BAKER COLLEGE PRESENTS...

LET IT SNO-WEEK
WELCOME TO RICE!
far off and vague, but you really are the future of this college. Without the driven, smart, and offbeat people who get involved in the college and university, Baker and Rice would not be as incredible as they are today.

In the year that follows your orientation week experience you will likely find that Baker College plays an important role in your time at Rice and will always have a special place in your heart. When you ask a Bakerite what makes Baker so unique they will almost certainly respond with stories and tales about the people at Baker: Roommates, friends, and colleagues. Here, students are given the tools and freedom to make great things happen for our small but vibrant community. Just last year, for example, we had more than fifty Bakerites complete their first triathlons with the inspiration and support of one student, donate $450 and several car loads of clothing to local charities, and renovate one of the lounge spaces under the direction of a student-run committee. These are just some of the endlessly exciting possibilities for you at Baker, and we can’t wait to see the amazing things that you contribute to our community.

Although we and our whole team of Advisors are anxious to finally meet you, it’s understandable if you’re nervous about moving to college. In fact, despite all our efforts to make O-Week the best experience possible for each individual, a lot of new students feel homesick or overwhelmed at some point during their first year. We’re here to tell you this is normal. We have all been there and are here to help you through your transition to Rice. As Coordinators, we have been trying to construct the best way to provide you the support network you can depend on to guide you through your first year at Rice and Baker. So hopefully this guide to all things Let it SnO-Week will give you a better understanding of what we’re all about and just how… chill… this college is.

Can’t wait to see you in August!

-Derek, Sri, and Sophie
WHY LET IT SNO-WEEK?

We get it, how in the world are we going to be celebrating snow and the cold in the middle of hot and humid August? Well, when considering O-Week themes for this year, we wanted something that would epitomize the sense of family and camaraderie that characterizes the Baker family. And thus, the idea of Let it SnO-Week was born.

Like O-Week, winter is a time of preparation and anticipation for spring — a season of growth. It is our hope that this O-Week will similarly mark a period of preparation, learning, and excitement for the incredible opportunities and experiences you will have during your first year at Rice.

Despite being the coldest of the seasons, winter is often a time filled with family, friends, traditions, and generally merry times. What better way to take our minds off of the sticky heat of a Houston summer than the comfortingly familiar thoughts of hot cocoa on a snowy day? We hope to make Baker a place full of the same kind of warm, nurturing, special memories that are often associated with the winter season.

Traditions are a big part of the winter season with holidays, family gatherings, and activities for the cooler weather. At Baker, we also love to celebrate traditions, one of which is Baker Christmas. For several years, Bakerites have been gathering together every 25th of September (or whatever Saturday falls closest) to celebrate the holiday with friends, loud music (think Feliz Navidad and All I Want for Christmas), and ugly sweaters. This treasured tradition has grown over the years to really encapsulate what Baker — and Let it SnO-Week — stands for: strong friendship, a rebellious streak, and the warmth of a family.

So, with all of this in mind, we decided that Let it SnO-Week was the perfect way to welcome you to the Winter Wonderland of Baker College. We hope you enjoy.
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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Intrigue. Betrayal. Murder. Baker College is the only one among Rice’s many residential colleges that has its roots in an thrilling mystery.

Our college is the namesake of the hero who saved Rice University before it even existed: Captain James A. Baker. It all began on the dark and stormy night of September 23, 1900, when William Marsh Rice, the reclusive millionaire, died mysteriously in his Madison Avenue apartment. Before his death, Mr. Rice had created an endowment in his part of the bargain with a chloroform-soaked sponge.

Captain Baker, Mr. Rice’s acting attorney in Houston, was highly suspicious of the circumstances surrounding his employer’s death and so, he began an intensive investigation. After much effort, Captain Baker discovered that Mr. Rice’s butler, Charles F. Jones, had murdered the man with chloroform. But the intrigue did not end there. Charles Jones, it turned out, was not the mastermind behind Mr. Rice’s murder. Indeed, it was Albert T. Patrick, Mr. Rice’s New York attorney, who was responsible for planning the death. Before William Rice died, Mr. Patrick had forged a will naming himself as principal beneficiary of the estate and then, he hired Mr. Jones to carry out the murder when it became obvious that the old man was not going to die of natural causes. After weeks of unsuccessfully attempting to poison Mr. Rice with mercury pills (Rice complained that the “medicine” was too bitter and spat it out), the butler finally upheld his part of the bargain with a chloroform-soaked sponge.

Had Albert Patrick’s plan succeeded, there would have been no Rice Institute for the Advancement of Letters, Science and Art. Through Captain Baker’s efforts, the forged will was revealed, Mr. Jones confessed to the killing, and the endowment for the Rice Institute reached the right hands. Captain Baker went on to oversee the creation of what is now Rice University and served as chairman of the Rice Board of Trustees until his death in 1941. For his invaluable role in the founding of Rice University, the first and best college on campus was named after him.

Crest and Motto
Baker College voted to select its crest in 1958. The main design is derived from the family crest of Captain Baker’s mother, with three additional owls to symbolize the connection to Rice. Its colors are red and silver, and it is inscribed with a phrase from Epictetus found on the cornerstone of the college. Translated, it means: “Difficulties are things that show what men are.”

The Origin of Hell
With time, each college at Rice has acquired a distinctive personality, which transcends the changing personalities of each additional class. Baker is known as the College from Hell. At rallies and college competitions, Bakerites can often be heard chanting, “We’re from Hell, we’re from Baker!” Another one of our most popular cheers, which is often a point of pride among the college, is “Baker, hell yeah!” During Beer Bike, Bakerites can always be identified by their red shirts, red face paint, red hair (often mohawks), as well as by their overwhelming college spirit.

During the 1987 Matriculation, a young freshman named Steven Carmichael walked through the Sallyport with dreams of becoming a mechanical engineer. He studied hard and eventually gained the respect of his peers and a reputation as a guy who could fix anything. With these mechanical talents, it was natural he and some friends assumed responsibility for purchasing a Baker car for the annual Beer Bike parade.

During the parade, colleges vied with each other to drive the trashiest car blaring the loudest music. Steven bought a run-down black car for $50. Most other men would have dismissed the piece of scrap metal as not being worth the money it would cost to haul it to a junkyard and claimed that there was no way it could ever run again. But where most other men saw a car from Hell, Steven Carmichael saw possibilities. By the morning before Beer Bike, the car was transformed. Not only was it running, but it had been turned into a convertible with the aid of the Mechanical Engineering Department and spruced up with the addition of sporty red stripes.

The night before Beer Bike, the car sat unguarded in the Baker quad. Students were roaming the campus, intent on continuing Rice’s grand tradition of pre-Beer Bike jacks (intercollege pranks), and Jones, our cross-campus rival at the time, had been plotting to ruin Steven’s masterpiece. Later that night, they snuck over and coated the car in orange paint. The sudden colorful addition was not only humiliating, but intolerable to loyal Bakerites, since red has been Baker’s color since inception. Frantically, Bakerites worked to salvage the dignity of the car and their college. But the orange paint wouldn’t come off!

Only Baker ingenuity could save the day. By the time the parade began, the red-striped car had become a fearsome, fiery machine. As Baker led the parade with its flaming car, other colleges began a derogatory chant: “The college from Hell, the college from Hell!” Although the chants were meant as insults, Bakerites adopted the name and the car with pride. Ever since, Baker has taken the joke in stride and become known as the College from Hell.
With its high vaulted ceilings, authentic Tiffany brass chandeliers, and varnished wood paneling, the Baker Commons is perhaps the most unique part of the college. In fact, many first-time visitors to this hallowed hall will say, “this looks just like Hogwarts!” No other college boasts a commons as distinguished in its appearance or as loved by its students; it represents Baker’s proud place as the first residential college of Rice. Here, you will share meals with your fellow Bakerites, attend Cabinet meetings every Tuesday night, and generally spend a lot of time hanging out with friends.

Adjacent to the Commons, the Baker Library provides a quieter study atmosphere where you can explore our collection of books. The Library boasts a long, beautiful wood table, as well as two fireplaces and large glass windows. It’s a great place to escape the sometimes loud environment of the commons, or to have small group meetings.

After all the time you’ll undoubtedly spend in the Commons and Library, sometimes it’s nice to go outside. Baker has been blessed with not one, but three quads. There’s one facing Lovett College, one facing Will Rice College, and one between Old Wing and New New Wing. We hold lots of cookouts and tailgates in our quads, and they’re also a great place for throwing a Frisbee with friends or sunbathing on a hot Houston day.

As fun as many of our common spaces are, there are also several spaces that are very practical, like the laundry room located under 5th Entrance.

Not only is Baker the best, the classiest, and the first, but it also has the most buildings! Four residential buildings in total, not to mention our beloved Commons. All buildings are within a few feet of each other, so don’t fret, all your friends and neighbors are just a short walk away. So let us begin our tour of Baker.

As fun as doing your own laundry may (not) sound, it’s not very hard, considering there are eight washers and ten dryers to save you from making numerous trips between your room and the laundry room. No need for quarters, but you’ll need to bring your own detergent. Since the laundry room is used by everyone at Baker, be sure to be respectful of other people’s things when doing laundry, and make sure to clean up after yourself.

There are two public kitchens in Baker that you can use if you get tired of the Baker Servery or want to cook something special. One is in 2nd Entrance, and one is in New New Wing near 7th Entrance. Each has a sink, microwave, oven and stove. As always, we try to keep these spaces as clean as possible for everyone to use and return the Servery’s utensils and dishes when a meal is over. Baker also has a computer room next to the Servery, as well as a refurbished lounge under 4th Entrance, known as Parker Redman Lounge.

Baker College has the most diverse mix of rooms on campus. To figure out where you’ll be living next year, you simply need to take a look at your room number. The first digit signifies what floor you’ll be living on, and the second number signifies which entrance you’ll be living in (for example, room 274 is located on the 2nd floor of 7th Entrance, in New New Wing). Baker is divided into nine entrances in four buildings.
Note: if the second number of your room is a 0, you’ll be living in 2nd Entrance (Old Wing).

Entrances 1 through 3 are located in Old Wing, so called because it was Baker’s first residential wing. In fact, it was the first one on campus when it was originally built as “East Hall.” Old Wing is a long, three-story structure with a five-story tower at its east end. Built in stucco and brick with the expansion of pre-WWI days, Old Wing combines a blend of Spanish and Italian architectural style to create varied spacious rooms with Venetian windows. These rooms, with the addition of carpeting and air conditioning, stand much as they did when the first class of Rice students occupied them in 1912. These are the most similar to traditional college rooms, with inside halls, bathrooms, and even window boxes for some. Old Wing rooms are a mix of singles, doubles, triples and quads of varying styles and shapes.

Entrances 4 and 5 are located adjacent to Old Wing, and these areas of Baker are called “Fourth” and “Fifth” respectively. This wing was constructed in 1957 — with the advent of the residential college system — in order to accommodate additional students. These rooms are all large quad suites which include two doubles and a common room, as well as a bathroom shared between two suites. If you’re living in Fourth or Fifth, feel free to bring any furniture you might have lying around, because you’ll need it to furnish the common room. The bedrooms are just big enough for two people, but the common rooms have plenty of space for whatever you want to do.

Entrances 6 through 8 are located in New New Wing, the most recent addition to Baker College, which was built in 2010. The rooms off of entrances 6 and 8 consist of 8-person suites, which have four doubles, an enormous common room, and two bathrooms. Seventh entrance serves as a hallway connecting these 8-person suites and off of which, there are several doubles, each with their own closet area and bathroom.

Entrance 9 is similar in design to Old Wing and contains spacious pre-WWI rooms, which during the early years were occupied by faculty members and graduate students. Most of these are doubles and triples. This part of Baker is known as the “Tower” because rises four stories above our Servery, Commons, and Library. There’s no better location than this if you want easy access to food and friends.

New students will be spread throughout the wings of Baker. Get excited! You’re almost here!
WHAT TO BRING

DECIDING WHAT TO BRING TO COLLEGE DOESN’T HAVE TO BE A DAUNTING TASK! TRY TO APPROACH PACKING AS A MINIMALIST, ESPECIALLY SINCE SPACE CAN FEEL LIMITED AT TIMES. AS A GENERAL RULE OF THUMB: SCHOOL SUPPLIES, TOILETRIES, SNACKS, AND OTHER SMALLER ITEMS CAN BE PURCHASED ONCE YOU REACH HOUSTON. KEEPING YOUR PACKING LIST TO THE THINGS YOU WILL NEED IMMEDIATELY, LARGER ITEMS, AND POSSESSIONS THAT CAN’T BE REPLACED WILL HELP YOU MOVE INTO BAKER LIKE A CHAMP.

Stuff included in all rooms
Desk, drawers, and a chair
Bed frame and mattress (XL twin)
Closet (either standing or built in)
Trashcan and recycling bin
Air conditioning and heating
Ethernet port for your computer

Contact and coordinate with your roommate(s)
Get in contact with your roommate and figure out who is bringing what! You definitely don’t want to end up with two TVs or four mini-refrigerators. Make sure you work out who is bringing what, like vacuums, gaming systems, or bean bag chairs!

Clothing. Bring a wide array of clothing. You’ll need everything from shorts to sweaters to formal wear. Houston is known for its insanely inconsistent weather. You could experience oppressive humidity and heat, a tidal wave of rain, and unexpected cold all in the same day. Seriously. Bring new clothes and old clothes, but don’t forget rain boots. And pro-tip: if you hate laundry, it’s a good idea to bring more clothes (the true limiting factor is socks and underwear, so bring lots of those).

