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**A WINNING FLOAT:** Rice students, staff members and friends helped to build a float that won the Best Newcomer award at an MLK parade in Houston.

## Parade Day

In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 80th birthday and the inauguration of the country's first African-American president, Rice University participated in two MLK parades and won the Best Newcomer float award.

Taking part in the parades were members of Rice's Office of University Relations, the Office of Multicultural Community Relations and the Black Student Association.

The float featured the Web address [www.rice.edu/mlk](http://www.rice.edu/mlk), which links to a page promoting Rice's MLK Day of Service outreach projects, a campus vigil in honor of King and information about Rice's diversity and commitment to equal employment opportunity. Future plans call for elementary and middle school curriculum modules about King and the civil rights movement to be added to this Web page and be nationally distributed at no charge by Rice's Connexions project.

The significance of the day and of King's legacy was not

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## A Day of Service

Armed with hammers, rulers and community spirit, a group of five Rice people honored Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday by volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that builds affordable housing for the less fortunate.

Volunteers included Barry Ribbeck, systems director for information technology; Pamela Trotman, assistant to the associate dean of the Brown School of Engineering; Rice alum N. Alexander Ligon '03; and David Medina, director of Multicultural Community Relations, and his wife, Blanca Medina.

The Rice group, along with two other organizations, spent the MLK holiday putting up vinyl siding, shingles and hurricane clips and shared in the camaraderie and goodwill that often comes in helping others. "I enjoyed working with Habitat because the program is about giving people a hand up and not a

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**PAGE 2:** Rice students participate in fall Outreach Day.

## Rice Students Reach Out

The fall Outreach Day at Rice University produced a cadre of 135 Rice undergraduate students who volunteered at 11 service organizations in Houston and completed almost 350 hours of work.

Students participated in a variety of activities, such as playing with animals at the Houston Humane Society and doing laundry for and serving meals to homeless men and women at Cathedral Health and Outreach Ministries.

Outreach Day is a biannual event that is organized by the Rice Student Volunteer Program (RSVP), a student-run organization. Part of RSVP's mission is to heighten student awareness, increase community involvement and raise social consciousness through direct, thoughtful action. Outreach Day also brings students together to perform services and educate students about different social issues in Houston.

Courtney Ng '11, who served as site leader for the group that volunteered at Small Steps Nurturing Center and has participated in and coordinated past Outreach Days, believes that it is a unique and rewarding experience for students. "We put away our books and wake up at an insanely early hour on a Saturday morning, foregoing study time and sleep, simply because we care," Ng said. "After we go out to various sites to volunteer, there is a general sense that this is one day we can honestly say we have not wasted."

Lilla Pivnick '11, along with three other students, volunteered at the Houston Interfaith Worker Justice Center, where they learned about workers' rights and went into the streets of Houston to educate day laborers about those rights.

"Many people do not know the hardships day laborers and other workers in Houston

**"WE PUT AWAY OUR BOOKS AND WAKE UP AT AN INSANELY EARLY HOUR ON A SATURDAY MORNING, FOREGOING STUDY TIME AND SLEEP, SIMPLY BECAUSE WE CARE."**

—COURTNEY NG



**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Rice students volunteered at 11 service organizations, including the Health Museum, as part of Outreach Day.

face from employers, and it was a very interesting experience to become familiar with the kinds of problems that affect workers in the city," said Pivnick.

The experience left Pivnick wanting to learn more about workers' rights, and as a consequence, she plans to do more volunteer work with the organization. "Although we had a successful day volunteering, we only saw a few of the problems day laborers face," she said.

"I hope that we can return and continue to volunteer with this organization to get a better understanding of how we can prevent

employer injustice toward workers and how we can educate workers about their rights."

For more information about upcoming Outreach Days or other RSVP service activities, please visit RSVP's Web site at [www.rice.edu/rsvp](http://www.rice.edu/rsvp) or send e-mail to [rsvp@rice.edu](mailto:rsvp@rice.edu). ■

—KATHY ZHANG

Rice Senior and RSVP Chair

## Rice Science Project Helps Galveston Schools

Thanks to Rice University's School Science and Technology (RSST) program, several Galveston schools damaged by Hurricane Ike received much needed science materials to get them back in the classroom and on the road to recovery.

