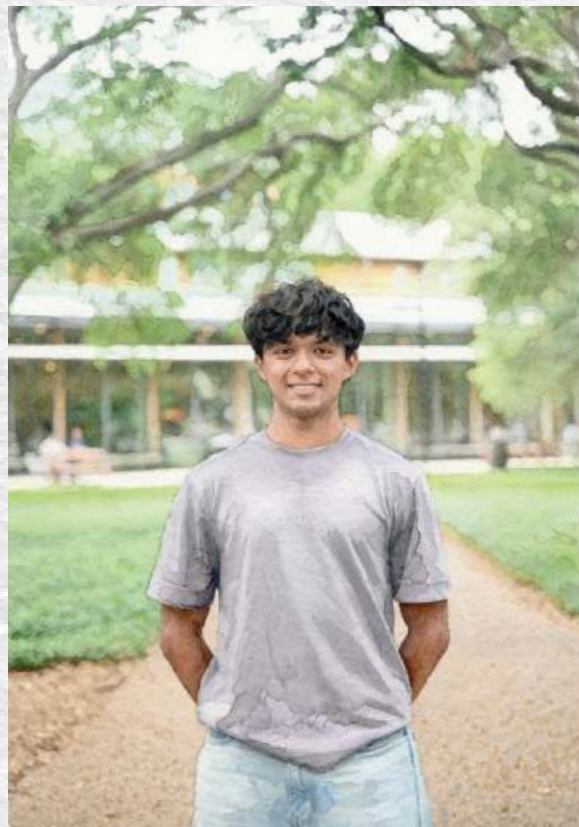
and Thneedvilla



Akul Mittal, *HEAL/POLI, 2029, He/Him, Dallas, TX, Wiess*

As you're reading this, Akul Mittal is probably off on one of his signature sidequests—this could mean chasing a homeless man who stole his backpack, frantically trying to uninstall Russian malware from his laptop, or just sprinting across campus to make it to late night dining before it closes, and I think the fact that he actually did all of the tells you everything you need to know about Akul. While you may be thinking that this guy is a total goofball, I promise Akul has a true heart of gold. There isn't a guy I know who's a bigger guarantee of a good time, more ready to laugh, or more sneaky smart. Akul is double majoring in political science and health science on the pre-law track. If you're lucky enough to land in this guy's O-Week family, then be sure to go to him with any questions, concerns, or for any other general advice. It may not be correct, but following in this guy's footsteps will ensure you a good time and many friends.

- Jonah Tontiplaphol (Wiess '29)



Abby Waritu, *KINE (sports med)/POLI, 2029, She/Her, Falls Church, VA, McMurtry*

OMG.... who's over there hip thrusting, like, hella plates listening to Zara Larsson right now? If it's a tall, half-Ethiopian goddess named Abby, you're in luck. Her playlists? Unmatched. Her aura? Infinite. Her voice? Angelic. Her absolute baddie nature extends far beyond her appearance. Along with being a Kesem committee member, PAIR volunteer, owl guide, and McMurtry social media head, Abby is so locked in. She is always down to get sweetgreen with you (she orders guacamole greens btw), talk about music (she listens to it all btw), do some yoga (she can hit the splits and king pigeon pose btw), or go study in O'Connor with you (she's like really smart btw). If she's your parent, you're in for a treat and a half.

- Claire Kevil (McMurtry '29)



Amy Park, *BIO/ENGL, 2027, She/Her, Houston, TX, McMurtry*

She comes from the *very distant* land of Bellaire, TX (she must be tired dealing with that jet lag all the time!). She's an English and Biology double major, which essentially means she can give you your vitals and serenade you with Shakespearean poetry at the same time! Around campus, she collects leadership roles like Pokémon cards: H4H, GSSA, KP, and a lot of other acronyms!, while also serving as a head Academic Fellow for McMurtry and researching rare diseases in the medical center. When she's not busy volunteering as an EMT, shadowing in the ER, or carrying McMurtry Powderpuff defense, you can find her making horrible brainrot jokes, using any excuse to drive around, or searching for the perfect bowl of pho (ask her for recs, she knows good spots :)).

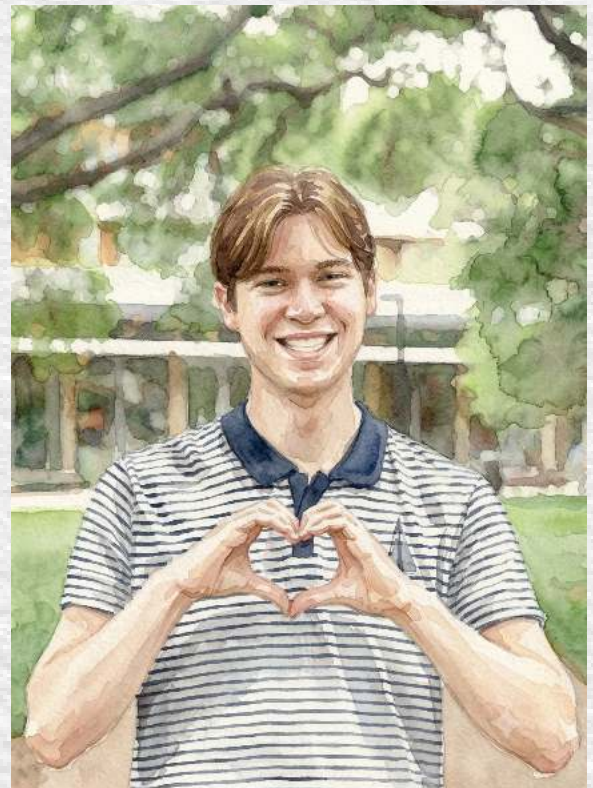
- Maddy (Magdalena) Whelley (McMurtry '27)



Bennett Reddig, *POLI/LING, 2027, He/Him, Arlington, TX, McMurtry*

Say hi to Bennett Reddig, your one and only plant-based amateur chess player from Arlington, Texas! A true academic, Bennett is a rising senior double majoring in political science and linguistics, so if you ever wish to know political lingo he's basically your guy. When he's not analyzing dialogue (get it because he's a Community Facilitator...), Bennett is busy crunching the numbers for his double-shift as Treasurer for the Rice Vegan Society and Rice Linguistic Student Association. Or, you might find him planning events at Murt to celebrate diversity as one of our Diversity Committee Heads! After a long day of work, you'll probably catch Bennett either doomscrolling on his suite couch, bidding on Ebay auctions, or playing any kind of puzzle: crosswords, sudoku...you name it! With an advisor like Bennett, prepare yourself for a week of tofu, chickpeas, and ketchup, but most importantly a whole lot of fun! Get hype because you've landed the BEST advisor of all with Bennett on your side :)

- Carmine Steiner (McMurtry '27)



O'Hare-y Pot Chamber of



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**Santosh Areti, BUSI, 2027, He/Him,
San Jose, CA, McMurtry**

Are you ready to have the best O-Week experience of your life? Then look no further than this advisor hailing all the way from San Jose (he'll only mention it every other day...)! If this guy isn't grinding for the LSAT, writing a 10 page paper, or yapping at Brochstein to literally every single human on campus when he's supposed to be studying, you'll catch him the rec putting in the work to carry all of McMurtry O-Week on his back! Apart from working on his sleeper build, this advisor can win any argument because of his intense preparation as a pre-law bro. However, his true passions lie in listening to music (he would die for Beach House) and playing or watching a chill game of basketball (even though he should consider quitting). Don't be afraid to reach out to him when you need someone, as he's the most dependable, level-headed, and agreeable person at Murt, although I wouldn't bring that last one up! :)

- Caitlynn Thomas (McMurtry '27) & Jonny de Leef (McMurtry '27)



**Albany Ray, BUSI (management)/PSYC,
2029, She/Her, Madisonville, KY, McMurtry**

10 points to McMurtry for having the best advisor ever!! Albany is just as unique as her name, and you're the luckiest new student in existence if you have her as your advisor. Just a small town girl, livin' in a lonely world, this fine lady was born and raised in small town Madisonville, Kentucky. She acts as if she's never met a stranger and loves curling up to a good book. This Business and Psychology major doesn't just have magic, but is magic in her style, laugh, and spirit. Whether in life or games, even if she's out of her depth, you'll always find her competitive fire lit and trying her hardest to go after the Golden Snitch. When someone needs an ear to listen to them or a shoulder to cry on, like her comfort show Friends, she'll be there for you. You'll never find this one paralyzed by a basilisk, instead you'll find sarcasm and kindness wrapped in an unstoppable package prepared to go into any battle.

- Claire Kevil (McMurtry '29)



Kamisi Adetunji, *CHEM, 2027, She/Her, Holly Springs, NC, Will Rice*

“Kamisi, Kamisi, Kamisi!”

Did you hear that? That’s all of Kamisi’s many fans cheering her on on her third O-Week parent journey (don’t worry, you’ll be her favorite!). Kamisi is a true legend. Her aura alone has electrons all over rice jumping orbitals to meet her. I have personally seen her save an entire family from a burning building. But seriously, Kamisi will be your biggest supporter here. She’s always ready to help– whether you need advice, a pep talk, or someone to sit with you while you spiral a little about classes. She’s a SZA-loving pre-med chemistry major from North Carolina. If she’s not at the BRC making mutant collagen, you can find Kamisi all over campus at one of her 3000 clubs (or in her designated separate napping bed). Ever need a show/movie rec? If it’s on Netflix, she’s watched it and if she hasn’t, she’s always down for movie night! Be warned though she also has a crippling sonic slushy addiction. She is truly top 2 not 2 best advisor you could have. No amount of words can express how lucky you are!

- Krishna Chalise (Will Rice ‘27) & Navya Nanda (Will Rice ‘27)



Ian Chen, *BIOS/CMOR/MATH, 2028, He/Him, Cary, NC, McMurtry*

Picture this: you’re walking around campus and suddenly you’re laughing... it must be Ian Chen. Driving (more like speeding) all the way from North Carolina (with some country songs on the playlist no doubt), Rice campus is blessed with his presence every day. Whether it’s backpacking through the wilderness or exploring houstons concrete jungle, he’s always able to bring up the energy, concerningly available at all hours through the night. Supposedly studying cannibalistic beetles by day and writing math papers by night, this pre-grad bio, math, and applied math triple major will do ANYTHING but lock in. Rec? everyday. Broch? performative studying. fondy? never. or on the rare occasion, doomscrolling. If his nose makes it to the books though, somehow those math problems without numbers get solved. Despite his legendary math skills there’s no need to calculate how to approach him because he’s super easy to talk to. Whether it’s a hour long conversation at chaus or a random boba shop with his 5th cup of the hour expect your time with him to be full of joy, adventure, and entertainment. He’s the side quest KING and you’ll be sure to have a blast with him as an advisor, but

will be clutching your stomach from laughing so hard (at) with him.

- Bela Chandler (Lovett ‘27) & Abbie Wang (Chao ‘28)

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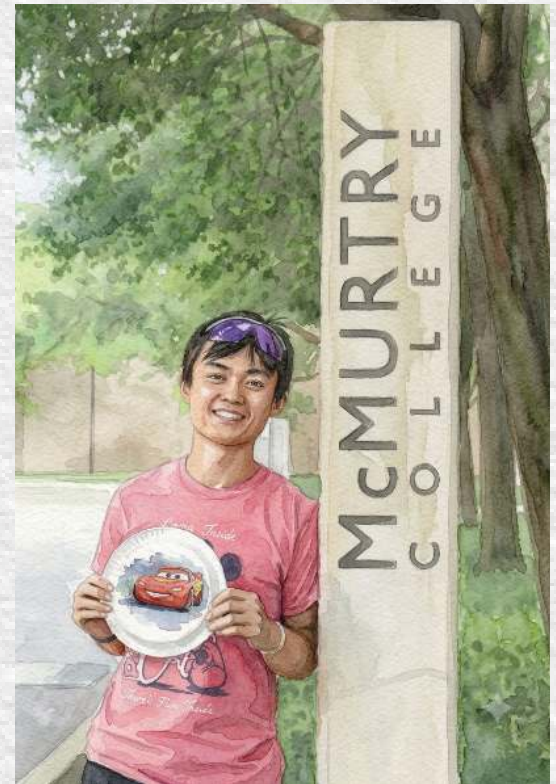
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Bowen Ma, *KINE (sports med)/BIOS, 2029, He/Him, Houston, TX, McMurtry*

Introducing B-B-B-BOWEN MAAAA (cue WWE music), the fastest, smartest, and slyest guy this side of the Mississippi. A Sports Medicine and Biosciences sophomore, Bowen is a pretty cool guy, even though he may get you to run a marathon compulsively (he's done 2). He super fast runner, and he think so fast too, too smart. When u ask what he do, he run. He run to class, run to friends, and will run to support u. He also captain of the BEER BIKE team and is fast biker. BROWEN is my bro, and now he's ur parent. When it's your birthday he will get all your friends to BLOWEN OUT the candles on the cake he got you. Beyond being a great mandarin teacher, he is also excellent at the piano, one time Browen played piano and I got misty in the eyes. Some might say Bowen is the GOAT (Greatest of all time) but really he is the COAT (Craziest of all time) the way he goes insane cheering on his friends, intramural sports, and making sure YOU JOIN BEER BIKE.

- Adam Towner (Chao '29) and his 2025-2026 O-Week Group

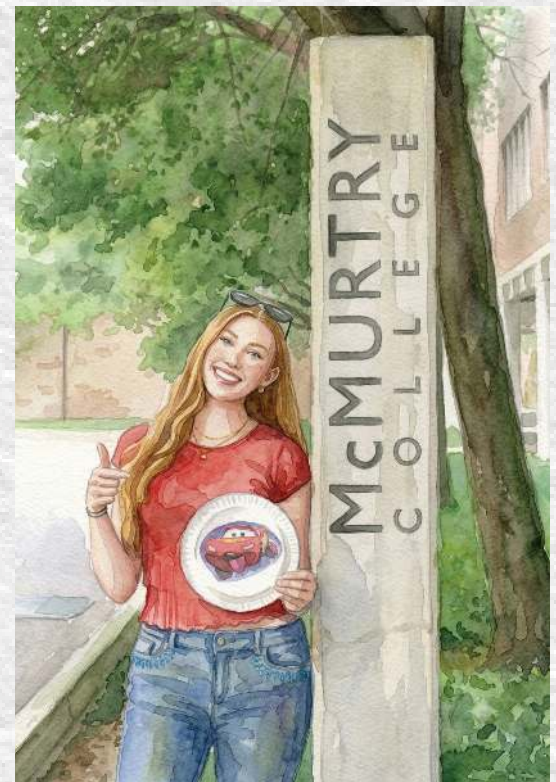


Karlianna Kapche, *BIOS/PSYC, 2028, She/Her, Katy, TX, Duncan*

KARLI KAPCHE is your O-Week Advisor?! You should go buy some lottery tickets because today is your lucky day. A junior out of Katy, TX, this biochemistry and visual arts wiz is the smartest, goofiest, and most lovable Texan you'll ever meet.

Whether it's designing the most stylish merch for the Society of Women Engineers or advocating for changes to academics at Rice, Karli puts her WHOLE heart and determination into everything she does - and she makes sure she does it well. But don't be fooled! Karli is perhaps the fiercest fighter I've ever seen on a volleyball court (she had multiple D1 offers). Walking around campus with Karli comes with a guaranteed 1-2 business day delay, because she has somehow befriended the ENTIRE Rice community. A Side Quest QUEEN, you can always hear Karli coming with her infectious laughter and silly giggles. You can catch her doing anything from tying shiny tinsels in her friends' hair for Beer Bike to giving a loving tour to prospective students around the campus as a Rice Owl Guide. Trust me when I say that you're in the best hands possible.

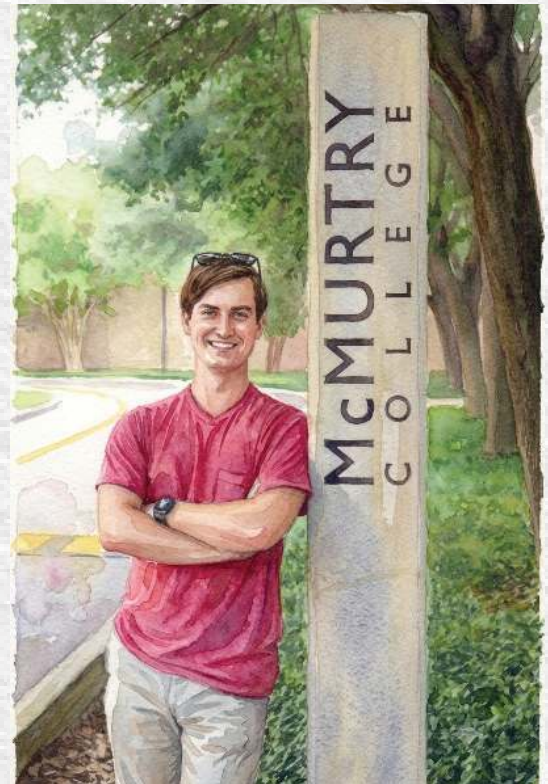
- Tos Aldam-Tajima (Wiess '28), Bailee Byrd (Hanszen '28)



Connor Gibbons, POLI, 2027, He/Him, Manhasset, NY, McMurtry

Hooray! Connor is your O-week advisor! Oh boy you're in for a treat. This Spanish-speaking, Madrid-loving, flight enthusiast, "HQ," from New York and Florida is a tall glass of electric lemonade. Equal parts globe-trotter and John Summit fanatic, HQ thrives on good music, good company, and good vibes. Connofferson is a truly loyal person - Connor's loyalty and love for Madrid have led to 4 trips there in the last 2 years. Although ConDog is very much a Type A persona by nature, Consult-nor's the kind of guy who's always down to do something, making even the simplest plans fun. Whether it's a last-minute adventure or just hanging out, he's always down and makes anything fun. But above all, Gibbons is an incredible listener who is always willing to lend an open ear and help you out in any situation. Just as Gibbs has always been there for others, including me, Miguel (his Spanish name) will always be willing to talk to his O-Week kiddos and offer great advice about their academic career or adapting to college life. If you couldn't tell, by the way, he goes by many names. Feel free to call him whatever you want! I'm sure it'll stick.

