With the first cool front of the fall season upon us, I want to pause to celebrate the great work of our students and partners this past summer. Through the generous support of CCL donors and community partners, over 200 Rice undergraduates developed skills in civic leadership through research, internship, and service programs in the United States and abroad. In this issue, we highlight the wide-ranging impact of this work on both students and communities.

As we look ahead to the fall, all eyes are of course on November 8. The divisiveness and incivility of this election season have underscored the importance of the CCL’s mission to educate students for democratic citizenship and yielded two initiatives to increase Rice students’ political knowledge and engagement. We have dedicated considerable time this semester to developing a curriculum for teaching the public policy process more intentionally in all of our courses and programs and look forward to sharing results of our work in the spring. We are also collaborating with the Department of Political Science, Mi Familia Vota, and several student organizations—AAUW, BISF, Pi Sigma Alpha, Young Democrats—to sponsor a series of voter engagement activities (listed on page 6) to promote electoral involvement on campus and in the Houston community. We hope that you will join us at these events and model political participation for Rice’s future generation of civic leaders!

Sincerely,
Caroline Quenemoen, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Undergraduates
DURING SUMMER 2016, our engineering design team, composed of five female Rice undergraduates, traveled to Nicaragua to collaborate on projects with two nonprofit organizations, Project Schoolhouse and Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD). In order to make this trip possible, we turned a group project from a freshman course into a Group International Service (GIS) trip through the Center for Civic Leadership at Rice. The GIS program offered the opportunity to pair our engineering background with an ideology of service that we developed through working with the CCL.

Our engineering project started in Introduction to Engineering Design (ENGI 120), a freshman course at Rice that teaches first year students the engineering design process and allows them to use it to solve meaningful problems drawn from the community and around the world. Our team, No Pane No Gain, collaborated with Project Schoolhouse, a non-profit organization that builds schoolhouses and water systems in rural Nicaraguan villages. We designed a sustainable window without fixture points that would allow for air flow but prevent rain from entering the classroom. Project Schoolhouse implemented our design in a schoolhouse built in May 2015. They invited us to Nicaragua to assess the effectiveness of the window design and to analyze its performance through community surveys. (continued on next page)
A window into sustainable service

While in Nicaragua, we also collaborated on a water quality project with FSD, an organization that works towards community-driven goals through asset-based development in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We gained a lot of input from discussion sessions with community members, as well as from site visiting and interacting with local students. We would like to use community feedback to develop more projects that could improve the current conditions of the schoolhouses in Rio Blanco and the surrounding area.

From an engineering student’s perspective, it was an incredibly rewarding experience to not only learn and design things, but also to implement the project from an asset-based community development approach, integrating community members’ opinions and thoughts into the final product. Through this project, we gained an understanding of how important it is to include the local community in an ongoing conversation for the wellbeing of their own facilities, as well as to observe and appreciate cultural differences, be it in the workforce or daily activities.

We are really glad that we had this incredible opportunity to experience something that was so eye-opening, and would love for other Rice students to not only experience what we did, but also to continue our efforts in order to foster the relationship between Rice University and the local communities in Las Salinas and Rio Blanco.

New for 2017: the GIS program is being renamed International Research and Service Break (IRSB). The Center for Civic Leadership is currently recruiting undergraduate students to propose IRSB trips for Summer 2017. The IRSB program gives students the opportunity to extend their classroom learning by participating in a service or community-based research trip abroad. The program is looking for trips that create a connection between an academic course or co-curricular experience and students' service experience abroad.
Summer in the city: students collaborate with City of Houston

**OVER THE SUMMER**, 3 teams of Rice undergraduates worked with city offices on Houston Action Research Team (HART) projects to address challenges facing Houston.

- The Houston Public Library Pattern Assessment team collaborated with the Houston Public Library by analyzing data from their most recent customer survey. Building upon work by previous teams, the survey was designed to gather information on customer priorities and library uses outside of the information currently tracked by HPL. The team analyzed responses from over 11,000 library users concerning which libraries they visited, what they do at libraries, and what aspects of the library are most important to the respondents. Findings suggest that libraries are used differently around the city and that there is a relationship between customer priorities and actions.

- The Understanding Emergency Management Decision Making team was a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project conducted in cooperation with the Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which analyzed an array of data sources and conducted interviews with emergency management professionals to examine decision-making during extreme weather events. The students combined flood-related 311 calls, Twitter information, rainfall data, road closure information, as well as news reports to create a methodological guide for research of emergency decision-making and applied their theoretical findings to two flooding events in Houston – Memorial Day, 2015 and Tax Day, 2016. This research will serve emergency managers by providing new ways to identify decision points during extreme events and benefit researchers attempting to navigate the complex network of data and decision processes in cities and large organizations.

