



Letter from the Dean  
January 2020



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## From the Dean's Desk

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Dear Friends,

Years ago as a young assistant professor I served on a university planning committee whose charge it was to devise strategic goals for a 'university of the future.' We spent much of our time speculating where we would be in 2020 and what would be happening in the world — flying cars, virtual classrooms and that sort of thing. The year 2020 always sounded so modern and far in the future. Yet, here we are. Self-driving cars. Virtual surgery. Digital sneakers. Impossible Burgers. Welcome to 2020.

There is nothing like the start of a new decade to make it feel as though big things are about to happen. We may not yet have flying cars, but this is surely a year, and a decade, when things will dramatically change for Houston, Rice and a business school with lofty aspirations.

It's not that we've been waiting for this milestone to define us as a school. The truth is, we've been working toward bigger things all along. We know the fruits of our labors won't just appear with the change on the calendar. We're constantly and consistently striving to exceed expectations, to keep the quality of our work high and adapt to the future quickly and wherever needed.

We're excited to introduce the new home of the Rice Alliance, the [Bill and Stephanie Sick Office Suite](#) (rendering below). You can see photos from the ribbon cutting celebration in the Entrepreneurship section. We're also excited to announce the final touches on Audrey's, our new coffee house in McNair Hall. And, we're soon to complete renovations on Room 116, our boldly redesigned and innovative classroom next to the Anderson Family Commons. A new student breakroom and kitchenette will be completed later this month and some exciting changes to the Rotunda will be completed later in the spring semester.

I hope the holidays have given you time to reflect and start fresh with your resolutions. Best of luck and continued success this New Year,

Peter



## Degree Programs

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### Recruiting and Admissions

- Recruiting and Admissions kicks off the New Year with a broader organization to align with the needs of prospective students, starting by rolling Student Financial Services back into the team. This allows us to more smoothly work across the team to work with prospective students as they consider their funding options.

## MBA@Rice

- As of the January 2020 term, we will have 200 students, 33 live session faculty teaching in the program, and a total of 28 courses created and launched. This includes five new courses launched this term: The New Enterprise, Enterprise Acquisition, Mergers & Acquisitions, Strategic Innovation & Sustainable Competitive Strategy, and Portfolio Management.
- The current projection is for 38 new students registered for January 2020.

## Student Program Office

- After a national search, we are excited to announce that on January 6 Adam Herman joins Rice Business as executive director of the Student Program Office. For the past decade, he has served in undergraduate and graduate leadership positions at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. Most recently, Adam led student services, experiential learning, and admissions functions as executive director for Kelley's online MBA and specialized master's programs. A native of New Orleans, he holds a doctorate in higher education administration from Indiana University, a master's degree in educational leadership from Eastern Michigan University, and a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University. Welcome to Rice Business, Adam!

## Global Programs

- We offered two winter global offsite electives this year. Eighteen students traveled to Nepal and 45 students (and 17 guests) traveled to China. Each experience had a good mix of student from all programs, including MBA@Rice. This was our 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year to run programming in Shanghai and Beijing and our first to partner with LAN University in Nepal for student offsite programming.

## Career Development Office

- Spring Internship Recruiting is underway with the number of recruiting firms on par with last spring with 34 companies across a range of industries coming to campus in January:
  - Investment Banks: Barclays, Evercore, Greenhill, Moelis, Scotiabank, Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co., Wells Fargo, Citi, Lazard, BMO, Credit Suisse, Guggenheim, JP Morgan, UBS, Houlihan Lokey, Jefferies, TD Securities
  - Consulting Firms: FTI Consulting, Accenture, McKinsey, Oliver Wyman, EY, Deloitte Consulting, BCG, ScottMadden, Kalypso, KPMG
  - Energy Companies: ExxonMobil, Chevron, Phillips 66, Pilot Flying J (retail)
  - Technology: HP
  - Automotive: The Friedkin Group
  - CPG/Beverage: Coca-Cola
- The Career Education and Advising Team conducted 1260 coaching sessions in the fall!

