

RICE at large

From the Office of Multicultural Community Relations and the Office of the Associate Provost at Rice University

ISSUE 5 • FALL 2007

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



O-Week Outreach Day participant Lindsay Kirton, freshman, cultivates the garden at Small Steps Nurturing Center.

As part of orientation week at Rice University, better known as O-Week, hundreds of new Rice students volunteered at 19 different sites in Houston and contributed 1,330 hours of man power, addressing the needs of nonprofit agencies and their clients.

O-Week Outreach Day, sponsored by the Community Involvement Center, took place in August with nearly half of the incoming class showing up ready to work. Some activities included removing invasive plant species at the Houston Arboretum, sorting food at the Houston Food Bank and preparing a meal at the Star of Hope Shelter.

Junior Meg Goswami, an Outreach Day site leader from Baker College, volunteered with 20 other students at Small Steps Nurtur-



Rice students participated in a variety of community service activities as part of O-Week Outreach Day. Here, three students spread mulch on the playground at Small Steps Nurturing Center.

NEW PROGRAM SEEKS TO ENHANCE RICE'S ENGAGEMENT WITH HOUSTON

Rice University recently announced the creation of Houston Enriches Rice Education (HERE), a program designed to advance the university's engagement with Houston.

HERE will enhance faculty research as well as undergraduate and graduate education by exposing participants to research materials and community leaders from the Greater Houston area. HERE also will help expand the community's interaction with Rice.

"Houston is a city rich with resources and opportunities for exploring local social history and political change," said Anthony Pinn, the program's creator and the Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and professor of religious studies at Rice. "Thanks to HERE, Rice and the Greater Houston community will share this information from both sides of the table."

HERE includes three key components: a presentation by a distinguished lecturer each semester, the creation of an archive and a local speaker series. Each will offer a fresh perspective for viewing the diverse social and political history of Houston.

The distinguished lecturer component begins in early 2008 and will provide Rice faculty and students the opportunity to learn about the achievements of Houston residents from diverse segments of the community. "We will be looking for speakers who can provide information from community-based perspectives," Pinn said. Selected lecturers will include community leaders who can provide rich oral histories from the Civil Rights movement to the present.

The next component is an archive collection, which will be created by program participants and housed on the Rice campus. It will include research materials for graduate and

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RICE GALLERY INVITES VISITORS INSIDE THE ART

Visitors entering the Rice Gallery find themselves inside a giant curio cabinet. Large structures hang from the ceiling, each resembling gigantic droplets or the onion domes of Russian architecture. All are embellished with a profusion of swags, chains, honeycomb “beads” and gem-like crystals.

The “Dans la Lune” exhibition is one of five art installations shown at the Rice Gallery each year. For each show, an artist is invited to create a single work of art that transforms the gallery space. When visitors walk into Rice Gallery, they enter the art and move through it.

Brooklyn artist Kirsten Hassenfeld spent thousands of hours hand cutting, folding, gluing, rolling and coiling paper to create the



The “Dans la Lune” exhibition currently on display at the Rice Gallery features ethereal paper sculptures that invite viewers into a world of beautiful excess.



fragile components of “Dans la Lune.” She learned to make honeycomb forms by taking apart and studying party decorations, then created her own more complex variations.

The ethereal sculptures of the exhibition combine to create a world of decorative excess that explores Hassenfeld’s fantasies of abundance and plenty. As she puts it, “Some people look at celebrity homes in magazines as a means of escape. This is my form of escapism that I am willing to share.”

Visitors can step inside “Dans la Lune” now through Dec. 9. Admission and public talks are free and open to all. The Rice Gallery is located on the ground floor of Sewall Hall and is best reached by using campus Entrance

1 at the intersection of Main Street and Sunset Boulevard. Paid visitor parking is available in the Founder’s Court Lot. Payment is by credit card only.

Free parking with shuttle bus service to the gallery is available at Entrance 10 off of Greenbriar Drive. Rice Gallery also is accessible via the metro rail at the Hermann Park/Rice University Station.

For more information and gallery hours, call 713-348-6069 or visit www.ricegallery.org.

—Katherine Kuster
Outreach Coordinator
Rice Gallery

GIVING BACK • *Continued from Page 1*

ing Center. The group helped clean up the facility in preparation for the new school year.

