

An Invitation to Apply for the Position of



Dean, School of Humanities

Houston, TX

THE SEARCH

Rice University seeks an inspiring academic leader to serve as the next Dean of the School of Humanities. Reporting to the Provost, the Dean is the chief academic and executive officer of the School of Humanities and a member of the Deans' Council. The Dean will be expected to work closely with faculty in articulating priorities, opportunities, and ambitions for the humanities; to have intellectual curiosity and engagement with all disciplines and interdisciplinary endeavors within the school and across the University; and to implement creative, collaborative, and innovative strategies to further strengthen the national and international reputation of the School of Humanities and Rice University.

Rice University is an independent, coeducational, nonsectarian, private, first-tier research university dedicated to rigorous undergraduate and graduate education, research, and professional training in selected disciplines. Over 650 full-time faculty are devoted to the instruction and training of approximately 3,900 undergraduate students and 2,800 graduate and professional students. In the 2017 edition of U.S. News and World Report's rankings of national universities, the University is 15th overall, and 5th for undergraduate education. The University is centrally located in Houston, Texas, near the Texas Medical Center, the city's Museum District, and the downtown financial and cultural districts.

The School of Humanities consists of eight departments (Art History, Classical and European Studies, English, History, Philosophy, Religion, Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies, and Visual and Dramatic Arts) with 167 instructional faculty members and approximately 440 undergraduate majors and 170 graduate students. The School also includes five centers: the Humanities Research Center; the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication; the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality; the Chao Center for Asian Studies; and the Center for Critical and Cultural Theory.

The Dean will join a leadership team and a cohort of deans who will shape the future direction of Rice University and define its culture for the foreseeable future. Rice University seeks a Dean with an innovative and synthetic understanding of the role of the humanities at Rice: the new

Dean will lead and support the faculty, encouraging creativity in service to a compelling vision for the School. Toward this end, the Dean will have the latitude and support to create sustainable programs that are transformative for the humanities. The successful candidate will champion the humanities both internally, among the Rice community and administration, as well as externally, in the greater Houston area and on the national stage.

Rice University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT RICE UNIVERSITY

Rice University aspires to path breaking research, unsurpassed teaching, and contributions to the betterment of the world. It seeks to fulfill this mission by cultivating a diverse community of learning and discovery that produces leaders across the spectrum of human endeavor.

Located in the heart of Houston, Texas, Rice has a distinctive history and a highly selective undergraduate college. It was originally conceived as the Rice Institute with resources bequeathed by William Marsh Rice, an East Coast entrepreneur who made his fortune in Houston and who intended for a free educational institute to be built after his death. It opened its doors in 1912 and has consistently deepened and broadened its research, education, and service missions ever since. As but one measure of its success, Rice is one of the youngest and smallest members of the Association of American Universities.

The University's eight schools—Architecture, the George R. Brown School of Engineering, Humanities, the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business, the Shepherd School of Music, the Wiess School of Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies—attract a diverse group of highly talented students from around the country and internationally. Renowned faculty are devoted to excellence in teaching and research. Annual sponsored research revenues total \$140 million, and more than half of all undergraduate students participate in research during their time at Rice.

These activities take place on Rice's tree-shaded campus, which features many buildings designed in a neo-Byzantine style and which occupies nearly 300 hundred acres, only a few miles from downtown Houston. The University has eleven residential colleges and boasts excellent campus facilities and amenities, including a robust public art collection. Rice's community includes over 6,700 undergraduate and graduate students, 650 full-time faculty, and over 2,200 staff.

As of June 30, 2016, Rice had an endowment of \$5.3 billion and the fiscal year 2017 annual operating budget totals \$661 million. The University's resources have permitted Rice to offer an intellectually ambitious yet financially affordable education. The University has been nationally acclaimed by Kiplinger's as the "best value" in private higher education, with an undergraduate tuition that is consistently lower than other leading private institutions.

For more information on Houston, please see the Note at the end of this document.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

David W. Leebron was appointed the seventh President of Rice University in 2004. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, he practiced law before joining the faculty of the New York University School of Law in 1983, where he also served as Director of the International Legal Studies Program. In 1989 he joined the faculty of the Columbia University School of Law, where he was appointed Dean in 1996. As President he has overseen the University during a period of growth and transformation, with increases in the size and diversity of the student population, enhancements to the institution's educational and research activities and funding, \$900 million in new construction, the creation of a public art program and the new Moody Center for the Arts, and greater visibility for the University locally, nationally, and globally. The Centennial Campaign, with a goal of \$1 billion, was successfully completed in 2013.