These sessions were with students from all MBA programs and with alumni. The numbers this fall include a significant increase in career coaching for our professional and executive students and our alumni.

- 27 students interested in technology and financial services participated in the fall Austin Trek. A networking brunch hosted representatives from several firms: Google, Dell, Dimensional Fund Advisors, Dropoff, Inc., Green Cremation Texas, Informatica, Invesco, PIMCO, Teacher Retirement Systems of Texas and VRBO. Students were also hosted by Rice Business alumni at the Dell campus, Teacher Retirement Systems of Texas, and Athenahealth.
- The CDO launched a concierge job referral program for our fully-employed students who are seeking new opportunities. Referrals this fall included opportunities at Amazon, OpEx Digital, Syzygy Plasmonic Inc., Quantum Energy Partners and Phillips.
- Coffee & Careers launched this semester to provide Professional MBA students a convenient opportunity for on-demand advising on class nights. The CDO hosted six Coffee & Careers events, serving 25-35 students at each event. While scheduled to be convenient to Professional MBA students, the happy result has been an informal networking opportunity between students from the Professional, Executive and Full-time MBA programs.

## Entrepreneurship

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### Lilie Idea Lab for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Lilie)

- Lilie hosted serial entrepreneur and Rice alum, Brad Husick, who provided insight into the top skills successful entrepreneurs use based on his 20 years of experience. The event drew 70+ students and alumni.
- Lilie and Rice Alliance reviewed 16 MBA applications for the 2020 Venture Capital Investment Competition.
- The new Lilie Outpost in McNair room 217 is complete and will hold its opening ceremony in mid-January.

### Rice Alliance

- The inaugural IdeaLaunch Bootcamp wrapped up on November 15. IdeaLaunch was a three-week experiential entrepreneurship program for Rice University students, faculty and staff interested in exploring a business idea. Participants developed viable business models and began designing next steps for advancing their ideas. IdeaLaunch was organized by the OwlSpark team, Kerri Smith and Jessica Fleenor.
- The Rice Alliance held the ribbon cutting ceremony for its new **Bill and Stephanie Sick Office Suite** on the first floor of McNair Hall on December 5. Attendees included Rice



President David Leebron, Dean Peter Rodriguez, and Bill and Stephanie Sick.



- In November we celebrated the No. 1 Entrepreneurship ranking by the Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine. This is the 11th year in a row that Rice Business has landed in the top 10 and fourth year among the top 3, but the first time we have taken the top spot! This caps a 19-year journey to the top of the rankings. Rice Business first made the Princeton Review list in 2008 as #22, and has steadily climbed since then.
- Applications were opened for the 2020 Rice Business Plan Competition that will be held on March 26-28, 2020. The RBPC is the world's largest and richest student startup competition in the world and we expect to again offer more than \$1.5 million in prizes. Applications close on Monday, January 27, 2020.
- We held our 8th annual Texas Life Science Forum on November 6, with nearly 600 participants, including venture capitalists, startups, researchers, investors and other members of the life science and healthcare ecosystem. One attendee said: "The Texas Life Science Forum is a *must attend* for any life science company in Texas"

## Executive Education and Innovation

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- Mitsubishi Heavy Industries USA has committed to a two-year custom leadership program scheduled to launch in 2020.
- A generous donation from Judy Ley Allen will fund the renovation of classroom 116, which will be designed to foster collaborative learning and include the latest technology. The Judy Ley Allen Innovation Classroom will be available for use in mid-February.

- Several corporate clients continued to invest in professional development through custom programming in December.
  - While visiting from Argentina, the team from Tenaris held a six-day program with Leadership Development modules delivered by Brent Smith and Effective Strategy Formulation delivered by Prashant Kale.
  - PROS focused on leadership development with programming designed and delivered by Brent Smith.
  - The team from Conoco Phillips participated in a two-day Data Analytics program designed and delivered by James Weston.
- Houston Education Leadership Partners continued its Executive Education Academy for campus and district leaders.



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