Sheets. Make sure the sheets you purchase are EXTRA LONG TWIN bed sheets. Regular sheets do not fit over these mattresses. Save yourself the stress and buy the right size the first time around!

School supplies
Paper, notebooks, binders
Pens, pencils
Calculator
Backpack/book bag
Computer
Ethernet cable (if you’re not living the Wi-Fi life)
Stapler, scissors, tape
3-hole puncher

Cloth optional items:
Speakers
Iron
Mini-refrigerator
Aux-cord
Tea
Snacks
TV
Video games
Board games
Any costume items for Rice’s numerous themed parties

Room items
- Alarm clock
- Desk lamp
- Command strips
- Clothes hangers
- Plates, bowls, cups, utensils
- Extension cord
- Pillows
- TWIN XL sheet set
- Blankets

Clothing items
- Rain jacket and/or umbrella
- Rain boots (or shoes you don’t mind getting wet)
- Pajamas
- Slippers and shower shoes
- Casual clothing
- Nice/formal clothes
- Socks and underwear
- Summer and winter clothes
- Swim suit
- Sunglasses
- Tennis shoes, sandals, dress shoes

Personal items
- Identification such as a driver’s license, passport, Social Security card, etc.
- Prescription medications
- Up-to-date medical insurance card
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Pain relievers
- Allergy medicine (antihistamines)
- Anti-Itch cream (especially for those susceptible to mosquitoes)
- Shower caddy
- Towels
- Toiletries
- Laundry basket (most students use foldable hampers)
- High-efficiency detergent (our washing machines DO NOT take pods)
Computers. You will find computer access across campus in each residential college, academic buildings, and the library. Nevertheless, it is in your best interest to purchase a laptop (PC or Mac) for your own personal usage. They come in handy when you need to access online resources, research for classes, check emails, and binge watch television. Every room has one high speed internet connection port per person (bring your own cables), but internet can be accessed wirelessly around campus through Rice Owls or Rice Visitor networks.

Other potentially useful items
Bikes can be useful around campus, just make sure you purchase a U-bolt instead of a cable lock to secure it. It’s also important to register your bike with the Rice University Police Department during the first couple weeks of the semester, as bikes are easily stolen if not properly locked.

Having a TV and/or mini fridge can be unbelievably handy, make sure to communicate with your roommate regarding these big items. If you get here and realize that you forgot something, don’t fret! At least one of your Advisors will have a car and be more than willing to take you anywhere you need to go. Rice also has shopping shuttles every weekend that go to Target and into Rice Village.
Move-in begins the morning of Sunday, August 13th. Check the information sheet attached to the book for more specific time instructions as well as driving directions for when you arrive at Rice!

To get to Baker, enter the Rice campus through Entrance 8, located on University Blvd and Stockton. You will pass the police station on your left, then continue right as you pass several intramural fields. You will pass two stop signs and the unloading area for Hanszen College (so don’t be alarmed if you see some cars stopping there) before you finally pull up to Baker College on your right! Find an empty spot to pull into along the curb, get checked in outside the Commons and wait for the Advisors to start unloading onto the curb. Once your car is empty, have somebody move it to the West Lot 5 Parking Lot while you, along with your Advisors start moving your things to your new room! It is essential that your car is moved as soon as you have unloaded onto the curb so that other New Students can unload quickly as well. In order to get to West Lot 5, just follow the one-way Inner Loop until you reach the football stadium. Shuttles will be running to bring people back to Baker.

If you are an international student arriving from iPREP, you will arrive at Baker on one of the iPREP buses. Advisors will be there to meet you and bring your things to your rooms. Don’t worry too much about getting all of your stuff arranged in your room right away. There will be time throughout the week for that! Once your Advisors have helped you move your belongings to your room, we will have a welcome lunch for you and your families. Then you’ll be ready to begin the O-Week merriment!
Luis & Angela

Water connects the Caribbean and water brought us (Luis and Angela) together. We are both not only from that sunny region of the world, but we also met swimming laps and love all things related to the ocean.

Angela is half Venezuelan and half Native American (from the Alabama Coushatta tribe). Luis is Venezuelan, with grandparents of German, Italian, Spanish, and Afro Caribbean ancestry. Although we don’t like the metaphor of the “melting pot” very much, we might be a good example of its “Hispanic” rendition. We believe, with Maya Angelou, that there is beauty and strength in diversity, so we embrace all these legacies, all of these traditions.

We both come from big families and treasure the deep, intense connections that this kind of dynamic brings into one’s life. We like to host and share stories, and always look for ways to expand our connections within the University, the city of Houston, and beyond the country. One thing the Caribbean teaches us is that many worlds can coexist and intertwine, even in the smallest territory – perhaps, just like our college system that brings together and benefits from, different kinds of people.

Raised in Houston, Angela knows this city like no one else. She has worked in the medical field and is studying to be a pediatric nurse. She is currently a stay at home mom and loves to spend her days baking. She bakes a mean apple pie! Her favorite pastime is sharing with her family including the extended Baker family. She loves anything sports and is a phenomenal swimmer. She competes in events such as the 200-meter butterfly! Look out for her this year as she plans to play sports with the Bakerites!

Luis is an Associate Professor of Film and Caribbean Studies. He currently serves as the Chair of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies. He has taught at many institutions around the world, and has extensive experience in student life and mentoring. He has authored and edited nine books and over twenty-five articles and book chapters dealing with Culture and Politics. He is currently completing three other book projects: one on politics among marginalized social groups; another on Mexican film; and one on prisons in Latin America. Luis loves photography, so you might want to join him in an outing around town to capture some images of our fascinating city.

We are thrilled to welcome you to Baker -- the oldest, best established, and just coolest college of Rice! In our position as Magisters, we look forward to assisting you to succeed in your academic and personal goals. We see students as young adults entering a fascinating process of discovery and growth. We are here to help you, and to direct you to the great resources Rice has to offer.

In closing, we want to encourage you visit our home and share conversations about school, food, film, music, politics, sports, and life in general. We organize many social events, and you will be able come over for dinners, engaging talks, small concerts, watching TV, or to share pastries, great coffee, and the Sunday Edition of the NYT.

Welcome to Baker!
Hello, new Bakerites! We are Matt Patterson and Bobby Beaird, and we’re thrilled to join you in discovering what life at Baker is like as we start our first year as RAs.

Matt is a Baton Rouge native and Rice graduate (sadly from one of those other colleges, but nobody’s perfect), whereas Bobby attended Centenary College in Shreveport, Louisiana prior to making his way down to the “big city” of Baton Rouge for grad school in physics at Louisiana State University. (Now you know who to thank for teaching him how to devise PHYS 101/102 exam problems that will simply ruin your night.) After meeting as graduate students at LSU, we of course realized that we needed to get back to Rice as soon as possible, and so here we are today. Bobby is an instructor in the physics department, whereas Matt now works in the Office of Technology Transfer helping Rice researchers commercialize inventions they’ve developed.

You’ll also meet our dog Penny, a pint-sized Staffordshire Terrier mix whose favorite activities are sleeping and licking things — like a shark, her primary means of interacting with the world is with her mouth — as well as accepting all the ear scratches and belly rubs you have to offer. When he’s not torturing you with pledge problems, you’ll find Bobby gleefully stabbing students with actual swords as part of the Rice Fencing Club. Matt has historically preferred verbal combat to physical fights, having worked with several LGBTQ advocacy groups in Louisiana to bring change to the state Legislature, which was exactly as much fun as it sounds. Both of us are avid cooks and aim to bring a little bit of Louisiana flavor to Baker in our time here. Brace yourselves, because we’ll definitely try to feed you whether you’re hungry or not.

Our primary goal as RAs is to be as present for all of you as we possibly can be — sharing meals, events, good and bad times as a college family. All of us are continually figuring out how to make Baker a healthy and sustainable community, so let’s help each other out and have fun doing it! Come find us in room 212 of Old Wing whenever you need good food, good company, or an enthusiastic dog to pet.
Let’s make it SnO-Week at Baker College! We’re Steve Bradshaw and Aysha Pollnitz. Our formal role as Resident Associates at Baker is to assist the Masters and enrich the cultural, intellectual, and social life of the College. To adopt a wintry metaphor, that makes us a bit like moisture in the atmosphere: we help all you ice crystals stick together in the clouds by putting on study breaks. Come around to Baker 152 for Book Club, ice-cream socials, Saturday-night pasta, or a chill-out session. Or make like Olaf and meet us in the Pits for a BBQ.

Steve and Aysha are also an academic resource for you at Rice. Between us, we cover disciplines in STEM, social sciences, and humanities and we’ve had a lot of experience at college teaching, advising, and mentoring. Think of us as the ice that helps brings out the flavor in your academic beverage of choice.

Steve is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and specializes in the physics of the sun. His expertise means that he can legitimately claim to be working while relaxing on the beach. He is also an authority on plasma physics and numerical modeling, so he has to show up and run his research group every now and then. Before arriving at Rice in the summer of 2010, Steve worked for NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center.

Aysha is an Assistant Professor in the History Department. Contact her if you have a problem with your printing press, a pesky bunch of martyrs to burn, or you need a papal dispensation to marry your cousin. She also co-directs Rice’s Politics, Law, and Social Thought program and knows a lot of lawyer jokes. Her first job was at Trinity College, Cambridge, where she lived in rooms thought to have been occupied by the poet Lord Byron and his bear.

Steve is from England and Aysha is Australian, so please join us in the Commons for lively debates about the merits of Marmite and Vegemite, Penguins and TimTams, cricket, republicanism, the oxymoron “English Summer”, and the benefits of a single-provider medical system.

As ex-pats ourselves, we know that being away from home isn’t always easy. Making the transition from school to college isn’t necessarily straightforward either. If you get frostbite in O-Week or thereafter, remember that we always have a pot of hot tea on the go and that you’ll always get a warm welcome in Baker 152.
As one of those people, I want to introduce myself. My name is Veronica Bernal, but you can just call me Ms. Veronica. I have worked at Rice University for over 20 years and two summers ago I was given the opportunity to become the College Coordinator for the BEST COLLEGE on campus! I’m SUPER excited to share my Baker College experience with you! My office is located right outside the main entrance to Baker Commons. It’s a warm, inviting area where you can retrieve your mail packages, hang out, have great conversations, relax and feel right at home during the weekdays.

Again, welcome to our BAKER FAMILY! We’re happy to have you!

You can go to Ms. Veronica’s office to:
• Pick up your mail
• Send faxes
• Make photocopies
• Use a spare key if you are locked out of your room
• Check out a key for college facilities
• Borrow office supplies
• Find university contacts
WHETHER YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN BAKER’S GOVERNMENT OR JUST WANT TO STAY INFORMED, GO TO THE OUTER COMMONS ON TUESDAYS AT 10:00 P.M. FOR BAKER CABINET. WE HEAR REPORTS FROM ALL THE REPRESENTATIVES AT CABINET AND DISCUSS NOT ONLY WHAT IS HAPPENING AROUND BAKER, BUT UNIVERSITY MATTERS AND HOW THEY’LL AFFECT US. THERE’S ALSO FREE FOOD EVERY WEEK!

BAKER’S 2017-2018 CABINET

President: Natalie Swanson In addition to chairing Cabinet meetings, Natalie represents Baker’s interests to the Rice administration, the Student Association, and other university-wide bodies. She makes sure that things at Baker are running smoothly in general and handles any issues that come up.

Executive Vice President: Madison Nasteff Madison manages the Spirit Committee, which throws Spirit Friday events and keeps Baker swagged up; the Sports Committee, which takes our talents to the IM fields for both college and intramural sports; and the Beer Bike Committee.

External Vice President: Matthew Chagnot Matt manages all of the room reservations for the college. He also oversees the following committees: Community Service (so our neighbors don’t hate us), Environmental (they help us keep the planet alive), Staff Appreciation (so our staff feel loved despite all the crazy things Bakerites do), and Permanent Improvements (which buys cool/expensive stuff like grills for the college).

Educational Vice President: Chris Brehm Chris directs the Associates Committee and helps communicate fun and engaging events to both Bakerites and Associates. Additionally, he works to support the Baker Academic Mentors as well as Bakershake by encouraging Bakerites to utilize the academic resources and go to shows!

Treasurers: Tesi Smith and Alyssa Graham Tesi and Alyssa keep track of Baker’s budget out of the funds we receive from the university every year and make sure we have enough money to throw all of Baker’s awesome events. They are also here to help you fund any amazing ideas that you might have through the Initiative Fund.

Secretary: Rushi Bhalani Rushi takes minutes at Cabinet and distributes them the next day so everyone can read all about the Baker business that’s going on. He’s also in charge of monitoring the Baker email list and generally manages Baker’s public communications.

Class Representatives: Patrick Garr (Senior), Serena Agrawal (Junior), Emma Hanan (Sophomore) The class reps represent their classes’ opinions and throw class bonding events such as petting zoos, slip-n-slide study breaks, kickball tournaments and organize other generally absurd (absurdly fun) activities.

Treasurers: Tesi Smith and Alyssa Graham Tesi and Alyssa keep track of Baker’s budget out of the funds we receive from the university every year and make sure we have enough money to throw all of Baker’s awesome events. They are also here to help you fund any amazing ideas that you might have through the Initiative Fund.

Chief Justice: Jeremy Palmer Jeremy is in charge of upholding our alcohol policy and keeping Bakerites out of trouble. He’s also in charge of the Baker Court, which takes complaints and hears cases to make sure Baker and Rice rules are being followed.