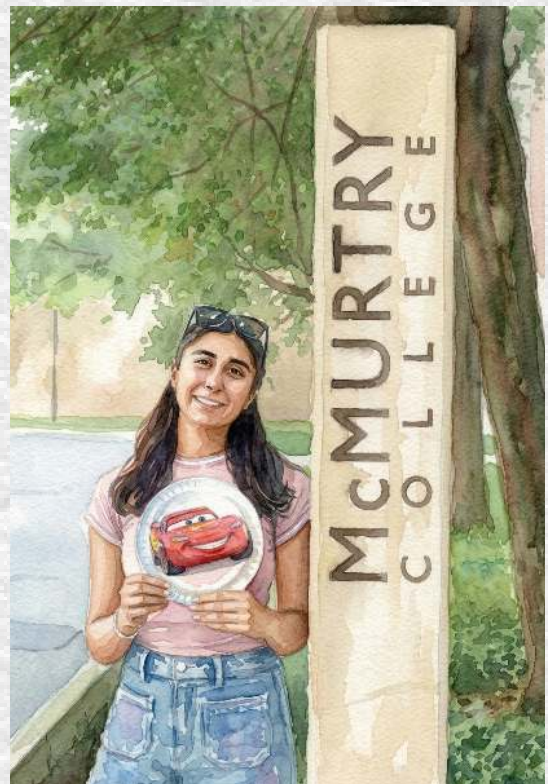
- Theo Au-Yeung & Jonny de Leef (McMurtry '27)



Malvika Bhardwaj, CMOR, 2028, She/Her, Westford, MA, McMurtry

If you see a Snoopy, you'll know Malvika is around. A true CAAM (computational and applied math) queen, you can catch her locking in around campus (Chaus and O'Connor on top), building rockets with Rice Eclipse, or practicing on the Murt Bike Team. One of her go-to fun facts is that she's a transfer student and joined Rice her sophomore year, which means she can help out with processes like getting transfer credit and speaking to academic advisors. She's an amazing person to go on coffee runs with and bike rides around Houston. You are truly lucky to have her as your O-week parent. Be sure to yap with her and join her spontaneous karaoke nights. She loves to run around the outer loop and in Hermann Park and is always happy to have company if you like to run too! She's one of my best friends and I hope she becomes yours too.

-Jocelyn Chen (McMurtry '29)



Formula



Once-ler



Cameron Badiey, SMGT (Leadership Concentration)/Sport Analytics, 2027, He/Him, Belmont, CA, McMurtry

Meet Cam! A meh cornerback for the McMurtry flag teams, even meh-er shooter of the basketball, die hard Lakers, suffering A's, for some reason Browns fan, and Wes Anderson fanatic, he is a man of many interests and talents. When this guy isn't obsessing over his "sunshine" LeBron James, you can always depend on "This guy" to be a loyal friend in every way. He will be dependable through and through and you can always count on him to be there for you. He's truly electric.

- Theo Au-Yeung (McMurtry '27)



Jocelyn Chen, BIOS/LING, 2029, She/Her, Dallas, TX, McMurtry

click...follow the faint sound of a camera taking a picture and you'll find JOCELYN CHENN!! Photographer by day and Fondy warrior by night, she is the most hard-working and persevering person you'll meet! In addition to being an amazing photographer, you can always find her lifting some HEAVYY weights at the Rec—talk about work life balance. Whether it be customizing your O-Week shirt or questions about pre-med, linguistics, or the amazing city of Dallas, Jocelyn is your girl!

- Malvika Bhardwaj (McMurtry '28) and Noelle Dujunco (McMurtry '29)

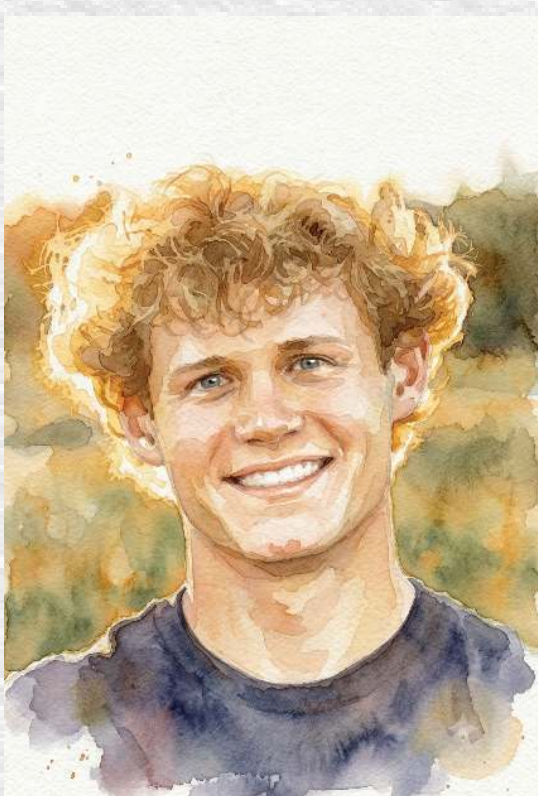




Aislinn Burns, BIOS/PSYC, 2027, She/Her, Milford, CT, Wiess

HEAR YE HEAR YE this IM LEGEND just entered your O-Week group. When this Wiess bombshell isn't aura farming, you can find her locking in for her lab and conquering her classes. Aislinn is always down for some good eats, Pho Sapa already knows her order at the door. Need a lock in buddy? Aislinn is your girl, she doesn't play, she gets work done. Need a lock out buddy? Aislinn is down for anything, just don't ask her to watch the bee movie with you, that one is a little too scary for her. But you know what's never too scary for her? A sweet treat! Ask her to get insomnia cookies with you and you will be her new best friend! As a past firepit rep, Aislinn will always guarantee that you have a s'more in hand, cooking your marshmallow for you to the perfect level of toastiness. With Aislinn as your Advisor, you are sure to have the best O-Week experience possible, and we can't wait for you to get to know her just as we have. #O-WeekisForever #LitAdvisorIncoming

- Aria Johnson (Wiess '27)



Luke Hanson, HEAL/LING, 2028, He/Him, Beaumont, TX, McMurtry

Have you ever thought "Damn I just want to hit some balls," because I know Luke has! This country boy hailing from the great metropolis of Beaumont, Texas yeehaw is an avid volleyball AND tennis player! If he is not on campus, you can find Luke at Rice village balling out at Vuori (ask for a discount code) or chilling at hop doddys with his friends (of which he has many, he knows like half of campus). And don't you worry if you are feeling unsure of what you want to study, this Health Science and Spanish major king has switched from engineering to premed to prelaw, and will kill it as the next Elle Woods (got the hair for it too.) If there is one thing about Luke is that he will be your number one supporter for anything and everything. Whether it be a sidequest to procrastinate ANY amount of work, or talking about a variety of interpersonal conflicts, Luke will hype you up, be on your side, and talk you through. I know I feel so lucky to know him, and there is no one better to introduce you to Rice and be in your corner.

- Miller Harris (Will Rice '27)

Kpop Thnee-M We're Growing



Mon Hunters: ng Up, Up, Up





Theo Au-Yeung, *Sports Analytics/STAT*, 2027, He/Him, Burlingame, CA, McMurtry

Victory Royale! Meet Theo, a star wide receiver for the McMurtry flag-football teams, Letterboxd patron member, sports analytics whiz (ask him about stuff+), superb whistler, sports fanatic, karaoke host, and “Guess that Movie” savant. Theo is a man of many talents. But even more important than that, he is a great friend—always a joy to be around, dependable, and trustworthy. Feel free to join him for a Fortnite marathon or be his backup singer while he plays guitar. Theo’s always down for anything. His reliability may be his greatest asset, as you can always count on him to host a Jackbox games session, spend hours watching Impractical Jokers clips, or join you for a late-night movie marathon. Anyone would be lucky to have him as an O-Week Advisor.

- Nate Dominitz & Connor Gibbons (McMurtry ‘27)



Viola Cullen, *BIOE*, 2029, She/Her, Wilton, CT, Wiess

You’re at a random House concert in a nightclub, you’re bumping with the beat of the music, but you feel someone vibing harder than you so you look over and who do you see? The 5’5” tennis champion bound for a chemical engineering degree, VY! She spends her free time either watching goated TV shows that I put her on or the way more likely, napping. She’s surprisingly good at golf, and will always talk to you about how goated her O-Week parents are. Take it from me, with her as your O-Week parent there will never be a dull moment. From her diverse music taste (House and a sprinkle of Pink Floyd) to her vibrant energy, she will make every moment of O-Week and onward incredible.

- Anderson Zeidenstein (Wiess ‘29)

Annika Reddy, *HEAL*, 2028, *She/Her*, Westport, CT, McMurtry

Onika, no Annika* Burger. Introducing Westport's fiercest walker and CEO of Rice's first walking club GFP Mob. From her journey from predental to consulting, Annika is nothing short (literally) of exciting. You may catch her with a lavender matcha from Brochstein or matcha lemonade from Chaus, but don't worry. She isn't getting a drink to lock in. The laptop is just open for the aesthetic. Annika is one of the nicest people you will ever meet. Truly, she always squashes any beef before it happens (because she plays squash). She's done it all: consulting, political science, public health, organic chemistry. Some would say she's a jack of all trades, but let's be real, school was never her favorite. Instead, she would rather share her love for a lengthy shopping session or an afternoon getting a pedicure. No matter where she is or what she's doing, you can always count on Annika. She is one of the best listeners there is with the most compassion for anyone she meets, and she will make your time at Rice all the more special.

- Luke Hanson (McMurtry '28), Adarsh Gadepalli (McMurtry '26)



Dylan Kim, *BIOS/Sports Medicine*, 2029, *He/Him*, McAllen, TX, McMurtry

The sound of the Gion Shoja bells echoes the impermanence of all things, and the color of the sala flowers reveals the truth that the prosperous must decline.

But Dylan Kim is the exception!

With him, O-Week will never fade for he knows how to make everything feel unforgettable. Don't send him any reels because he has already watched all of them. His favorite thing to do is rot in bed. He says his favorite phrase, "Progress is meant to be lost", before swallowing 13,000 calories to cheat on his diet. Despite his long list of flaws, your relation to him is not temporary for it is meant to last forever.

- Alessandro Amundarain Chirico (McMurtry '29)



Ka-tree Thneedag



McPerry: ge Dream





Jonny de Leef, *BUSI (finance), 2027, He/Him, Houston, TX, McMurtry*

Hark! It's Jonathan de Leef! When this freestyle rapper isn't buried in excel sheets, he's tearing up the business major world. Jonny believes sharing is caring, and he loves to share what he's listening to and browse new albums. He's full of geographical and trivia knowledge, so he'll be sure to know exactly where all of his O-Week kids are from! Jonny is very light hearted and easy to talk to about whatever's on your mind. He'll make a great O-week parent and make his kids laugh with/at him with his hilarious sense of humor. Jonny is the goofiest guy around and always makes sure everyone is accounted for and never left out. He may always record study sessions, but he always manages to have a positive attitude and outlook!

- Connor Gibbons (McMurtry '27), Santosh Areti (McMurtry '27), Theo Au-Yeung (McMurtry '27)



Arben Kryemadhi, *COMP, 2029, He/Him, Tirana, Albania, McMurtry*

Hailing alllll the way from nowhere else but ALBANIA is the one, the only (and almost never without his party glasses on) ARBENNN-NNN. Now Arben is one of those funny characters (I should know he's my kid) who you can always count on to have the right answer for everything. Study? "Bet." Need some advice? "Bet." Need to order food? "Bet." Looking for a good time? "BEEEEETTTTTT". Clad in his classic uniform of a collared shirt (sweater vest if you're lucky), khakis, and Nike slides, our favorite European really shines wherever he goes, whether it's helping plan the biggest public on campus (y2k), freaking in the (Google) sheets, or complaining about his next COMP project. In all seriousness, anyone would be lucky to have Arben as an advisor or a friend. He is kind, looks out for everyone, and is always ready to be a buddy to someone in need.

-Collin DeSoto (McMurtry '28)



**Stella Shrinsky-de Armas, VADA/
HART, 2028, She/Her, La Cañada Flintridge,
CA, McMurtry**

Get ready to get Björked (the long way). Stella is one of the most tasteful and least performative people I've had the pleasure of meeting through Rice. She is a bona fide cinephile and creative. Whether it's music, movies, outfits, or obscure little trinkets, her recommendations don't miss. She will absolutely make you a good playlist and be a sensible, curious ear for anything you may need to discuss. She's crazy for Crazy Feta, and I must publicly acknowledge that her influence transformed my Cava experience. Our Cava walks, along with any other hangouts, have been truly restorative bonding time. I know she will be a refreshingly genuine friend to whoever is lucky enough, and she will unabashedly cackle, dance, and frolic with you.
-Jewel Moore (Hanszen '27)



**Zara Farook, SOPA/GLBL, 2029, She/
Her, Dallas, TX, Hanszen**

GET READY... IF YOU GOT ZARA AS YOUR O WEEK PARENT, THEN YOU KNOW ITS GONNA BE LITT. Zara is the baddest and tous-est girl you will find at Rice: a sophomore studying Social Policy, Global Affairs, ANDDD Business, a terrific musician, and die-hard Avatar: The Last Airbender fan, she has it all. She's from all over the globe: as a third culture Bengali-American who grew up in 3 different Southeast Asian countries, and been to 44 (yes, forty four) different countries, she can always give you travel recommendations and can relate to basically anyone. She is an AMAZING cellist, she's been playing since she was 4 and has played at some of the BEST international stages. Oh and Zara knows ball - she LOVES Ariana Grande, The Weeknd, and a variety of classical composers so she KNOWS how to hype you up. Most importantly, Zara is someone who will always show up for you. She's extremely patient and sweet, and is a REALLY good listener, so if you ever need to talk about anything, she'll come prepared with her stress ball and slime, no questions asked. Brace yourself for the most hype and unforgettable week ever alongside one of the best people you'll ever meet :)

- Eddie Sun (Hanszen '29), Sahithi Karusala (Hanszen '29), & Fernando Marquez (Hanszen '29)

Certified



Lorax Boy



Carlos Cruz, BIOS, 2027, He/Him, Sugar Land, TX, McMurtry

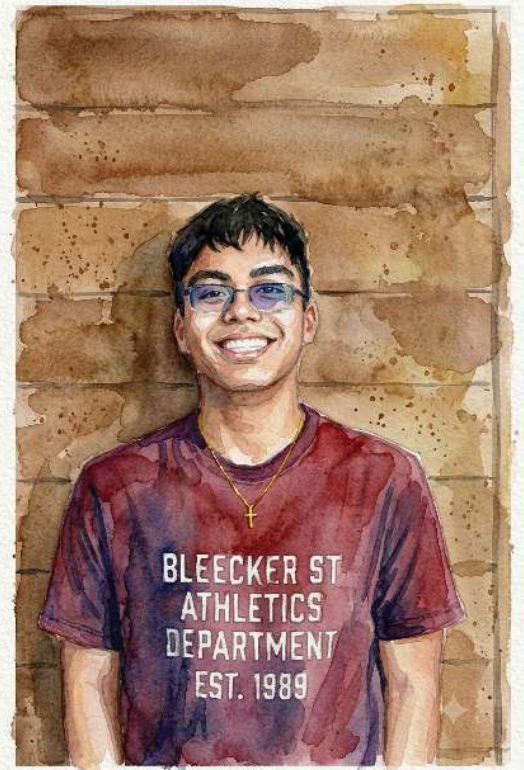
Do you like volleyball, Malcolm Todd, or the Philippines? Well, me neither, but guess who does? Your O-Week papa Carlos Cruz! While he may not be the smartest, tallest, or best-looking, he will definitely be the best O-Week parent. Hailing from Sugar Land, TX, (s*** ain't sweet) and studying Biosciences and Asian Studies with a minor in Gooning, Carlos is stepping down as O-Week coord to advise for McMurtry one last time. From the minute you meet Carlos, he's gonna make you feel right at home with the warm, welcoming aura he exudes with every little step. If you're lucky, you might even get to see his amazing dance moves when he hears a Y2K song.

If you ever need:

- Asian food recs in Houston
- A deep convo
- Indie songs to play on aux to look cool for your performative friends
- House songs to play on aux to look cool for your normal friends

Carlos is THE man to talk to. Carlos is gonna be the best mentor, friend, and human you will likely meet at Rice. Enjoy O-Week while you can, because once it's over, you'll only ever see Carlos at various Middle Eastern cafes in the greater Houston area.

-Jacob Williams (McMurtry '27)



Chris Niehay, COMP, 2029, He/Him, Fort Worth, TX, McMurtry

Hailing straight out of Fort Worth, Chris Niehay gives off quiet, serious vibes at first, but it doesn't take long to realize he's actually the funniest, most spontaneous, and genuine person you'll meet. He's fully brain rot, so expect chaos and random conversations full of laughs. Staying connected to his Mexican roots, he's been working on his Spanish. Ask him what "cuchara" means and he's got you (it's a spoon), but emotional or serious conversations... yeah maybe not yet. You'll usually find him at the gym, hooping, dancing salsa, or at the library chugging Monsters while fighting comp sci, but when it comes to math, he's actually the GOAT.

If you see Chris around campus on a Friday night, you'll know it's him just by the outfits alone, and if you're walking on Murt's 4th floor and hear loud ahh music blasting (probably Lucki), yeah... that's him, feel free to make a noise complaint. If you got Chris as your O-Week parent, go ahead and thank Tung Tung Tung Sahur because you really hit the jackpot.

- Gianna Iriel Ríos-García (McMurtry '29)



Abbie Ha, BIOS, 2028, She/Her, Grapevine, TX, McMurtry

“FREE BOBA” what’s that? could it be? “FREE KBBQ” comes running – A WILD ABBIE HA. Hailing from good ‘ol Grapevine, TX, Abbie is a rising junior studying biosciences and civic leadership from MURT on the pre-med track. Despite being an absolute academic weapon, she somehow finds the time to try ALL the best boba, hotpot, and kbbq spots in a 10 mile radius, so you can always fuel your late-night cravings with her Houston recommendations! At sports games, keep an eye out for this D1 yapper tooting her flute as part of the Rice Owl Pep Band, singlehandedly hyping up the crowd. A Certified Movie Girl (ask for her Letterboxd), you can find her camping out 24/7 in Fondy, designing experiments for Fun with Chemistry, on stage as part of Rice Lions, or brainrotted on TikTok. If you are lucky enough to have Abbie as your O-Week parent, feel incredibly blessed to have such a supportive and insightful friend by your side. She’s not only here to support you during O Week as a parent and Peer Academic Advisor but also throughout your time in college. She will stop at nothing to make sure you feel safe, supported, and welcome at the best college at Rice!!