President Leebron holds an appointment at Rice as Professor of Political Science and has written about international trade and investment, torts, privacy, corporate law, and human rights.

Marie Lynn Miranda became Howard R. Hughes Provost and Professor of Statistics in 2015. She was previously the Samuel A. Graham Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Environment and Professor of Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Miranda also served for 21 years on the faculty of Duke University. She received her A.B. from Duke University and the M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her ongoing research program focuses on children's environmental health, with a focus on disadvantaged communities throughout the United States and internationally.

THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

With nearly 167 full-time faculty members, the School of Humanities currently serves 440 undergraduates pursuing majors in eight departments and four interdisciplinary degree-granting programs (Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, Asian Studies, Medieval and Early Modern Studies, and the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality). About 170 graduate students are enrolled in doctoral programs in the departments of Art History, English, History, Philosophy, and Religion; there are no terminal master's degree programs. The School also offers graduate certificates in critical and cultural theory; the study of women, gender, and sexuality; and in gnosticism, esotericism, and mysticism. In addition, humanities faculty teach hundreds of students from other Rice schools.

Five research centers offer a range of opportunities, from post-doctoral funding to talks and conferences to undergraduate language instruction. The School is home to seven scholarly journals: *Journal of Southern History*, *Feminist Economics*, *Religious Studies Review*, *Transnational Asia*, *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900*, *Magic, Ritual, and*

Witchcraft, and *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*, and a documentary editing project, *The Papers of Jefferson Davis*. The School, through the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts, also oversees the Rice Cinema and the Rice Theater. A new Humanities building opened in 2000.

Rice faculty in the School of Humanities have received grants and awards from many sources including the American Council of Learned Societies, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the United States Institute for Peace, the Mellon Foundation, the Macy Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation. Various faculty members have been recognized with membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and through residency at institutes such as the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and the Humanities Center (both at Stanford University). They have also been recognized through invitations to the White House, and through leadership roles in national academic societies. In addition, faculty members have been the recipients of numerous awards and prizes, including the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Stephen Crane Prize, the Whiting Writer's Award, and the Albert Hourani Book Award.

The school as a whole has attracted support from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Rice faculty have been recognized internationally with awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and the British Academy.

Humanities undergraduates who wish to pursue careers in academia have been admitted to the best graduate schools nationally and internationally. Rice humanities graduates have also attained prominent positions in law, business, media, the arts, and medicine. Among Rice humanities alumni are recipients of a Pulitzer Prize, an Emmy, and other forms of recognition for leadership and excellence in many fields. Graduate students at Rice benefit from small programs where they work closely with faculty and receive exceptional preparation in becoming scholar-teachers.

The annual operating budget of the School is approximately \$31 million, excluding external funding, gifts and pledges, and other non-operating funds overseen by the dean.

A full enumeration of departments and centers in the School of Humanities is included in the Appendix.

CURRENT OUTLOOK

This is an important moment for humanities, the School, and the University. Rice has not been immune from many of the challenges to humanities and the liberal arts that are occurring across all of higher education today. The University has seen decreases in enrollments in the humanities at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. At the same time, its recognized strengths in the applied sciences notwithstanding, the University is firmly committed to a fundamentally broad and interdisciplinary educational experience for its students. This commitment is reflected in the

opening (in early 2017) of the Moody Center for the Arts, which is dedicated to transdisciplinary collaboration in the arts, sciences, and humanities.

Several institutional structures should allow the School to advance a compelling case for the humanities, develop creative and relevant programs, and differentiate Rice from its peers. First, Rice operates under an incremental and centralized budgeting model rather than a RCM (Responsibility Center Management) approach. Rice's model provides the School and the Dean with a stable annual budget. The Dean has wide latitude to wield this budget, and also benefits from a fundraising environment in which gifts designated to a unit are captured in full (that is, they are "untaxed" by the University). Donors, it must be noted, are extraordinarily generous to Rice; the University completed its most recent capital campaign in 2013 with a record-setting \$1.1 billion. Finally, the Dean and faculty are empowered to develop new offerings, including master's degree programs, the revenue from which go to the School and can be used for further programmatic enhancement.