BGHS Ministers: Joanne Hong and Travis Kwee The Baker Gentlemen’s Hedonist Society has a long history at Baker, but generally promotes having fun in a classy way. They sponsor Matriculation and Convocation, and are in charge of preserving Baker’s rich history and unique traditions. They also plan events to get Bakerites off-campus and exploring Houston – definitely sign up to join in on the Restaurant of the Month outings!

Student Association Senator: John Michael Austin John Michael represents Baker’s opinions at SA meetings and reports back to Baker about what important matters were discussed.

Rice Program Council Rep: Luis Adame Luis keeps us informed of all of the on- and off-campus events that RPC plans such as two formal dances, concerts, the blind date tradition we call Screw-Yer-Roommate, and cultural events around Houston.

Honor Council Rep: Ricky Robinson Ricky is the Baker representative on the Honor Council, which deals with Honor Code violations. He’s here to remind us all not to cheat.

U-Court Rep: Eli Mensing Eli sits on U-Court, which deals with almost all student disciplinary problems on campus. He reports U-Court announcements and tries to keep us all accountable to Rice’s policies.
Socials (Rebecca Francis and Emma Reford) Baker’s Socials are in charge of our public parties (see: Baker Traditions), College Nights, and Pub Nights. College Nights happen once a semester—we pick a theme for the day, wear themed clothing to all of our classes, and enjoy an afternoon full of games, food and drinks. Pub Nights happen once a semester as well—for one Tuesday night, Baker takes over Pub and enjoys free food, drinks and the company of other Bakerites.

Permanent Improvements (Christina Mezmer and Katherine Simmers) Otherwise known as PI, this committee is in charge of buying all of the amenities that make life at Baker that much better. From the couches and Xbox in the commons to the newly renovated Parker Redman lounge, PI uses their budget to make Baker feel even more like home.

Spirit (Julia Casbarian, Monika Karki, and David Senter) To get the whole college excited about Baker pride (which isn’t very hard), the Spirit committee is in charge of buying Baker swag, organizing Friday afternoon events, and generally promoting Baker spirit.

Sports (Jesse Liebman and Tiffani Tjandra) Your Baker sports reps are here to keep Baker in the loop about all of the IM and Baker-specific sports that are happening. They’ll make weekly announcements at Cabinet and send out emails.

Beer Bike Coordinators (TBD) Beer Bike Coordinators are in charge of making Beer Bike possible. From getting the food sponsors to planning Willy Week activities to making sure Baker is represented on the bike track, this team does it all. You should thank them after Beer Bike is over!

Room Assignment Chairs (Matthew Ringeheanu and Denise Robson) Otherwise known as the RACs, this committee is in charge of handling the room draw process that occurs second semester. They facilitate the kicklist and room draw processes, and they can answer your questions about housing.

Historians (Charlene Pan) Historians are responsible for documenting Baker events and posting pictures online for everyone to enjoy. Many a Bakerite has found a new profile picture thanks to their amazing photography skills.

Community Service (Nick Wolf) This committee is in charge of the annual Mr. Baker pageant, which raises money for a charity of Baker’s choice. They also advertise service opportunities to the college and organize a staff appreciation event every semester.

Associates Committee (Maddy Eschberger and Ricky Robinson) This committee is in charge of planning events with Baker’s associates (faculty, staff, and community members), including Associate’s Night dinners, study breaks, and networking opportunities.

Environmental Committee (Camille Chenevert) This committee works with the Eco Rep and Socials Committee to facilitate recycling and promote environmental awareness and sustainability through study breaks, outings, and environmental projects around the college.

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The Founding
BGHS was originally started when a group of classy Baker gentlemen decided they wanted to do something kind for all the lovely ladies of Baker. These fine men thought that on Valentine’s Day, every Baker lady deserved a rose so they went to every lady’s room in Baker and left a single red rose. This was the start of the organization, and these gents continued to do classy acts to show the rest of the residential colleges that chivalry was not, in fact, dead. However, with a strict charter prohibiting fraternities or any Greek life, the university didn’t want an all-male group to form. When the administration told these classy souls they had to stop, they decided to simply invite ladies to join them and keep Baker one giant, classy place.

Currently
Now BGHS is run by one male and one female chair and they’re in charge of a few different things. The first, obviously, is keeping Baker classy. They do this by hosting a Matriculation Dinner during O-Week and a Convocation Dinner later in the year. BGHS also works to get Bakerites into Houston by hosting Restaurant of the Month, subsidizing trips to unique cultural events, and advertising cultural fairs and festivals throughout Houston. Most importantly, though, they are in charge of the Big/Little program where every new student who wants to participate is matched with an upper classman who will serve as a casual mentor and friend.
ACADEMIC MENTORS

The Baker Academic Mentors are a group of upperclassmen dedicated to making sure every Bakerite succeeds in their academic life at Rice. Baker Academic Mentors are all interested in academic life at Baker, with proven academic achievement and an eagerness to help fellow students. To this end, the Academic Mentors host regular review and help sessions for a majority of “intro classes” such as PHYS 101 and 102, CHEM 121 and 122, ECON 100, and many others. What’s more, they will gladly hold one-on-one sessions and are always open to talking about your classes. If you want to talk to one, there’s a list of all the Academic Mentors posted in the Commons throughout the year, and on the Baker website.

Some of them play basketball with Bakerites. Others offer rock climbing excursions. Many show their love by simply bringing food to the occasional study break or stopping by at lunches. You will have plenty of opportunities to meet them because during O-Week, your group will be paired with an Associate Mentor who serve as another adult resource for you. They will meet you and your group over lunch early in the week and then host a dinner at their home for you all. But you’ll get to meet more Associates too! Once a semester, we also have Associates’ Dinner, when we break out our fancy clothes and welcome the Associates to share a meal with us at Baker. So get to know them — they’ll be great resources both during your time at Rice and after.

BAKER ASSOCIATES

At Baker you will have the opportunity to have meaningful and helpful networks with both students and adults alike. One such opportunity is the Baker Associates program. Associates are adult members of the Rice community—faculty, staff, and alumni—who are affiliated with Baker and spend time at the college. They are here to help you plan your schedules, choose a major, or just chat over a meal.

The main purpose of the Associates program is to allow students another opportunity to interact intelligently outside of the classroom. During lunches and dinners professors might meander over to the colleges (sometimes with their families!) and converse with students on anything from Shakespeare to relativity. Coming from high school, you might think it’s strange to have adults who are interested in your life hanging around during meals, but Associates are wonderfully interesting people who have a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with you. They are here to provide mentorship to undergraduates, during the first year and beyond.

The Court is made up of nine Justices (including the Chief Justice, Jeremy Palmer), and one Advocate — all of whom are Bakerites. The duties of each position are outlined in detail in the Court Constitution (available on the Baker website). Essentially, the Justices oversee and pass judgment on all cases, and the advocate ensures that the defendant’s rights are upheld throughout the process. In the Fall, the Chief Justice chooses two new Justices from the incoming class.

When it comes down to it, Baker wants to take care of its own issues without involving anyone outside of the college. Occasionally, a Bakerite that has gotten in trouble with Rice’s Student Judicial Programs will have their case sent to Baker Court rather than University Court. The college courts hear cases ranging from charging students for housing fines to upholding the Alcohol Policy. All in all, Baker Court cares more about making sure everyone is safe than disciplining students.

One of the beauties of the college system is the way it allows each college to govern itself, putting a lot of responsibility in the hands of the students. Like any self-governing institution, Baker has a judicial body: Baker Court. We at Baker are all looking out for the best interests of the college, so we must be able to effectively enforce the Code of Student Conduct put forth by the campus administration and the Baker Code of Conduct.

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New Student Camping Trip  Sometime during the fall, you and your classmates are going to put down your pens and calculators and pick up your tents and wilderness survival guides as you head out into the dangerous (not really) country of South Texas. So begins the New Student Camping Trip (planned by the Freshman Rep), a time of fun in the great outdoors where you’ll spend one glorious night doing all of the outdoorsy things you miss from your childhood... or that you’ve never done before. However, this isn’t just fun and games! After your night in the woods, your mission will be to find, cut down, and haul back the biggest holiday tree possible to display in our Commons (in the past, it’s been so large that it’s reached the ceiling and has taken 12 hours to set up!) After the tree is up, it continues to be a focal point for holiday festivities across Baker, including parties, decorating events, and of course, plenty of photo ops.

Initiative Fund  To encourage creativity and the development of new events, the college budget incorporates a sizeable amount of money in the Initiative Fund, which is available for ANYONE to use if they have a good idea! Now, to get any amount of money from the initiative fund you must pitch your idea to Baker at one of our weekly Cabinet meetings, or during special Shark Tank pitch sessions. In the past, the Initiative Fund has been used for events such as an exotic petting zoo, subsidized trips to the movies, Fajita Day, and a jam-making study break. If you think you have a great idea, then get ready to pitch it!

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BAKER TRADITIONS

BAKER HAS, BY FAR, SOME OF THE WEIRDEST, FUNNIEST, AND OVERALL MOST OUTRAGEOUS TRADITIONS OF ANY COLLEGE. AFTER ALL, WE ARE THE OLDEST COLLEGE. HERE’S A QUICK LOOK AT SOME OF THE GOINGS-ON AT BAKER EVERY YEAR!

New Student Camping Trip  Sometime during the fall, you and your classmates are going to put down your pens and calculators and pick up your tents and wilderness survival guides as you head out into the dangerous (not really) country of South Texas. So begins the New Student Camping Trip (planned by the Freshman Rep), a time of fun in the great outdoors where you’ll spend one glorious night doing all of the outdoorsy things you miss from your childhood... or that you’ve never done before. However, this isn’t just fun and games! After your night in the woods, your mission will be to find, cut down, and haul back the biggest holiday tree possible to display in our Commons (in the past, it’s been so large that it’s reached the ceiling and has taken 12 hours to set up!) After the tree is up, it continues to be a focal point for holiday festivities across Baker, including parties, decorating events, and of course, plenty of photo ops.

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Crawfish Boil What’s the best way to celebrate the end of the year? How about 200 pounds of crawfish, corn and potatoes? It’s kind of messy, but it’s definitely delicious. The good food and good company tend to make this one a really good time.

Nineties Party The 90’s are back with a vengeance, with all the dated fashion, throwback songs, and awkwardness of middle school rolled into the best party you’ve ever been to. The Baker Socials transform Baker’s Commons into a dance floor, supply 90’s themed candies. 90’s kids will be remembering this for a long time.

Baker Loves Meat At Baker, we’re proud of our ability to sizzle and smoke meat to juicy perfection on any of the grills and smokers we have for special events. Some of these events include the beloved Deers and Beers grill-out put on by one of our Associates each year where we enjoy various exotic sausages and beers (for those of age, of course). Don’t worry vegetarians, meatless options are always available, too!

Pig Roast & Exotic Cook-Outs Speaking of meat, Baker also holds a pig roast each fall. During the day, Bakerites take turns with shovels to dig a large pit, and at night, they light hot lava rocks and bury a pig wrapped in palm leaves to cook. The next morning, the pig is unearthed and a feast is held with dozens of smiling dogs, which makes for a great study break and a lot of fun.

Corgi Study Breaks For the past few years, the stress of finals have been averted in the best possible way: with puppies!!! The Baker quad is flooded with dozens of smiling dogs, which makes for a great study break and a lot of fun.

Baker Triathlon Through a mix of unknowingly possessed athleticism, unquestioned frugality, and raw desire to be badass, the Baker Triathlon was born. Each semester, Baker — with the help of a dedicated Bakerite, John Michael Austin — puts together an Olympic distance Triathlon to demonstrate that Baker is and has always been the superior college on campus. After carefully crafting a detailed training plan and arranging the full (and free) equipping of all potential athletes, bunches of Bakerites are able to do a complete triathlon for free. No experience is necessary and you can be pretty sure JM will try to convince you to participate, so if you’re even a bit interested- give it a try! You’d be surprised what you can pull of with a little work. Whether you’re a track star looking to stay in shape or an average Owl looking to get into shape, this Triathlon is a great opportunity to make friends, stay healthy, and kick ass. Open to everyone...young and old, men and women.
Following the speech, those who choose to partake go to disrobe and lather themselves with shaving cream. It is imperative that one cover one’s ‘naughty bits’—to use the scientific term—with the cream of shaving, as well as the buttocks, for they will receive a great deal of attention in actions to be performed in the near future.

Once everyone has prepared, they gather outside Old Wing and read the six rules of The Thirteen. Why the final rule is included is a well-guarded secret, and the origins have been lost in the annals of time. Regardless, once the rules are read, the runners go forth and attack the windows of other colleges, with the pressing of a shaving cream-slathered posterior being the preferred assault; Hanszen, Wiess, and Sid Richardson fall, followed by Will Rice, Lovett, and the North Colleges—Brown, Jones, McMurtry, Duncan, and Martel.

The grand tradition of Baker 13 started in 1975. It has become an important part of Rice’s public image and has marked several historic Rice events. In 2002, as a precursor to the Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, the Olympic torch passed through Houston and Rice. While it passed through campus, two Baker 13ers (who remained anonymous thanks to Rule #5) ran in front of it. On April 26, 2008, Baker 13 officially christened the newly opened Brochstein Pavilion, which boasts 4 walls of glass. In protest of the new coffee shop in the Pavilion and out of respect for the student-run Coffeehouse, the students shouted “This is for Coffeehouse!” as they fully covered each wall with body prints. This cheer has since been a part of every run. The Halloween run and the last run of the year are typically well-attended, but if this time-honored tradition tickles your fancy, you’ll have plenty of chances to run along with fellow Bakerites throughout the year.

