

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Fall 10-19-2012

### Volume 48 - Issue 06 - Friday, October 19, 2012

Rose Thorn Staff

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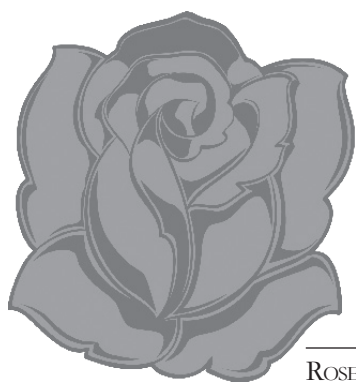
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#### Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 48 - Issue 06 - Friday, October 19, 2012" (2012). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 29.  
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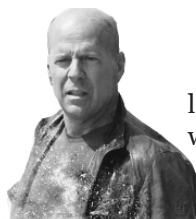
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# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2012 • VOLUME 48 • ISSUE 6



Does Bruce Willis land another big hit with “Looper”?  
**Page 4**



The Living section goes international!  
**Page 5**



How can we break our internet addictions?  
**Page 6**



“Midnight Madness” opens up the basketball season with a bang. **Page 7**

## Returning to Rose-Hulman

**Jason Latimer** • copy editor

This week, we sat down with 2006 graduates Drs. Ashley Bernal (pictured, top) of the Mechanical Engineering department and Matthew Lovell (pictured,

bottom) of the Civil Engineering department to hear a perspective from more recent graduates.

**Rose Thorn:** What has changed for students since you graduated?

**Ashley Bernal:** “I think

maybe the students are more well-rounded from when we were coming in, because there’s more activities now than before. The clubs have really picked up since I was a student, I know that. They were just getting started. So, Challenge X was just getting started when I was here, which is now EcoCar.”

**Matthew Lovell:** “When we were graduating in 2006, our economy was completely different. We had an outlook that everyone was confident that they were going to get a job, and senior year people would have three or four job offers. That’s certainly not the case right now. It’s a little bit of a fight to make sure that you have a job when you come out graduate.”

“I think there’s been a lot of positive pushes of trying to make sure the school is more diverse; I think that’s always been a problem that the school has realized and strived to improve. I think it is documented that it is improving. The school is becoming more diverse, and there’s a larger emphasis on diversity.”

“There’s been a push school-wide, I know specifically in civil engineering, to have a larger international perspective for our students

when they graduate. That was something that I felt was really just starting when I was here as a student, and now it has really blossomed.”

**AB:** “Sustainability has now been a major driving factor, which I don’t even remember talking about much when I was a student here.”

**RT:** There are more students now than when you studied here. How has that changed things?

**AB:** “When I was a student for Design for Manufacturing, which is a course that I now teach, we would go down to the machine shop and build things, and now, when so many students, it’s not as feasible to do those without having the space grow, so I think space is always an issue. Classroom space is now more challenging with the number of students.

**ML:** “When we were students, one of the main reasons that we wanted to come here was because of that low faculty to student ratio and that time that you get one on one with faculty. I think it’s a strength of the school, and then also it’s one of the reasons I wanted to come back here and teach. I had the opportunity to get to know the students that were in my class and invest in them outside of the class-



*Rose-Hulman News*

room on a one-on-one basis. I really value that as part of the school.

**AB:** “It doesn’t seem that the students all necessarily know each other as well as we used to when we were students because now there’s multiple sections so you’re not taking the same class with the same group of students every time.

*Continued on page 3*

## Presidential search in early stages

**Ranjana Chandramouli** • staff writer

The search for the new Rose-Hulman president is still in the early stages, but progressing normally. After the unexpected passing of President Matt Branam in April of this year, Rob Coons, former Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer here at Rose-Hulman, was named the interim president as the Presidential Search Committee began to look for the 15th president for Rose-Hulman.

The Presidential Search Committee consists of trustees, faculty, and staff, as well as an alumnae and the current student body president, Nick Addante. The chair of this committee, Mr. Bill Schindel, recently announced that the committee hopes to garner a large enough pool of candidates to “allow a board selection as early as February of 2013.”

Having met five times, the committee interviewed three search firms and has engaged Heidrick & Struggles as their official partner. H&S was involved in the previous search which was terminated early when it was decided that Interim President Matt Branam would be appointed.

The release of the Strategic Plan and other similar advancements have come as recruitment for potential candidates continues.

Some private contacts have been initiated, and a Networks Activation Communication Plan is being constructed to make use of trustees, alumni, corporate partners, and more associated members of the community.