Following Ike, much of the island was devastated, including many Galveston schools. In addition to requiring structural repairs, schools were in desperate need of teaching materials and textbooks. RSST, a professional development program in Rice's Center for Education that routinely works with elementary school teachers, recognized the need and donated \$25,000 worth of textbooks and science-related material to Galveston teachers and students.

"Galveston ISD had been in crisis mode since September, but Rice University stepped in and gave us hope by providing the means for all our teachers to enrich the



**LEAVING IKE BEHIND:** (L-R) Divya Nagpal and Dee Shelton, Galveston ISD teachers, and Annette Scott, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, receive donated science materials from Lisa Webber, associate director of the Rice University School Science and Technology program.

teachers were displaced from their homes and their campuses, yet they continued to attend the trainings," he said. "This is a terrific example of teacher dedication."

**"GALVESTON ISD HAD BEEN IN CRISIS MODE SINCE SEPTEMBER, BUT RICE UNIVERSITY STEPPED IN AND GAVE US HOPE BY PROVIDING THE MEANS FOR ALL OUR TEACHERS TO ENRICH THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS THROUGH SCIENCE."**

**—DEE SHELTON**

lives of our students through science," said Dee Shelton, Galveston ISD elementary science specialist.

RSST's mission is to improve elementary science instruction in Greater Houston-area public schools. Every year, approximately 80 elementary science teachers spend a full day each week in the ConocoPhillips Rice (CPR) Elementary Model Science Lab located at Treasure Forest Elementary in Spring Branch ISD. These teachers receive professional development in science content, teaching strategies and leadership.

RSST Executive Director Wallace Dominey said he was inspired by the dedication to teaching shown by Houston- and Galveston-area teachers in the face of difficult circumstances. "Some of the lab

Despite the challenges created by Hurricane Ike, the CPR Lab continues its mission of improving elementary science instruction in the Greater Houston area. Teachers leave the lab experience with a better understanding of science concepts and the tools and materials needed to excite elementary students about science. For some teachers, learning how to teach science by using an inquiry approach is a life-changing experience.

**—LISA WEBBER**

Associate Director  
School Science and Technology Program  
Center for Education

## Rice Students Inspire Houston's Inner-City Students

Students from inner-city high schools are learning that an engineering degree can be their ticket to the moon, thanks to Rice University's Designing with Rice Engineers Achievement Through Mentorship (DREAM) program.

DREAM, conceived in 2006, is in its second year of promoting science, technology, engineering and math careers to local Houston students. Founded by Rice students Tony Castilleja '09 and Daniela Rimer '09 and Brent Houchens, assistant professor of mechanical engineering and materials science at Rice, the program aims to help students from inner-city schools get admitted to universities and assist them in becoming professionals across the disciplines of engineering.

As part of the project, undergraduate students hold design sessions at three high schools from two to five times a week for up to seven weeks, which allows students to get to know their Rice mentors. In addition to helping the students develop a design project, the mentors talk about college opportunities and careers in engineering in Houston and around the nation.

"The high school students have a great time building and learning about physics and engineering principles with college students," Houchens said. "For many, this is their first interaction with someone from college, so learning from Rice mentors is inspiring for them."

This year, Rice mentors worked with students from Chavez and Austin High Schools and KIPP Academy. The students then visited Rice for DREAM Day in March to rebuild their projects and compete for prizes. They also toured the university, received information on applying to Rice and had lunch with their mentors.

"After weeks of getting to know the students, it's always exciting to see the looks on their faces when they walk through the Sallyport to see where we do our coursework and live," said Rimer. ■

**—TONY CASTILLEJA**

Rice Senior

## Math: It's Fun and Exciting

The Rice University School Mathematics Project and Houston ISD scored a touchdown with the creation of “Math-A-Letics,” a television show that uses sports, puppets and coaches to make mathematics fun to learn.