**Rule Number 1:** Stop for all stop signs
**Rule Number 2:** Pose for all pictures
**Rule Number 3:** Attack only if attacked.
**Rule Number 4:** Outside only; no bricks or other stuff.
**Rule Number 5:** Always keep the most important part of your body covered - YOUR FACE!
**Rule Number 6:** THERE IS NO RULE NUMBER 6!
One of the most anticipated events of the year, Beer Bike is preceded by Willy Week—a whole week set aside to celebrate the birthday of our founder, William Marsh Rice, and indulge in general tomfoolery. With afternoon tailgates and every evening filled with fun activities that correspond to Baker’s Beer Bike theme, Bakerites enjoy delicious food, campus-wide sponsored events, swag study breaks, movie nights, midnight “jacks” on other colleges and so much more.

At the end of this most glorious of weeks, the entire campus is ready for the most glorious of days: Beer Bike. Named after the biking relay race that takes place that afternoon where students chug in between racers, Beer Bike draws over 4,000 students, staff, alumni, and community each year.

Following a night with little to no sleep, Beer Bike morning is full of breakfast tacos, donuts, Red Bull, non-stop dancing, college cheers, and possibly the biggest water balloon fight in the United States (and probably the best in the world). After the fight, every college makes their way to the race track with a giant parade with crazy floats. At the race track, Bakerites show their college spirit by cheering on the Baker teams as they race against the other ten colleges (plus the Graduate Student Association).

After the three races (Alumni’s, Women’s, and Men’s), “Baker Comes First!” will be all you hear and scream as Baker celebrates the glory (but sometimes heartbreak) of Beer Bike. This concludes Beer Bike, and all Bakerites return to Baker to get some well-deserved rest as we have, yet again, proved that we are the best college at Rice. Only through experiencing this wonderful week will you truly and fully understand the epic awesomeness of Beer Bike. For now, just remember this: BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEER BIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIKEEEEEEEEE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
SERVICE AT BAKER

BAKER ATHLETICS
BAKER FAMILIES

BEYOND BAKER
WHAT IS OWEEK?

Your first impressions of Rice when you come to our beautiful campus may be a bit overwhelming because you will be starting one of the most fun, helpful, and exciting weeks of the year: Orientation Week. O-Week, as we lovingly refer to it, is a student-led program dedicated to giving new students the information and resources necessary for life at Rice. Academic advising, club fairs, and student bonding are just some activities that serve as a general introduction to Rice culture. Packed with fun events like scavenger hunts and late-night food runs, O-Week is designed to ease your transition to campus and make you feel like part of the Rice community.

One of the most important components of O-Week is academic advising. Once you arrive, you’ll be meeting with student and faculty advisors who specialize in your area(s) of interest and who can help you choose classes for the semester and figure out a more long-term plan for your studies (but don’t worry, you can change it!). What’s more, you’ll have the opportunity to meet with many leaders of different student organizations and sign up for activities you’re interested in.

In addition, you’ll get to meet the various people in charge of both your residential college (Baker) and of other important groups around campus such as Health Services, the Rice University Police Department (RUPD), and various campus administrators. Most importantly though, O-Week is your first chance to meet other new students and get to know some of the upperclassmen at Rice. The community you form during this week can be a support system throughout your time at Rice. However, we must warn you, O-Week can be tiring! You’ll be doing and learning things every day, all of which contribute to your understanding of Rice and Baker. With that said, some of you may feel tired after day one, and others may be full of energy all week. Regardless, it’s important that everyone participate as much as they feel comfortable since not only are you learning about Rice, but you’re spending time with other students who could potentially become your best friends at Rice!

New students are split up into different O-Week groups, led by your trusty Advisors. This will give you a chance to really get to know a group of eight to ten other new Bakerites with a wide range of backgrounds, interests, and majors. O-Week is a shared experience, one that you may be talking about for years afterwards, so get ready and muster up all of your energy to have an amazing first week at Rice!
Ah, the O-Week Coordinator: part insanity, part dedication, part enthusiasm. The three Let it SnO-Week Coordinators have been excitedly planning for your arrival since before you knew that you were coming to Baker—or even Rice! In fact, we have been working tirelessly since January to select the Advising team from around Rice. We prepared this book for you (to keep and cherish forever as your first connecting thread to the greatness that is Baker College), placed you into O-Week groups, and planned fun and informative events for you during O-Week.

One of the best things about Rice is that the administration places a great deal of faith in students (i.e. us) to run things. In turn, we work to support you during O-Week and beyond. Always feel free to say hi; we can’t wait to meet you and get to know you throughout the year! We’re actually pretty cool people (we swear we’ll try our best. So, start counting down the days ‘til you can join us as we lead you on the crazy journey that is O-Week!

What is a Coordinator?
So you may be thinking: “How are three Coordinators possibly going to show the 90 incoming Bakerites all there is to know about Rice?” Well, this is where your Advisors come in. You, along with every other New Student, will be assigned an O-Week group which consists of at least two current Bakerites and one upperclassman from another residential college. In addition to those three, you may also have a fourth “Affiliate” upperclassman in your group who, along with their role as Advisor will also have other specific responsibilities during the week. All of the Advisors were hand-picked by us to help you throughout your transition to college, so you can trust they’re one awesome group of students.

Don’t be surprised when you meet your Advisors and they already know your name, interests, and where you’re from. They’ve been counting down the days to O-Week and have been not-so-patiently waiting to meet you. Starting the moment you arrive, these students will make you feel at home by helping you move in, hosting bonding time with your O-Week group, and serving as a guide to answer all of your questions about life at Rice. They’re all here to make your transition to Rice as smooth and fun as it can possibly be.

One of the coolest things about your Advisors is that they come from all walks of life, have had different experiences at Rice, and can help you understand the uniqueness of Rice’s campus diversity. This Advising team comes all different walks of life and they are all prepared to share their experiences—academic and beyond—with you. Regardless of what you want to do at Rice, one of your Advisors can steer you in the right direction (or help you find another Advisor who can). They’re super excited to get to know each and every one of you, and they’ll keep in touch even after O-Week ends. They’ll still be around to help you out, and more importantly, just to be your friend if you need one (or four). To find out more about these great beings, turn to page 64 and read about the coolest people on campus: The Baker Advising Team.
LET IT SNO-WEEK GROUPS
James Warner: the man, the mystery, the legend. If you've ever wanted to see greatness in action, congratulations, you now have the opportunity! With insane break dancing skills that are known even beyond the hedges, a rare, magical personality that won him Mr. Baker, and an incomprehensible passion for lemonade, James has it all. But be careful: don't fall trap to his suave sarcasm or he might convince you that the advisor book is wrong and that he is in fact not James. As an aspiring biostatistician, James certainly has the brains to match his legendary physique. How is one supposed to even approach such a magnificent human? Perhaps the best thing about James is his genuine kindness and openness. He loves meeting and getting to know people well. The proof? James probably knows every sophomore at Rice. James also holds daily office hours at 4:30 AM during his campus walks if anyone wants to talk, but will undoubtedly make time whenever. James is honestly one of the greatest friends one could have, and Baker is lucky to have him! I don't have to tell you to get to know him because he will be sure to make that happen.

- Saad Ehsan (McMurtry 2019)

Sarah Tseggay: Tis the season! All you want for Let It Sno-Week is the wonderful Sarah Tseggay! Sledding in from Plano, Texas, this Junior double-majoring in Cognitive Sciences and Sociology is excited to meet all of the new Bakerites (even though she's a Jonesian at heart). A person of never ending fun and laughter, there is never a dull moment with Sarah. When she's not watching classic sitcoms like Gilmore Girls and Friends, this 12-year-old look-alike can be found eating copious amounts of candy at any time of the day. A perpetual (but terrible) singer, Sarah can vibe with you on almost any genre. If you ever find yourself casually humming a tune, you can count on Sarah to join in whether you want her to or not. Be that as it may, Sarah Tseggay is one of the best people I have met at Rice. Spending most of her spare time in organizations that help children and families in need, Sarah has a heart of pure empathy and love. A rational and open thinker, she will always be there for you when you need it. I am grateful to have spent the last two years with such a wonderful person, and I am glad that you all will soon do the same.

- Pamela Ekechukwu (Jones 2019)

Hatim Amiji: Hatim, a civil engineer with plans to potentially join the U.S. military, is the product of growing up in many different cultures: Tanzanian, American, and Indian. With such a diverse home life, it is no wonder Hatim is receptive to diverse views and willing to converse about visibly any topic. Whether it be intellectual conversations or just general fooling around, spending time with him is a hoot with his immense library of references to pop culture and quick wit.In addition to his varied interests, he can often be found at parties, engaging with a wide array of people. His capability to go out and enjoy but prioritize his work makes him an inspiring personality. Besides partying and studying, Hatim also gives time to working out and playing sports. Furthermore, he is an extremely caring and genuine person. I don't think Hatim is even capable of lying, and because of this, one can always be sure that when Hatim says he will be there for you, he will be there. Hatim is truly an amazing person, and you are lucky to have him as an advisor!

- Krishna Goel (Baker 2020)

Maddy Eschberger: Congratulations! Not only have you been accepted to Rice and sorted into Baker, you have Maddy Eschberger as your advisor! You could say that Maddy is a jack of all trades. She's the whole package - brains, brawn, and beauty. Her passion for learning is clear when you hear about her 27 majors and 54 minors (approximately) that she's getting at Rice. Not only is she book smart but she's also incredibly witty. Her jokes are clever and will make you smile no matter what. She shows her athletic talent on the powderpuff field (seriously, she's so good). As captain, she led the Baker team to the playoffs last year and made the games super exciting, scoring many pick sixes that kept the crowd on the edges of our seats. As for her beauty, you will immediately notice her sincere smile and way-too blonde hair. You'll soon see that she is beautiful inside and out. She is a wonderful friend and shows relentless kindness and support for everyone she meets. She will greatly improve your day, whether it's good or bad, and gives great advice. Basically, she is the gal that is always in your corner. You couldn't ask for a better advisor!!

- Claire Bonnyman (Baker 2017)
Jordan Geer  
**Baker | Advisor | Sophomore | MATH | Pearland, TX**

You can learn a lot about a person by looking at the shoes they wear, and Jordan Geer is no exception. The slip-on Vans she wears most days tells you this is someone who feels familiar, like you’ve been friends with her your whole life. The Ugg she wears when Houston’s lovely weather permits tells you she’s a little basic, but also has good taste (this good taste applies to food too; listen to her dinner recommendations, they don’t disappoint). The 3-inch heels she brings out on special occasions (they’re her shortest heels she sweats!) tells you she’s a classy gal, and she can accessorize with her extensive collection of Kendras. And finally, she’s got the Heelys. That’s right, your future O-Week advisor, the MBW events coordinator, and one of my best friends, occasionally rocks a pair of Heelys, and you’d be mistaken if you think she can’t make them work. When she’s not acting as a budding fashionista, this math-loving Pearland Texas native enjoys playing the French horn and showing people pictures of her dog. Whether you need someone to pick you up when you’re down or want to put some puzzles together in between classes, Jordan’s door is always open, and you’d be hard-pressed to find a better advisor.

- Daniel Williams (Lovett 2017)

Claire Luo  
**Brown | Co-Advisor | Junior | ENGL | Bethesda, MD**

Balancing life as a pre-med English major, Claire is constantly juggling a tendency to get overexcited about chemistry with a (slightly unhealthy) obsession with Vonnegut. Despite her busy schedule, Claire is always willing to make time for others. She can fulfill your academic and caffeine needs (the two go hand-in-hand) as Head Academic Fellow and a Coffeehouse Barista (get you a girl who can do both)! Claire’s greatest achievement, however, is knowing the lyrics to every song in Hamilton: An American Musical. Claire also likes to watch movies, or rather falling asleep halfway through the movie. When she’s not running around campus, at rowing practice, or working at the OAA, Claire can be found in the distant, yet wonderful land known as Brown College. If you spot her at Brown or Baker, you can be greeted with one of Claire’s famous hugs. No matter where she is, Claire will always be ready with a hot cup of tea and chocolate to talk about the crazy shenanigans you’ll inevitably find yourself involved in at Rice!

- Amani Ramiz (Brown 2019)

Alberto Tohme  
**Baker | Advisor | Junior | PHIL, POLI | Houston, TX**

I consider myself lucky to have this generous, enthusiastic, and might I add handsome, Bakerite as one of my best friends. First of all, Alberto is a political science and philosophy double major who can teach you everything you need to know about writing essays in short amounts of time. With all your free time, he can show you a thing or two about his amazing athletic career at Rice. He has been a star player on both the Baker Men’s soccer and flag football teams, and he can usually be found pumping iron in the Rec. Hailing from right here in Houston, he can introduce you to all the best places around the city, especially all his favorite Whataburgers. If you want something more academic in nature, Alberto can tell you all about his mock trial club and show you the best spots in Fondren to get some work done. If you can’t get enough of Alberto, you’re in luck! Both of his triplets also attend Rice and are just as fantastic to be around as Alberto himself. You will quickly come to see that he is a dedicated advisor who will be an amazing friend and mentor through both O-week and the rest of the year.

- Jeremy Palmer (Baker 2019)

Julian Wilson  
**Baker | Photographer | Senior | EBIO, SWGS | Chapel Hill, NC**

If you have Julian Wilson as your advisor, congratulations, you’ve hit the jackpot! Have questions about ecology or advanced feminist theory? Don’t worry, Julian can walk you through it. Craving a cup of artisanal tea? Julian’s got you. Julian is a Baker College senior from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, who is double majoring in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and the Study of Women, Gender, & Sexuality and studies the intersections of gender and the establishment of scientific knowledge. She is the incoming director of the Rice Women’s Resource Center and is always around for great conversation or cheese and gluten-free crackers. You can see Julian walking around Baker in long skirts and incredible eyeliner or in her room taking care of her multitude of plants. Julian is one of the most caring, supportive, and accepting people you will get to meet at Rice and is always around to lend an ear. She loves her family and friends and now you are both! To know this wonderful woman is to love her and to always have someone looking out for you, so get ready to have a wonderful first year!