“As I observed the freshmen working on their various projects, I noticed that they were eager, enthusiastic and glad to be doing what they were doing, even if it meant shoveling mulch and pulling weeds from an overgrown garden in 90-degree weather,” Goswami said.

O-Week is a special time for all students to learn about Rice and the Houston community, said sophomore Catherine Huang, a site leader from Hanszen College. “Outreach Day is an important event and, I might argue,

the best part of O-Week. From Sunday to Friday, freshmen connect with their classmates, build their college pride, and are completely immersed in the microcosm of Rice. On Saturday, they are part of something bigger. Outreach Day gently pushes Rice students outside the hedges and introduces them to the larger Houston community.”

Participating students are able to meet and work with people from the different residential colleges, and for many students, Outreach Day jump-starts their interest in volunteering in Houston. “It is the perfect end to a week that is all about freshmen.

Outreach Day takes the high of O-Week and grounds it in purposeful, meaningful service to the community,” Huang said.

For more information on O-Week Outreach Day or the fall and spring Outreach Days hosted by the Rice Student Volunteer Program, please visit the Community Involvement Center’s Web site at www.rice.edu/service or contact the Community Involvement Center at 713-348-4970.

—Christa Leimbach
Assistant Director
Community Involvement Center

A DREAM TEAM MENTORS STUDENTS ON THE EAST SIDE

When Sergio Borrego was a junior at Stephen F. Austin High School, he didn't know that he needed a fourth year of mathematics to prepare for a major in mechanical engineering.

But thanks to Designing with Rice Engineers — an Austin Mentorship (DREAM), Borrego has corrected that deficiency and is moving forward with his college applications. A high school senior, he currently is applying at Rice and other Texas universities.

"It wasn't that Sergio didn't like math. He just hadn't been told to take as much math as possible to prepare for college life in engineering," said Brent Houchens, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering and materials science at Rice.

Houchens, who has been mentoring

"The underlying goal," said Houchens, "is to mentor underrepresented students so that they are better prepared to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, but the mechanism is a design problem and team interaction."

For example, the Austin students formed teams and worked on the same challenge faced by Rice students at the engineering competition held during National Engineers Week.

The teams — one Rice student for every two from Austin High School — were challenged to create a device that slows the descent of a dropped Ping-Pong ball. The undergrads met with the high school students daily for one week and continued meeting



Rice sophomore Celestine Shih mentors an Austin High School student.

"THE UNDERLYING GOAL IS TO MENTOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS SO THAT THEY ARE BETTER PREPARED TO ENTER SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS FIELDS, BUT THE MECHANISM IS A DESIGN PROBLEM AND TEAM INTERACTION."

Borrego for a year, is one of the co-founders of DREAM. The other is senior Daniela Rimer, who also is president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers at Rice. The purpose of the program is to team Rice undergraduates with 25 high school students, mostly ninth-graders, from Austin High School on the east side of Houston.

with them once a week until the competition, which was held Nov. 10.

"The completion of a design project provides the Rice and Austin students a goal while providing a better funnel for mentoring students," Rimer explained.

Stephanie Rice, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering at Rice, said she wasn't

immediately convinced of the program's value. "I was a little skeptical at first, until I realized how great DREAM was compared to just helping with homework. The students are actually excited about what they're doing. And I had fun, too."

Borrego agrees. "It was pretty awesome, and the experience gives us a heads-up of what to expect in college."

—David D. Medina
Director
Multicultural Community Relations

LECTURES TO ADDRESS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MEXICO AND THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE KATRINA ON HOUSTON

Two lecture series, featuring a lineup of prominent scholars and experts, will focus on a pair of major public themes — the recent economic and cultural trends in Mexico and the consequences of Hurricane Katrina on Houston. The Humanities Research Center Public Humanities Initiative sponsored these series.

The fall series, "Mexicans Look at Mexico," is co-sponsored by Rice University's James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy's Latin American Initiative and is being held at the Kelly International Conference Facility in Baker Hall. The series presents prominent Mexican public figures addressing topics about fine arts, energy, development, immigration and security.

Miguel Székely, undersecretary of Higher Education in Mexico, presented the

first lecture on Nov. 5, discussing poverty and economic development, and Francisco Salazar, chairman of the Energy Regulatory Commission of Mexico, discussed energy policy on Nov. 16.