The show is the joint effort of Carolyn L. White, RUSMP’s associate director of elementary and intermediate programs, and Lance Menster, HISD’s manager of elementary mathematics.

Known to fans as “Coach Carolyn” and “Coach Lance,” the two appear in the show alongside a couple of popular puppets, Arithmeticia and Zero the Hero. Episodes produced thus far have addressed addition, multiplication, division, fractions, place value, problem solving, family math, number sense, measurement and geometry.

Each episode consists of three main components. The first component introduces mathematical concepts by using concrete objects, such as counting materials or base 10 blocks, two-color counters, Cuisenaire rods, number cubes, coins, geoboards or geometric shapes.

The second component helps students understand mathematical symbols, such as signs for



greater than or less than. The show concludes with a real-world problem

that can be solved by applying the concept developed in the show. Coach Carolyn and Coach Lance keep viewers engaged by exclaiming, “That’s a touchdown,” and exchanging a high five after each success.

Zero the Hero and Arithmeticia add a kid-friendly flair to the show. Zero the Hero loves problems that have the digit zero. Arithmeticia loves to do think-a-louds and analyze problems offered by the two coaches. Tracy Weeden, assistant superintendent for cur-



**SCORING A TOUCHDOWN:** “Coach Lance,” Arithmeticia, Zero the Hero and “Coach Carolyn” make math fun for children in the Houston community.

riculum, instruction and assessment at HISD, plays the role of Arithmeticia.

Although the show is aimed at students in kindergarten through sixth grade, feedback has indicated that the audience is more far-reaching. Positive comments from students at higher grade levels and from adult

mathematics adventures that support classroom instruction,” Anne Papakonstantinou, director of RUSMP, said.

Produced by the Houston ISD Instructional Media Television Department, the show airs daily on the HISD cable television channel and may be viewed

**“MATH-A-LETICS’ BUILDS ON THE LONG-STANDING COLLABORATION BETWEEN RUSMP AND HISD TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN UNIQUE MATHEMATICS ADVENTURES THAT SUPPORT CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION.”**

—ANNE PAPA-KONSTANTINO

“THAT’S  
A TOUCH-  
DOWN!”

viewers illustrate the benefit the program is providing to the community.

“Math-A-Letics’ builds on the long-standing collaboration between RUSMP and HISD to engage the community in unique

on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 p.m. and on Thursdays at 7 p.m. on Comcast Channel 18, Phonoscope Channel 76, TV Max Channel 96 or Celbridge Channel 18. ■

—CAROLYN L. WHITE

Associate Director  
Elementary and Intermediate Programs  
Rice University School Mathematics Project

## Rice Creates New Model for Principal Preparation

The Rice Education Entrepreneurship Program (REEP) has created the nation's first program that uses a leading business school — the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management — to prepare educators to become principals.

By combining business management with an innovative educational entrepreneurship curriculum, the new program hopes to produce principals who can use a business-type approach in managing schools.

“We want to create outstanding school leaders who are able to lead curriculum and instruction but also manage the day-to-day operations of the school,” said Kenya White, assistant director of REEP.

The goal is to educate current and aspiring leaders of underserved schools by equipping them with knowledge, skills and resources to run schools that close achievement gaps and propel more underserved students to complete postsecondary education.

REEP offers three pathways to school leadership: an MBA for aspiring principals, an Aspiring Leaders Pathway for aspiring principals with a master's degree who are seeking a strong foundation in management and the Advanced Leaders Pathway for sitting principals who seek a strong foundation in management.

Coursework began in fall 2008 for eight students in the MBA Pathway. REEP participants go through much of the same training as many future CEOs. The experience poises them to become some of the top leaders of schools nationwide.

The MBA pathway offers classes on select evenings and weekends over the course of 22 months, so that program participants can continue their full-time jobs during the day. Students will begin their education entrepreneurship coursework during the summer between the first and second year of the program.

At the conclusion of the two-year program, REEP graduates will have earned the Rice MBA and principal certification and will be ready to take on leadership roles in a Houston-area school. If the graduates serve as principals for five years in a Title-I school, a school in which 50 percent or more of the students receive free or reduced lunch, they will receive 100 percent tuition reimbursement.