- Derek Yang (Hanszen ‘29)



Ari Gauba, SOCI/ENGL (creative writing), 2029, She/Her, San Jose, CA, Sid Richardson

Prepare for...ARIANA. MAYA. GAUBA. Get ready to never want to leave the nest... Congratulations, you have been blessedly chosen by the o-week parent distribution system to receive the parent of all parents. Ari is a double major in Sociology and Creative Writing, a double minor in Spanish and Cinema Studies, and a pre-education warrior (that’s right, she’ll be around for an extra year and will get to see you graduate!). But, don’t let all of that intimidate you, she is also an avid Snoopy lover and side quest fiend. She will always be down to read your essay or talk about favorite books, duet karaoke her heart out, watch New Girl together with warm popcorn and nutella packets from the server, fight for her life with you at Solidcore, and take an impromptu trip to Jeni’s for ice cream or Denny’s for an all-night study session together. Even though she is a Sidizen by blood, she is ready to single-handedly make Murt’s 2026 o-week the best in Rice’s entire history. Jokes aside, with Ari as your o-week parent, you will always have a supportive, empathetic, loving shoulder to lean on away from home. Your future advisor is beyond excited to meet you!

- Maya Parnes (Sid Rich ‘29)



Fresh Prince



e of O'Hare





Carmine Steiner, *POLI/ASIA, 2027, She/Her, Dededo, Guam, McMurtry*

Introducing Carmine Steiner, the senior extraordinaire hailing from the island of Guam! Carmine does it all, serving as Rice Program Council's Internal Vice President, an ambassador for the Transnational Asian Studies Department, and most importantly, McMurtry's very own At-Large Rep! Basically, if something exciting is happening, Carmine probably planned it, complete with color-coded spreadsheets, Canva graphics, and a crowded Google Calendar more packed than the pit at a BTS concert. Standing small in stature but towering in determination, this powerhouse of passion, work ethic, and empathy is majoring in Political Science and Asian Studies with a minor in Politics, Law and Social Thought; she's determined to make waves in international and humanitarian law. But don't let this big goal fool you; she still makes time to binge K-dramas and C-dramas scroll, scroll, scroll on IG Reels, while ragebaiting her friends (me). Her conquest of the Korean language is ongoing, and she's even going to Korea this summer! Fueling it all is a questionable amount of Mountain Dew, medium iced Milky Ways with whole milk from Chaus, and a carnivorous diet (kbbq anyone?). Carmine Steiner is

not just your O-Week advisor; she's a stellar friend, student, and Murt, and she'll make sure you know everything there is to know about Rice. All a part of a day's work for the realest friend I know.

-Bennett Reddig, (McMurtry '27)



Carmina Andrade, *MECHE, 2028, She/Her, Houston, TX, McMurtry*

Standing at a towering 6 foot 7 inches, Carmina (aka THE tall latina from murt) is not only one of the smartest people you will ever meet but she's also strong AF too. If you feel the ground shaking, it's probably just her walking nearby. FUN FACT: Carmina is actually taller than Sid Rich. This muscle mommy knows her way around the rec and the server too. If you're having a hard time finding her, you could probably find her at the server loading up her fifth meal of the day. She's not just any bigback – SHE'S YOUR BIGBACK!!!! No actually... all her most recent reels are about food. Don't know how to talk to her?? Definitely ask her about her two dogs CHUCHO and CHISPA. THEY ARE SO KEWTT!! Did I mention that she helped host the BEST public at Rice – Y2K!!!!!! ANDDD she does ROCKET SCIENCE??! Yes, your baddie parent is an engineering queen. You are so lucky to be able to call Carmina YOUR O-Week parent.

- Eden Mikael (Chao '28), Lorenzo Rodriguez (McMurtry '28)



Andrew Gingerich, *Astrophysics/MDIA, 2028, He/Him, Elkhart, IN, McMurry*

A - aura farmer
 N - never not nice!
 D - dab king
 R - random brainrot
 E - ecofriendly
 W - whimsical

These are the words to perfectly encapsulate your NEW O-WEEK PARENT!!! Hailing from the land of Stranger Things, your Hoosier parent scores an ELEVEN on the silly goofy scale! From astrophysics to filmmaking, from photography to drumming, Andrew's list of talents and interests is never-ending + he's never going to let you be bored! He's always going to "Join You For a Bite" at the Yurt, and cheer you up with his skillful and professional FNAF emotes if you're ever feeling down. If you're looking for someone to depend on and have fun with... look no further: this wonderful man speaks English, Spanish (maybe?), and a whole lot of brainrot!! \(^_ ^)/

There's A LOT more to unpack about Andrew: if you want to go on random side quests with the best driver in Texas, he's got you; if you

want to gaze at the moon and stars with the best telescope at Rice, he's got you; if you need an aesthetic photo-shoot to make you campus famous, he's got YOU; and if you like musicals, jazz, and jamming out, he's MOST DEFINITELY got you. On a more NONCHalant note, y'all are going to be thrilled with Andrew as your parent and have the BEST O-Week together!!!

- Shirin Mumtaz (McMurry '28) and Martin Xie (McMurry '28)



Omkar Dhakal, *HEAL, 2029, He/Him, Dallas, TX, McMurry*

Ever want to encounter a creature from the Himalayas (as he claims), whose, charming, handsome, trolling, and nonchalant at the same time. Meet Omkar, a vibrant, lovely, and doomscrolling human I've got the chance to call my roommate. Want the best food spots (on uber eats? He gotchu. How about an autospeaking UK rap radio? He gotchu too. No matter if it's making random sidequests at 2 am or glazing how Archi was the best party ever, this man will be there every step. Ps. never hangup on his random facetime calls any day, it'll either be the stupidest lore of all time, or just another ragebait attempt. Whatever the case be, this local resident of Dallas, Texas will never fail at making you feel at home. Just remember yall, never clip him while he's trying to fix his hair every 10 minutes, unless...

-Eyosias Moges (McMurry '29)

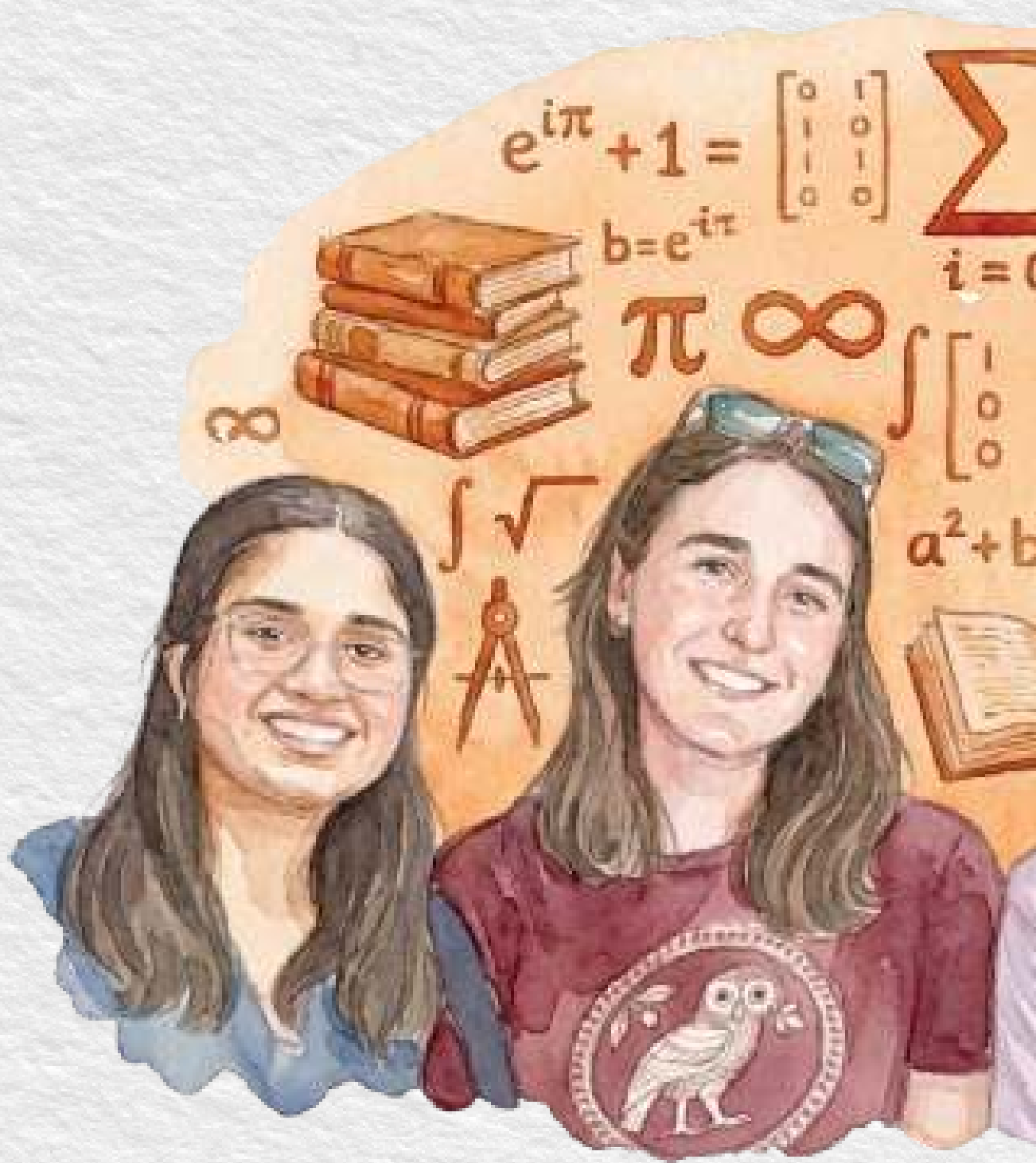
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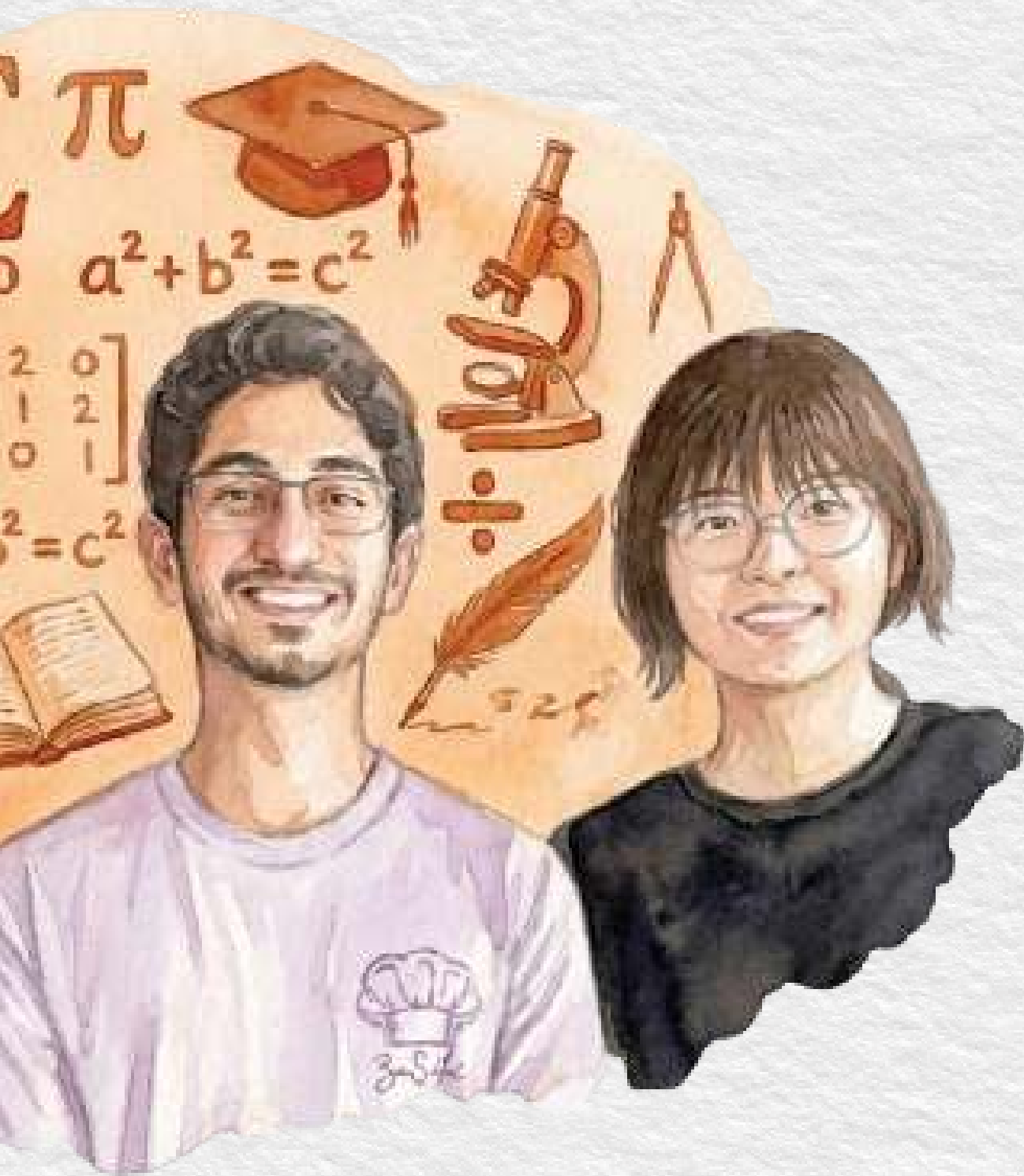
the PAAs



The PAAt



In The Hat





Daira Posada, *Computer Science, 2029, She/Her, Forney, TX, McMurtry*

Straight out of Forney, Texas (even though she says Dallas), meet your future favorite Peer Academic Advisor: Daira, a CS major who somehow manages to be the pickiest eater alive and a self-proclaimed “super taster” (thank Nicolaou). Known for separating every item on her plate like a lab experiment and firmly believing that vanilla ice cream is “too sweet” she brings the same attention to detail into helping you plan your schedule. When she’s not giving “disappointed but not surprised” and “mom friend” energy, she’s on the ice

teaching adaptive skating or recovering from her latest injury (queen of sprained ankles, but somehow is still thriving). Despite claims of being a “bad driver” (she is :P), she will steer you in the right direction academically, whether you’re overwhelmed, confused, or just need someone with strong parent vibes to help you out. If you need honest advice, a calm presence, or someone who will judge your class choices (affectionately), she’s your person :).

- Natalie Alamilla Barrientos (Hanzen ‘29), Kelly Loi (Chao ‘29), Mia Cuevas (Duncan ‘29)



Lillian Alexander, *Anthropology/Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, 2028, She/Her, Vancouver, WA, McMurtry*

Hello!!!!!! That is just a peek at the level of excitement and energy Lillian is going to bring to being y’all’s PAA. She is super excited about getting the opportunity to get to know you and help you with all the academic advising your heart desires. As an archeology and Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations major, and with as many amazing friends she has in the Humanities, she should be your go to girl about anything Social Science or Huma related. When she’s not being an epic PAA Lillian enjoys going for long walks where she disappears for periods of time, watching movies with her amazing friends, and reading (she’s currently working her way through the Stormlight Archives). You should never be afraid to approach Lillian about any of your academic needs, she will be eager

to help. Welcome new Murts and you are very lucky to have this amazing woman as a resource for your first year (I’m jealous)!

-Winter Pagona, (McMurtry ‘28)



Safee Baig, *Physics/Mathematics, 2027, N/A, Spring, TX, McMurry*

If Safee is your O-Week PAA, you better believe that you are in SAFE HANDS!!! A Physics AND Math double major AND pre-med?!!!! Is bro even real?!! But seriously, Safee is one of the kindest and most genuine people you'll ever meet. Definitely, one of the best people to ask for advice. I would ask him about anything related to math, physics, or pre-med. Safee is the type of person to take his notebook with him to a friend's dinner because somehow he always has a pledge problem due :). Outside of academics, he is a tennis/pickleball beast! If you're into any of these, definitely hit him up for a game!!

- Jehad Mahmoud (Chao '27)



Haruka Araki, *Business Finance/Visual and Dramatic Arts, 2029, She/Her, Tokyo, Japan, McMurry*

Oh Haruka..... oh Haruka what else is there to say? Artist, Japanese ambassador to America, and the wisest, purest presence to grace this Earth since Paddington or arguably Oprah. When she's not converting her friends into detailed comic strips or cooking takoyaki for the Rice community, you can find her forging tabletop games from the depths of her boundless imagination. If you're lucky enough to receive her as a PAA for your O-Week, you will GET the W.

- Nicolai Mendoza, (McMurry '28)

Affinity



Letters



To FG/LI Students

Hey FGLI Murts!

I want to be among the first people to welcome you to Rice and McMurtry! The FGLI community at Rice is extensive and full of people who are genuinely rooting for your success. You will encounter many FGLI students excited to help you transition into Rice, give advice regarding academic success, and be with you during any financial, social, or academic issues you may face. We hope you find solace in the fact that you are welcomed and accepted not only within the FGLI community, but at Rice as a whole. It's so easy to fall into the mental trap of impostor syndrome, but we hope you know that the plethora of resources available here (including us!!) will help you with your transition into a potentially scary new journey. These resources include the Student Success Initiatives (SSI) Office, the McMurtry FGLI Affinity Group, FLI Ambassadors, the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP), the Sustaining Excellence in Research (SER) Scholars Program, and so many others! You may sometimes feel lost and without guidance, but trust that the goal of these resources is for you to succeed! There are also so many events where you can connect with other FGLI students, learn about opportunities geared towards FGLI students, or have a safe space to talk about your story.