The University is currently engaged in strategic planning in advance of its next capital campaign. The School has been successful in attracting philanthropic support in the past, and there is every reason to think that it will be successful in the new campaign. The timing of the strategic planning and subsequent campaign intersects well with the Dean's arrival and comes at a point when there is tremendous institutional support to explore how the humanities can engage even more with other fields.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean is the chief academic and administrative officer of the School of Humanities, appointed by the President and reporting to the Provost. The Dean collaborates with senior academic and administrative leaders across the University, including the deans of Rice's seven other schools, the dean of undergraduates, the dean of graduate and postdoctoral studies, as well as the vice presidents, the vice provosts, and the University Librarian.

The Dean serves the School by providing leadership to the faculty, attending to undergraduate and graduate education, and administering and overseeing the operational functions of the School. The Dean has a team consisting of an associate dean; an assistant dean; a finance and budget manager; a manager of student programs, an academic administrator and assistant to the dean; a digital communications manager; a senior director of development; and two graduate program administrators. The various academic units housed in the Dean's office interact with the School's department chairs, program directors, staff, students, and other entities across the University to advance undergraduate and graduate education.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Dean of the School of Humanities will be a strategic thinker and an experienced, persuasive leader who can lead the School collaboratively and inclusively, facilitate critical conversations, and ensure financial sustainability. The role requires intelligence, empathy, vision, intellectual

and professional courage, financial acumen, and a commitment to transparency and shared decision-making, as well as a capacious sense of humor.

This individual will be empowered to:

Develop and communicate an affirming vision for the Humanities, to internal and external audiences.

Rice seeks a Dean conversant with the challenges facing higher education, research universities, and the humanities, and knowledgeable about how to address these challenges effectively. The incoming Dean will articulate, promote, and champion the humanities within the School, across the University, and on a national stage. With humanities faculty, the Dean will facilitate open and transparent conversations that will result in a clearly-expressed set of priorities to guide the School's future and result in curricular and co-curricular offerings that will make manifest the intellectual vitality and impact of the humanities. With colleagues on the Deans' Council and elsewhere at the University, the Dean will identify and target opportunities for collaboration that will enrich, strengthen, and broaden the existing curriculum. The Dean must also think at a systemic, University-wide level, anticipating how decisions, policies, and requirements that are already in place (or under consideration) may affect the School and/or present opportunities for Humanities departments and faculty. Finally, it is hoped that the Dean's advocacy for the humanities will put Rice at the forefront nationally as a model of how a distinctive and compelling humanities program can flourish.

Support excellence in teaching and scholarship, and foster a culture of intellectual curiosity and research.

The Dean must be an intellectual exemplar, and must work with a world class faculty and staff to create an intellectual environment that promotes outstanding research and celebrates the highest standards of scholarship. Rice aspires to excellence in all its intellectual endeavors, and the Dean will ensure that the School's faculty members are provided with ample opportunities and sufficient time to advance knowledge through their own research and scholarship. The Dean will champion increased research funding and see to it that faculty are supported in seeking external support. These efforts will be carried out with an eye to the salutary impact that a robust research agenda has on the strength and reputation of a University, on the quality of teaching and the learning experience of students, and on the ability of an institution to recruit and retain the most talented students and the most accomplished and diverse faculty.

Manage and expand the financial base for the School, through program creation and philanthropy.

Rice University empowers its Deans to pursue sources of revenue for their schools through program creation and fundraising. The Dean will be expected to take initiative and drive discussions within the School, to identify strategic strengths, and then to develop programs and offerings that leverage those strengths and attract new revenue. There is tremendous opportunity for the Dean to increase the School's base through philanthropy: the School of Humanities has a strong philanthropic record, engaged and loyal alumni, and ties to the Houston metropolitan area

and many relationships with industry and the private sector generally. The Dean will sustain and build upon existing fundraising activities; identify and cultivate new strategic funding opportunities; and deliver a compelling message for support of academic programs, scholarships, fellowships and facilities.

Support and strengthen graduate education.