The Aspiring Leaders Pathway started in the spring with nine students and will continue through the summer. Students

**“I CHOSE THE RICE PROGRAM BECAUSE I WANTED SOMETHING THAT WOULD CHALLENGE ME TO TAKE A NEW APPROACH TO LEADERSHIP.”**

—MICHAEL HARRISON

who complete the program will earn executive management certificates and principal certification. Five participants in the Advanced Leaders Pathway, who started this spring, will also complete the executive management certificate this summer.

REEP has partnered with Teach For America (TFA) to help build a pipeline of school leaders in Houston. The partnership with TFA enables REEP to reach a select group of highly motivated, entrepreneurial professionals who have already achieved success teaching in urban public schools.

Michael Harrison is a former lead teacher at Houston's Hogg Middle School and a TFA alum. The magnet coordinator at Burbank Middle School and a member of the inaugural class of REEP, Harrison aspires to be a principal in a secondary school in Houston.

“I chose the Rice program because I wanted something that would challenge me to take a new approach to leadership,” Harrison said. “I'm looking forward to developing new ways of thinking and gaining different perspectives during my time at Rice.”

REEP seeks experienced educators from local school districts and charter schools who are interested in pursuing school leadership. REEP will be hosting information sessions and invites aspiring school leaders to attend. For more information, visit <http://reep.rice.edu> or send e-mail to Kenya White at [kenya.white@rice.edu](mailto:kenya.white@rice.edu). ■



**THE PATHWAY TO LEADERSHIP:** Educators in the REEP program take courses at the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management as they prepare to become school leaders.

## Reaching Out With Robotics

Rice University graduate student Andrew Lynch uses his knowledge of robotics to help students at Houston's Lamar High School develop an interest and talent in science and engineering.

Lynch, who is majoring in mechanical engineering, generated so much interest among the students that the high school formed a robotics club. In its inaugural challenge last summer, a Lamar team built a robot over a six-week span and entered it in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. The Lamar team made it to the semifinal round of competition and won a Judge's Award.

This year, two teams from the high school tried their hands at building robots for a new competition with mentors Lynch and Allen Gregory '09, a Rice senior majoring in computer science. One team qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championships to be held this summer in Dallas. The competition is attracting more than 1,000 teams from middle schools and high schools from across the globe, including teams from Asia, South America and Europe.

Faculty and administrators at Lamar, a diverse HISD school, appreciate Lynch's work with the teams. "The students really showed enthusiasm working with Andrew and some of his fellow Rice students," said Josephine Managuit, a physics teacher at Lamar.

Lamar senior Keila Fong, a robotics club officer, said the robotics club has



**"WORKING WITH ANDREW HAS REALLY INSPIRED ALL OF US. HE IS SO KNOWLEDGEABLE AND REALLY ALLOWS US TO GET OUR HANDS DIRTY IN THE PROJECT, AND IT HAS GIVEN US THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE CAN SUCCEED."**

—KEILA FONG

Professor of Computer Science and a professor of bioengineering at Rice, serves as the club's adviser. Lynch, who studies in Rice's Robotics and Intelligent Systems Laboratory in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science, hopes that club participants will become involved with other local high schools in the future.

"We are very proud of this effort to reach out to the community and Lamar," said Sallie Keller-McNulty, the William and Stephanie Sick Dean of the George R. Brown School of Engineering. "This kind of effort really represents the school and Rice in the best possible way."

Giving back to the local community, Lynch said, is his way of thanking all the people in the engineering profession, including his parents, both engineers, who helped him develop his interest in building and making things work.

"I want to generate the same enthusiasm in high school kids that I was fortunate to have found."

To learn more about the Lamar Robotics Club, visit <http://lamar.discobots.org/>.

—DWIGHT DANIELS

Science Writer  
School of Engineering Office of  
Communications

**ROBOTS RULE:** Lamar High School students prepare their robots for the robotics world championship that takes place this summer.

been exciting and educational. "Working with Andrew has really inspired all of us. He is so knowledgeable and really allows us to get our hands dirty in the project, and it has given us the confidence that we can succeed."