- Bridget Schilling (Lovett 2017)
Jolen Martinez | Baker | Advisor | Sophomore | ANTH, HIST, POLI | Lucas, TX
Need help perfecting an essay or making your hair just the right amount of curly? Call up Jolen! He has a wide, adventurous spirit which led him to a prosperous high school debate career, so involvement with multiple organizations in Rice such as HUGER, ultimately toward an enriching future. On any given day, Jolen enjoys keeping up with the political landscape and learning the history of numerous cultures. Although he can become quite busy, he’ll always make time for others. Combining his ample insight and eagerness to help with wholehearted sincerity, Jolen can transform into an encyclopedia of events from antiquity or perhaps the Rick and Morty series. Baker is known as the classiest college, but some students stop writing. Jolen’s diet consists solely of Cinnabon and Dr. Pepper, no kidding. If you want to get to know Justin, ask him about a movie. Chances are he’s seen it. Five times. When he isn’t watching something on TV, you can find him looking for any way to not do school work. Being the social butterfly he is, often this means getting to know almost everyone on campus. If you walk into any room, Justin will know at least two people. If Justin is your advisor, get excited because you are about to meet one of the most enthusiastic, sociable, and genuine people Rice has to offer!

- James Warner (Baker 2020)

Justin Berry | Lovett | Co-Advisor | Sophomore | ELEC | Dallas, TX
Some people have a big heart and a big smile to match. Some have a brain like Einstein. Others have washboard abs. Justin has it all. Hailing from the streets of Dallas, TX, Justin caught Rice by surprise with his killer looks and charming sense of humor. There was never a more electrifying personality perfectly suited to study electrical engineering. If you need cheering up, Justin is on call round the clock. He will hand deliver you Cheetos, attempt to give you fashion advice, or recommend the best movies you will ever watch. Be prepared to meet your new health inspiration. Justin’s diet consists solely of Cinnabon and Dr. Pepper, no kidding. If you want to get to know Justin, ask him about a movie. Chances are he’s seen it. Five times. When he isn’t watching something on TV, you can find him looking for any way to not do school work. Being the social butterfly he is, often this means getting to know almost everyone on campus. If you walk into any room, Justin will know at least two people. If Justin is your advisor, get excited because you are about to meet one of the most enthusiastic, sociable, and genuine people Rice has to offer!

- Juliette Richert (Will Rice 2016)

Uma Ramesh | Baker | Advisor | Sophomore | CSCI | Dallas, TX
The first thing you may notice about Uma Ramesh is that she’s tiny. And yet she manages to pack quite a lot in her 5’0 frame. Hailing from Dallas, this Texas girl is a captain of the South Asian fusion a cappella group at Rice, Basmati Beats. She not only arranges music for the team but also blows many a mind with her amazing solos. If you’re ever moved by her singing to a point where you need medical attention, worry not because Uma has you covered there. As a member of the Rice Emergency Medical Service (REMS), Uma is trained to fix any issues you may have. Furthermore, as a Harry Potter fanatic, Uma is also trained in many magical disciplines such as Organic Chemistry. This has helped pre-med Uma in her pursuit of a Cognitive Sciences degree, a super-rare thing at Rice (not). In addition, as a staunch advocate for women’s rights, Uma will expel any prejudiced notions concerning woman empowerment. In fact she even travelled to DC over spring break to advocate for women’s rights and met Elizabeth Warren! If that seems interesting, don’t worry, she will tell you all about it (even if you don’t ask her to). Jokes aside, Uma is a lovely human being and a bright, bubbly bundle of joy. She will make you feel supported and loved from the moment you meet her. If she is your advisor, strap in for a wonderful ride filled with laughter and a lot of Taco Bell.

- Wangden Sherpa (Lovett 2020)

Madison Nasteff | Baker | Gopher | Junior | MECH | Kansas City, MO
Madison is probably the most well-rounded person we know. She kills it in the books and on the field. She is the type of girl who will casually run a marathon after training for a month and get chosen to run another one in Athens, Greece because she did so well (this actually happened lol). This powderpuff MVP and all-star runner will run through your heart too because she is the most selfless, kind, and loyal friend. She is literally always there for anyone who needs her. Madison is also not afraid to speak her mind to stand up for what is right and protect her friends and family. On top of all of this, she has a killer sense of humor. You can always count on Madison to joke around with you and laugh at your jokes, making you feel like the funnest person in the world. Madison somehow juggles 25 extracurricular responsibilities at once, while also flawlessly working towards her Mechanical Engineering degree. You could say she is excelling in every aspect of her life. Madison is an all around great girl that will always have your back no matter what. She is very helpful and easy to talk to. We cannot even begin to count how many times we have said “let’s ask Madison,” and we have never not felt better after taking to her.

- Vicky Martell (Baker 2020), Gabi Gomez (Baker 2020)
If you're looking for the way to Eliza Martin's heart, start with a fresh package of York Peppermint Patties. Throw in a few polaroids and calligraphy pens, along with several majors and probably some minors too and there you have it. This Austin, TX native was named after a spring in her hometown (luckily she wasn't a boy, or else she would've been named Barton Martin) and loves all things Austin. On any given day, you might find Eliza doing research about startups and entrepreneurship at the Baker Institute for Public Policy, bartending at Willy’s Pub, or writing a 20 page history paper in the Baker Commons. Amongst her busyness, Eliza always makes time for those around her; and she is a selfless and caring friend. No matter how much she has going on in her life (which believe us, is a lot), she will always take the time to check in on you and make sure you’re doing alright. She has a knack for brightening the mood in the people around her with her humor and killer playlist, and her laugh is undeniably contagious. At this point, we’d like to extend our most sincere congratulations. You are lucky enough to have Eliza Martin enter into your life and that means you have gained an amazing role model, hardworking advisor, and thoughtful friend.

- Serena Agrawal (Baker 2019), Madison Nasteff (Baker 2019)

Eliza Martin
Baker | Advisor | Junior | HIST, LASR, POLI | Austin, TX

And here’s Astitva Soni! From Edison, New Jersey. Astitva is probably one of the most... unique people you’ll meet. His smartness is often accompanied with statements that make no sense, for which he gets roasted. He’s good at memorizing things but then loses his keys and searches pretty much the entire Greater Houston area. He hates missing class, but it takes 10 alarms at the loudest volume possible to wake him up. But despite all these confusing contradictions, Astitva is a passionate future doctor who anyone can lean on. He’s on Rice’s Bollywood Dance Team, works in a neuroscience lab, and is involved with many other clubs. He loves to eat pretty much anything, and you’ll often find him ordering food at 1 in the morning. He is passionate about music and will talk to you about it all the time. Despite not being from here, Houston sports have grown on him, and you will see him supporting the Texans and Rockets! Most importantly, he’s the type of guy who will celebrate your achievements and help you through your hard times - and that’s why I consider him my younger brother. This advisor is excited to meet all of you at O-Week!

- Saiesh Kalva (McMurtry 2019)

Astitva Soni
Martel | Co-Advisor | Sophomore | BIOC, BUSI minor | Edison, NJ

A Dallas native, Christian Crenshaw is a music aficionado. He can play piano, guitar, drums, and sing. However, his favorite musical activity is producing beats that will make you bop your head. One day he is going to be a superstar so get his autograph now while it’s still free! Despite his musical prowess don’t be too star struck because he doesn’t let all that talent go to his head, and he is just like you or me. He is absolutely obsessed with Skittles so if you want to get on his good side, you know what to do. He is also really passionate about basketball, so you can catch him at the rec making an insane number of threes. And don’t even talk bad about his favorite player Kevin Durant, Christian is also involved around Rice as a leader with the Baptist Student Ministry, and a member of the Black Student Association. The sweetest guy you’ve ever known, he is kind to everyone he meets, and he is always willing to make a new friend. So, buckle up because this amazing guy is going to be at an O-Week near you!

- Dilo Dube (Wiess 2018)

Christian Crenshaw
Baker | Athletic Affiliate | Senior | SMGT | Fort Worth, TX

Looming at an intimidating five feet, Anu is proof that great things come in small packages. Don’t be fooled by her fun-sized proportions, this girl has the spark and energy of a corgi puppy. Just like the PowerPuff Girls, Anu is made of sugar, spice, and everything nice. With her bubbly personality, Anu is sure to make your day brighter with her cheerful laughter and affectionate hugs. Don’t let Anu homewosaicge you into thinking she’s perfectly innocent though, Anu is a force of nature, one to be revered, and unlike anyone you have ever met. She is rumored to be helping create the next Captain America serum through her bioengineering research at the BRC while simultaneously staying up to date with Game of Thrones, Scandal and countless other shows. With Anu as your guide, your Rice journey is going to be more fun than you could ever expect!

- Christina Mezmur (Baker 2019), Bill Duong (Baker 2019), Tiffani Tjandra (Baker 2019), Monika Karki (Baker 2019)

Anu Dwarampudi
Baker | RHA Affiliate | Junior | BIOC, HART | Flower Mound, TX
Tesi Smith
Baker | Advisor | Junior | BIOC | Greenbelt, MD
Words can not describe the legend that is Teresa “Tesi” Smith. This half Argentine woman speaks innumerable languages, rivals Messi with her soccer skills, and makes the impossible possible. It’s been said she can smile while still frowning, get a concussion while wearing a helmet, lose things in places she hasn’t been, and even crash a car without driving it anywhere. While I’m sure you’re wondering how one woman can do so much, there’s more, because her true power is in her friendship. Tesi will always be there for you to go on a coffeehouse run, talk about football, or just listen to your problems. Whatever you need, she’ll be there for you, and she’s never far. You can always find her in commons studying, skyping her cats, or playing candy crush. And even when she’s not around, she thoughtfully leaves her keys, Rice ID, and coffee mugs all around commons and throughout campus, so you always know she’s with you. Get ready for the advisor of your dreams, because you couldn’t have asked for anyone better than Tesi.
- Maddie Murphy (Baker 2019)

Amina Matin
Brown | Co-Advisor | Sophomore | MTEC, BUSI minor | Houston, TX
Contrary to popular belief, the photo above is in fact a photo of Amina, not her dog, Mason (people get them mixed up all the time). Amina loves sharing her passions with others but you have to (kindly) ask if you want Amina to share her snacks. Amina’s snack box is equitable to Kroger’s aisle 4 in both quantity and variety. What really makes her heart sing, though, is a chocolate cupcake from Local Foods, a hip Houston restaurant. Buy her some Local Foods and you’ve got a friend for life (that’s what I did)! But don’t plan on seeing the Houston native dining at her fav restaurant over the summer. Amina is immersing herself in France for the summer and will return to Rice fluent in French. During the school year if she’s not at Bhanga practice, volunteering at the women’s resource center, or studying in Brown’s commons you can find Amina DM-ing Harry Styles, keeping up with the Kardashians, or running at the Rec. Always up for an adventure, Amina is spontaneous, easy going, and eager to be your friend!
- Whitney Gartenberg (Brown 2020)

Matthew Ringheanu
Baker | Advisor | Junior | MTEC | Harlingen, TX
If you’re lucky enough to be placed in Matthew Ringheanu’s O-week group, you have quite the adventure in front of you. Hailing from the southern-most tip of Texas, Matthew is always on the grind. An average day in his life might include a quick triathlon in the morning, maybe a few hours of analyzing economic theory in the afternoon, and an unreal and probably slightly unhealthy McDonald’s chicken nugget challenge around dinner time. Add in leading the Baker ping pong team and perhaps dropping one of his iconic dabs and you have an adventure that Matthew considers Monday. As spectacular as Matthew is, he is also one of the most genuine people I know. He is always up for a conversation and will always be honest. Matthew does not let you go the whole day with food on your face. He’ll talk to you if he notices something is making you upset or angry, and he’ll weigh in on whether something is “clutch” or “choke”. Matthew will be a true friend, take on challenges, and always keep it real with you.
- Veeral Shah (Baker 2019)

Alyssa Graham
Baker | Gopher | Sophomore | CHBE | Tyler, TX
Walking up to my room for the first time, I paused a little bit before opening the door to prepare myself to meet my new roommate, Alyssa Graham. Upon entering, all my preparation went to not blurting out “holy stuff” because this girl had so much stuff spread across the room it was hard to walk in. I grumbled a bit then, but throughout the year, I realized Alyssa brought a lot more to Rice than I thought. She carried a calm, level head, instant selflessness, endless empathy, more boho chic clothing than the closet could hold, and an Essie nail color that perfectly sums her up: Eternal Optimist. One time, I even caught her dragging an entire orange tree into our room, presumably to save Rice’s carbon footprint and fit with her baby kale garden (you think I’m kidding?) Around Rice, you might see Alyssa drifting to Coffeehouse to conquer a load of Chemical Engineering homework, belting out Sia and Shakira songs at an acapella concert, or scouting where next to put solar panels on campus. At times, she’s been compared to a big, fluffy poodle, a baby bison (her favorite animal), or an Amazonian goddess, but no matter what, if you welcome the chance to let Alyssa, laden with all her wonderful stuff, amble into your life, you’ll gain a kind, unwavering friend with a heart and mane of gold.
- Katherine Simmers (Baker 2020)
William Feist
Baker | Advisor | Junior | BIOC | Dallas, TX
In your time at Rice you may never find an individual with a more exquisite taste in fine restaurants than William Feist. On occasion you may find him at his favorite dining institution Cici’s Pizza, tucking into copious amounts of cheese-laden, pepperoni-laden, and to finish: cinnamon-sugar-laden cardboard. This one-stop-shop of sophistication could hail from nowhere but Dallas, Texas, where you can find him playing pickup soccer, cuddling with his basett hound, or brooding about the next semester of pre-med courses. Despite his busy schedule in the foodie-community, William finds time to execute critical biochemistry experiments in his second home across campus: Anderson Bio-labs. Despite being at the mercy of cell cultures and PCR procedures William finds time to cultivate a frustratingly effortless level of athleticism through soccer, flag-football, and running triathlons. While William checks off a lot of boxes on the list of typical Rice student characteristics he is far from a typical friend. He is undyingly kind and sticks to his morals and principles against any odds. He will be the first to support you at your best and the first to help you through your worst. Handy words and superlatives can truly encapsulate how important William’s friendship will be for you but it could be reassurance that any expectations you have will be exceeded beyond measure.
- Derek Qu (Baker 2018)