In addition, Jorge A. Bustamante, UN special rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, will address immigration, security and human rights on Nov. 29 at 6 p.m.

The second lecture series scheduled for Feb. 25–29, 2008, will include a variety of speakers, who will examine the complex transformations of life in Houston since the city took in thousands of New Orleans evacuees. These lectures will take place each evening in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center.

Invited speakers include Houston Mayor Bill White; Glenda Harris, a community

activist from New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward; Michael Eric Dyson, University Professor at Georgetown University and author of "Come Hell or High Water"; Douglas Brinkley, a noted professor of history at Rice and author of "The Great Deluge"; Rice sociologist Stephen L. Klineberg; and University of Houston folklorist Carl Lindahl. Each will address the many conflicts and changes taking place in Houston. Their different perspectives will contribute to a complex and still developing portrait of the city.

For more information on the Public Humanities Initiative, please visit publichumanities.org.

—Elitza Ranova
Graduate Student Assistant
Humanities Research Center

RICE TRACK STAR EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF HELPING OTHERS

Rice University senior Desarie Walwyn has the legs of a speedster and a heart of gold. When the Owls sprinter is not running track or studying, she is likely to be found doing community service.

“My dad has always stressed the importance of helping others,” Walwyn said. “When I was younger and wanted to hang out with my friends, sometimes he wouldn’t let me because he wanted me to spend that time volunteering instead.”

That early discipline has taken root, and Walwyn has spent countless hours assisting those less fortunate. “I have been feeding the homeless of Houston for as long as I can remember,” Walwyn said.

A mentor in the Families Under Urban and Social Attack organization and an organization coordinator for Homeless of Houston, Walwyn jumps at the chance to take part

in other opportunities, too.

“If more people would think about the needs of others, it would help make our world a better place,” Walwyn said. “We all get down about situations in life, but when we realize that there are others worse off than we are, it helps put everything in perspective. That in turn helps you give back to your community.”

Walwyn, who chose Rice

part in community service.

In addition to lending a hand, Walwyn also has taken time to work with youth. “One of the most inspiring opportunities for me came in January 2005,” Walwyn said. “I spoke to underprivileged girls at Isaacs Elementary School in the 5th Ward about the importance of going to college.”

After she completes her Rice degree, Walwyn wants to counsel youth for a year in Houston before heading to the West



Desarie Walwyn

“IF MORE PEOPLE WOULD THINK ABOUT THE NEEDS OF OTHERS, IT WOULD HELP MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE.”

because of its combination of academics and athletics, was active in service throughout her high school years. A member of the debate team, she also volunteered at the Houston Food Bank and at local nursing homes. She was

president of the National Honor Society at North Shore High School, which enabled her to encourage fellow students to take

Coast, where she plans to attend law school and focus on civil rights and discrimination law. Walwyn also plans to continue her motivational speaking career.

—Glen McMicken
Former Assistant Sports
Information Director
Athletics Department

LEADING AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE SCIENTIST SPEAKS AT THE JAMES A. BAKER III INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Shirley Ann Jackson, the first African-American woman to lead a national research university, discussed “From Uncertainty to Opportunity: Creating a Comprehensive Energy Road Map and the Human Capital to Make it Happen” on Nov. 13 at Rice University’s James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy.

Jackson, the 18th president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., and Hartford, Conn., the oldest technological research university in the United States, was born in Washington, D.C., in 1946 and graduated as valedictorian from Roosevelt High School. She was among the first group of students — and one of two African-American women — to be accepted at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1964.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in science in 1968, Jackson was offered many opportunities to continue her graduate studies elsewhere but decided to remain at MIT to help recruit more African-American students. While Jackson was at MIT, the number of African-American women attending

the university went from two to 57.

In 1973, Jackson earned her Ph.D. in elementary particle physics and became the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate from MIT.

Jackson’s distinguished career has included work at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, the European Organization for Nuclear Research and Bell Telephone Laboratories. In addition, she was a professor of physics at Rutgers University from 1991 to 1995.

President Bill Clinton appointed Jackson to chair the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, making her the first African-American and the first woman to hold this position. In addition, she became the first African-American female elected into the National Academy of Engineering in 2001.