Rice provides excellent training to its graduate students and has been successful in increasing the size of doctoral stipends. In recent years, however, waning student interest in the humanities has presented some obstacles to effective preparation of graduate students, including smaller cohorts of graduate students, fewer opportunities for them to teach undergraduates, and ongoing challenges in successful and meaningful placement. The next Dean must work with faculty and departments to chart an approach to graduate education that is competitive and sustainable, and that opens pathways for careers outside of academia.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

This position provides a rare opportunity for an academic leader to define and enhance the role of the humanities at an elite urban research university. The University seeks candidates who bring the following experiences, skills, and qualities:

- An earned doctorate in an academic discipline and a strong record of teaching and scholarship;
- A record of success in advancing the effectiveness of academic programs, as seen in experience leading institutional planning, curriculum innovation and development, program assessment, policy creation, and promotion and adoption of academic technologies;
- An informed grasp of key issues affecting faculty recruitment, retention, and promotion; curricular innovation; and scholarly productivity;
- Demonstrated talent in balancing competing interests, negotiating priorities, and aligning resources to adequately carry out the priorities of the School of Humanities;
- Commitment to the mission of Rice University and the importance of the humanities in learning, teaching, and research;
- The energy and presence to lead an intellectually engaged and active faculty;
- Commitment to working with the arts as well as more standard humanities endeavors;
- Commitment to working across academic units and disciplines as a team member within the school, across the university, nationally, and internationally;
- Proven ability to communicate effectively and engage with diverse constituencies on campus and externally;
- Experience with and aptitude for fundraising;
- A facilitative, collaborative work style;
- Commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity in all aspects of university life;
- Energy, passion, confidence, optimism, resilience, poise, flexibility, humility, and an abiding sense of humor.

TO APPLY

Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence to:

Anita Tien, Ben Tobin, and Joanna Cook
Isaacson, Miller
www.imsearch.com/5982

Rice University is an Equal Opportunity Employer with commitment to diversity at all levels, and considers for employment qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, genetic information, disability or protected veteran status.

A NOTE ABOUT HOUSTON AND THE COMMUNITY

The fourth-largest city in the United States, Houston is home to vibrant performing and visual arts communities and more Fortune 500 company headquarters than any city except New York. The Texas Medical Center, located across the street from Rice, is the world's largest medical complex employing more than 65,000 people. NASA's Johnson Space Center is only twenty-five miles away.

The city is one of only six American cities with resident professional companies in all four major performing arts: ballet, opera, theater, and symphony. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, houses an extensive collection containing more than 51,000 artworks dating from antiquity to the present and representing the major civilizations of Europe, Asia, North and South America, and Africa while the Menil Collection's diverse holdings represent many world cultures and thousands of years of human creativity, from prehistoric times to the present day. The city's Museum of Science is a five-venue complex housing the Burke Baker Dome Theatre, Wortham IMAX Theatre, Cockrell Butterfly Center, and four floors of natural science halls and exhibits. In addition, the city has professional sports teams in football, baseball, and basketball.

Houston is also an extraordinarily diverse city, both ethnically and culturally: its population is 37% Hispanic, 31% European-American, 25% African-American, and 7% Asian-American. Such diversity not only makes Houston an exciting place to live, but it also represents a great strength for Rice, as people of different backgrounds and interests work together in virtually all local, political, educational, professional, and social contexts. The city continues to grow and is one of the five main destinations for emigrants to the United States.

President David Leebron has made it a priority for students and faculty to engage more actively with the city of Houston and the myriad opportunities it offers. Such an effort is essential both to expanding the student experience and to generating effective partnerships with the local community. One step has been to establish a "Passport to Houston" program, which provides undergraduates with passes on the Metro and free entry to many of the city's museums and exhibits.

APPENDIX

The School of Humanities Rice University

DEPARTMENTS

Art History

The Department of Art History consists of eleven faculty members whose specializations include the art of the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, from antiquity through contemporary times. It is a methodologically and theoretically diverse department, and each year its permanent faculty is enriched by numerous affiliated and visiting professors, including museum curators and postdoctoral fellows. The department maintains close connections with nearby museums, especially the Menil Collection and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; fellowships at both institutions enable students to work with collections and curatorial staff. The department offers the BA and PhD degrees, the latter made possible by generous support from the Brown Foundation and individual donors.

Classical and European Studies

The Department houses three programs: Classical Studies, French Studies, and German Studies. Each program offers its own B.A.