Rachel Lin
McMurtry | Co-Advisor | Senior | PSYC, SOCI minor | Tiburon, CA
Sailing/Hailing from McMurtry College and Tiburon, California (this translates to Shark, California), (string-light-chic Lin is a whale of a good time! This above-average psychology major is proudly Taiwanese, and less proudly reliant on Gatorade after big meals. Rachel is defined by her passions: among these are Spotify’s Latin playlists, her dog Sandy, bottomless gnocchi day, and the Bay Area’s tap water. Though she’s not physically imposing, you will be hard-pressed to sidestep Rachel’s Pink/Emma Stone-esque voice either telling you about said dog, lamenter over the lack of roughage in her diet, or singing Shawn Mendes. You may come to know Rachel as a wise Senior or an artistically brooding barista at Coffeehouse. Don’t let her thirty-veiled composure distract you from the fact that she played Sandy in her 8th grade rendition of Grease, and still knows all her lines. If nothing else, keep her around to see the video; critics laud it as “Uncomfortably pre-pubescent” and “Somehow worse than the movie”! Musical experience notwithstanding, Rachel will do anything to ensure that you benefit from this fine cheese and less-fine (still cheesy) RomCom enthusiast. Keeping with her spilling habit (in reference to both food and her lack of coordination), Rachel will drop everything to lend a well-intentioned and even better lotioned hand (she’s got eczema). Suffice it to say, few people truly care for their friends as passionately and uniquely as your advisor, newest old friend, and class-of-2018 clown EXTRAordinare: Rachel Elizabeth Lin.
- Pedro Alvarez (Baker 2018), Abri Brugo (Lovett 2018), Davis Holmes (Lovett 2019)

Cannon Armistead
Baker | Advisor | Sophomore | MECH | Lafayette, CA
Upon meeting Cannon Armistead, my first question was which of his muscles is the biggest? Could it be his biceps, triceps, pectorals, or abdominals? While all of those muscles are certainly large, it actually turns out it’s the most important muscle in the human body – the heart. Focused on being the best teammate rather than being the star player (even though he almost always is), Cannon is as friendly and as honest as they come. A peer academic advisor for mechanical engineering, dedicated friend, and experienced weight lifter, Cannon can help you tackle a variety of problems, ranging from solving multivariable calculus problems to designing workouts to build muscle, burn fat, and feel better; he’ll probably be down to do the exercises with you! If Cannon isn’t your advisor, that sucks... JOKING! All kidding aside you should definitely make sure you get to know Cannon, because it’s rare that you will ever get to meet someone as genuine as Cannon. If you need to get a hold of Cannon, you should first check the rec’s weight room, then listen around Baker for any Tupac or other West Coast hip-hop artists, or follow the smell of food. If none of these tips can help you locate Cannon, then he is probably out on a mission to save the world (especially the environment) with his awesomeness.
- Jesse Liebman (Baker 2020)

Ashley Nguyen
Baker | Diversity Facilitator | Sophomore | ECON | Phoenix, AZ
The aridity of Arizona was never a bother for Ashley, for she provided all the coolness one could ever desire even in the midst of an unforgiving climate. Well that, and she spends a great deal of time either indoors or napping. ‘Tis no surprise. Many desert animals have, of course, become nocturnal in order to thrive in their environments. Ashley is no different, and you might be able to catch her in the commons studying, scrolling through Twitter, or binge watching her favorite TV shows on Netflix. All jokes aside, Ashley is a person who is genuinely passionate about her studies and never stops thinking about their implications beyond the hedges. That is what drew her to her role as a Diversity Facilitator in the first place; Ashley understands the importance of fostering an environment that encourages conversation and understanding among people of all backgrounds, as well as the value that comes with listening to and comprehending another’s point of view, even if it differs from her own. With Ashley as your Advisor, you’ll have instant access to helpful advice, thoughtful insight, and, most importantly, the darkest of memes.
- Chris Brehm (Baker 2018), Angi Vertti (Baker 2020)
Krishna Goel

You are really lucky to have Krishna Goel as one of your advisors. Krishna is a sophomore studying Computer Science and is a resident of Baker college. His passions lie deep within the academic grind and cracking open a cold one with the boys. Born in international student land, Krishna grew up in many East Asian countries as part of the Singapore American School, which he believes no high school can compare to. This kid is awesome; he loves having fun on weekends, but when it comes time to hit the books, you can probably find him at 4 AM in a Fondren study room or Baker old wing kitchen. Krishna likes having deep conversations on a daily basis, going to the gym, bragging about how he is good at sports no one else has ever played, and being a great listener. While he may come off as someone who has no clue what is going on around him, he is usually the best person to ask for help in any situation you need to trust. Krishna is your man. Krishna also thinks that India is the greatest country to ever exist in all facets; contest this and you will be passively, logically rekt m8.

- Hatim Amiji (Baker 2020)

Amy Griffiths

Do you mean that beautiful, glowing, 5’3” Jonesian civil and environmental engineer? Dude, she’s legendary on campus. I heard that one time she ran 10 miles before 10 AM, just as a warm-up. I heard that she never walks on the grass in the academic quad because she knows the ecological strains that grass puts on the environment. I heard that she eats five dozen and one eggs every morning, just so that she has more gains that Gaston from Beauty and the Beast. I heard one time that she takes such good photos for Jones as their historian that people see them and cry real tears of joy. I heard one time that she’s so good at yoga that a yoga instructor saw her shavasana and simply quit. I heard that one time she baked some apple pie that was almost as sweet as her. I heard that Leebron calls her up when he’s tryna decide what to do with the endowment, because she’s so responsible. I can personally confirm that almost all of that is true. The only thing that isn’t true is that she doesn’t eat five dozen and one eggs a day; she actually eats five dozen and TWO. And what I can also confirm is that Amy is really gosh-darn excited to meet all of you new Bakerites. Her heart is really big and her smile is really wide, and she’s gonna knock your socks off.

- Sydney Garrett (McMurtry 2019)

Travis Kwee

It’s 3 AM and you’re up late studying. Suddenly, a hero appears from the fog; it’s Travis Kwee, and he’s brought you a delicious plate of cookies that he inexplicably started baking after midnight! Travis is everyone’s favorite nocturnal Baker baker. Besides being the kindest friend ever to just about everyone, Travis (or Travo, if you’re trying to be cool) is most well known for his fearless tenacity in the battle for the soul of Mother Earth. He is always starting new green projects and initiatives, and his passion knows no bounds. As one of your BGHS reps, he is also committed to keeping Baker classy. Don’t let his commitment to the Earth and to Baker fool you, though, Travis loves to have fun. Favorite activities include introducing people to overly complex board games, jamming to Blink 182, funding absurd Kickstarter projects, and trying out new recipes for baked goods. For real, Travis is one of the most genuine people in all of Baker. He’ll hope you when you’re up and he’ll comfort you when you’re down. You’re very lucky that you get to have Travis as an Advisor.

- Caz Smith (Baker 2020)

Annum Sadana

Beyonce. Angelina Jolie. Michelle Obama. What do all these women have in common? They wanted to be Annum Sadana when they grew up. Don’t let her tiny frame fool you; this Bollywood Babe can pack a lot of sass, confidence, and wit in a little over 5 feet. With her “anything you can do, I can do better attitude” and dash of southern hospitality, Annum represents the spirit of her native Houston and the spice of her Indian heritage in all of her academic and extracurricular pursuits. From fighting for vaccination at the Texas State Capitol to educating about women’s health in Africa, Annum is making strides to become the next surgical goddess of America, but for now, she has to settle for running the pre-med show at Rice. With what little free time she has left, Annum can be found dancing the night away, living out her Pinterest dreams while redesigning the Parker Redman Lounge at Baker, and giving her whole self to supporting and caring for her friends. If you couldn’t guess already, Annum has it all, and I could not find a better role model, dancing buddy, or friend for new students at Baker.

- Katherine Simmers (Baker 2020)
305 DALE BABY!!! If you hear this around Baker, there’s a 50% chance it’s coming from Gabi Gomez. This little bundle of Cuban beauty may be small in stature, but every inch of her 5-foot frame is full of joy. If you’re ever in need of a bandaid, don’t worry because this sophomore pre-med kinesiology major has got you covered. Although not an adventurous eater (her diet consists of bread, pasta, and fruit), Gabi is always willing to try new activities, from powderpuff football to a summer medical service trip to Honduras. When any given Latin pop song comes on, you can catch Gabi dancing her signature move (ask her for a demonstration). We’ve gone to her room at least 75 times for an ear to vent to and a shoulder to cry on. Gabi is always willing to listen and give the perfect advice and biggest hug. She always makes you feel like you deserve the best and will remind you of that any time you need it. It’s hard to be with Gabi and not feel like everything is going to be okay. Her presence is always one that exude happiness, love, and comfort, even when times are hard. You are so very lucky to have Gabi as your advisor, so know that in having her as an O-Week mentor, you will also have her as a friend for life!

- Madison Nasteff (Baker 2019), Vicky Martell (Baker 2020), Rebecca Francis (Baker 2020)

Brian Tighe
Wiess | Co-Advisor | Senior | CHBE | Fort Lauderdale, FL

Brian ‘Tighe’ (pronounced “Tie”) is truly a shooting star. Hailing from the faraway land of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this fine gentleman has the full package. He is pursuing a rigorous degree in chemical biomolecular-engineering, but manages to balance his time to accommodate all his other activities nonetheless - his email address isn’t excellence@rice.edu for no reason. Widely renowned as the best Chief Justice Wiess had ever seen, Brian is always sure to turn up... his awareness so everyone can have a safe and enjoyable time. At the same time, this feisty “tighe”-ger is always the life of the party and his infectious happiness will always make you have a good time. In addition to these first-class qualities, Brian also possesses a fantastic sense of humor and his jokes will never fail to rub you the right way. In all honesty, Brian is one of the nicest guys you’ll ever meet, and he’s always willing to help you out or talk to you about anything. There is nothing Brian is more excited about than O-Week and welcoming the next class of new students into the Baker and Rice communities. I can’t emphasize enough how lucky y’all are to have this guy as your co-advisor!

- Eugene Wang (Wiess 2018)

Veronica Zheng
Baker | Advisor | Sophomore | CSCI | Dallas, TX

Veronica is a lot to handle, but that’s just because she’s overflowing with kindness and excitement towards the new people she meets. This Dallas-native Biosciences major gets super excited over (too) many things, including the Vanderbilt Melodores, great vegetarian food, and Studio Ghibli movies. Her pride and joy are her eyebrows and her lipstick. There could be an orgo final the next day, or an essay due, or a tornado, but she’ll always have her eyebrows on and her lipstick perfect as she downs her double-shot iced coffee. When she’s not studying, or showing off her sick dance moves instead of studying, she might be found directing her a cappella group, The Phils, or leaving a trail of cat doodles. Rumor has it that if you sing songs loudly enough, she’ll come bursting through the ceiling to harmonize. Veronica, or “Vernca” as she is known to some, has big plans for her sophomore year, like kicking her habit of eating two dinners a day. She’ll also be working at MD Anderson, so hit her up with questions about research! Veronica would like to thank her friends, family, and Jon Bellion for helping her freshman year self (especially Jon Bellion - she’ll aggressively push his music on you until you recognize him for the beautiful man that he is). She’s beyond ready to help welcome you to the best college on campus, so if you land this treble-threat (haha get it) as your advisor, you’ll be in the best hands.

- Jia Kim (Baker 2020)

Veeral Shah
Baker | Advisor | Junior | MTEC | Cortlandt Manor, NY

He’s faster than you thought possible on two legs. He’s taller than your new twin XL mattress. He’s got the latest fashion trends, the meanest frisbee tosses, and the slickest dance moves. But the first thing you should know about Veeral is that you can depend on him. He is on board for every adventure and likes to chat about just about anything. He’s never not down to chill, I don’t know how he has time for anything else. Wanna play ball or go on a run? He’s down. Wanna grab coffee and talk about life? Down. Wanna cook up some brunch in the Baker kitchens? You should probably be careful letting him cook, but he’s down. No matter what you’re into or what’s on your mind, Veeral has got your back. He’s kind, compassionate, patient, and a truly incredible friend. He will be with you every step of the way for your introduction to Baker, to Rice, and beyond.