Sponsored by the Baker Institute, the talk was part of the Civic Scientist Lecture Series, which is a forum for scientists to present their life’s work to the general public and promote science as a public good. Each lecture also emphasizes to current and fu-

ture scientists that their role extends beyond the lab and encourages them to address the most visible challenges facing science policy.

Neal Lane, the Malcolm Gillis University Professor and Senior Fellow for Science and Technology Policy, developed the idea for the lecture series. Lane describes a civic scientist as “a true scientist who uses his or her knowledge, accomplishments and analytical skills to help bridge the gap between science and society.”

The Civic Scientist Lecture Series is organized by the Baker Institute’s Science and Technology Policy Program, which is directed by Lane and Kirstin Matthews, science and technology program manager. For more information, visit www.science.bakerinstitute.org.

—Meredith Montgomery
Development Specialist
James A. Baker III Institute for
Public Policy

RICE LAUNCHES PROGRAM DESIGNED TO EMPOWER MINORITY SCHOLARS

The Empowering Leadership Alliance, a new program at Rice University, focuses on creating a support network for minority students enrolled in computing disciplines at majority institutions.

The program, funded by a three-year, \$2 million grant, is part of the National Science Foundation's Broadening Participation in Computing initiative and will engage students in a nationwide network that crosses institutional borders.

"At universities across the country, we are seeing what I call the 'loss of the precious few,'" said Richard Tapia, University Professor and director of the Center for Excellence and Equity in Education at Rice.

"Research shows that isolated, unsupported students of all kinds will leave an environment that does not meet their needs for a sense of belonging," said Tapia, who is the principal investigator for the Empowering Leadership Alliance. "The network of support created by the alliance will address this loss and do something to correct it."

The alliance will include professional societies, laboratories, research centers and

corporations and will involve students in research opportunities, professional development, mentoring programs and other forms of support to keep them thriving and motivated as they pursue computing careers.

Another important factor is the student-to-student communication fostered by the alliance. Students will easily be able to work together formally as well as informally through a Web site and blogs.

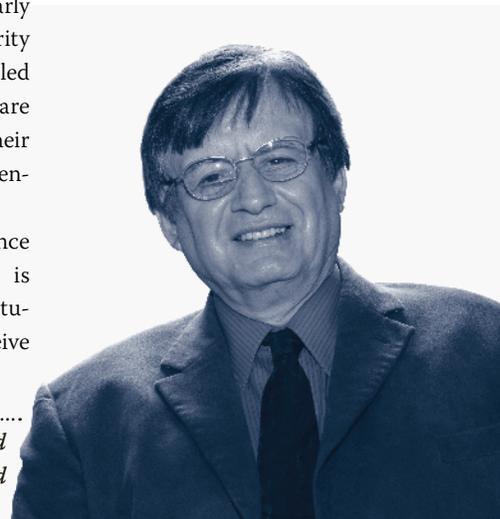
"This sense of support is particularly vital for many underrepresented minority scholars — especially when they are enrolled at majority institutions and find that they are the only minority or one of just a few in their department — a situation common in scientific disciplines," said Tapia.

The Empowering Leadership Alliance welcomes inquiries. More information is available at empoweringleadership.org. Students can register to participate and receive

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*Richard Tapia, University Professor and
director of the Center for Excellence and
Equity in Education at Rice*

program updates at <https://my.rice.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1178907169932>. For more information, please e-mail info@empoweringleadership.org or call 218-724-3216.

— *Cynthia J. Johnson*
Executive Director
Center for Excellence and
Equity in Education



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM CREATED TO ADDRESS GROWING DEMAND FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS

In response to a growing need for certified Chinese language teachers in Texas and the southern United States, Rice University has created a Chinese Language Certificate Program.

The program is designed for individuals who want to teach middle or high school Chinese in Texas public schools and for Chinese language teachers who desire to be certified.

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"WE COULD NOT BE MORE PLEASED WITH THIS OUTREACH PROGRAM THAT WILL HELP CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS ACHIEVE THEIR CERTIFICATION."
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Administered by the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, the program is directed by Lilly Chen, senior lecturer at the Center for the Study of Languages. Rice faculty and members from other colleges will teach courses and provide content not readily available in other area teacher certification programs.

Funding from the Freeman Foundation enabled the Glasscock School to offer

the program and to create the Institute for Chinese Language Teaching. The institute is part of the renowned teacher professional development program administered by the Glasscock School, including the Advanced Placement Summer Institute and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Workshops.