As for potential monetary needs, you have access to the Magister's Fund (through McMurtry for non-emergency purchases), the Access and Opportunity Portal (through Rice for non-emergency purchases), and funding through the Dean of Undergraduates (emergency funding). The Financial Aid Office is also helpful if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Rice Investment and the amount of aid you receive. If all of this seems a little overwhelming, don't worry. It did to me, too. But I promise you will figure things out. You belong here! You have accomplished so much, and we are so proud of you! And you are absolutely not alone. One last piece of advice: remember that college is also a time to explore and have fun! Don't be scared to take some time off from academics to explore Houston, hang with friends, or enjoy weekend nights. The college experience is for everyone, regardless of socioeconomic background! Good luck and feel free to reach out at any time! <3

Sincerely,
Catey Thomas (McMurtry '27)

To Students with Disabilities

Welcome to Rice! You should be incredibly proud of everything you've accomplished to get to this point. My name is Madeline Pinches, and I'm a rising junior at Wiess. As an O-Week co-advisor and a student with a disability, I wanted to share a few things that I hope will make your transition to Rice a little easier. Starting college is an exciting experience, but it can also feel overwhelming. If you're wondering how you'll balance classes, adjust to a new environment, or navigate Rice with a disability, you're not alone. Many students arrive on campus with those same questions, and there are resources here to help. One of the most important things I've learned is that asking for support when you need it can make a huge difference. Rice has a strong support system for students with disabilities, and I encourage you to take advantage of the resources available to you.

A great place to start is the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC works with students to determine accommodations that fit their individual needs. These could include extended time on exams and assignments, testing in a reduced-distraction or separate room, access to assistive technology, note-taking or audio recording support, housing accommodations, classroom accessibility accommodations, accommodations for physical disabilities or chronic illnesses, and more.

To receive accommodations, you'll need to submit documentation, such as a doctor's note or psychoeducational evaluation. If you're home for the summer, now is a great time to start gathering those materials and beginning the registration process. That said, students can register with the DRC at any point during their time at Rice, whether that's before their first semester, midway through the year, or even later in college.

Most importantly, remember that you belong here. Your disability does not take away from everything you've accomplished or from what you'll achieve at Rice. There are many students on campus who receive accommodations and use support services, and you are far from alone in that experience. I am so excited to welcome you to Rice and Murt and cannot wait for you to experience everything this community has to offer. As you begin this journey, remember that you do not have to navigate it alone. Whether you have questions about accommodations, need help finding resources, or simply want to talk with someone who has gone through the process, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Enjoy O-Week, give yourself grace as you adjust to college life, and know that there are people here who want to see you succeed. We are excited to have you in the Murt community and can't wait to welcome you to campus.

See you in Murt soon!
Madeline Pinches (Wiess '28)

To Transfer Students

To our incoming transfer students,

Welcome to Rice and McMurtry! My name is Malvika Bhardwaj, I'm a rising junior and I transferred to Rice after my freshman year of college. Coming into Rice I was nervous about starting all over again, finding friends and maintaining good academic standing at a rigorous school. Luckily once O-Week started I immediately realized I was in the right place. Rice gives incoming students the incredible experience of being given a (O-Week) family right off the bat, so from day one you are supported by an amazing community. There's no shortage of friendly faces and people are always willing to help you if you need advice or other assistance.

Some people who can offer you guidance include the transfer advisor you will be assigned as well as your academic advisor, which varies depending on what you plan to study. My transfer advisor helped me through the process of getting course credits transferred and my academic advisor gave me advice on classes to register for, both were a huge help.

One piece of advice I have is to look through all Rice's clubs and organizations at ownest.rice.edu. Make note of the clubs you are interested in joining, then keep an eye out for when their first meetings of the semester are and try to attend! This helped me find some activities outside of academics and get introduced to new people.

Most of all, get ready to have fun at O-Week! (You're at McMurtry so you get to be part of the best one)

See you soon!

~Malvika (McMurtry '28)

To International Students

Dear International Student,

Welcome to Houston Texas! Welcome to Rice University! And most importantly, welcome home to McMurtry College!

By the time you're reading this letter, you're probably counting down the days until college starts while trying to figure out how to fit your entire life into two 23kg baggage. My first piece of advice: please, please make full use of those baggage allowances. Bring some snacks, souvenirs, or little things that remind you of home—especially the things that only exist in your country and somehow become impossible to find once you arrive in the U.S. (As someone who has now become capable of estimating 23kg by lifting a baggage with one hand, trust me on this.)

Starting college in a new country can feel exciting, overwhelming, and everything in between. The good news is that Rice has an incredible support system for international students. One of the most important resources you'll get to know is the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS). Whether you have questions about visas, employment, taxes, travel, or simply adjusting to life in the United States, OISS is always there to help.

Beyond OISS, you'll find countless opportunities to build a community that feels like home. Organizations such as the Rice International Student Association (RISA), Rice Chinese Students and Scholars Association (RCSSA), Rice Hispanic Association for Cultural Enrichment at Rice (HACER), Rice African Student Association (RASA), and many other cultural and identity-based groups create spaces where students can connect, celebrate their backgrounds, and support one another.

But what truly makes Rice special isn't just the resources—it's the people. Your O-Week advisors, professors, peer academic advisors, McMurtry Coordinator, Magisters, and fellow students (honestly, this list could go on forever) are all rooting for you. Some of my favorite memories at Rice started with a simple "Hi" during O-Week. So introduce yourself, say yes to spontaneous dinners, and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. You'll be surprised by how quickly strangers become friends here.

Over the next four years, you'll experience many firsts. Your first American phone number that starts with +1. Your first time exploring Houston and discovering that Everything is Bigger in Texas. Your first Social Security Number. Your first U.S. driver's license. Your first time navigating a mountain of forms and paperwork. Maybe even your first American roommate, or your first close friend whose native language isn't the same as yours. You'll learn new slang, celebrate holidays you've never heard of before, and slowly build a life that feels both unfamiliar and surprisingly like home.

What matters is remembering that you don't have to figure everything out on your own. There are people here who have gone through the same challenges and are more than happy to help. Whether you're celebrating a big achievement or trying to solve a small problem, there will always be someone in your corner.

We're so excited to welcome you to McMurtry and can't wait to meet you soon. Until then, finish packing, double-check your documents, hug your family a little tighter, and enjoy the time you have at home.

We'll save you a seat.

Let's go OWLS! Let's go MUUUUUURRRRTTTT!

Emily Yuqing Yang, (McMurtry '28), Shanghai, China

To Black Students

Dear New Black Students,

Welcome to Rice and congratulations on joining the best residential college with the largest Black caucus! We are so excited to meet each and every one of you!

I'm also excited to welcome each of you into the home of an amazing, tight-knit Black community here at Rice that has so much to offer. There are student organizations, such Black Student Association, Rice African Student Association, Caribbean Student Society, National Society of Black Engineers and more, that offer many social events and opportunities to be plugged in within the community. Additionally, they come with many ways to be involved where you can participate or watch astounding cultural showcases, or attend fun events like Hump Night (my personal favorite!)

I know entering an unfamiliar environment with so many different types of people can be scary, but each and every one of you are entering Rice with unique experiences and different backgrounds, which is essential to Rice's diverse community. Therefore, I encourage you to truly show who you are and experience what it has to offer.

Even better, you have a Black Caucus here, at your very home at McMurtry hosting events, such as Movie Nights, Sunset Soirees, and fun off-campus events made for you to attend, so please take advantage of those fun opportunities to engage with the Black Caucus at McMurtry!

Overall, both the advising team here at McMurtry and especially the Black community here at Rice are ready to welcome you with open arms as you navigate this new stage in your life. Don't be afraid to reach out, if you have any questions or need support in anything!

I hope you have an amazing O-Week experience where we can prepare you for the next four years with excitement, and enjoy your home at McMurtry College, where we know how to have a good time.

Warmest regards,
Victoria Owusu, (McMurtry '29)

To Latino Students

Estimados Buhos, Bienvenidos a Rice!

Dear Owls, welcome to Rice!

Whether you are a ‘No Sabo Kid’ who’s still learning to connect with your culture like me, somebody who has grown up surrounded by your heritage, an ESL (English Second Language) student, a Fresa, or Rockero, you are embraced, celebrated, and loved at Rice. I was one of the only Latina students at my high school, so when I arrived at Rice, I found myself speaking to so many people from so many backgrounds, with shared ideals, similar stories, and finding quick connections to lives similar to mine. Cultural showcases and events at Rice are central to our university, especially the showcases put on by HACER (The Hispanic Association for Cultural Enrichment at Rice). Showcases represent our pride, and highlight our presence at Rice! Food, music, and dancing are always included, and all are always welcome.

Other Latine groups include Mariachi Luna Llena, SHPE (Society for Hispanic Engineers), Salseros at Rice, of course, HACER, and many more! There will always be a community where we can stay connected with people just like us, and always space to create more meaningful change.

The more time I have spent reconnecting with my own Cuban heritage, the more value I have found within my authentic self as a young adult. You will always have a community at Rice, no matter your story.

I know a fantastic O-Week is ahead and there is so still so much learn! Once again, welcome to Rice and know that we are all so happy to have you here!

Hasta pronto,
See you soon,
Stella Shrinsky-de Armas, McMurtry ‘28

To Student Athletes

Dear New Student-Athletes,

Welcome to Rice and welcome to McMurtry.

As a student-athlete, you'll quickly learn that your schedule can look a little different from everyone else's. Early morning lifts, practices, competitions, travel weekends, and classes can make for some long days. While athletics will be a major part of your Rice experience, it doesn't have to be all of it. One of my favorite things about McMurtry is that it gives you a chance to step away from your sport and be part of a community that brings together people with completely different interests and experiences. Whether you're grabbing dinner with friends after practice, hanging out in the commons, or taking a break from a busy week to spend time with your O-Week family, there are always opportunities to connect with people beyond your team. McMurtry also knows how to have fun. Between O-Week traditions, parties in the quad, our publics, Beer Bike, and all the random traditions and events that pop up throughout the year, some of my favorite memories have come from moments when I have spent time with my friends at Murt. Even when your schedule gets busy, I encourage you to make time for those experiences, they're a big part of what makes McMurtry feel like home. There will be times when balancing everything feels challenging, but you'll quickly find that you're surrounded by people who understand what you're juggling and are happy to support you. Your teammates, coaches, professors, and fellow Murts all want to see you succeed, both in your sport and outside of it. As you start O-Week, be open to new friendships and new experiences. Don't be afraid to say yes to things outside of your comfort zone. Some of the best parts of college happen when you step away from your routine and spend time with the people around you!

We're excited to welcome you to the McMurtry family and can't wait to see what you'll bring to our community.

Hoot 'em!!

Mollie McAlorum, (McMurtry '27)

To AANHPI Students

Dear Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Students,

Congratulations and welcome to the best residential college at Rice! We're so excited to welcome y'all to McMurtry and the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community on campus.

Rice serves a wonderful and welcoming space to explore and celebrate your AANHPI heritage for all backgrounds, no matter how closely connected you feel to your community. Home to one of the country's most diverse student body, Rice is both full of people with all different kinds of backgrounds and spaces for all to celebrate. Even coming from a town with a tight-knit Asian community, I have only grown prouder of my Taiwanese identity thanks to all of the cultural organizations Rice has to offer.

Among these campus-wide identity clubs include Rice Taiwanese Association (RTA), Chinese Student Association (CSA), Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), and Korean Student Association (KSA), just to name a few. We also have plenty of cultural performance clubs like Rice Lions (lion dancing), BASYK (K-pop & hip-hop dance), Rice Chinese Theater Club, and Chimes (a capella)! Across these clubs, we host some of the biggest annual events on Rice campus—Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander (SEAPI) Night, Lunar New Year Gala, RTA Night Market, AAPI Pub—all to celebrate our cultural heritage. Looking for something smaller? Within Murt walls we have our very own East Asian Affinity Group, hosting our Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year FITQ, along with smaller events like Mahjong night and hotpot dinners. Best thing about these spaces, we welcome all students regardless of identity, so don't be afraid to share your culture with friends or to try something new.

Rice also offers extensive opportunities to learn more about our culture through our Asian Studies department, offering classes covering the history of our culture, food, and our influence across the world and the world's influence on us. A constant new rotation of classes allows you to engage with your culture in unique ways, offering plenty of new and insightful perspectives clubs alone may not fully provide!

Houston's diversity allows for the perfect grounds to escape campus and continue exploring your identity beyond Rice. We have plenty of organizations (Vietnamese Cultural and Science Association, OCA Greater Houston, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, HOPE Clinic, Asian Chamber of Commerce) right at our doorstep dedicated to helping and addressing issues within the greater Houston AANHPI community. Within a 20 minute drive out we also have Houston's Chinatown and Little Saigon, along with plenty of other Asian restaurants a little closer, scattered within the Inner Loop (I-610). Many cultural organizations even organize group outings to restaurants in the area, allowing you to try various restaurants on Rice's dime!

Regardless of how deeply connected you currently feel with your AANHPI heritage, at Rice you'll never have to look far to find others who will celebrate your culture with you. Everyone engages with their culture in different ways, and it is precisely this that makes Rice such a unique and powerful place to explore and find your home within it. Once again, congratulations and welcome to Rice! We are so excited for you to join our McMurtry community and can't wait to see y'all during O-Week!

Cheers,
Ian Chen (McMurtry '28)

To South Asian Students

Dear South Asian Murts,

Huge congratulations on making it to Rice and to McMurtry! It can be tempting to jump into all that Rice has to offer as soon as you begin, but first, take a moment to recognize all the hard work you have put in to get here. We are so excited to celebrate and get to know each of you :)

As someone who was surrounded by a pretty tight-knit South Asian community most of my life, I was both excited and nervous about fitting in at Rice. While I was excited to learn more about new cultures, I definitely feared losing parts of myself that I closely identified with. However, please know that Rice has no shortage of opportunities to help you find your place in the South Asian community and create an irreplaceable sense of belonging.

Whether you are looking for ways to stay connected to your culture, explore what South Asian identity means to you, or just meet new friends, there are so many clubs and resources to support you. We have a South Asian A Cappella group called Basmati Beats and a diverse range of dance teams, including Rice Rasikas, Riyaaz, Rangilas, and Bhangra— each of them do different styles of dance and some compete nationally! Joining Rasikas my freshman year was one of the best decisions I ever made and my team has been a constant source of support throughout the ups and downs of college. I am one of the choreo captains next year, so please feel free to reach out if you have questions about dance teams or anything else at Rice! The South Asian Society (SAS) hosts multiple social events throughout the year, the biggest one being Dhamaka, an annual cultural showcase with team and individual performers. Rice also has active South Asian language tables and diverse religious clubs that many students have found community in. In addition, there are a ton of cool courses on South Asian culture (ranging from history to film and literature) offered at Rice. At McMurtry, the South Asian affinity group will also host events such as Chai and Chaat study breaks at the Magister's house with the most wholesome and welcoming atmosphere.

Whether it is at an SAS event or at one of the amazing South Asian restaurants in Houston, rest assured that you will have several opportunities to dress up in your best traditional attire, drink mango lassi, eat samosas, and listen to banger South Asian music during your time at Rice.

Welcome to the best college ever and have an amazing time during O-Week! We're so excited to support you every step of the way as you find your place here!

Akshara Sankar (McMurtry '27)

To Jewish Students

Dear new Jewish Murts,

Mazal tov on your acceptance to Rice and the best residential college! My name is Amelia, and I am a rising Sophomore from South Florida.

Coming from a very strong Jewish community, I was initially scared about feeling alone at Rice. However, I soon discovered Rice Hillel and Rice Chabad. Attending their events connected me with so many Jewish students, and I truly felt a sense of belonging. At Rice, you can be as little or as much involved in the Jewish community as you like! Whether you choose to attend Shabbat dinner every Friday night, help plan activities, join us for the holidays, or participate in events occasionally, the Jewish community here welcomes you with open arms.

Rice is not a place where you should feel ashamed of your Jewish identity. Regardless of how you identify or practice Judaism, we are happy to have you exactly as you are. Houston is home to many types of synagogues if you want to attend Shabbat or holiday services, and there are also services with Rice Hillel and Rice Chabad!

My professors have been very accommodating regarding Jewish holidays; for instance, I was given excused absences to fast on Yom Kippur. Also, there is a Kosher station at the Siebel servery for lunch and dinner, and every servery has matzah during Passover, which was fantastic!

As the 2026-2027 McMurtry Jewish Affinity Group Head and Rice Hillel President, I am always here to help with anything related to Jewish life on campus, so feel free to reach out!

L'Chaim,

Amelia Wigder (McMurtry '29)

To LGBTQIA+ Students

Hello and Welcome, LGBTQ+ Murts,

Congratulations on not only making it into Rice University, but also to the best college on campus!! McMurtry is a place where I have found home and a place where you will find home as well. Each of you will be coming in with different backgrounds and experiences, especially as an LGBTQ+ person. The community itself is diverse, but do not fret, for there is a place for you here no matter what! My name is Van, and I am an FGLI Latino Transgender Student, a mouthful I know lol, but with each of my identities, I have found community and acceptance immediately upon my arrival.

Here at Rice University, there are structures put in place to support you. In the Rice Memorial Center (RMC) we have the QRC aka the Queer Resource Center, which is where you will find a safe space that is open to you for the majority of the day. In this area, you will find a plethora of resources from physical things like condoms, trans tape, menstrual products, and even cute stickers to legal information on how to change your name, or resources for community groups that identify with you. Not only is this physical space a great place to start, but we also have a group called Rice Pride, which helps students connect with non-profit organizations, interact through activism, and helps with handling administrative stuff. Something that I personally have loved is that here at Rice University, they allow you to use and include your preferred name in all of your documentation. You are seen as who you are and no one else. As soon as I contacted the office, they showed me how I could have my preferred name be the only thing that people see; it was amazing! Rice values their community immensely; your experiences will be heard, and you will be treated right.

At McMurtry College specifically, the LGBTQ+ community is very active and visible! Murt has its affinity group named McPride, which hosts weekly/bi-weekly events for the students here at Murt. The community is always so kind and welcoming! Not only that, but Murt is great because it has gender neutral restrooms for anyone to use, of course, but it is great to show so that students feel comfortable. The people here have truly made me enjoy the past two years, and I couldn't be more grateful for how comfortable and welcome they made me feel. The Murt community is one of a kind and I will forever cherish them because of it.