- Kunal Shah (Wiess 2018)
Legend has it that 20 years ago, the heavens above parted, and as light streamed down from the skies, their beams illuminated a child that sparkled under the sun’s radiance. I speak, of course, of none other than Monika Karki. The day Monika Karki graced the world with her presence, the world as we knew it changed. It was no longer gloomy skies, but rainbows and butterflies. This angel hailing from Baton Rouge, Louisiana likes spending time outdoors and taking in the beautiful weather or gorgeous campus here at Rice. She also loves hanging out with her friends, and eating her favorite foods (like shaved ice and sriracha chips). Have a sketchy adventure you want to go on? Monika will lead the way. Even with her difficult schedule as a pre-med bioengineer, she will always find the time to laugh and lend you an ear if you need one. If you want to go brunching or take a picture in front of a mural, she is always down to be at a pH of 14 with you. Most importantly, Monika is one of the kindest, most genuine, and most understanding people, and by the end of freshmen year, she won’t be just your advisor anymore, but an incredible lifelong friend. With Monika at your side, freshmen year won’t just be a great year, it will be an unforgettable year, trust me.

- Christina Mezmur (Baker 2019), Sriparna Sen (Baker 2019), Bill Duong (Baker 2019)

Monika Karki Baker | Advisor | Junior | BIOE | West Palm Beach, FL

Did you know that Mahdi wrote one of his college application essays entirely about his love of eggs? Not even kidding. Hailing from the far east, Mahdi spent the formative years of middle school and high school attending the American School in Japan (Tokyo), after living the suburban life in the Alamo City for most of his childhood. If you ask him where he’s from, chances are he’ll give you the whole spiel, and engage you in a conversation about what it means to be from somewhere. An Economics major that’s really confused about what to do with his degree, Mahdi enjoys activism, non-profit work, and film. Not typically known as an avid reader, Mahdi has been seen crunching through Haruki Murakami and Khaled Hosseini novels in his spare time.

- Mahdi Fariss (McMurtry 2019)

Mahdi Fariss McMurtry | Co-Advisor | Junior | ECON, BUSI minor | Tokyo, Japan

Where to begin with the enigma that is John Komoll. Born and raised in Chicago, John has developed a personality type that is unrivaled by even the self-proclaimed most unique people. His intelligence and drive are evident daily as he pursues his degree in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering because he is constantly on top of his responsibilities and always getting it done. However, do not let this fool you into thinking that he is anything other than a social butterfly. With each beat of his metaphorical wings, John is either cracking a witty joke or sparking up a conversation. He is currently the Captain of the Rice Crew team, where he excels at rowing through water at speeds half as fast as those of a midsize sedan rolling through a school zone. Despite all of these seemingly intimidating characteristics, John is also a great, caring person who will not hesitate to lend a helping hand with whatever you need or to hear out any problems you may have. As his new students, you are all gaining a great resource to help you with your transition into life at Baker and life at Rice as a whole, as well as an outstanding friend.

- Matthew Ringheanu (Baker 2019)

John Komoll Baker | Advisor | Junior | CHBE | Rolling Meadows, IL

Rebecca is actually the sweetest and cutest person ever. She is so nice and pure that hanging out with her makes you feel like a delinquent, but in the best way possible. She not only has the kindest heart, but she is also very passionate. A NASA/Hidden Figures fanatic and Engineering student, Rebecca loves seeing people make a difference and is definitely a leader in making positive change herself. Also extremely helpful, this PAA always knows exactly what to say to make you feel better about anything whether it’s about school or not. Rebecca is very present (you’ll know it’s her when you see an adorable person twirling her hair), and you know you can always count on her. She is selfless and independent and definitely has the soul of a mother-of-five. As a Baker Social, Rebecca is able to put her mom skills to good use, planning events to bring her Baker family together. Rebecca loves giving to others but you could tell she hates when people have to do things for her. In fact, when she needs a small favor done for her, she begins with “Can I be the worst and ask you to....?” If you know Rebecca at all, you know she can never ever be the worst, even if she tried to.

- Vicky Martell (Baker 2020)

Rebecca Francis Baker | Peer Academic Advisor | Sophomore | CAAM, POLI | Dallas, TX
Katherine Simmers  
Baker | Advisor | Sophomore | Undecided | Slidell, LA  
Katherine Simmers is one of the strongest people I know. No kidding. Don’t let the pretty blonde hair and freckles fool you – she is one tough cookie. Straight from Louisiana, she grew up wrestling alligators and betting money on crawfish fights alongside two much older brothers who enjoyed dragging her by her feet across the house like a mop. This self-described “Scrappy-Doo” is 5 feet and 4 (and a half) inches of pure Cajun spice, and she’ll fight for anything and everything she believes in. Though you may find her in bed more often than not, don’t be surprised when you find out she is involved in literally everything; this girl does not stop. But deep down beneath that split-fire wit and non-stop drive, Katherine Simmers is the most caring, honest, and loyal friend I have ever had. I can honestly say I have never met someone with a greater passion for helping others. A wealth of wisdom and advice, there’s no doubt you will find it incredibly easy to be open with and confide in her, just as so many have done before (including me). If you are actually so fortunate as to call this wonderful human being “(O-Week) Mom”, know that you have been guaranteed a loving mentor and fierce friend from the moment you set foot on campus.

- Alyssa Graham (Baker 2020)

Andre Sushchenko  
Lovett | Co-Advisor | Sophomore | MECH, EDES minor | Princeton, NJ  
Meet Andre Sushchenko: a sophomore hailing from Princeton, New Jersey! Fun Fact: when Andre was little, his parents would make him build IKEA furniture as punishment but Andre -- a true Mechanical Engineer at heart -- secretly enjoyed it. Standing 6’1” with faded blue hair; he’s pretty hard to lose, but just in case you ever need to find him on a whim, look for him longboarding the inner loop. He could be on his way to the OEDK to Build Sh*t™ (sockets for Rice Eclipse, adjustable putt-putt greens for his Engineering Design Minor, etc) or headed off to the intramural fields to play a game of soccer and help Lovett secure the President’s Cup. When he’s not cruising campus, catch Andre listening to angsty music made for angsty 13-year-olds, re-styling his hair every 5 minutes, drinking lemonade from mason jars, and giving piggy-back rides to his closest friends. While doing anyone of these aforementioned activities, he’ll flash his dimpled smile at you, along with his black studs (which he wears in an attempt to look as cool as his roommate – key word: attempt). Get hyped: this sushi-loving, kite-flying, origami-making, Ukrainian gem is about to jumpstart your college career, and there is no one more patient, practical, or passionate to accompany you throughout your next four years here at Rice.

- Grace Earick (Lovett 2020)

Serena Agrawal  
Baker | Advisor | Junior | MECH, GLHT & EDES minors | San Antonio, TX  
Serena Agrawal is one of San Antonio’s most talented and tireless engineering students. Raised in San Antonio herself, Serena is a junior mechanical engineering major with minors in engineering design and global health technologies. Her ultimate dream is to design medical devices and she got to experience some of that first hand during her internship in Malawi this past summer where she brought devices to hospitals and taught people how to use them. Casual, I know. But Serena didn’t just stumble upon this internship. She got it after applying to 43 different positions, interviewing against several other qualified applicants, and exhibiting her undeniable charm. This just goes to show how Serena works harder than anyone I have ever met. She is the Junior Representative on Baker Cabinet, TA’s a freshman engineering design course, and participates in multiple Baker intramural sports. From powderpuff football to academics, she gives 110% in everything she does. On top of all her activities, Serena still makes time to lend an ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on. She will help you work through any problem you’re having, and you’ll instantly feel better after coming to her. If you’re lucky enough to have Serena as your advisor, not only have you gained the most valuable role model, you have also gained the most committed friend.

- Madison Nasteff (Baker 2019)

John Michael Austin  
Baker | Peer Academic Advisor | Junior | CSCI | Austin, TX  
John Michael is one of the most charismatic, athletic, and helpful Bakerites that you will have the pleasure of meeting. This handsome fellow is Baker’s Senator to the Student Association, and in this role, is working hard to improve low income accessibility across campus amongst other projects. John Michael is also an O-Week PAL, so do not hesitate to come to him with any academically focused questions, including those about majors, minors, or class scheduling. As captain of the men’s Beer Bike team and organizer of Baker’s bi-annual triathlon, you can be sure that John Michael will attempt to teach you how to ride a bike at some point during your years at Rice. In his free time, you can catch John Michael biking around campus, working in a lab at the Baylor College of Medicine, or singing along loudly to Kanye West’s “Fade”. From the first moment that you meet him, you will realize that John Michael is a lively and caring advisor and friend who will do the most to ensure that you have a great O-week and freshman year.

- Alberto Tohme (Baker 2019)
Eli Mensing | Baker | Advisor | Sophomore | ECON, POLI | Dallas, TX
Reliable. Honest. Caring. The poster child of politicians. The man of the people. A natural born leader with a jawline that could end world hunger. It is my honor to introduce to you Eli Mensing, the awe-inspiring stallion that hails from Dallas, TX. Despite his origins, Eli is a HUGE New York Giants fan and can wow you with his extensive knowledge of football. However, being the extraordinary gentleman that he is, Eli is more than capable of talking to you about anything you want. When Eli is not gracing Baker events with his charming personality and his irresistible presence, he can be found reading through endless Reddit threads, destroying his opponents in Super Smash Bros, watching Avatar the Last Airbender or The Office, jamming out to Armors (other artists include The Weeknd, Young the Giant, Coldplay, and COIN), or polishing up his knowledge of political theory in the library. His affinity for politics also comes through in his work with the Student Association where Eli tirelessly contributes to make Rice a better place for everyone. In all seriousness, Eli is one of the most compassionate, genuine, and amiable people I have met or ever will meet. Trust me, you are incredibly lucky to have this embodiment of perfection as your advisor. #RelYOnEli #POTUS2036
- Ricky Robinson (Baker 2020)

Madison Grimes | Hanszen | Co-Advisor | Sophomore | LASR, POST | Dallas, TX
You’re in the Museum of Fine Arts, obviously trying to enjoy the fine art, but you hear some disruptive noise—a girl struggling to get the last tapioca pearl in her boba tea. Who could possibly be disrupting this experience? Meet Madison Grimes, a girl who truly enjoys the finer things in life. When she’s not indulging in the art, you can find her debating policy at the Baker Institute, relaxing in the hammocks with some influential person’s autobiography in hand, watching The Office, or procrastinating on her history paper by looking at pictures of cute puppies. Madison loves to travel and talk about new ideas and the importance of the humanities, as evidenced by her double major in Latin American Studies and Policy Studies. Her other greatest passion is napping, which she will gladly talk to you about in excruciating detail, as well as recommend some stellar nap locations. With experience growing up in both Houston and Dallas, TX, she can answer all of your questions about the two cities’ rivalry, as well as which city has the best theater scene. She’s looking forward to meeting all of her new students and having more people to tag in wholesome memes, do face masks with, and convince to love Taylor Swift’s music!
- Madison Grimes (Hanszen 2020)

Christopher Kendrick Brehm | Baker | Advisor | Senior | RELI, STAT | Corpus Christi, TX
Christopher Kendrick Brehm is a man of many talents. If you see him looking pensive at his favorite table in Baker Commons, this Statistics and Religious Studies double major is equally likely to be crunching numbers or contemplating the theological systems of the world. He may also be thinking of his next masterfully groan-inducing pun; Chris is the master of dad jokes and wordplay. When he isn’t leaving people chuckling as a part of Rice’s sketch comedy troupe Kinda Sketchy, Chris also serves as Baker’s very own Educational Vice President. That means that whether you’re looking to access Baker’s peer Academic Mentors, are looking forward to getting involved with Baker Shake, or want to go beyond the hedges and befriend some awesome Baker Associates, Chris Brehm is your man. Most important of all, Chris is one of the most caring and thoughtful people you’ll ever meet. He works hard to make people feel at home, and welcoming New Students to Baker is one of his favorite things to do (yes, even more than making bad puns). So get excited for a kind and unique Baker welcome from Chris Brehm; y’all are lucky to call him your Advisor and friend.
- Renata Wetterman (Baker 2017), Patrick Garr (Baker 2018)

Vicky Martell | Baker | Photographer | Sophomore | KINE | Miami, FL
JOS DALLE BABY!!! If you hear this around Baker, there’s a 50% chance it’s coming from Vicky Martell. Hailing from the Miami 305, this Cuban sensation will make one heck of an advisor. With her piercing blue eyes, prowess on the soccer field, and killer dance moves, Vicky is one impressive human being. This sophomore pre-med kinesiology major can take care of all your medical needs—from suturing to tracheotomies, she’s done it all. One of the funniest people we know, you won’t last more than about 75 milliseconds around Vicky without laughing until you pee yourself. Make sure you’re always cheesing around Vicky so she can snap your photo as one of the O-Week photographers. But if you ever find yourself not in the cheesy type than about 75 milliseconds around Vicky without laughing until you pee yourself. Make sure you’re always cheesing around Vicky so she can snap your photo as one of the O-Week photographers. But if you ever find yourself not in the cheesy type around her, she will be a ray of sunshine in your life to brighten any cloudy day.
- Madison Nasteff (Baker 2019), Gabi Gomez (Baker 2020), Rebecca Francis (Baker 2020)
Julia Wang
Baker | Peer Academic Advisor | Junior | ECON, HART, PJHC minor | San Jose, CA

Julia is the avocado loving, coconut not-loving, French speaking, overarching political cartoonist you need in your life. This economics and art history double major has a not-so-hidden love for policy studies and her home in the Bay Area of California. Balancing academics (economics is hard okay), extracurriculars (I swear she’s involved with half the clubs on campus!), and work (she works with super important people in a super important building), this girl still makes time for her friends. If you’re ever looking for academic advice, career advice, or just overall life advice, you’ll probably have to schedule a meeting in her busy schedule, preferably at 8 AM. But if you ever catch her between meetings and want to distract her from her super important work for the Baker Institute or her newest community service project with the Center for Civic Leadership, she will always greet you with the brightest of smiles, warmest of hugs, and will make great conversation. As O-Week PAA, Julia’s passion for making sure your schedule is perfect rivals that of her love for acai bowls, so you know you’re one who will become one of your best friends at Rice.

