

## Rice's Residential College Descriptions

The following paragraphs describe each of the residential colleges at Rice. The descriptions were taken directly from their respective residential college websites.

**Baker-** "Baker was established as one of the four original residential colleges at Rice in the fall of 1957. It was named in honor of Captain James Addison Baker (1857-1941) who served as the Rice Institute's first Chairman of the Board of Trustees from June 24, 1891, until his death.

[At Baker], the on- and off-campus members as well as the Baker Associates work, live, and participate in a true community. This community can provide you an important segment of your education, as well as your development as a person, here at Rice. Welcome to Baker College."

**Will Rice-** "It was the year 1957, and by this time, Will Rice [the nephew of William Marsh Rice] was wealthy because he had been involved in the lumber business as well as being a founder of the Union Bank and Trust Company, president of the merchants and Planters Oil Company, and director of the Guardian Trust and Company. And what better way to spend his money than to establish a residential college of his very own, at the very educational institution that Will Rice's uncle established, especially when Will Rice even served on the Rice University Board of Trustees?

Will Rice then said "Let there be Will Rice College!" and he wrote a check for some tens of thousands of dollars—because back then, that's all you really needed to establish any given institution."

**Hanszen-** "In 1957 William V. Houston, second Rice President, initiated the college system, making Hanszen College one of the four original colleges. The college took the name Hanszen in honor of Harry Clay Hanszen, a member of the Rice University Board of Governors from 1946-1950, and whose wealth came from his ventures in the oil industry.

Though long ago Hanszen was known as the 'Gentlemen's College' and 'The Uncollege,' we have now become known as the "Family College," a reflection of the close and caring relations among its members. The present building housing the college office, commons, and servery was built in 2002 and is a beautiful modern space where you will experience hours of games, fun, and bonding."

**Wiess-** "In the beginning there was a man with a dream. Harry Carothers Wiess, famed oil tycoon and founder of Humble Oil (aka Exxon, Exxon-Mobil) left Rice a large chunk of cash upon his death in 1948 for the building of Wiess Hall, the fourth residential hall on campus.

The greatest thing about Wiess is that, unlike most of the other colleges, the cheering, team atmosphere and open displays of college spirit continue long after O-week and graduation. Ask anybody on campus about Wiess and they'll probably say, "Wiess is loud," or, "Wiess is obnoxious," or even, "Wiess is proud." We're like the popular kids in high school: everyone else thinks we're a pain, but we're pretty crazy about ourselves. And we plan to keep it that way!"

**Jones-** "Jones College was built as the first women's dormitory at Rice University. The building was made possible because of a \$1 million donation from Houston philanthropist Jesse H. Jones. The college was named in honor of his wife, Mary Gibbs Jones. Jones College, which consisted of two buildings - Jones North and Jones South - opened to the first female residents in September 1957.

In the fall of 1980, Jones made a major change that would alter life at the college forever - it went co-ed! In 2001, construction began on the new Jones Commons and Jones Central, which would connect North and South. During the same time, Jones' parking lot was destroyed to make way for the construction of Martel College. The new Jones Commons opened for use in March 2002, and Jones Central opened in August 2002."

**Brown-** "Margarett Root Brown College is currently the third largest of the eleven residential colleges at Rice, behind both McMurtry College and Duncan College. Founded in 1965 as an all-women's college, Brown became co-ed in 1987.

The history of Brown dates back to the early sixties, when Jones College was the only all women's college on campus. This caused such a severe housing shortage that some Rice women were housed in the dorms of nearby Texas Women's University. Through the generous \$1 million donation of George R. Brown and his wife Alice Pratt Brown, a new women's residential college was established in the memory of their sister-in-law, Margarett Root Brown. Up until her death in 1985, Alice Pratt Brown was an active patron of the college, giving the college much of the furniture and art in the first floor lobbies and private dining room."