"We timed this perfectly," said Siva Kumari, associate dean and executive director

of programs for the Glasscock School. "The State of Texas just released the certification for Chinese, and we are able to give teachers the best of Rice teaching as they pursue their certification with financial assistance provided by the Freeman Foundation grant. We could not be more pleased with this outreach program that will help Chinese language teachers achieve their certification."

As of October 2007, the institute had

received 29 applications. The inaugural class begins spring 2008 and is limited to 30 participants. Those interested in participating in the Chinese Language Certificate Program must complete a detailed application and meet a number of state and program requirements.

Additional partners in the program include the Asian Studies Program at Rice, the Center for the Study of Languages at Rice, the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools, the Chinese Language Teachers Association of the South and the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Texas.

More information about the Chinese Language Certificate Program is available at teachers.rice.edu.

— *Kristal Scheffler*
Marketing Specialist
Susanne M. Glasscock School
of Continuing Studies

RESEARCHERS HOPE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AMERICAN LIFE

The Center on Race, Religion and Urban Life recently completed a national survey hoping to generate a clearer portrait of American life.

The Portraits of American Life Study was inspired by CORRUL's mission to advance knowledge about the links between race, religion and urban life.

"This research project aims to improve our understanding of the factors influencing Americans' everyday attitudes, values and beliefs about society," said Michael Emerson, the Allyn R. and Gladys M. Cline Professor of Sociology and the founding director of CORRUL.

PALS' innovative survey design addresses a range of rich topics including the respondents' social activities, religious identity, race and ethnicity, mental and physical health, housing, employment, and inter-group contact. The 2,600 participants come from a variety of regions, communities and walks of life.

The PALS research team has begun writing scholarly articles and a field-defin-

"WE HOPE THAT THESE FUTURE WAVES OF STUDY WILL REVEAL EVEN CLEARER PORTRAITS OF AMERICAN LIFE OVER THE GENERATIONS."

ing monograph based on the data collected to date. In the coming years, the team will re-interview the original respondents and include the adult children of the study's current participants. This addition will allow researchers to track families over at least two decades.

"We hope that these future waves of study will reveal even clearer portraits of American life over the generations," Emerson said.

CORRUL also seeks to fund a second research project called the Program for the Study of Houston. This new initiative is designed to stimulate the development of a multidisciplinary community of research scholars who are addressing critical urban issues in Houston and beyond.

The program leaders hope that this study will provide an organizational infrastructure and seed funding to collaborative teams from Rice University and other universities who are conducting urban issues research. Topics of study will range from air pollution to education, from flood control to politics, from business development to health care, and from immigration to energy futures. The PSH will bring together scientists and humanists, engineers and social scientists to examine some of the most pressing problems facing Houston and other metropolitan areas.

"The program seeks not only to coordinate and support existing studies at Rice," Emerson said, "but also to stimulate new lines of research that will contribute importantly to the vitality and well-being of the Houston community as a whole."

—Valeria Gutierrez
Administrative Coordinator
Center on Race, Religion and
Urban Life

MATHEMATICS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE DEVELOPS ELITE GROUP OF TEACHERS

The Mathematics Leadership Institute at Rice University played a pivotal role in helping 15 teachers from the Greater Houston area receive the Texas Master Mathematics Teacher (8–12) Certification. Previously, only 27 teachers statewide had received the Texas Master Mathematics Teacher certificate,

"WITH THIS HIGHLY COVETED CERTIFICATION, THESE RECIPIENTS ARE RECOGNIZED AS MEMBERS OF AN ELITE GROUP OF LEADERS IN TEACHING MATHEMATICS."

which was developed by the Texas Education Agency in 2002 to provide campuses with teacher leaders to serve as mentors for other mathematics teachers.

"With this highly coveted certification, these recipients are recognized as members of an elite group of leaders in teaching mathematics," said Anne Papakonstantinou, director of the Rice University School Mathematics Project.

To prepare for the certification, 22 lead teachers from the Houston and Aldine Independent School Districts spent 132 hours on evenings and Saturdays during the 2006–07 academic year studying mathematics and

teacher leadership. The Region IV Education Service Center provided the coursework.