Classical Studies consists of three tenured faculty, a lecturer, and one affiliated faculty member from the department of Art History. Faculty members have a strong publishing record with particular research strengths in Greek rhetoric, Greek philosophy, Homer and Greek epic, Virgil, Latin literary culture, and Reception Studies. Department faculty teach the Greek and Latin languages at all levels and teach courses on Greek and Roman culture, with the readings in English.

With five full-time faculty members, the program in French Studies offers a broad range of courses in French and Francophone language, literature, and civilization. The program integrates several disciplinary perspectives in the study of contemporary France and the broader French-speaking world. The program seeks to situate French culture within the broadest possible context of European and world thought and history as a crucial component of those over-arching historical phenomena known as "the West" and "modernity."

The German Studies Department is small, growing, and research-centered program with five faculty members. It covers the entire tradition of German culture within a European context, from the early modern period to the present, and entertains close links to other departments within the School of Humanities and to leading institutions in the U.S., Germany, and the UK. The department currently runs an interdisciplinary fellowship program in European Studies for gifted undergraduates and provides study abroad options in Leipzig, Berlin, and

Freiburg/Breisgau. Particular research strengths are in 18th to 20th-century literature, German philosophy, modern intellectual history and political thought, and film studies.

English

One of the largest departments at Rice, with twenty-six tenured/tenure-track faculty members and four non-tenure track faculty, the English Department sustains a thriving doctoral program with forty-six actively enrolled students as well as an undergraduate major of approximately 70 students, the largest in the School of Humanities. English Department faculty are involved in a wide range of collaborations and have scholarly interests across traditional national literatures, creative writing, critical theory, gender and sexuality, ecocriticism, posthumanism, literature and science, media and visual culture. The journal *Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* has strong ties to the department, among them the Diana Hobby Fellowship program for graduate students.

Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Studies

The department is dedicated to the research and teaching of the literatures, cultures and languages of the Spanish and Portuguese speaking worlds. The department offers a full range of undergraduate courses in two majors: Spanish and Portuguese, and Latin American Studies. From the medieval period to contemporary literature, from visual culture to environmental policies, from colonial and postcolonial studies to language policies, students work directly with faculty to achieve their academic goals. In addition, the department offers opportunities for studying abroad, faculty-guided academic research, experiential learning opportunities, guided creative writing, and other innovative curricular options.

History

The History Department seeks to create knowledge about the past through research and to disseminate historical knowledge through publishing and teaching. Underlying this mission is the conviction that confronting the past in a serious way will broaden understanding of the universals of the human condition and deepen that of the local and personal. The history department provides instruction in widely applicable skills, such as logical argument, clear writing, and research ability. The faculty of twenty-six offers interactive instruction to approximately one hundred undergraduate history majors and about thirty graduate students. The graduate program is particularly strong in the U.S. South, and is developing a strong focus on Latin America.

Philosophy

The Philosophy Department is led by eleven tenured and tenure-track faculty members. Among its research strengths are ethics (particularly applied ethics), philosophy of mind, social and political philosophy, and the history of philosophy. Much of the department's research involves interdisciplinary questions relating philosophy to cognitive science and medicine. Teaching in the department is intended to prepare doctoral students for careers in philosophy and related fields, and to provide both undergraduate majors and students from other disciplines with philosophical knowledge and skills.

Religion

The Department of Religion is dedicated to describing and analyzing forms of religion and religious behavior including ancient and modern Judaism and Christianity, classical Buddhism and Islam, colonial and modern Hinduism, contemporary African and African-American religions, and American religions from the Protestant churches to the New Age. The department, which offers B.A. and Ph.D. degrees, is focused on fostering growth in several areas of Ph.D. concentration: African American Religions, the Bible and Beyond, Early Christian Studies, Global Christianity, and the History of Religions in America. The department features a new university certification program in Gnosticism-Esotericism-Mysticism. Recently several of its thirteen tenured/tenure-track faculty members have received Rice teaching awards, and the department has been ranked fifth nationally in scholarly productivity. Both the Society for the Study of Black Religion and the international journal *Religious Studies Review* have been housed in the department for the last four years.

