

Rice University Centennial Timeline Banners: A walking history tour

- 1891** Benefactor William Marsh Rice establishes endowment for Rice Institute.
- 1908** Edgar Odell Lovett, first president of Rice Institute
- 1909** President Lovett travels the globe to study leading academic institutions.
- 1910** Ralph Adams Cram designs the original campus plan.
- 1911** The Administration Building construction is completed.
- 1912** First academic areas are established (architecture, chemistry and physics/astronomy).
- 1912** Fifty-nine students enroll on Sept. 23, 1912.
- 1912** Rice Institute opening ceremonies, Oct. 12, 1912
- 1912** The first Rice football team is formed.
- 1913** The first baseball team is formed.
- 1914** Renowned Oxford biologist Julian Huxley joins Rice.
- 1915** First Rice Owl basketball team hits the court.
- 1916** Thirty-five students graduate in Rice's first commencement.
- 1916** First issue of the student newspaper, the Thresher, is published.
- 1917** Sammy the Owl, the school mascot, debuts.
- 1918** Hubert Bray receives the first Rice doctorate.
- 1919** The Association of Rice Alumni is formed.
- 1920** Former U.S. President William Howard Taft delivers inaugural Goodwin Lecture.
- 1920** First Engineering Show attracts 10,000 Houstonians.
- 1921** Autry House, the unofficial student center, opens.
- 1921** The first May Fete, a spring festival, is held.
- 1921** Aerial photo of the Rice Institute campus.
- 1922** Archi-Arts Ball becomes a favorite annual event.
- 1923** Undergraduate enrollment exceeds the 1,000 mark.
- 1924** John Heisman, of Heisman Trophy fame, is named Rice coach.
- 1930** Statue of founder William Marsh Rice is unveiled.
- 1934** Football team wins first Southwest Conference championship.
- 1935** Samuel R. Dunlap becomes Rice's first Rhodes Scholar.
- 1937** Rice physicists build 2.5-volt atom bombardment machine.
- 1938** Owls win Cotton Bowl against Colorado, 28–14.
- 1941** The Naval ROTC program is established with 107 students.
- 1942** Rice wisely invests in the Rincon Oil Field.
- 1943** George R. Brown is first alumnus elected to Rice Board of Trustees.
- 1946** William V. Houston is named Rice's second president.
- 1947** Rondelet, a spring dance and pageant, replaces May Fete.
- 1947** The Administration Building is renamed Lovett Hall.
- 1948** Abercrombie Engineering Laboratory is completed.
- 1949** Rice Institute's Fondren Library opens.
- 1950** Rice Stadium opens with a seating capacity of 70,000.
- 1951** Rice Players start theatrical productions.
- 1951** Autry Court opens as a new athletic facility.
- 1953** The 6 million-volt Van de Graaff particle accelerator is installed.
- 1954** Dickie Maegle was tackled from the bench in infamous Cotton Bowl play.
- 1957** The residential college system is formalized with five colleges.
- 1957** The first Beer-Bike race is held with Baker College the winner.
- 1958** Rice Memorial Center, the official student center, opens.
- 1959** The Journal of Southern History moves to Rice.
- 1959** The R1 computer, the size of an entire room, is constructed.
- 1960** The Rice Institute officially becomes Rice University.
- 1960** U.S. President Eisenhower gives a speech at Rice.
- 1961** Kenneth Pitzer is named Rice's third president.
- 1962** President Kennedy delivers moon speech in Rice Stadium.
- 1963** Rice becomes first university with a space science department.
- 1964** Fred Hansen wins Olympic gold in pole vault
- 1964** Raymond Johnson is the first African-American to attend Rice.
- 1965** For the first time, Rice charges tuition — \$1,200 per year.
- 1965** Rice researchers help develop first artificial heart.
- 1966** Rice team wins the G.E. College Bowl on national television.
- 1967** The Office of Continuing Studies opens.
- 1969** The Rice band becomes the MOB (Marching Owl Band).
- 1969** The Graduate Student Association is formed.
- 1970** Norman Hackerman is named Rice's fourth president.
- 1973** Baker and Hanszen colleges become coed.
- 1974** Super Bowl VIII is played in Rice Stadium.
- 1974** The Jones Graduate School of Administration is founded.
- 1974** The Shepherd School of Music is founded.
- 1976** Professor Frederick Rossini is awarded National Medal of Science.
- 1978** Robert Wilson, first alumnus to win Nobel Prize.
- 1979** The School of Social Sciences is established.
- 1979** Humanities is formally named an academic school.
- 1984** The "45°, 90°, 180°" sculpture fills engineering quad.
- 1985** Rice chemists discover new carbon molecule, the buckyball.
- 1985** George E. Rupp is named Rice's fifth president.
- 1986** Mary McIntire, continuing studies, named first woman dean.
- 1986** Alumnus Larry McMurtry wins Pulitzer Prize.
- 1988** Famous student prank turns Willy's statue 180 degrees.
- 1989** Rice/Baylor Medical Scholars Program is formalized.
- 1990** Rice is host site for Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations.
- 1993** Malcolm Gillis is named Rice's sixth president.
- 1993** Rice adds the world's first nanotechnology research center.
- 1993** Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter gives the commencement address.
- 1993** The James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy is established.
- 1994** Journal of Feminist Economics is launched.
- 1996** Robert Curl and Richard Smalley win the Nobel Prize in chemistry.
- 1997** The Edythe Bates Old Grand Organ is dedicated.
- 1999** Former South African President Nelson Mandela visits Rice.
- 2003** Baseball team wins the national championship.
- 2003** Wayne Graham is named National Coach of the Year.
- 2004** Rice: The Next Century capital campaign raises \$502.7 million.
- 2004** David W. Leebron is named Rice's seventh president.
- 2004** Rice becomes a formal member of Texas Medical Center.
- 2005** The Vision for the Second Century strategic plan is adopted.
- 2007** Rice 360°: Institute for Global Health Technologies launches.
- 2007** Alumna Peggy Whitson becomes first female space station commander.
- 2008** Brochstein Pavilion opens as new social center of campus.
- 2009** Rice chemists create graphene nanoribbons for next-generation electronics.
- 2009** The BioScience Research Collaborative spurs medical research.
- 2010** Alumna Annise D. Parker is inaugurated mayor of Houston.
- 2011** Princeton Review names Rice No. 1 for quality of life and happiest students.
- 2011** Mathematician Richard Tapia receives National Medal of Science.