As you are here at Murt, I hope that it becomes a place where you can thrive and be comfortable with your identity. I hope that you have no fear and feel safe here to express yourself through and through because you deserve it! You are supported here at Murt and at Rice! Don't feel the need to rush; take your time adjusting because no matter what, support will always be there for you!

Can't wait to meet you all and hope you have a great O-Week experience! If you need any help whatsoever, my email is vh20@rice.edu.

Warm Regards,
Van Hernandez (He/Him) (McMurtry '28)

To Undocumented Students

Dear Undocumented New Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to Rice University, and to the best college of them all: McMurtry College!!!

First of all, take a deep breath. You made it! We are so excited to have you join our amazing, close-knit Rice family. Your admission to this university reflects our community's strength and our ability to pick ourselves up and make the best of what we have, especially during uncertain times. And for that, you should feel incredibly proud. The trials and tribulations you may have faced to get to this point are way behind you. That said, the road ahead may still have its share of obstacles. But do not be alarmed, whether you are a DACA recipient or not, Rice University, McMurtry, and your peers are all committed to supporting you through any challenges you might encounter.

Let me tell you about some helpful resources available within Rice University. The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is a vital resource for students navigating specific legal or immigration-related issues. They offer helpful guidance and resources that your average advisor would not be able to provide. Don't hesitate to reach out to them; they are here to help every student, regardless of status.

Another excellent resource is the Center for Career Development (CCD). They provide funding for everyone to complete unpaid internships, allowing every student to be compensated for their hard work. While on the topic of financial support, Rice Mutual Aid is a student-created and student-run program for confidential financial assistance. There's also the Emergency Funding Portal, which provides aid for unexpected expenses. In short, there are plenty of resources on campus to help you through your academic and career journey!

You will also have access to the Undocumented Task Force (RISA). This task force is an incredibly meaningful and supportive resource. Established in 2017, the task force connects undocumented students with one another, helps them feel seen, and affirms their identities without fear of judgment. It will be an honor to have you join this resilient and empowering space!

Your presence at McMurtry and Rice means so much to us. I know that current world events have made life as a student in this country especially challenging. But my biggest piece of advice is remembering that you have earned your spot at this university, and nothing can extinguish the flame of our ardent futures.

With love,
McMurtry & Rice Community

To Religiously Diverse Students

Welcome, new Buddhist students!

Welcome to Rice and the BEST residential college, McMurtry! We're so glad you're here, and we're excited for you to begin this new chapter of your journey! Whether you grew up immersed in Buddhist teachings, attended temple every Sunday, or are simply curious to learn more, you'll find opportunities at Rice to explore your spirituality and connect with others who share your interests.

There are so many opportunities to engage with Buddhism at Rice, whether through the Zen Buddhism Club or courses offered by the Religion Department, such as RELI 333: Knowing Body/Glowing Mind: Buddhist Arts of Contemplation and Analysis. Additionally, I highly recommend joining cultural organizations, including the Vietnamese Student Association, which has many Buddhist students you can connect with!

Houston is also home to many Buddhist temples, including the Viet-Nam Buddhist Center, Thanh Long Tu Buddhist Temple, Phat Quang Vietnamese Buddhist Pagoda, and Linh Son Temple. If you're interested in connecting with Buddhist students beyond campus, GDPT Huyen Quang and Linh Son both have large youth groups that meet every Sunday! I was a part of GDPT Phap Quang in Dallas growing up, so if you're interested in being a part of a Buddhist youth organization in Houston, I would love to join you :)

Everyone's spiritual path is unique, and wherever you are on yours, you belong here. We're grateful to have you in our community and look forward to supporting you along the way. Once again, welcome to Rice and to McMurtry!

With compassion,
Abbie Ha (McMurtry '28)

Hi Sikh new students! I'm so excited to meet y'all. Welcome to Murt! You're going to love it.

My name is Ari, and I'm a sophomore at Sid co-advising at Murt this year! Rice is such a welcoming campus, with people from all walks of life, but coming in as a Sikh student, I wondered if it would be a task to continue pursuing and strengthening my faith. Rest assured, it was a lot easier to find a Sikh community than I thought! More than that, people are super interested to learn more about my faith and support me throughout the process. My friends even want to visit gurdwara with me, which is super cool. I know that starting college can be overwhelming, and faith can be an amazing way to stay grounded. When I started college, meeting Sikh students, Punjabi students, trying out for Bhangra, and going out to the gurdwara (though it's a bit of a trek) helped a lot.

Though there aren't many Sikh students on campus, our community is incredibly kind. I'm probably going to have a car next year, so if you ever want to take a trip to the gurdwara, I'm so down. Or if you just want to chat, I'm also very down. Saara (a sophomore at Murt) and I are in the process of starting a Sikh Student Association here at Rice, and we would love for you to join as well!

It's going to be great. Can't wait to meet all of you!

Peace and love,
Ariana Gauba (Sid Richardson '29)

Hi incoming Hindu Murts!

Welcome to Rice and welcome to the McMurtry family!! We are so so excited to have you as a part of our amazing community :) My name is Ankita, and I am an incoming sophomore at Murt. I know that a lot of you may be wondering what the Rice campus is like, especially if you come from a hometown with very little religious or cultural diversity like I did. Back home, practicing my faith and celebrating traditions often felt like a pretty solo journey, and I definitely worried that people in college wouldn't really "get" me or the things I valued. But rest assured, Rice is one of the most diverse and accepting communities that I have personally ever been a part of. Even people who do not belong to the same religion as me have always welcomed me for who I am. Whether it be celebrating big festivals with you or helping you get religious accommodations, students and faculty here are always finding ways to make everyone feel comfortable and seen.

With this being a huge transition for y'all, I know it can feel intimidating at times to embrace parts of your culture and religion, especially if you're used to being one of the few people who practice it. But, if you're up for it, embrace that side of yourself, even if it can feel scary at times. College is a great time to do some self-discovery and understand the spiritual and religious side of you, and it's an even better time to find people that embrace that side of you.

Rice has an amazing club called Hindu YUVA that hosts major events for Holi, Diwali, Indian New Year and more. There are also many temples around Houston that are drivable distances. Feel free to talk to me anytime about anything related to being Hindu at Rice, transitioning to college, or anything at all.

So excited to meet y'all!

-Ankita Nukala (McMurtry '29)

To incoming Muslim students,

Welcome to Rice and welcome to McMurtry! My name is Aaqil, and I'm so excited for y'all to join the Murt family.

Coming to college can feel like a big transition, especially when you're trying to figure out how your faith fits into a new environment. Whether you grew up very connected to Islam, are still learning, practice in your own way, or are just trying to find community, there is a place for you here.

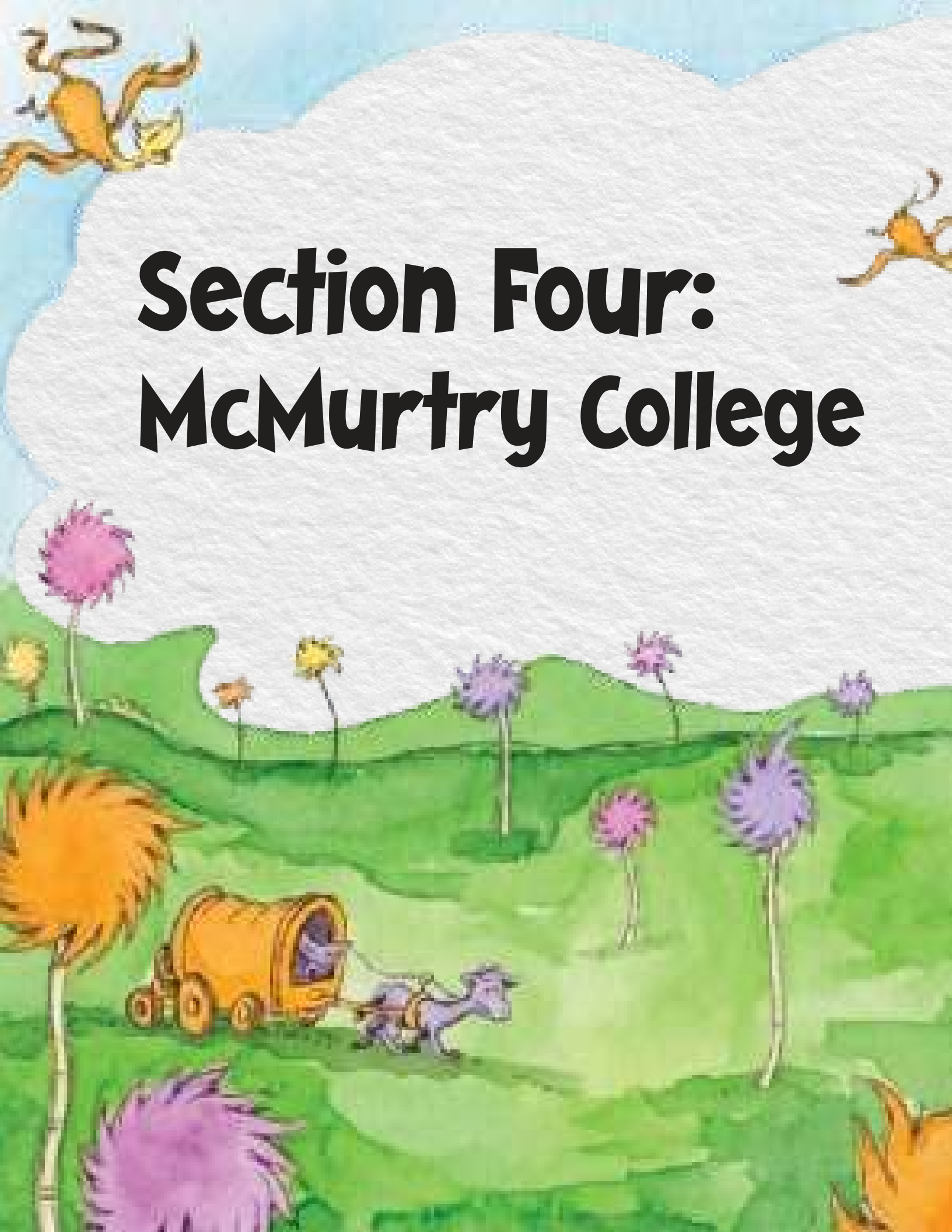
Rice has students from so many different Muslim backgrounds, and Houston itself has a large and diverse Muslim community. On campus, groups like the Muslim Student Association can be a great way to meet people, attend events, join Jummah, and find support during Ramadan, Eid, or any other time you want to feel connected. There are also upperclassmen who are always happy to help you figure out things like prayer spaces, halal food options, or religious accommodations.

One thing I really appreciate about Rice is that people are generally open-minded and respectful. Professors are usually understanding about religious conflicts as long as you communicate early, and there are many students who want to learn from each other's experiences. You should never feel like you have to hide who you are or explain your faith perfectly to belong here.

Everyone's relationship with Islam looks different, and that's okay. Whether you're looking for a strong Muslim community, hoping to reconnect with your faith, or simply wanting to carry your values with you into college, we're glad you're here.

We're so excited to meet you during O-Week. Once again, welcome to Rice and to McMurtry!

Aaqil Merchant, McMurtry '29



Section Four: McMurtry College



McMurtry History

McMurtry College is the 10th residential college to grace the Rice University campus. A LEED Gold certified building located on the northeastern edge of campus, it sits at the optimal location for those seeking the shortest path between their dorms and some of the most popular locations on campus, such as the academic quad (home to many buildings in which students will most likely have classes), Duncan Hall (for all things engineering), and the West Served (the best place to eat at Rice).

McMurtry first opened its doors in the fall of 2009. Because the first generation of Murts numbered in the low seventies, Rice administration recruited some Will Rice College students to fill the remaining space, leaving their mark on Murt with Yellow and Orange hall culture. McMurtry and Will Rice remained sister colleges until 2026 with the founding of Chao College, whose culture is largely shaped by Murts in the founding committee. Legend has it that because of ongoing construction on our twin Duncan College and West Served, the first Murts ate only bananas. One fateful Beer Bike, a Murt donned in a full banana costume cemented the banana as our second official mascot, with McMurtry still being the only college with two.

Burt and Deedee McMurtry graduated from Rice University in 1956. A Rice trustee emeritus, Burt McMurtry was a private investor and a founding partner of Technology Venture Investors and Institutional Venture Associates in California. He served seventeen years on the Rice University board, and even played a role in planning the residential college system back when he was a student at Rice, acting as a student representative on the 1955 committee that set out their original mission and basic organizational design. Burt McMurtry passed away on September 2nd, 2018 at his home in Palo Alto.

Deedee McMurtry is an active volunteer, a trustee of the American Conservatory Theater (ACT) in San Francisco, and is involved with arts advisory committees at Stanford.

The McMurtrys have a long history of support for Rice. They have established two endowed professorships and scholarships. The McMurtrys have also given to the Rice Annual Fund, the Class of 1956 Scholarship Fund and Anne and Charles Duncan Hall, where McMurtry Auditorium is named in their honor, in addition to many other areas of the campus.





McMurtry

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 pounding the tables and cheering “Birthday Gong!” repeatedly until you go to hit the gong.

Sundae Sundays

Every other Sunday in Deedee’s Lounge on 5th floor, we have a tradition of serving ice cream sundaes to anyone and everyone who’d like one! The ice cream comes in a variety of flavors with tons of toppings to choose from. If you want an extra scoop bring your own bowl and join the line early because this event is super popular!

McScottish Night

A unique 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, stein holding competitions, and more!

Fridays in the Quad (FITQs)

Every few weeks, you’ll walk back to Murt on a Friday afternoon and find the quad full of Murts hanging out, playing games, listening to music, and enjoying plenty of snacks. Friday in the Quad, better known as FITQ, is one of the best ways to unwind after a busy week and spend time with friends before the week-end begins. Each FITQ has its own theme, bringing different food and activities, so no two are ever quite the same. Whether you stop by for a quick snack or stay for the whole afternoon, FITQs are a fun Murt tradition that brings the community together.

Cookie Defense

Every college has their own unique Baker 13 defense. We bake and pass out cookies for the runners and get a peaceful truce in return.



Traditions

Powderpuff

Our college reigned victorious in our first-ever appearance in the Powderpuff championship. Since then, we've won the Fall 2016, Fall 2017, and Spring 2022 championships, making Powderpuff one of the most popular IM sports for Murts to show their college pride.

Murt Olympics

To honor our competitive, sporting nature and our strong floor culture, McMurtry hosts hall bonding events known as Murt Olympics to show which floor will reign supreme. Events have included trivia, tug-of-war, video game tournaments, and other competitions.

Super Bowl Party

On Super Bowl Sunday, which is one of the first weekends in February, Murt hosts a huge watch party for the game in commons. There are pizzas, wings, and other favorite gameday snacks for all to enjoy! Whether it's to see who will win the big game, to watch the halftime show, or to try to win fun giveaway prizes, everyone comes to this annual event for a night of fun, food, and friends.

McRice

In our signature McMurtry style, Murts prepare to dominate at Beer Bike by showing our domination over campus. We paint purple "Mc" signs and tag them all over buildings and signs (anything really).. Some fan favorites are McRice, McTutor, McMergency, and McMcNair.

Beer Bike Week

Beer Bike Week is McMurtry's lead-up to Rice's biggest tradition, Beer Bike. Throughout the week, Murts come together for events like themed FITQs, Murt Assassins, Beer Debates, McRice, and McParty, all while showing off their college pride. Many students dye their hair purple, help prepare thousands of water balloons for the campus-wide water balloon fight, and contribute to McMurtry's free-standing Beer Bike Build in the quad. By race day, the entire college is ready to cheer on Murt and celebrate one of the most exciting traditions at Rice.



Meet the McTeam

Who Are The McTeam?

If you're new to the residential college system, you may be surprised to see adults who live in or spend time around McMurtry! The McTeam is a group of Rice-affiliated individuals and their families who watch out for Murts and help us with problems that might be a little out of our reach. Look to any of them for great advice and company!

Magisters

The latin phrase for “teacher” or “master,” the Magisters include a tenured professor and their family, who serve as a liaison between McMurtry and other departments around Rice. They promote a variety of cultural and intellectual interests among students and provide emotional and social support. They live with their family in a house adjacent to each residential college.

College Coordinator

The College Coordinator does all the behind-the-scenes work that keeps the college running. This includes connecting students with offices across campus, sorting and delivering mail, handling student finances, and overseeing the move-in and move-out process. The College Coordinator is also always available to chat and offer you some candy or a hug as a pick-me-up. If you lose your key, she may be disappointed, but she will never stop loving you.

Resident Associates

The RAs are faculty and staff who live on the 2nd and 3rd floor in their own apartments. They are a confidential and easy-to-access resource for whenever you need support living at McMurtry. Our lovely RAs are involved in hosting events at the college, giving useful advice and guidance, and making McMurtry feel like home.



College Coordinator

My name is Jackie Carrizales and I am the McMurry College Coordinator. I have been the Coordinator here since the week before O-Week in 2015, but I have been an associate at McMurry 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!



Away from McMurry, 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!

- Jackie Carrizales

Things to do in Jackie's:

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



Magisters

Welcome to McMurry!

We are Jeff Fleisher and Libby Vann, the Magisters of McMurry College. We have been at Rice since 2007. Jeff is a Professor and Chair of Anthropology. He is an archaeologist who works in eastern and southern Africa, exploring the complex histories of African peoples that live in Tanzania and Zambia today. He teaches courses in archaeology and takes students most years to learn how to be archaeologists in Africa. When he's not at Rice, you can find him out riding his bike across the city and through gravel roads in the hill country.

Libby is Associate Teaching Professor of Political Science and the Director of Community Partnerships for the School of Social Sciences. She teaches courses in Social Policy Analysis as well as experiential courses in Political Science. Through her community partnerships role, she helps develop engaged learning programs and opportunities for students in the Social Sciences. She is an amateur vegetable gardener who likes to cook and loves to hike. Our family includes our son, Max, a rising senior at the University of Virginia, as well as three cats – Yahtzee, Clyde, and Rudi – who you'll likely see when you visit us. We are a family of cribbage players, and we love to travel – internationally, as well as to state and national parks in our little camper trailer that you might spot parked behind the Murt Magister house.