Katherine Tran
Baker | Advisor | Junior | BIOS, BUSI minor | Spring, TX

When you see Katherine Tran around Baker, don’t be surprised if the first thing you think is “Man, that chick doesn’t seem friendly at all.” This is because of Kat’s seriously bad resting “mean-person” face, which she seems to have no idea she has. Katherine is a pre-med Biological Sciences major, and she’s passionate about the interpersonnal and humanitarian aspects of medicine. She’s known to stay up losing past any sane hours, and can often be seen wearing PJ’s and napping with her head down on random tables around Baker at Sam. If you’re ever looking for her be sure to begin your search in the Baker Comp lab, where she pretty much lives. Kat’s hobbies and passions include eating grapes, dancing in Comp lab, giving donuts to strangers, screaming about the latest Rockets’ game, and overusing the phrase “LMFAO RIP”. Ultimately though, Katherine is one of the most caring and genuinely compassionate people you’ll ever meet. Kat’s friends know her as someone who goes out of her way to show kindness to others through little gestures like holding the door for people (way longer than is needed by the way), and as someone who’s always there to listen. She’s honestly a bro, and one of the most down to earth people I know. Talk to her about anything and she’ll do her best for you—whether she’s known you for five years or five minutes.

Lewis Carlson
Baker | Advisor | Senior | ECON, POLI | Dallas, TX

Where do I even begin to describe Lewis Carlson? Often when describing the nice attributes about someone, words like funny, handsome, kind, etc. pop up, but just writing these words does not embody the essence of Lewis Carlson. You will have to experience Lewis Carlson for yourself to understand what it is to know a truly admirable human being. And to those of you lucky enough to have him as your advisor, you will get the privilege of being introduced to Rice by one of Baker’s finest. Yet even if he is not your advisor he is welcoming to all, and is open to everyone and anyone. During the week, you can often find Lewis at the Rec making gainz or in the Will Rice - Baker quad at the picnic tables working fastidiously to make academic gainz in economics and political science. But do not let his rippling muscles or superb grades scare you, for while he is a giant, he is but a gentle giant. Above all else, Lewis is an incredible friend who brings out the best in his friends, and I am honored to be included in that number. So get ready for not only one of the best advisors you could hope for, but also one who will become one of your best friends at Rice.

Johannah Palomo
Wiess | Diversity Facilitator | Sophomore | POST, SOCI, PJHC minor | San Antonio, TX

Johannah Palomo (pronounced joh-HAN-uh PAH-loh-moh). Joh is an avid advocate for mental health awareness and social justice. Working as hard as she does can be exhausting, so if she’s ever missing, just assume that she is taking a power nap to fuel this passion. When she is not napping or saving the world, you can find this vegetarian hanging out at her favorite restaurants like Halal Guys, Coco’s Crepes, and anywhere that serves korchata. A master of organization and overly elaborate, color-coded planners, Joh serves as the Secretary on Wiess College Cabinet and makes sure Wiess doesn’t burn down. Dog study break on campus? Joh will be there. She started her own initiative creating a Cute Dog Representative position brightening days, organizing fun animal study breaks and making sure that Wiess gets their healthy dose of fluff by sending out newsletters with pictures of animals of all kinds to the college. Johannah is passionate, loving, and thoughtful. Get ready for the best week (and four years!) of your life; you hit the jackpot with her as your advisor!
**PEER ACADEMIC ADVISORS**

Peer Academic Advisors (PAAs) serve Baker as our representatives of the Office of Academic Advising (OAA). They provide peer advice about a wide range of academically-related topics using their personal experiences and training from the OAA. They can answer your questions about specific courses, co-curricular opportunities, academic rules and procedures, and a wide range of other topics, and point you to the right resources to contact for detailed questions. They will lead the Academic Planning Sessions during O-Week to help you plan your upcoming semester and the rest of your time here at Rice, so please feel free to ask them any questions you might have!

![Peer Academic Advisors](image)

**RICE HEALTH ADVISOR AFFILIATE**

Rice Health Advisors (RHAs) are our peer wellbeing resources here at Baker. They are trained to help with support for your physical, mental, social, and emotional health, and to connect Bakerites with the awesome people at the Wellbeing Center. During O-Week, the RHA Affiliate will be your go-to person for all of these topics, and will start some great discussions on healthy relationships with others and safe alcohol use, among other topics. She also reminds us to #hydrateordie in the Houston sun.

![Rice Health Advisor Affiliate](image)

**ATHLETIC AFFILIATE**

As the Athletic Affiliate at Baker, Christian helps student-athletes with their unique needs. Student-athletes must balance a demanding training schedule in addition to the work of other Rice students. If you’re wondering how to balance coursework and practice schedules or just need advice on how to stay connected to life at Baker, Christian is here help. Athletes are a special presence at our college, they embody the perseverance, intelligence, and strength that you would expect of the Rice-and-Baker name.

![Athletic Affiliate](image)
DIVERSITY FACILITATORS

The Diversity Facilitators (DFs) are here to help ensure that everyone feels welcome and valued as a new member of our community, and that our sense of civility towards each other is, indeed, shared and cherished. They will lead a Diversity Workshop during O-Week to encourage important college-wide discussions on how to best build this community of equality.

GOPHERS

Just what exactly do the mystical gophers do? While their Affiliate title may suggest subterranean activity, Gophers actually traverse the city of Houston and bring art supplies, food, sports equipment, and everything in between to Baker for all things O-Week. They love their cars almost as much as they love Baker and are the go-to people to go-for things (“go-for”... gopher, get it?).

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Three guesses... They’re here to document your fantastic O-Week experiences! Feel free to smile or make whatever expression you so choose whenever you see them.
Jeremy Palmer | Chief Justice | Junior | MECH | New Princeton, NJ

Jeremy Palmer. Whatadude. A soon to be certified Mechanical Engineer, few people are as passionate about their major as Jeremy, and he has become a standout in the department through his ample extracurricular involvement. A vice president of Rice Eclipse, the rocketry team on campus, Jeremy is well on his way to his dream job of becoming an Astronaut. On top of that, as one of the hardest working Bakerites on campus you can find Jeremy at almost any hour in the Oshman Engineering and Design Kitchen building something incredible. Outside of academics, Jeremy is a vital part of Baker college, currently serving as the Chief Justice along with his duties as Honorary Spicy Boi. As CJ he’s responsible for keeping everyone safe, and will serve as a great resource during your first year here. I would highly recommend getting to know him so he can help you out as you begin to get your feet under you in your first couple months. When he’s not busy with classes or CJ, he can always be found hanging out with a bag of popcorn in the commons, or destroying everyone at Super Smash Bros, Mario Kart, and Call of Duty. I’ve been lucky to have this hard working, dedicated, and might I add handsome, friend during my time at Rice. He’s the man.

- John Michael Austin (Baker 2019)

Natalie Swanson | President | Senior | ENGL | Mount Pleasant, SC

Natalie Swanson. Codename: the Gluten Gladiator. Hailing from the mystical reaches of South Carolina, she is shrouded in a veil of mystery wherever she goes. What does she do? What is she like? And what’s really in that red bag she carries everywhere? We have it from a reputable source that Natalie is a student of English here at Rice. Our elite team of private investigators have witnessed her regularly in the commons writing essays, screenplays, even poetry- she’s done it all. There is speculation that her life force is somehow tied to caffeine, as she has rarely been encountered without some form of tea on her person, and it is theorized that she can be summoned by the smell of coffee alone. Threat level? Low. Though she has advanced combat capabilities, suitemate and local superstar Matt Chagnot described her in an interview as “One of the kindest and most caring people I have ever met.” Still caution is never remiss, and we advise engaging her in pleasant conversation to keep her complacent. She’ll talk to you about most anything, but you could always talk to her about how she’s representing you to the Student Association, suggestions for ways to make Baker even better, or why the 80s were so great. If you happen to encounter Natalie, we here at the Presidential Evaluation Experts highly recommend interacting with her. Maybe you’ll be the one to finally crack the Swanson code.

- Matthew Chagnot (Baker 2019)

- Matthew Chagnot (Baker 2019)
A LETTER FROM YOUR CHIEF JUSTICE

HEY NEW BAKERITES!

My name is Jeremy Palmer, and I am currently serving as Baker’s Chief Justice. I want to take a moment to tell you more about my role and how I can help you when you come to Rice in August. First off, every residential college has its own Chief Justice who serves for a year, and we all are the heads of the Courts at each of our respective colleges. The Chief Justice, or CJ as most people call us, is meant to be a disciplinary figure at the college level, who can judge and handle smaller problems at the college level. For example: noise complaints, underage drinking, and stolen or damaged property.

To handle any problems at Baker, we have Baker Court, composed of eight associate justices, besides myself, who are chosen from all four grade levels. We can call a case, adjudicate it, and decide a verdict and sentence by a majority vote. To be honest, Baker Court is virtually never used, I prefer to just quietly talk about problems and have a discussion about them before this becomes necessary. I have no intention of putting any of you on trial.

My most important role, and one I take most seriously, is alcohol safety. Rice is a wet campus, meaning people over twenty-one are allowed to consume alcohol, and managing that fact in a safe way is a large part of my job. The way I approach it, and how it will affect all of you under twenty-one will be explained much more clearly during O-week.

I can’t wait to get to meet you all, and please do not see me as the police officer at Baker. My goal is to help each and every one of you have a fantastic time at Baker however you choose, without negatively affecting yourselves or others.

Best,
Chief Jeremy
A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

HELLO NEW STUDENTS!
I am thrilled to be one of many to welcome you to Baker College, the oldest and classiest residential college. You’re about to embark on an incredible journey at Rice, full of great highs and lows and unexpected twists and turns. I hope Baker becomes your home base through all of it, as it has been for me.

I’m Natalie Swanson, Baker President. I oversee Baker’s government, called Cabinet, and run our weekly meetings: Pre-Cab (Sundays at 9 pm in the Magister’s House) and Cabinet (Tuesdays at 10 pm in the Commons). Aside from being a nice study break, Cabinet meetings keep us informed about Baker-specific and campus-wide events and issues. Everyone is not only invited to these meetings but also strongly encouraged to participate. Through lively discussion and collaboration, we make Baker a better community for all of us.

Baker government is almost completely student run by elected Cabinet members and committees. In this collaborative, autonomous student government, we organize everything from budgets, parties and events, academic advising, renovations and improvements - you name it! Suffice it to say, here, you will be more than just a Rice student living in a dorm. At Baker, you will have the opportunity to engage in unique conversations, participate in old traditions and create new ones, make friends, make mistakes, learn, and shape a home. That last point is so important. Baker is your college; it’s up to you and every Bakerite to make it the best it can be. Our system is successful because everyone can participate and contribute to the process of changing Baker as we see fit. If you find something you love, something that simply piques your interest, something that’s missing, or something that’s broken, I urge you get involved. The same goes for the greater Rice community and the Houston-wide community.

Outside of Cabinet, I represent Baker in student body government, called Senate, and to Rice administration. Basically, it’s my job to make sure that Baker always comes first and that your voices are heard, so feel free to talk to me about your questions, concerns, and life in general. If you have a free moment after you arrive, grab a seat by me in the Commons or in P-Suite. I can’t wait to get to know you!

Good luck as you round off your summer and prepare for the next part in your journey. Baker is so, so excited to have you!

Sincerely,
Natalie
For the summer

- Read all the information coming from Rice.
- Take the English Composition Exam.
- Pack earlier as opposed to later. It takes a while. And let your parents help...
- Coordinate with your roommate(s) about what you’re bringing (i.e. furniture, appliances)
- Don’t stress about college, enjoy your summer.
- Don’t try to learn everything there is to know about Rice before you get here. Let it be a new experience and you will enjoy it much more.
- Spend time with your family. They will miss you, and you won’t have a lot of time to spend with them on move-in day.
- Bring your O-Week books and Owl-Space and Esther logins to O-Week.

For your time at Rice

- The amount of underwear you own dictates the number of days you have to do laundry. Just a thought...
- Bring a lot of deodorant. Houston is hot in August.
- Find a good place to study early on. Try one of the many floors of Fondren Library, the Commons, Brochstein Pavilion, Coffeehouse, Rayzor Hall,... whatever works for you.
- Make exercise part of your life. It’s a great study break, we have an awesome Rec Center, and you will feel better.
- Still call your old home. Your family and friends love you and want to hear from you.
- Don’t lose your ID card. It gets you in to important buildings and more importantly, gets you food and beverages.
- Don’t use all of your Tetra points in the first month. You’ll want coffee during finals.
- When making new friends, don’t just consider the people who are like your friends from high school.

Try new things! Go play college sports (even if you’ve never played before), try out for Bakershake, or join a club. It’s a great way to meet new people.

Rice is not just Baker. Go make friends with people from other colleges as well, there are awesome and interesting people all across campus.

Feel free to ask current Rice students about anything Rice-related, but also remember that each student’s experience is unique. Don’t let someone discourage you from trying out something that you’re excited about.

Use the light rail! Go outside the hedges and explore Houston. It’s a really cool place.

Your college experience is like your very own adventure. So go explore and discover things about yourself and the world that you never knew before!
Baker Comes First