- The Greenway Health Impact Assessment in OST/South Union team collaborated on the Southeast Houston Transformation Alliance’s (SEHTA) greenway planning process by analyzing baseline health data as well as current mobility patterns and predicted use of a future greenway by residents in the OST/South Union neighborhood of Houston. The team designed and implemented a face-to-face, map-based survey, conducting 199 interviews in multiple locations. The responses were used to estimate the potential health impacts. The findings provide SEHTA with a greater understanding of how the greenway, once implemented, may influence neighborhood health.
**Mentored internship program grows**

**THIS SUMMER,** the Leadership Rice Mentorship Experience (LRME) increased internship placement numbers from 37 to 50. Through a three year partnership with PESA, the CCL placed nine students at Halliburton, Schlumberger, Lone Star, and Vallourec. We also established new cohort locations—in Boston with BUILD, Rebiscan, and Merck Pharmaceuticals and in Austin with Glasshouse, Allies Against Slavery, and Texas Fair Defense. This year, the CCL also embraced the opportunity for campus collaboration by partnering with the Doerr Institute for New Leaders. Peer coaches from the Doerr Institute met regularly with LRME students as part of their pre-internship development and summer training. Overall, the CCL looks forward to continuing to grow the program and to strengthen relationships with current partners.

**Back to school notes**

**OUTREACH DAY,** coordinated by the Center for Civic Leadership and the Rice Student Volunteer Program, kicked off the school year in a positive direction. Outreach Day, held annually in August during the first week of the semester, introduces new students and reorients members of the Rice community to the city of Houston through a specific social issue. Over 200 students participated in this year's event, which focused on refugee resettlement in Houston.

“The purpose was to highlight refugee contributions to the city of Houston, increase awareness of refugee services and advertise future volunteer opportunities for Rice students,” says Thasha Uche, Assistant Director of the CCL and coordinator of Outreach Day. Students participated in direct service with local organizations, and heard from experts from Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees (PAIR), Refugee Services of Houston, and UNICEF.
THE CENTER FOR CIVIC LEADERSHIP is collaborating with the Department of Political Science, Rice student organizations, and community partners to increase electoral engagement, both in the Rice community and in Houston. Events include watch parties, voter registration drives, and voter canvassing, which will enable members of the Rice community to learn about nonpartisan, community-based civic engagement and to exercise civic leadership.

On Saturday, October 8, we are offering students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to canvas with our community partner, Neighborhood Centers, in neighborhoods with historically low voter turnout.

Please see a full list of events below:

**October 8th: Volunteer with Neighborhood Centers**
Canvas low-voting neighborhoods and encourage your fellow Houstonians to vote!
Transportation to and from campus provided by the CCL.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**September - November: Volunteer with Mi Familia Vota**
Mi Familia Vota has organized canvassing and phonebank events in the low-voting neighborhood of Northside throughout the months leading up to the presidential election. Visit our [Volunteer for Voter Engagement](#) page for more information.

**October 19th: Final Presidential Debate**
Debate watch party and discussion will be held in Herring 100 at 8:00pm. Hosted in collaboration with American Association of University Women, Baker Institute Student Forum, Mi Familia Vota, and the Political Science Department.

**November 8th: Election Day Watch Party**
Election watch party starting at 6:00pm in the Grand Hall.
Join the CCL, the Political Science Department and AAUW, BISF, Pi Sigma Alpha, and Young Democrats for food, trivia, commentary and more as we await the outcome of the 2016 presidential election!
Urban Immersion (UI) was held over two separate week-long sessions this past summer and introduced incoming Rice students to the principles of critical service-learning and to the City of Houston. Each day of service focused on a different community or neighborhood in Houston.

Participants engaged in educational sessions that introduced them to these communities and provided context for that day to create a more fulfilling and meaningful service experience.

The CCL partnered with Montrose Center (an LGBT center offering resources, counseling, youth/senior programs, addiction treatment, HIV/AIDS care, anti-violence services, and education and meeting space), Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS), Southeast Houston Transformation Alliance (SEHTA), and Project Row Houses (a community-based arts and culture non-profit organization). Students participated in both direct and indirect service projects.

Spring 2017 Partnership Events

Civic Incubator | January 21, 2017. Join us for a fun and exciting workshop that pairs teams of Rice undergraduates with small organizations to address specific organizational challenges. Teams of Rice students from all disciplines will collaborate with representatives of the organizations to generate ideas and present a creative, realistic, and sustainable strategy.

The Brew | March 2017 (exact date TBD). The Brew will be held at Saint Arnold's Brewery and is an event to express our appreciation for the hard work of all of our community partners.

Summer Reading: LRME Common Interest Cohorts

Leadership Rice Mentorship Experience (LRME) fellows divided into Common Interest Cohorts to learn more about their local communities. Students interned in Houston, San Francisco, New York, Boston, Austin, Washington D.C., and Paris, and in all of these cities they engaged the community in a topic of shared interest. You can read more here: http://lrme2016.blogs.rice.edu/