As Murt Magisters, we're here to support McMurry and each Murt during their time at Rice. We advise the Murt student government and help to foster strong student leadership in the college. We help Murts navigate their academic careers, guiding you to the amazing advising networks on campus. We promote student well-being, including helping students experiencing physical or mental health challenges or family-related issues to find the help and support they need. We also work with the college government and Housing and Dining to oversee the physical spaces at Murt; this is your and our home for the next four years, and we want it to be the best possible environment for social and intellectual life at McMurry. We're excited to meet you and we look forward to seeing you in the commons, at Murt events around the college, and at our house in the coming months and years.

Welcome to McMurry!

**- Jeff Fleisher and
Libby Vann**



Head Resident Associates

We are so excited to welcome you to McMurtry!

Welcome to McMurtry! We are Priscilla Martinez, Matt McCary, and Camila McCary, your first-floor Resident Faculty Associates (RFAs). We are excited to get to know you and help build the connections that make the McMurtry community such a special place.

Matt is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biosciences, where he studies soil biology with a particular interest in insects. Priscilla is a Marketing Manager at a biopharmaceutical company and enjoys using customer insights to develop creative, impactful strategies. Our daughter, Camila, is now a toddler and brings lots of joy, energy, and smiles wherever she goes.

A fun fact about us: we met during our senior year at North Central College in Illinois after Matt

worked up the courage to ask Priscilla out in the library (thankfully, she said yes!). Priscilla enjoys all things beauty, lifestyle, and Pilates, while Matt can often be found searching for interesting insects. Together, we love exploring nature trails, reading, discovering new coffee shops, attending live music and art events, and finding fun ways to stay active. Music is a big part of our home, with genres like Latin, hip-hop, Afrobeats, and pop, and we're always ready for an impromptu dance session.

We also have two unusual family members: Tula and Rusty—our two pet tarantulas. If you're curious, we'd be happy to introduce you!

We're so excited for the year ahead and can't wait to meet you all!

- Matt, Priscilla, and Camila



Second Floor RA

Hi folks, I am so glad you are joining the McMurtry family! Welcome!! My name is Joe Young and this will be my first year at McMurtry. I am an Associate Teaching Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) here at Rice and also the Director of our professional master's program, the Master's in ECE (MECE). I get to teach the world-renowned intro to electrical engineering class as well as a circuits lab class and the master's capstone class. I did my bachelor's at North Carolina State University and then did my master's and PhD here at Rice with a focus on neuroengineering. Through overseeing capstone projects and my own research, I've gotten to work on digital health projects involving AI and embedded systems. I am very passionate about teaching and mentoring, and am happy to chat anytime about career or even life planning.



Growing up, I moved a lot! I was born in Indiana but then got to live in Virginia, Italy, Puerto Rico, Ireland, North Carolina, and, of course, Texas. I am super into biking, and have gone deep into the scene including completing the 45 mile Tour de Houston. I am also a devoted watcher of Korean dramas. I get very invested. Matcha is another important aspect of my life. My personal favorite is a tie between lavender and strawberry, cold foam is optional depending on the vibe. A key event I hope to host for you all is going to be a matcha bar, with a full compliment of syrups and other interesting additions.

This past
And she
I was
couldn't
ward to

year has been a big year for me. I got engaged to my fiancée, Ixchelita! will be joining us at Murt on a permanent basis next year :) Excitingly, promoted from assistant teaching professor as well. And of course, I have been happier to be chosen as a Murt RA. I am really looking forward to this year with y'all!



- Joe Young
Second Floor RA

Third Floor RAs

Welcome to McMurtry!

We're Hesam and Lina Panahi, new Resident Faculty Associates. We're joining McMurtry this year with our three kids: Ari, Ayla, and Aaron.

Hesam teaches design and entrepreneurship at Rice's business school and the Liu Idea Lab for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Lilie), plus study abroad courses in Tokyo and Amsterdam each summer through the OEDK. He was previously a DJ and software startup founder. He writes a newsletter about experience design called 4 bits.

Lina moved to Houston from Azerbaijan. Lina and Hesam met as classmates at an international school in Houston and have been together ever since. She spent 13 years in oil and gas before running things at home full time. She bakes, loves puzzles, dark chocolate, and trying foods from different countries. Her banana bread is the best.

Ari is 10. He's into DJing and making music. He loves Dubstep, EDM, and Techno. Ari also is into Pokemon. He likes building Lego sets and creating new designs with Lego. Ayla is 7, loves playing on the Nintendo switch, making art, and doing flips at gymnastics. She's also into Pokemon. Aaron is 5. He runs on Spider-Man and hot dogs.

We're so glad you're here, and we can't wait to meet you.



- Hesam and Lina Panahi
Third Floor RAs

Meet The President

Hey New Murts!



My name is Yazmine Miles, but you can call me Yaz, and I have the privilege of serving as your McMurry College President this year. First of all, congratulations! Whether you've heard it once or a hundred times already, welcome to Rice University and, more importantly, welcome to McMurry College.

I'm a rising senior from Yuma, Arizona (if you ate lettuce today, there's a good chance it came from my hometown). I'm majoring in Sports Medicine and Exercise Physiology with a minor in Global Health Technologies, and McMurry has become one of the most meaningful parts of my Rice experience.

Like many of you, I arrived at Rice excited, nervous, and unsure of what to expect. What I quickly learned was that McMurry has a unique way of making a large university feel like home. Before long, classmates became study partners, neighbors became friends, and strangers became some of the people I trust most. Some of my favorite memories have come from the simplest moments: late-night conversations, spontaneous adventures, studying before exams, and spending time with the people who make this community so special. McMurry is filled with students from all kinds of backgrounds, interests, and experiences, yet everyone contributes to a welcoming and supportive environment unlike any other.

My involvement in student leadership began as a Class Representative, a role that opened the door to opportunities I never imagined. Since then, I've served as External Vice President, an O-Week Advisor, and a McCoord for the 2025 O-Week themed PicassO-Week. Through each experience, I discovered how much I enjoy bringing people together and creating spaces where others feel connected and supported. Now, as College President, I'm grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community that has given me so much.

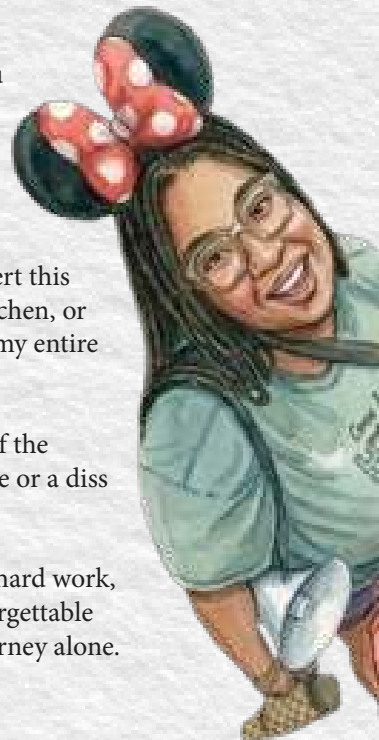
One lesson I've learned at Rice is that some of the best opportunities come from saying yes to things you never expected. If freshman-year Yaz had been told she would one day be College President, she probably would have laughed. Whether it's joining an organization, attending a random event, running for leadership, or simply introducing yourself to someone new, you never know what might shape your Rice experience.

A few fun facts about me: I'm a huge J. Cole fan and am counting down the days until I see him in concert this September. When I'm not listening to music, I'm probably rewatching Dance Moms, watching Hell's Kitchen, or convincing myself that Chipotle is a perfectly balanced meal. Honestly, I live, laugh, love Chipotle with my entire heart, so don't be surprised if you see a Chipotle study break or two this year.

I should also introduce my alter ego, Lil Puff. According to highly reliable sources (me), Lil Puff is one of the most talented rappers alive and could out-rap Kendrick on his best day. If you ever want a freestyle battle or a diss track, just let me know.

Most importantly, I want you to know that you belong here. You were admitted to Rice because of your hard work, talents, and unique perspective. The next four years will bring challenges, growth, friendships, and unforgettable memories. Through it all, know that McMurry is here for you, and you'll never have to navigate the journey alone.

Welcome home, Class of 2030. Looking forward to seeing you Let It Grow,



**- Yazmine Miles
McMurry President**

Meet The CJ

My name is Rosario Castro and I will be serving as your tiny but mighty McMurry Chief Justice! Growing up my favorite color has always been purple, from my lavender quince dress to my millions of purple water bottles, so I knew that McMurry was the home for me. Proud to say I'm a latina baddie, raised in the small town of San Marcos, Texas. You'll always find me singing or dancing to Karol G, Bad Bunny, and of course the love of my life, Shawn Mendes.

I'm majoring in Sports Medicine & Exercise Physiology while also trying to pursue a minor in Medical Humanities, and a Spanish Certificate. Recently switched to the Pre-PT track after discovering my love for rehabilitation and Physical Therapy. Just goes to say, I love all things fitness and exercise whether it's running SARCOMERE, the sports medicine club on campus, as one of the Presidents, or cheering on the football sidelines. Oh yeah, did I mention I'm on the Rice Owls Cheer Team?? You'll find me scooting back

from games after a million backhandsprings, with my voice gone and poms in hand. I have enough Rice Spirit for everyone at McMurry, so if you ever need cheering up, you know who to call!

Even with a back to back planned google calendar I will always be there for my people, my amazing, lovely MURTS!

- Rosario Castro
McMurry Chief Justice



Getting Involved

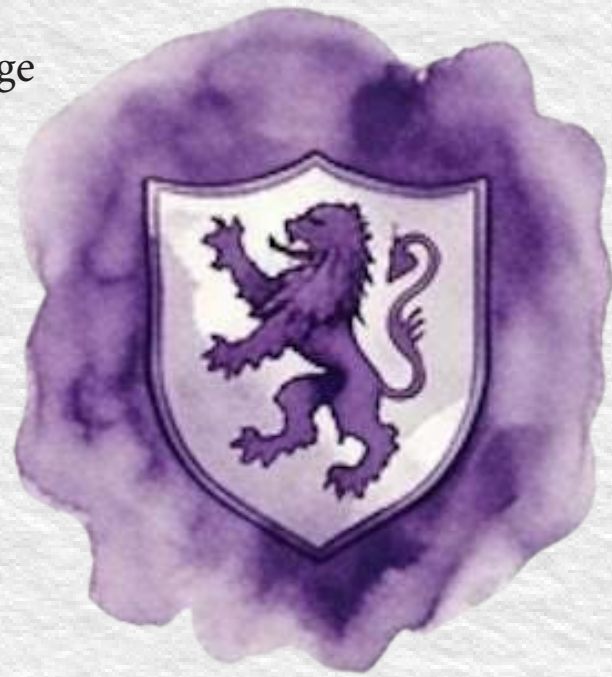
Residential college life is not only great for academic and community development but also for personal and leadership development. McMurtry has one of the biggest and most efficient student governments responsible for a variety of functions, like social gatherings, traditions, and maintaining our amenities. A full explanation of the roles in government are in this section of the O-Week Book. As a First-Year, here are some of the best ways to get involved:

Committees: Committees are student-run groups within McMurtry that are given a budget to contribute to our culture and community. Each committee has 2-3 committee heads, as well as a varying number of members. Applications open for First Years after O-Week and after they close, new members can still join at the discretion of the committee head.

New Student Representatives (NSRs): Every college has two NSRs who work with their college senators as representatives at the Rice Student Association's Senate and work on projects pertaining to Rice! Each NSR also serves on the Student Association's standing committees.

First Year Representatives: Three First Year Reps serve as voting members in our People's Council (under the At-Large Representative) and work with the college government. This is a great way to represent your peers and develop great leadership skills and receive a budget for events for your year!

Running for Office: Towards the end of your First Year, you will be able to run for office at McMurtry! Roles like Senator, Parliamentarian, or Secretary require little to no experience to start, but are excellent opportunities to do meaningful behind-the-scenes work and attend EC meetings and/or Senate.



Committees

External Vice President

Arts

- Creative community engagement
- Designs birthday banners and themed decorations
- Connects the college through visual arts

Alumni

- Publishes semiannual alumni newsletter
- Maintains connections with graduates
- Bridges past and present Murt communities

Associates

- Liaises between students and faculty/staff associates
- Hosts Associates Nights twice a year
- Builds mentorship and networking

Social Media & History

- Documents traditions, events, and history
- Manages the college social media presence
- Captures and preserves campus life

Murtchandise

- Manages design and ordering of college gear
- Handles logistics for merchandise
- Connects creativity with college spirit

Sports

- Promotes Rice sporting events
- Hosts Super Bowl watch party
- Organizes intramural activities

Traditions

- Plans McScottish, Murt-O-Ween, Murty Holidays
- Preserves and evolves Murt traditions
- Strengthens college identity

Charity & Philanthropy

- Organizes charitable initiatives
- Connects Murt with community causes
- Fosters culture of giving back

Internal Vice President

Amenities

- Improves college spaces and interior design
- Manages budget for facility upgrades
- Responds to student needs for spaces

Culinary

- Hosts food events including Sunday Sundaes
- Caters to diverse tastes across the college
- Builds community through shared food

Website

- Maintains and improves online presence
- Provides web development experience
- Keeps website current and user-friendly

Environmental

- Promotes sustainability at McMurtry
- Plans Sustainable Sunday Sundaes
- Combines eco-consciousness with college life

McMakerspace

- Manages the Innovation Space for all Rice students
- Offers tools for building and creating
- Fosters hands-on innovation

Prime Minister

Internal Socials

- Plans FITQ every Friday in the Quad
- Promotes week-to-week community
- Most active social committee

External Socials

- Plans Y2K party and College Night
- Organizes cross-college and Pub Night events
- Connects Murts with other colleges

Beer Bike

- Coordinates Beer Bike participation
- Plans the biggest event of the year
- Manages team, chug, and race logistics

Seniors

- Plans champagne toasts and senior events
- Organizes Senior Gala and graduation
- Creates memorable final-year experiences

College Night

- Plans College Night events each semester

At-Large Representative

Diversity & Cultural

- Promotes cultural awareness through events
- Organizes Restaurant Day with international cuisines
- Serves as an inclusion resource for the college

McMurtry Government

Executive Council & Committee Structure

Treasurers

Responsible for budget allocations and approving all college purchases.

McPre

Leader of the Executive
McMurtry's yearly operation
initial

External Vice President

Responsible for executing longstanding traditions and preserving McMurtry's legacy.

COMMITTEES

- Arts
- Alumni
- Associates
- Social Media and History
- Murtchandise
- Sports
- Traditions

Internal Vice President

Responsible for maintaining and improving internal amenities and services within the College.

COMMITTEES

- Amenities
- Culinary
- Website
- Environmental
- McMurtry Innovation Space (MIS)

