

KELLEY CALLAWAY

RICE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA
MCMURTRY COLLEGE FEATURED ASSOCIATE, APRIL 2013

Kelley Callaway, the Director of Student Media, has been an active McMurtry Associate since November 2011. She became involved with McMurtry, when her close friend Kate Abad (also a McMurtry Associate) needed a place to host an O-Week Associates dinner. She asked Kelley if she could use her apartment and the process progressed from there. Kelley works with Rice students on the Thresher, Campanile, Rice Standard and R2 as a sponsor and supervisor. She absolutely loves her job, and she said she would be “perfectly happy [to] retire as a Director of Student Media somewhere. I just thoroughly enjoy what I do.”

Kelley got on this career path after she graduated from Georgia Southern with a double major in English and Journalism. She wasn't always sure she wanted to be an English major though. “I went through lots of majors. I considered history, pre-law, special education... the list goes on.” In college, she served as an English tutor and worked for the business department by helping them copy edit and format their magazine.

Kelley also worked for the student newspaper throughout college. In 1998, she had the opportunity to cover a really big story that “had everyone up in arms!” Georgia Southern dropped men's swimming and diving scholarships to comply with Title IX regulations. At the time of the announcement, Kelley investigated the situation and discovered that the athletic committee in charge of this decision had not included students in the discussion per their requirements. After a series of articles, the athletic committee reconvened with students on board. The athletic department still dropped the sports team, but the athletes were allowed to keep their scholarships. “It was really cool to know that I had made an impact on my school. The athletic director trusted me to deliver the truth, and that was a great honor.”

Kelley's first job out of school was as the director of student media at Methodist College in North Carolina, a position similar to her current one at Rice. She then moved back to Georgia and lived in both Atlanta and in Statesboro. However, after holding different positions in Georgia, Kelley made the transition to Rice; “I was ready to get out of the small town, and I had always wanted to live in Texas. I wanted to live in a big place where you can actually find things to do, and the job was open.”

Kelley considers her job as the director of student media to be both challenging and rewarding. She works with students every day, and she sometimes finds it difficult to help them find the right balance between their general school work and their media work. The students write great articles, but she always pushes the envelope and likes to encourage them to push themselves even further. When her students do push the limits and create fantastic pieces of literature, “it's the best feeling in the world. I'm proud when this small private school in Texas [Rice University] is the best in the

country.” She also remarks that her favorite part of the job is “when students come to me for advice. I love developing real relationships with them, outside of the work setting.”

Aside from her fantastic job, Kelley is an avid baker and greeting-card maker; she loves to make both cupcakes and cards from scratch! She has been making both for her students for years, and said she really enjoyed helping with the Valentine’s Day study break because she got to share her crafting with the college.

And now, it’s time for a short Q & A Section!

Q: What do you miss about college (if anything?)

A: I miss doing social things during the daytime. In college, I liked to sit outside in nice weather and relax.

Q: What would you tell a student who is thinking about getting involved with journalism? How is it a rewarding field?

A: Good journalism is a great thing, and good journalists are amazing people. They get to find the stories and shed light on things that need to be uncovered. Good journalists have the power to uncover the government, influence policy, and make change! Good journalists do it because they want to make their community a better place.

Q: What was the best piece of advice you ever received?

A: It actually came from an uncle in the form of a birthday card when I was thirteen. It said, “Do everything once but the fun stuff twice.” Just go for it! I definitely try to follow this advice.

Q: Do you have any advice that you would like to share with the college?

A: You have to figure out what you love. If you can find a way to make a career out of what you love, you will always find a way to make money. When you know what you love to do, make a job out of it! That job exists, whether you know it or not. Follow what you love, and don’t listen to parental or societal pressures if they direct you in a direction away from what you love.

Q: Who’s the best college?

A: McMurtry, of course! You all are purple, Scottish, and really nice people! I also really appreciate that you guys are a new college and looking to figure out and try new things. That’s like what we do in student media; we pick and choose the best pieces!

