Rice University Centennial Timeline Banners: A walking history tour

The university has installed 100 banners around the campus to celebrate its centennial. Starting at the corner of Alice Pratt Brown Hall and Tudor Fieldhouse, you can walk the oak-lined sidewalks and follow the sequential light pole banners displaying interesting milestones, accomplishments and fun facts about the university's first 100 years.

The timeline starts at the corner of Alice Pratt Brown Hall and Tudor Fieldhouse.

The timeline ends at the southwest corner of Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

See complete list on reverse
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 The Administration Building construction is completed.

1911 First academic areas are established (architecture, chemistry and physics/astronomy).

1912 Fifty-nine students enroll on Sept. 23, 1912.

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.

1966 Rice researchers help developed 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.


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 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 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.


For a more detailed timeline, visit http://timeline.centennial.rice.edu/