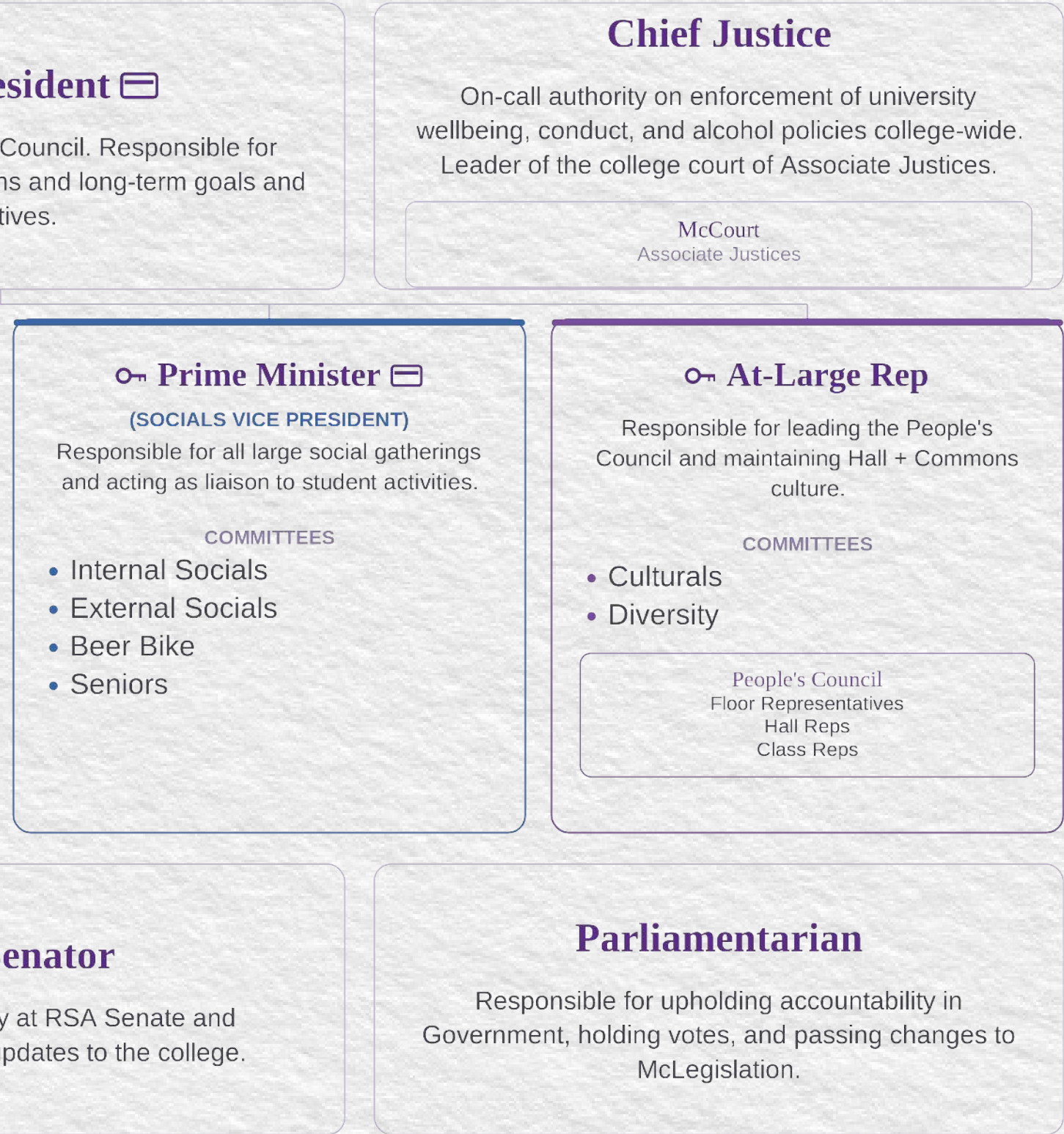
Secretaries

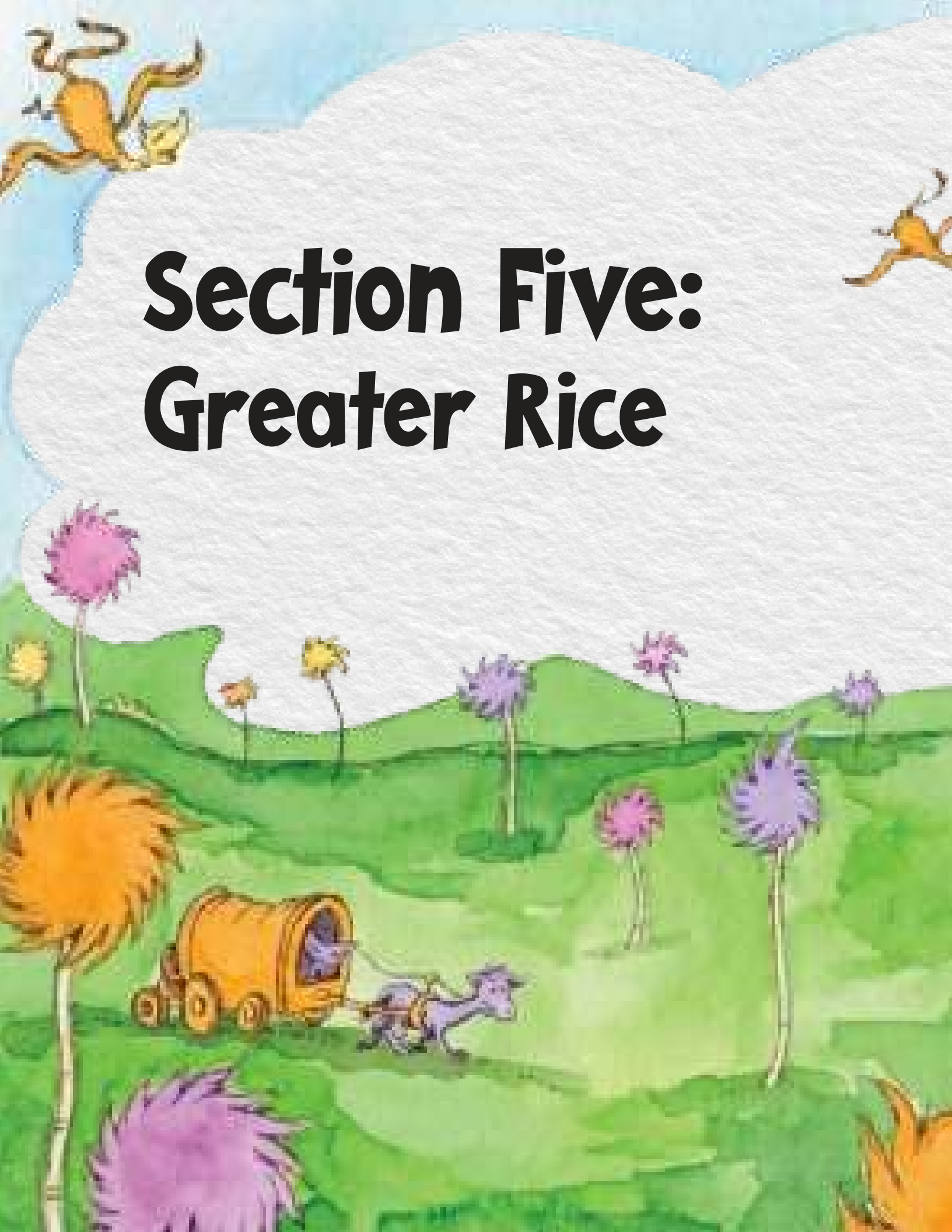
Responsible for maintaining accurate meeting minutes, room reservation management, and sending the weekly listserv.

RSA S

Represents McMurtry
communicates RSA u

The McMurtry Government is made of the Executive Council and the People's Council. The diagram on the left shows the hierarchy of responsibility at the college. A **key holder** is a student who oversees committees and has access to the committee closet. A **P-Card** holder is a student leader who makes purchases on behalf of the college and reports expenses to the university. If you ever need these resources, the students holding these positions are the ones to ask! Other leadership/governmental roles and more in-depth descriptions can be found on the McMurtry Website and in the McLegislation, as well as an up-to-date roster of the individuals who serve McMurtry in our government.



The background is a whimsical illustration. It features rolling green hills under a light blue sky with large, soft white clouds. Several stylized trees with spiky, pom-pom-like tops in shades of pink, purple, and orange are scattered across the landscape. In the upper corners, two orange, insect-like creatures with long antennae are flying. In the lower foreground, a small orange cart with four wheels is being pulled by a purple donkey. The cart has a small figure inside. The overall style is colorful and playful.

Section Five: Greater Rice



Academic Fellow: A member of McMurtry College who acts as an academic tutor, offering help on subjects ranging from FWIS and Writing to General Chemistry or Physics.

Associate: A member of the Houston Community, Rice Faculty, or Rice staff who is associated with McMurtry College. You will get to meet some of our fabulous associates during O-Week!

Associate Justice (AJ): They help out with the justice system and alcohol policy regulations. They are under the CJ.

Associates Night: A semi-formal dinner held in McMurtry Commons once per semester to honor McMurtry Associates. A very fun night for taking formal pictures, eating great food, and meeting interesting people.

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

BTM: Back to Murt

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

Chief Justice (CJ): They're in charge of making sure Murts stay safe, so they're experts on the justice system and Alcohol Policy. They're who you go to for registering your parties!

Class Rep: A voting member of People's Council who represents their class for major McMurtry decisions. There are three per class. Class Reps are selected a few weeks into the fall semester, so if you're interested, please apply to run!

Committee: College-specific groups (such as externals, sports, culinary, and associates) that plan and host all Murt events throughout the year, usually led by upper-classmen Heads.

Conch: A symbol used in our crest; "the conch" lives in Jackie's office and is played once a year to signal the transfer of power to the new McPresident.

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 biweekly Sunday Sundaes event.

FITQ: Friday in the Quad is a gathering for Murts held on select Fridays, typically with free food, good music, fun games, and amazing friends. Each college has their own version and abbreviation for FITQs!

Flex Fund: A section of the McMurry budget that can be used by any student for small purchases (\$50-75) for the good of McMurry. Used for whatever other ideas you have for improving our college (i.e: ping pong balls for the Commons)

McMurry Service Points: All freshmen are required to have a certain number of hours of McMurry community service in order to be eligible for Room Jack and Room Draw in the spring semester.

McMurry Accessibility Fund: Money available to help students pay for expenses related to college living. Requests can range from McMurry merchandise items to movie tickets.

McTeam: McM Core Team (Magisters, Resident Faculty Associates, Resident Associates, College Coordinator).

Murb: The delivery/drop-off curb on the side of Murt.

Murt: A resident of McMurry College (YOU)!

Murtrication: Ceremony held during O-Week to officially welcome you to McMurry.

New Student Representatives (NSR): Two New Students chosen by the college Senator in the fall to represent McMurry in the Rice Student Association, bring news from the SA to McMurry, and conduct their own projects within the RSA.

Housing Jack / Room Draw: The process of determining who will live on or off-campus for the next year (Housing Jack) and where students will live (Room Draw).

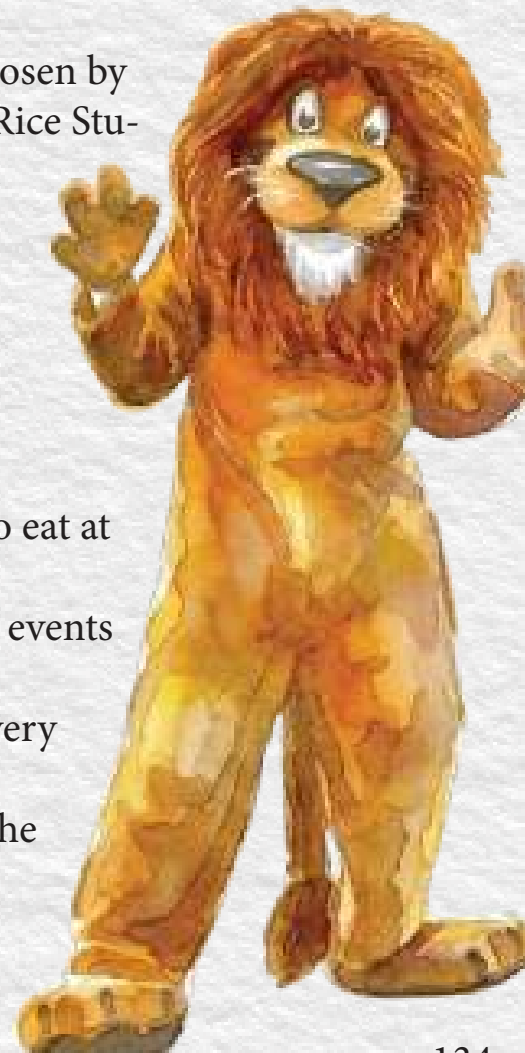
Suite: The rooms that are shared by 5 or 6 Murts found near each of the stairwells.

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

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

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

Yurt: McMurry Commons named after its resemblance to the Mongolian dwelling.



Academic Quad: The quadrangle on the north side of campus that is home to academic buildings, Fondren Library, and the Sallyport. It recently underwent a renovation in 2024.

Baker 13: A 30-year-old tradition hosted by Baker College in which willing participants run around campus covered with shaving cream on every 13th and 31st (or 26th for months with <31 days) of each month.

Baker Institute: The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy is a nonpartisan, data-driven think tank that connects undergraduate students, graduates, researchers, and scholars around the world through public policy research.

Banner: The one-stop-shop for picking and visualizing classes during registration period. A cool scheduling tool you'll learn more about during O-Week!

Beer Bike: A very competitive, inter-college race held every spring, in which each residential college picks 8 chuggers and 8 bikers to compete in a campus-wide bike race. Beer Bike includes a huge campus-wide water balloon fight, 4 AM dance parties, and a float parade. All the residential colleges host several events and traditions in the week leading up to the big Saturday event.

Beer Bike Week: The week preceding Beer Bike, which feels like a week-long FITQ. The name of the week may vary based on the college. Features events thrown by the Beer Bike committee, such as McMurtry's Finest, other college activities, alumni, and plenty of jacks!

Beyond the Hedges: A term Rice students use for exploring Houston outside of Rice's campus. Every New Student is encouraged to go "beyond the hedges" once in a while!

Biosciences Research Collaborative (BRC): The research building at the farthest edge south of campus where students and professors engage in research within the Texas Medical Center. Some undergraduate classes are also held here!

BNOG: Stands for "Big Name On Campus" and is often used to describe someone who everyone knows! A campus micro-celebrity...

Brochstein Pavilion: An all-glass, square building located conveniently next to Fondren Library and the RMC. Another common study space on campus. It is also newly home to Local Foods, where you can spend your Tetra.

Brockman: Can refer to either Brockman Hall for Opera (performance hall and theatre) or Brockman Hall for Physics (research facility and class location).

Speak

Campanile: Pronounced (Kam-pah-neel-ee). It is Rice's undergraduate yearbook, written and designed by students throughout the year. It also refers to Rice's undergraduate orchestra for non music-majors!

Center for Academic and Professional Communication (CAPC): A center on the 2nd floor of Fondren Library. The CAPC provides consultations on developing your writing, presenting, and communication pieces, whether they're for classes, internships, or personal interests.

Center for Career Development (CCD): Located in Huff House, the CCD is Rice's on-campus office for helping students find internships, co-curricular opportunities, and employment after graduation.

Center for Civic Leadership (CCL): A Rice department dedicated to social justice and community engagement. Students can access internships, research, fellowships, study abroad opportunities, classes, and other experiential learning programs.

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...!"

Club Sports: An informal sports team where members can compete against other universities — including rugby, volley, basketball, tennis, and many others.

Chaüs: A nickname for Rice Coffeehouse, this beloved student-run business is a central hub of good conversations and chill vibes. Students come for coffee and sweet treats, and it is one of the most popular study spots on campus!

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

Crawl: A social event in which members journey across campus to various stops, planned and hosted by their peers.

Credit Hour: Often simply called "hours", a term used as a metric for class credits. 1 credit hour is supposed to approximate roughly 1 hour of class time per week, and most classes are 3 hours. The average Rice undergraduate student takes about 14-16 hours per semester.

Critical Thinking in Sexuality (CTIS): A required half-semester class for all New Students during that covers topics such as sexual violence, relationships, and bystander training.

Rice Spe

D1 / D2 / D3 (Distribution Requirements): The different academic distributions that Rice classes fall under. D1 is Arts and Humanities, D2 is Social Sciences, and D3 is Engineering and Natural Sciences. During your time at Rice, you must take at least 3 classes from each distribution.

Degreeworks: An online tool to help you keep track of your progress towards your degree. Also includes helpful features to help predict your GPA and look at future class options. Don't obsess.

Dialogues on Community at Rice (DCR): A required half-semester class for all New Students that covers topics related to diversity and inclusion. Typically, New Students take DCR in the weeks following CTIS.

Digital Media Center (DMC): The Digital Media Center, located in the basement of Fondren Library, has lots of computers, cameras, and other technical equipment available for check out, as well as fancy plotters and printers when you need them for class.

Doerr: The Doerr Institute for New Leaders, located in McNair Hall, offers students free access to leadership coaches, peer mentorship opportunities, trainings, and workshops!

Engineering Quad: A cluster of buildings surrounding the 45/90/180 statues, where many of the buildings for engineering classes are located.

Esther: The hub of information for all things official at Rice, including timesheets for work-study, registration (and holds) for classes, grades, housing contracts, and more. Accessed at esther.rice.edu.

Fondy: Affectionate nickname for Fondren Library, a central study spot with several conference rooms, private study rooms, and six floors to choose from. It gets quieter the higher you go up!

Founder's Court: Quad in front of Lovett Hall at the very front of campus, before entering Sallyport. It is the infamous location of the iconic Beer Bike water balloon fight.

FWIS: Freshman Writing Intensive Seminar, a mandatory course for all New Students designed to help Rice students develop good academic writing habits. There's a huge variety of topics to choose from, and classes are capped at 15 students so you'll get to know your classmates well. You will learn more about this from your PAAs!

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Grand Hall: The large event hall with wooden doors, located just inside the glass sliding doors in the Rice Memorial Center. It is often used for events like career/pre-professional fairs, cultural celebrations, and student performances.

GSA: The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is the governing body for Rice students enrolled in an advanced degree program.

H&D: Abbreviation for Housing & Dining – the office that is in charge of all on-campus food services and residential housing on campus.

Honor Code: Rice's Honor Code which governs all academic classes at Rice. It means we can have things like take-home tests and collaborative homework assignments!

Honor Council: Student organization that enforces the Rice Honor Code Policy and deals with any honor code violations.

IM Sports: Also known as intramural sports, these informal sports competitions are played against other residential colleges for the coveted President's Cup.

Inner Loop: A one-way road that loops around the center of campus. In the morning, you can often see people jogging this 1.4 mile path. If you ever get lost, just follow the inner loop till you find your way again!

Jack: A fun prank played by a residential college on another college, most commonly during O-Week and Beer Bike Week! Also the name used to refer to the housing and parking lotteries that occur at each college in the spring semester.

Jones Business School: Rice's Graduate School of Business. Not to be confused with Jones College, Jones is for students pursuing their Masters in Business Accounting (MBA). It is located right across from the Recreation Center and the RMC. It has just undergone an expansion!

KTRU: Rice's student-run 24/7 radio station that plays many genres of music and hosts live concerts throughout the school year. Student employees can run their own radio station for an hour each week! 96.1FM - tune in!

LPAP: Typically pronounced "ell-pap," LPAP stands for Lifetime Physical Activity Program, a required 1 credit hour physical education class that all students must take to graduate. There are a wide variety of LPAPs offered, including weightlifting, yoga, scuba diving, and disc sports!

Rice Spe

LILIE: The Liu Idea Lab for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (LILIE), an idea lab located in Cambridge Office Building that supports student entrepreneurship and experiential learning.

Listserv: Named after the service, basically just another word for “newsletter” or “mailing list” at Rice. eg. “did you read the listserv?” or “are you *on* the listserv?”

Lovett Hall: An iconic building in the front of campus holding the administrative offices such as the Title IX Office and the Admissions Office. Lovett Hall is also home to the Sallyport arched entryway.

Main Street Residence: Formerly known as “the toaster” old Lovett now serves as temporary overflow housing for Rice Students.

Matriculation: Ceremony held during O-Week where New Students walk through the Sallyport, symbolically marking their entrance and welcome into Rice.

Meal Swipes: If you live on-campus, your ID card is automatically loaded with unlimited swipes. If you have any guests visiting, you are also allocated 15 “Guest Swipes” per semester.

METRO: The public transportation system in Houston that is both convenient and free for Rice students. You can apply as early as O-Week for your complimentary METRO QCard which covers 50 free rides per month!

Moody Center: The Moody Center for the Arts is an art center in the south-west corner of campus with classrooms and a museum space that hosts art exhibits. You can even work at the Moody as a gallery guide docent!

Moody X-Fest: Moody X-Fest is an annual spring music festival that takes place on the evening of the last day of classes. It is complete with student performances, free merch, food trucks, and a music artist headliner!

Mudd Lab: The university computer center. If you have any problems with your computer, the people here are glad to help out. A great place to plot large documents or posters.

NARP: An affectionate acronym for “Non-Athlete Regular Person”.

Net ID: Your identification for most things related to Rice - your initials followed by a number. It's on your Rice ID and also provides an easy way to email someone and let them know if you found their lost ID!

North Colleges: The residential colleges on the northern side of campus: Jones, Brown, Martel, McMurtry, and Duncan. They eat at the West and North Serveries.