At this time, the schedule indicates that Board of Trustees would meet with the selected finalists and make a final selection in the February, 2013 meeting.

### Presidential Search Committee

**Trustees:** Bill Schindel, Darin Moody, David Hannum, Chris Mack, Andy Williams

**Faculty:** Patsy Brackin, Kay C. Dee, Craig Downing, Ed Doering

**Staff:** Jim Goecker, Kevin Hewerdine, Sarah Forbes, Kristen Loyd

**Alumni:** Jeff Myers

**Student:** Nicholas Addante

## events



### Day of Service

Fulfill your civic duty and join a community service project in Terre Haute.  
**Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m.**

### Presidential Debate Watch Party

An open presentation based on journalist Stephen Ferry’s time in Colombia.  
**Hulman Union, October 22, 9 p.m.**

### Fall Festival

Celebrate the fall season with good food and fun activities!  
**Hulman Union, October 24, 4:30 p.m.**

### Fall Artist’s Reception

Meet the artists behind the works currently filling the walls of Moench Hall.  
**Moench Hall, October 25, 4:30 p.m.**

## sports

**Women’s soccer vs. Earlham**  
October 24 - 5:30 p.m.

**Volleyball vs. Earlham**  
October 24 - 7 p.m.

**Men’s soccer vs. Earlham**  
October 24 - 7:30 p.m.

**Swimming vs. Millikin**  
October 26 - 6 p.m.

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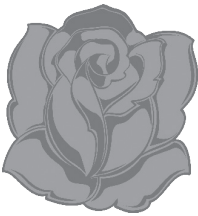
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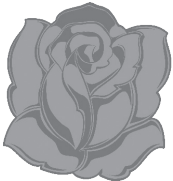


# THE ROSE THORN

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ISSUES of The Rose Thorn are published on the first through ninth Fridays of each academic quarter.

WEEKLY MEETINGS OCCUR at 5:15 p.m. on the first through ninth Wednesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend.

SUBMISSION of articles, photographs, art, and letters to the editor is encouraged. Submissions may be made by email to [thorn@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn@rose-hulman.edu) or in person to Hulman Memorial Union room 249. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be no longer than 600 words in length and must contain the writer’s (electronic) signature.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED herein are those of their respective authors and, with the exception of the Staff View, do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.

# The new dean in town

## DEAN OF FACULTY RICHARD STAMPER DISCUSSES HIS NEW JOB

Claire Stark • staff writer

With a recent shuffling of positions and a new position created on campus, several longtime faculty and members of the administration have filled the newly-created or opened dean positions.

Dr. Richard Stamper, a 1985 Rose graduate and previous mechanical engineering professor, has taken on the role of Interim Dean of Faculty since July. The first in a series profiling each dean, Stamper was gracious enough to sit down and fill in the gaps about his job and his role on campus.

**Rose Thorn:** What exactly is your job description?

**Richard Stamper:** My goal is to make sure the faculty is great and have all the material they need to deliver a wonderful academic experience. A major part of this is hiring, tenure and retention of faculty.

**RT:** Are there any current major projects you are working on?

**RS:** The big one right now is ABET accreditation. It's a very important accreditation that we have to do every six years. It affects a lot

of things such as the ability to get federal grants, student loans, and be allowed to sit for the FE exam. Each department has to create a book of the curriculum, and there is an on-site visit as well. Another major one is the Dean's Equipment Fund which is used to buy materials the faculty needs. This includes lab equipment and renovation of classrooms such as those in Myers.

**RT:** Are there any upcoming projects you can tell us about?

**RS:** There will be a lot of new things out of the strategic planning, but some other things coming up are continuing to expand the H.E.R.E program and Leadership Academy and more reversing the classroom.

Another thing I do is promotion to review, which is for the tenure process at the end of the year. It's amazing to see all the inspiring work our professors do throughout the year. The components to receive tenure are teaching, professional development, and service. After ABET it is hiring season to recruit new professors. Last year the school brought in 18 new professors

either as tenure track or visiting.

**RT:** What is the most rewarding aspect of your position?

**RS:** Well, I'm still working on that, as I haven't had this job for very long. I would have to say it is seeing all the good work the faculty can do with great students. Hopefully I will be able to support those collaborations. I think also in the future I will be able to see the impact this office has on the school, and that will be amazing.