This coursework was built on the extensive professional development in mathematics content, pedagogy and leadership that the teachers received during two summers at Rice's Mathematics Leadership Institute. The 22 lead

teachers were among the first to attend the institute's summer program.

Jackie Sack, the institute's co-manager, served as leader and mentor for the institute attendees. In addition to attending the course and passing the examination, Sack provided extensive support for the group through study sessions and individualized assistance.

The National Science Foundation funds the Mathematics Leadership Institute through a five-year, \$3.8 million grant. Other collaborators of the program include the Rice University School Mathematics Project; Rice's Departments of Computational and Applied

Mathematics, Mathematics, and Statistics; and the Houston and Aldine Independent School Districts. NSF provided the funds for the lead teachers to take the Texas Master Mathematics Teacher (8–12) course and paid for their examination fees.

More summer institute attendees will take the examination in late 2007. The second group of Mathematics Leadership Institute lead teachers will begin coursework to prepare for the Master Mathematics Teacher Certification in fall 2008.

"By significantly increasing the number of Master Mathematics Teachers in the Greater Houston area," Papakonstantinou said, "Rice is helping to improve mathematics instruction in the region and hence in the state."

—Richard Parr Jr.
Associate Director
Curricular and Instructional Programs
Rice University School Mathematics
Project
Co-Manager
Rice University Mathematics
Leadership Institute

RICE POLICE ACADEMY WORKS TO BUILD STRONGER, SAFER COMMUNITY

After attending a course at the Rice University Citizens Police Academy, Dolores Thacker said that she now has a greater appreciation for police officers and a better understanding of her surroundings.

"I attended this program for safety reasons," said Thacker, the marketing coordinator for Rice University's Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Management. "I got tons of information and learned about personal protection."

Now in its fourth year, the Citizens Police Academy was created to help members of the community better understand university law enforcement. Sgt. Jim Baylor developed the project, which includes 39 hours of instruction and provides the public with an

insider's knowledge of the university police department's officers, civilian personnel and functions.

The comprehensive instruction covers different facets of the department each week. Officers, supervisors and civilian personnel conduct each instructional block. In addition, instructors from the Harris County District Attorney's Office and Houston Police Department SWAT Team participate.

The academy, offered each spring semester, is comprised of a cross section of the Rice community — students, faculty, staff and Rice neighbors. The objective is to provide a foundation from which the participants can make informed decisions and judgments about the police department and police activity.



Students at the Citizens Police Academy receive hands-on training on the finer points of handcuffing a suspect.

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undergraduate students, focusing on historical developments in the diverse communities of Houston. "I am awed by the unique socio-political research materials available only in Houston," said Pinn, a relative newcomer to Houston and the Rice community.

The local speaker series, the project's third component, will enrich and encourage campuswide communication, as well as dialogue between Rice and the diverse commu-

nities of Houston. Presentations will occur both on and off campus.

The HERE initiative is supported by the Baker Institute, the Office of the Provost, the Humanities Research Center and The Boniuk Center.

—Jan West
Assistant Director
Multicultural Community Relations



Sandra Baylor, department coordinator for civil and environmental engineering, prepares to handcuff a "suspect" following a simulated felony traffic stop. Ivy Gonzalez, academic and Web coordinator for computational and applied mathematics, provides backup cover.

"I DIDN'T WANT TO MISS A NIGHT BECAUSE I THOUGHT I MIGHT MISS SOMETHING IMPORTANT."

During the six-week course, students hear presentations on such diverse topics as police training, communications, criminal investigations, alcohol and drugs, firearm safety, and patrol and tactical operations. Emphasis is placed on the community-oriented policing style, which is the cornerstone of the Rice University Police Department. This philosophy depends on the joint efforts of police and community to positively impact safety.

Perhaps the most enjoyable part, for students and instructors alike, is the hands-on portion of the academy training. Students are given the opportunity to make simulated traffic stops, fire law enforcement weaponry, conduct a crime scene investigation, and search for the "bad guy" following a class on building search taught by tactical officers.

"It was quite interesting," said Thacker. "I didn't want to miss a night because I thought I might miss something important. I liked this course so much, I wanted them to give me a badge and a gun — but they wouldn't do it."

—Sgt. Jim Baylor and
Capt. Dianna Marshall
Rice University Police Department

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David D. Medina, *director, Multicultural Community Relations*

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