**Lovett-** "The history of Lovett dates back to the late 1960s, when the Board of Trustees was approached about building a new all-male college on the south side of campus. Edgar Odell Lovett College, named after Rice's first president, opened in 1968, mostly comprising volunteers from the other colleges. The distinctive brutalist architecture, part of the architectural movement that flourished from the 1950s to 1970s, of Lovett has led many to compare it to a giant toaster. This is due to the concrete grating that surrounds the third, fourth, and fifth floors. This grating is part of the architects' intent to make Lovett riot-proof in reaction to the student riots of the late 1960s. This grating now protects Lovett students from hurricanes, allowing the students of Lovett College to remain in their rooms through both Hurricane Rita and the most recent Hurricane Ike.

As an homage to Communism and the purported Soviet architecture of the college, the men of the founding class named their college government the Central Committee. The original Central Committee had five members who had four-out-of-five veto power over the various subcommittees; this system was soon changed because of its inefficiency. [Despite the multiple false urban legends], the college crest is based upon a Lovat family (not related to Edgar Odell) family crest."

**Sid Richardson-** "Sid Richardson College (or Sid Rich) opened in 1971 as a men's residential college. Its construction was funded by a \$2 million pledge from the Sid Richardson Foundation, established by Texas oilman, cattleman, and philanthropist Sid W. Richardson. In 1973, Lyndon B. Johnson dedicated the building. Sid Rich was the last college to become co-ed, finally

opening its doors to females in 1987. As the tallest building on Rice campus (standing at 153 feet tall), the design of Sid resulted from the need to fit over two hundred beds in limited space. Consequently, the architects realized that they would need to build up.

When it all comes down to it, our intimidating height, superior strength, and unwavering spirit serve to remind the rest of campus what a real college, the best college, looks like. Sid is the Tower of Power."

**Martel-** "It all started with a \$15 million gift to the university in 1998. The money was donated by the Marian and Speros Martel Foundation, a long-standing benefactor of Rice. Earmarked to implement the Rice: The Next Century initiative, part of the donation was set aside to build a new residential college. With the building of Martel College, the Martels' dream of having a profound influence on the students of Rice University and the residents of Houston has become even more concrete. The literal and figurative foundations of the new college were laid in 2000 with the official groundbreaking taking place on April 10, 2000.

Martel is more than just a college, it is a family. And just like any other family you can always count on your fellow Martelians to support you in whatever you do. You will quickly find that being a Martelian means joining the community of people who are genuinely kind and invested in each other, where the trust grows taller than the majestic tree in our quad."

**McMurtry-** "McMurtry college is the 10th residential college to grace the Rice campus. A LEED certified brick building located on the northeastern edge of campus, it sits at the optimal location for those seeking the shortest path between their dorms and some of the most popular locations on campus. The college also boasts many fantastic accommodations like a handy campfire pit in the middle of the quad, a wide roof with a lovely city view and a kitchen on every level. Other facilities include a pair of volleyball courts, a game room, a theater room, a plethora of study rooms and lots more to be added forthcoming.

McMurtry college is home to the Murts, a diverse collection of students coming from all walks of life. Whether you are a musici, archer, engineer or an academic, there's a place for everyone within the walls of McMurtry. Murts are a close bunch who can often be seen eating, playing, and studying together. Small in numbers, fierce in spirit and amazing in everything else, being a Murt is not just a transient college title but a way of life."

**Duncan-** "Duncan College, Rice University's eleventh residential college, is named to commemorate Charles William Duncan, Jr., who was U.S. Secretary of Energy on the Cabinet of President Jimmy Carter and former chairman of Rice Board of Governors, and his wife, Anne. In 2007, they donated \$30 million for Rice's Vision for the Second Century, which included establishing new residential colleges to accommodate the need to expand the student body while keeping the characteristics that makes Rice distinctive.

The newest and greatest residential college at Rice University, Duncan is located in the northern part of Rice's campus with a strong family-oriented culture."