Visual and Dramatic Arts

The Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts encourages, supports, and bridges artistic research and practice with scholarly thought and dialogue to address social, political, and philosophical issues within a visual language. The seven tenured/tenure-track faculty members, two Professors of the Practice, and five lecturers in the department offer courses in sculpture, critical theory, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, acting, directing, stage design, film production, and criticism as well as special topics courses from video art to drawing for video games. The department maintains a state-of-the-art cinema as well as a 250-seat proscenium-style performing arts theatre staging two theatrical productions each year, with collaborative ties with the Globe Theatre in London; the National Theater Institute's Eugene O'Neill Theater Center; and the Actors from the London Stage. The department works closely with local art institutions, including The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; MFAH Core Program; Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP); Aurora Picture Show; Alley Theatre; FotoFest; The Menil Collection; and the Houston Center for Photography. Faculty contribute as artists on the local, national, and international levels with distinguished awards from the Guggenheim Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts; Rockefeller Artist Residency; and the Cultural Arts Council of Houston. In addition, the faculty's work has been exhibited at (or are in the permanent collections of) the Whitney Museum of American Art; Royal Academy of London; the National Museum of American Art in the Smithsonian; The Fogg Museum at Harvard University; London Institute of Contemporary Arts; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Tacoma Film Festival; The Art Institute of Chicago; and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

CENTERS

Humanities Research Center

Since being established in 1987, the Humanities Research Center has been committed to fostering connections among diverse disciplines while promoting the research goals of the

humanities broadly construed. From its modest beginnings to its present status as an internationally recognized center, the HRC identifies, encourages, and funds innovative research projects by faculty, visiting scholars, graduate, and undergraduate students in the School of Humanities and beyond. This involves fostering scholarly work, facilitating research between the School of Humanities and other areas of Rice University, as well as leading institutional change by partnering with other foundations, centers, research institutions, and universities. Independent initiatives are also taken by the HRC in order to incubate ideas and detect disciplinary changes that shape the future of the university. The HRC has recently launched initiatives in Public Humanities with focus areas in Cultural Heritage and Medical Humanities, including a new transdisciplinary minor in the medical humanities. Other ongoing programs include visiting scholarships, seminars, courses, conferences, workshops, lecture series, practicums, exhibitions, performances, and film series.

Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication

The overall vision of the Center is to make a better world through the creation, implementation, and promotion of an academically substantive second language program that guides the development of communicative and interactional abilities in a second language; analytical, critical-thinking competence; and intercultural awareness and abilities. The Center pursues its vision through designing, developing, and implementing a research-based second language undergraduate curriculum, in close coordination with other academic units. It aims to be a national leader in the design and implementation of curricular and extra-curricular approaches to achieve advanced levels of second language learning and intercultural communication.

Chao Center for Asian Studies

The Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation's generous endowment in 2008 enabled the establishment of the Chao Center for Asian Studies at Rice University. The Chao Center for Asian Studies has three main missions: teaching, research, and outreach. It is home to the B.A. in Asian Studies degree program that focuses on transnational, transhistoric, diasporic, and global movements of peoples and cultures of Asia. It also houses the Transnational Asia Research Initiative (TARI) where postdoctoral research fellows with diverse disciplinary expertise pursue new research projects on Asia and also work collaboratively to explore key issues concerning transnational movements across Asia. The Chao Center also defines itself as a key player in reaching the Asian and Asian American populations in Houston and beyond, promoting community building and broader cultural understanding.

Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Established in 2006 as an outgrowth of the Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality brings together forty-five faculty affiliates from multiple disciplines and schools. It houses the internationally renowned journal *Feminist Economics* and several interdisciplinary academic programs and research opportunities, including an undergraduate major in the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality; a minor in Poverty, Social Justice, and Human Capabilities; a Graduate Certificate Program; a two-year postdoctoral fellowship program; research clusters on gender issues related to health, urban

life, race, and poverty; among others. Undergraduate learning opportunities include research projects partnered with Houston area organizations and experiential summer internships. The Center also sponsors visiting lectures and year-long seminars, houses the international list-serv Q-study, and is a founding partner of Houston ARCH, an innovative public history project dedicated to preserving Houston's lesbian, gay, and transgendered history.

Rice Center for Critical and Cultural Theory

The Rice Center for Critical and Cultural Theory (3CT) was created in 2012 to promote intellectual synergy and community among Rice faculty and graduate students whose work is informed by a deep and sustained engagement with critical and cultural theory and their ongoing development and permutations. Though housed in the School of Humanities, and drawing primarily on faculty and students from the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Architecture, the Center welcomes and encourages faculty and students in any field whose work is framed by an intensive engagement with critical and cultural theory and its methodological innovations.