Lynch has also helped form a robotics club at Rice. Lydia Kavradi, Noah Harding



## MLK Parade *Continued from Page 1*

lost on the parade's participants. "Martin Luther King is one of the most influential civil rights leaders America has had," said Tia Scott '12, a Rice freshman and a graduate of Houston's Cypress Ridge High School, who helped build the float. "He has helped America in so many ways. We should celebrate all that he has done because it's evident everywhere."

Rice senior and president of the Black Student Association, Chuck Franklin '09, said, "My favorite memories are of the joy and

excitement I saw on the kids' faces and talking to them after the parade about college, particularly Rice. Many of Houston's youth don't know about Rice, so it was good to inform them that they, too, have the opportunity to experience and attend such a fine university."

Individuals interested in developing the educational resources of the [www.rice.edu/mlk](http://www.rice.edu/mlk) Web site are invited to contact the Office of Public Affairs at 713-348-6285. ■

—JESSICA S. McDUNN

Assistant Director  
University Relations

## Habitat *Continued from Page 1*

hand out," said Ribbeck. "Dr. King's dream is one in which we all work together for the common good, and Habitat is a great way to help keep the dream alive."

"The positive energy of volunteering is infectious, and it is always nice meeting fresh faces who like to participate in such positive activities, especially in these challenging times," said Ligon.

Trotman, a first-time Habitat for Humanity volunteer, found the experience to be rewarding and moving. "Watching everyone pitch in and focus on the accuracy of completing the project in a timely manner was very touching,"

she said. "Representing Rice and responding to the national request for service on MLK day gave me a feeling of fulfillment."

Habitat for Humanity was started in 1987 as a nonprofit Christian housing ministry. Its goal is to eliminate substandard housing by helping low-income families buy simple, decent homes. The homeowners must contribute 300 hours of "sweat equity" to building their own house and the houses of others. The houses are sold at cost and Habitat does not make a profit.

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., Habitat invites people to volunteer during the

holiday as a way to bring people of all colors and ages together to build a stronger community and achieve the dream of the civil rights activist.

The volunteers worked on a house located in northwest Houston, in Settegast, an area that



**PITCHING IN:** Rice staff member Pamela Trotman works for the common good as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

has been economically depressed for years. The four-bedroom house will belong to a 30-year-old single mother of four, Elizabeth Razo. Razo, who earns \$25,000 year as a machinist, was forever grateful for the 30 volunteers who contributed to the construction of her house.

"This is magnificent. Habitat is helping me achieve my American dream of owning a home. My kids now will have their own space," Razo said. ■

—DAVID D. MEDINA

Director  
Multicultural Community Relations

## Rice Vigil Celebrates Civil Rights Leader

As dusk fell on Jan. 19, Rice students, faculty, alumni and members of the Houston community gathered in Rice Memorial Center's courtyard to celebrate the annual Martin Luther King Jr. vigil and service sponsored by the Black Student Association.

Gene Locke, a partner with Andrews Kurth LLP, served as keynote speaker. Locke spoke of his meeting with King in Houston.

"I remember being surprised that he was shorter in stature than I had imagined," said Locke. "I also remember the power I saw as I looked in his eyes." Locke recalled how King influenced his leadership style, and he encouraged Rice students to develop competency, character and compassion as they embrace positions of leadership after graduation.



**HONORING MLK:** Members of the Rice and Houston community joined together to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Another speaker, Rice's Associate Provost Roland Smith, reflected on attending the March on Washington as a child and hearing King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Smith said that King's influence on his life has been pivotal.

The MLK celebration at Rice is more than 20 years old. The event is held on the official holiday, which commemorates King's birth and accomplishments. This event concluded a day of participation in parades and community service projects by members of the Rice community. ■

—JAN WEST

Assistant Director  
Multicultural Community Relations



# AT LARGE



**INSIDE THIS EDITION:** Volunteers from the Rice community join Habitat for Humanity in honoring Martin Luther King Jr. through a day of service. See front-page story.

**David D. Medina**, Director, Multicultural Community Relations, Office of Public Affairs



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