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O'Connor: The Ralph S. O'Connor Building for Engineering Science is a recent addition to the Engineering Quad equipped with faculty research labs, innovation spaces, classrooms, open study spaces, and the Dandelion Café!

OEDK: The Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen, pronounced “oh-deck”, was a work space developed for students to design, prototype, and deploy solutions to real-world engineering challenges. Until the 2009 renovation, it used to be the Hicks Kitchen, which was the central food-preparation facility up until the early 2000's.

Off-Campus (OC): Often used to refer to students who live off-campus or to restaurants/places around Houston. Typically, McMurtry students move off campus for their third year at Rice. Some move off earlier, and others never do!

Office Hours (OH): Your professor's designated time to stop by their office and ask questions or have conversations with them. Every professor holds them, so take advantage of this opportunity!

Office of Academic Advising (OAA): Composed of staff that are trained in all the logistics of academics at Rice who can also help you with pre-professional goals and making academic decisions for your semesters!

Outer Loop: The nearly three-mile path that encircles all of Rice campus. A popular route for joggers and dog-walkers alike.

Pass/Fail: A separate grading scale for the classes that you take, in case you don't want your GPA to take a hit. You have 3-4 available depending on how many years you stay at Rice, and you only need a D- to get a Pass! It doesn't influence your GPA unless you end up failing the class.

PCards: A Purchasing Card, or PCard, is the payment method used to make purchases on behalf of the university. Faculty, staff, and students responsible for making purchases using university budgets are eligible PCard holders and must file expense reports in iO!

Peer Academic Advisor (PAA): Student liaisons from the OAA at each college who are trained to help you plan out your schedules, answer questions about class registration, and create four year plans.

Peer Career Advisor (PCA): Student liaisons from the CCD at each college who are trained to help you write your resumes, prepare for inter-views, and hunt down career opportunities.

Rice Spe

Powderpuff: Women's/non-men's IM college flag football that is played during the fall semester. Powderpuff is McMurtry's most popular IM sport!

Prerequisites/Pre-Reqs: Required courses that you must have completed in order to take certain classes. COMP 140 is a pre-req for COMP 182, for instance. Some classes are co-reqs, which means they're still required but you can fulfill them concurrently (take them at the same time).

President's Cup: A year-long competition where colleges earn points for winning IM sports. The college with the most points is awarded the coveted trophy!

Private: A party held in private locations by a small group of students, rather than at the college-wide or campus-wide level. Per the Alcohol Policy, you may need to register a private with the Chief Justice, just to keep everyone safe!

Pub / Willy's Pub: Located in the basement of the RMC, Pub hosts sports nights, trivia nights, and Thursday night themed parties. Pull up for a good time!

Public: Themed party thrown by a residential college open to Rice undergrads. Each college throws one per year. McMurtry's public is Y2K!

Pumpkin Grades: Mid-semester grades only given to New Students in the fall to gauge how they're doing in their classes. They come out around Halloween, hence the pumpkin.

Queer Resource Center (QRC): A home base for Rice PRIDE, a meeting and hang-out space in the Rice Memorial Center located next to Sammy's. The center is run by student volunteers trained in crisis intervention and resources for LGTBQ+ students.

R2: The Rice Review is an award-winning independent literary journal that is published annually in the spring by Rice undergraduate students!

Rice Bikes: Established in 2011 by a couple of Sid Richardson sophomores, this student-run business is located in the south of campus near Hanszen College. They sell and rent bikes, and also offer bike repair services.

Rice Counseling Center (RCC): Located within the Gibbs Wellness Center (directly adjacent to the Gibbs Recreation Center), the RCC offers free, confidential support with their diverse clinical team, and are also available by phone 24/7.

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Rice Memorial Center (RMC): Rice's student center, where you can find the campus bookstore, Chaüs, Willy's Pub, the Grand Hall, Student Success Initiatives, the Office of Academic Advising, and many other great resources. Many campus events are run here!

Rice Program Council (RPC): The student-run organization in charge of all university-wide social events, such as our formal dances (Esperanza in the fall, Rondelet in the spring), and Beer Bike. Look out for when they offer free tickets to events like the rodeo, the opera, and musicals that are rolling through Houston!

Rice Student Organization (RSA): The campus-wide body representing students. The RSA deals with campus-wide issues and administrative business. They normally have meetings every Monday night that each college's President and Senator attend, but meetings are open for all students to attend!

Rice University Emergency Medical Services (REMS): A program of Rice undergraduate students who are trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and respond to any emergencies on campus. Their phone number is the same as RUPD and is printed on your student ID; but it's best to also save it on your phone!

Rice University Police Department (RUPD): monitors activity on Rice campus. If you're ever in an emergency and are on-campus, you can call them for help! They offer a variety of services, such as registering your valuables, escorting you across campus at night, and helping you handle a variety of safety concerns.

Rice Village: A commercial area just to the west of campus. Rice Village is home to late night spots like Tiger Noodle House, plus a plethora of restaurants, small businesses, and clothing stores and cafés.

Rice Women's Resource Center (RWRC): Aims to increase awareness and education about sensitivity to gender issues within the Rice community. They have a small student-run office across from Chaüs and offer free feminine and sexual health products.

Rustication: A harsh penalty in which a student isn't allowed on campus except for classes and exams. A very serious consequence.

Student ID number: Your student number is like your SSN, but for Rice. It's an 8-digit number (i.e. S01234567) and you should memorize it, as a lot of documents will ask you for it.

Rice Spe

SAFE Office: The SAFE Office focuses on interpersonal misconduct prevention and support. They offer care management and navigation for any cases of interpersonal violence. STRIVE liaisons are confidential peer ambassadors for the SAFE Office.

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

Sammy [The Owl]: Rice's official mascot, Sammy the Owl, is a cute blue and grey owl who can often be seen at sporting events or posing for photos.

Sammy's: Located in the RMC, it's a multi-purpose area that is regularly used as a study space or dining area for food stations located there, or repurposed as an event space.

Screw-Yer-Roommate: A Rice tradition, held in the fall semester, where roommates set up blind dates for each other. Some are hits, and the others are just funny stories!

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 and shares with Duncan).

Shepherd: The Shepherd School of Music, which is Rice's School of Music. Also one of the nation's top conservatories. They hold free performances of some kind almost every day!

Skyspace: James Turrell's Twilight Epiphany (2012): a public art installation structure next to Shepherd School of Music that plays a light sequence during sunrise and sunset. Great for picnics and stargazing!

South Colleges: Residential colleges located on the south side of campus: Baker, Will Rice, Hanszen, Wiess, Lovett, Sid Richardson, and Chao. They are served by South and Seibel Serveries, and Baker College Kitchen.

Sylly Week: Short for "Syllabus Week", the first week of each semester when professors spend most of the class going over the syllabus and learning your names. McMurtry hosts many fun events during Sylly Week before classes get intensive for the later parts of the semester.

Teaching Assistant (TA): Depending on the class may grade your work, hold homework or exam review sessions, or meet with you to help with studying. In many disciplines, they are graduate students, but a good number of undergraduate students are also hired.

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Tetra: Digital money, given through your meal plan, that can be accessed through ID cards. Tetra can be used to purchase food at on-campus venues like Chaüs, Dandelion Café, Local Foods, and the campus bookstore. All students with a standard on-campus meal plan get \$100 in Tetra each semester!

The MOB: The Marching Owl Band, who puts on entertaining football halftime shows filled with amusing skits, jibes at opposing teams, and zany antics. Anyone can try out, even if you've never played a musical instrument before!

The Rec: The Barbara and David Gibbs Recreation Center, which contains an open weight room, outdoor pool, squash courts, and more. It is also adjacent to the Rice Wellbeing Center & Title IX Office, which serves students facing a wide range of concerns with mental and social well-being. Every Rice student has access to these resources included in their tuition!

Thresher: Rice's award-winning student-run newspaper that releases a new edition (in print and online!) every Wednesday. It has sections on News, Opinions, Features, Arts & Entertainment, Sports, and even a crossword! Not to mention the infamous satirical Backpage...

Touse: Short for "top house," which is exactly what McMurtry is considered among the residential colleges!

Tudor: Tudor Fieldhouse is a multipurpose arena located in the southwest of campus which holds Rice's basketball and volleyball courts. Also home to academic advising for athletics, some Sports Management classes, large events during O-Week, and banners celebrating Rice's Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winners.



The Other



Baker College - Bakerites

Baker College, one of Rice's four founding residential colleges, was established in 1957. Named after Captain James A. Baker, the attorney who helped solve William Marsh Rice's murder case, Baker is one of the oldest buildings on campus. It is known for its unique commons, often compared to the Great Hall from Harry Potter, and for being the only college with its own servery.

Traditions: Baker 13, Baker Christmas, BakerShake

Will Rice College - Will Ricers

Will Rice College, one of Rice's four founding residential colleges, was established in 1957 and named after William Marsh Rice Jr., the nephew of Rice University's founder. Will Rice is especially famous for Beer Bike, where they have swept all three races five times.

Traditions: Whale day, Will Rice Will Sweep, KitQ



Hanszen College - Hanszenites

Hanszen College, one of Rice's four founding residential colleges, was established in 1957. Located on the south side of campus, Hanszen is one of Rice's older college buildings and has played a big role in campus culture, founding both Chaus and KTRU. The college also has a long-running rivalry with its neighbor, Wiess.

Traditions: Crane Day, Hanszen Wedding, Wiess Wall

Wiess College - Wiessmen

(Wiess College, the last of Rice's four founding residential colleges, was established in 1957 and is located on the south side of campus. Known as one of Rice's "cultiest" colleges, Wiess has a strong, loyal community and a unique quad called the Acabowl. Their O-Week theme, TFW, short for Team Family Wiess, is a major part of their college identity each year.

Traditions: Ubangee, Summit, Do.me



Jones College - Jonesians

Jones College, established in 1957, was Rice's first "all-women's" residential college and the first college on the north side of campus. Known for its strong floor culture and competitive spirit, Jones lives by the saying "Jones Wins Again," because even when they lose, they still find a way to win.

Traditions: Floor Olympics, Night Ride, Victory Party

Colleges

Brown College - Brownies

Brown College, established in 1965, was the second “all-woman’s” college. They are known for being the sweetest college.

Traditions: Snow Ball, Casino Night, Birthdays in the Fairy Fountain



Lovett College - Lovetteers

Lovett College, established in 1968, named after Rice University’s first President, Edgar Odell Lovett. And was most known for its unique building style meant to be riot proof. Commonly referred to as the “toaster.” Lovetteers now reside in New Lovett, next to Chao!

Traditions: Mud Fights during Beer Bike, E.O.L. Day, Casino Night

Sid Richardson College - Sidizens

Sid Richardson College, established in 1971, is the tallest college giving them their motto of “Sid Rich Rules Death From Above (SRR DFA)” which is very fitting of their traditions.

Traditions: RadioFreeSid, Squid Day, Orc Raid



Martel College - Martelians

Martel College, established in 2002, has many Greek traditions. And although they have a unique building layout, they will always just be a parking lot.

Traditions: Greek Week, Oktoberfest, Morning Party

Duncan College - Duncaroos

Duncan College, established in 2009, is Murt’s lesser twin. Murt and Duncan were built at the same time, and the builders liked Murt so much they wanted to recreate it to spread more #murtlove

Traditions: DuncTank, Thirsty Thursdays, Woods-TOKC



Chao College - Chaosens

Chao College, established in 2026, is the newest residential college at Rice! Chao is McMurtrys new sister college and there is a large presence of Murts in Chao’s student body!

Traditions: TBD by AMAZING Chaosens!

On Campus Resources

Rice Police (RUPD) | 713-348-6000 (24/7)

Rice Emergency Medical Service (REMS) | 713-348-6000 (24/7)

Rice Housing and Dining | 713-348-5445

Rice Counseling Center | wellbeing.rice.edu | 713-348-3311 (24/7)

Rice Wellbeing Center | wellbeing.rice.edu | wellbeing@rice.edu | 713-348-3311

Student Health | health.rice.edu | (713) 348-4966

Disability Resource Center | drc.rice.edu | adarice@rice.edu | 713-348-5841

Women's Resource Center | women.rice.edu

Queer Resource Center | pride.rice.edu

Rice Health Advisors | rha.rice.edu | mcmurtry.rice.edu/people/RHAs

Office of the Registrar | registrar.rice.edu | registrar@rice.edu | 713-348-4999

Office of Financial Aid | financialaid.rice.edu | fina@rice.edu | 713-348-4958

Office of Equal Opportunity Services | eos.rice.edu | eos@rice.edu

Student Success Initiatives | success.rice.edu | success@rice.edu | 713-348-2924

Office of International Students and Scholars | oiss.rice.edu

Office of Academic Advising | oaa.rice.edu | aadv@rice.edu | 713-348-4060

Center for Career Development | ccd.rice.edu | ccd@rice.edu | 713-348-4055

Multicultural Center | mcc.rice.edu | mino@rice.edu | 713-348-5124

Center for Civic Leadership | ccl.rice.edu | ccl@rice.edu | 713-348-2223

Fondren Library | library.rice.edu | 713-348-5698

Student Judicial Programs | sjp.rice.edu | sjp@rice.edu | 713-348-4786

Rice Student Association | sa.rice.edu



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! Below, you can find more information on some nearby Houston spots.

Texas Medical Center

Right across the street from Rice's campus, the TMC is the world's largest medical complex. 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.

Museum District

About a 20-minute walk and a short METRO ride from Rice, 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 Houston (MFAH). The Museum District is a popular destination for a simple and fun weekend excursion!

Rice Village

Located immediately west of campus, Rice Village is a 16-block cluster of boutiques and chain stores, bars, coffee shops, and a variety of restaurants. Students frequently walk (about 30 minutes from McMurtry) or drive off campus to grab food, boba, drinks, etc.

Hermann Park

One of Houston's oldest public spaces, Hermann Park is across the street from the north end of campus and consists of over 450 acres to host any outdoor activity you can imagine, including picnics, scenic runs, and sports!

Japanese Gardens

With its waterfalls, bridges, and stone paths that wander among azaleas, Japanese maples, and cherry trees, the Japanese Garden is a peaceful hideaway in Hermann Park. The garden was designed by world-renowned landscape architect Ken Nakajima.

Houston Zoo

The Houston Zoo is a 55-acre park that houses over 6,000 animals from more than 600 species. It receives 2.1 million visitors each year and is the second most-visited zoo in the US. Admission is free with your Rice Student ID!

McGovern Centennial Gardens

The northwest corner of Hermann Park is home to the 8-acre McGovern Centennial Gardens, which offer visitors the opportunity to explore a variety of themed garden rooms situated along a spacious central lawn, the Centennial Green! It is also home to more than 490 new trees.



Transportation

There are lots of ways for students to stay mobile around campus and the Houston metropolitan area. The university provides a shuttle service that connects to a variety of locations in and around Rice's campus.

This includes the following:

- Inner Loop
- Greater Loop
- Rice Village Apartments and Greenbriar Apartments
- Graduate Apartments
- Bioscience Research Collaborative (BRC) and Texas Medical Center (TMC)
- BRC Express
- Rice Village (Friday and Saturday nights)
- The ION District
- Target (Saturday 10 am to 3 pm)

In addition to the shuttle service, Rice also provides a Night Escort service from 10 pm to 6 am Sunday through Thursday, and 10 pm to 3 pm Friday and Saturday nights. This 17-passenger van provides a safer option for mobility around campus during evening hours.

MetroRail:

The MetroRail system is Houston's light-rail network and all Rice Students receive a free MetroRail card. Light-rail stations are clearly visible on raised platforms. The light-rail runs to some popular destinations, including NRG stadium, Downtown, the Theatre District, and more. The Red Line, Green Line, and Purple Line schedules may be found online or through the RideMETRO app.

Safety

Rice may utilize a variety of communication methods, including: text messaging to mobile phones, e-mail, voice mail, web pages, emergency hotlines, announcements via Rice's public address system, meetings in affected buildings, and announcements in the news media. In the case of a severe weather emergency, an episode of campus violence, or another sudden emergency, Rice University will use an automated system to notify students, faculty, and staff of the nature of the emergency and of any steps the recipient should take to safeguard his or her personal welfare.

Rice University Police Department (RUPD)

Emergency phones marked with a blue light have been placed in strategic locations around campus in elevators and at outside locations. All of these phones will connect you directly with RUPD. To make an emergency call, pick up the receiver or push the button and wait for the dispatcher to answer. Give the dispatcher your name and the nature of your problem. These phones can be used to contact the police department to report suspicious activity, persons, or a crime in progress, to ask for an escort, or to inquire about any other police business.

Rice Emergency Medical Services (REMS)

REMS is the premier EMS operations unit that provides daily care to the Rice community, and, at times, the greater Texas Medical Center. REMS has been crucial in keeping Rice and the surrounding area safe during major events and incidents. Staffing presidential visits, providing campus coverage during Hurricanes Ike and Harvey, working to help Katrina evacuees at the Astrodome, providing care for patients during the 2021 winter storm, and helping to keep campus safe and distributing vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic are just some of the contributions REMS has made. REMS offers 50-75 hours of training annually, and close to 2000 hours of training are earned by REMS members each year.

Final Thoughts

Hello again, fellow resident of Thneedville and, of course, McMurtry! Just as we are, you should be thrilled that you will get to be a part of the best residential college community!

We hope this book helped grow your understanding of the experience of McMurtry and at Rice; we have a huge “thank you” to share to our Advisors, Co-Advisors, Affiliates, and our McTeam for their contributions to helping us make it so nice!

Our amazing Let It GrO-Week team also deserves praise for their efforts for making possible such a remarkable week. Before we send you off, we have one last little seed of advice:

Your time at Rice will have turns and bends,
New kinds of classes and new kinds of friends.
Like a Truffula seed tucked into the ground,
Growth takes time, but roots will be found.

When things feel confusing, busy, or new,
McMurtry will be right here with you.
We'll bring the sunlight, the care, and the seed,
To help you branch out in the ways you need.

So come as you are, with questions and all.
No tree starts out instantly tall.
Be honest, be open, let yourself grow,
And trust that this forest has room wherever you go.

Welcome to MURRRRRRRRRRT!

Ava, Chad, and Collin

2026 Let-It-GrO-Week McCoordinators



It's not about what it is,
It's about what it can *become*.

-Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*