**RT:** Have there been any drawbacks to the job so far?

**RS:** Probably the learning curve. There are some great opportunities out there that I haven't been able to respond to as I'm moving too slowly. I'm not as effective as I want to be, but it will come in time.

I feel very fortunate to have talented students

and dedicated faculty and staff that have the same driving goal. It doesn't always happen that way, but it makes the school even stronger when it does.

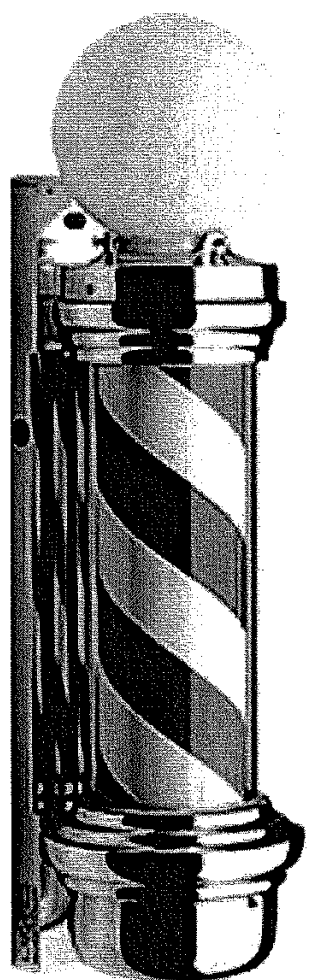


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## Returning to Rose-Hulman, from page 1

So I think in general that has changed where they might not even know all their classmates, where there was no class before that I had students that I didn't know."

"With regards to study groups... it was easier to find people to study with because you knew more people in your class, where now you might only know three or four, so you're limited to study groups more, I would think.

**ML:** "Sophomore year, you either had to go live in a fraternity or off-campus basically, other than they few that could fit in Percopo. Now, a large majority of the student body can be on-campus. That was one of the hardest parts about going off-campus, you kind of lost that close community to work with.

Later in the conversation, Dr. Lovell brought up the fact that more students were starting Rose with credits.

**ML:** "I'm noticing as a faculty member that many more students are coming in with credits."

**AB:** "There was no AP at my school. I mean, now there is obviously, but when

I was a student, there was no AP."

**ML:** "Some students are coming in with enough credits to be a sophomore. That changes the dynamic of the standard list of courses that you go through. Students are getting a huge head start when they're come here."

**AB:** "Which can be both a good and bad thing. So, traditionally, as a freshman, you're getting used to college life, but if you're starting in the sophomore curriculum, you're getting used to college life and starting with some of the hardest curriculum, typically. So it's like a double whammy now. I didn't see as many students in that situation when I was here.

**RT:** Any closing thoughts?

**AB:** "Your mindset will change when you're a student versus a faculty member in that now, I can say back in the day, you will want this to be as hard as it is now, because when you graduate, you will expect all your peers to go through the same rigor as you did, whereas when you're a student, you don't see it necessarily that way.

# SCI-FI ACTION THAT WILL LEAVE YOU WONDERING

## “Looper” has plenty of build up but ends with deus ex machina

Luke Woolley • staff writer

Science-Fiction fans: Remember how excited you got when you heard about “Prometheus?” Ridley Scott returning to his universe for another chapter of the xenomorph epic? Oh yeah! Then the trailers were released, revealing ridiculous amounts of the plot—including humanoid aliens, new snake-like face-huggers, and even the film’s ending (seriously, we were shown the explorers’ spaceship crashing into the alien craft to destroy it). You figured there HAD to be more to the story, so you got some friends together and went to the theater anyway. Yet, it was disappointingly predictable and you felt no connection to the motivation of the characters or the rate at which events took place.

The future noir film “Looper,” in theaters since late September, is anything but predictable. The trailers basically list the ingredients of the story, but the entire second half of the movie is a fairly well-kept secret, departing drastically from the expected (and, for me, desired) “future self and me” trope. The movie is set in 2044 and follows a young man named Joe, played by Joseph Gordon Leavitt (“500 Days of Summer,” “Inception”). Joe is a member of a group of assassins whose targets, sent back 30 years by the mob of the future, materialize in front of their ready weapons. The term “closing his loop” is used when a Looper ends up killing his future self... he is paid an enor-

mous amount and his contract is closed, leaving him free to celebrate or squander the next 30 years. The problem is that when the time comes for Joe to close his loop, future Joe, played by Bruce Willis, overpowers present Joe and escapes on a mission to survive. Presumably.

Let me nerd out here for paragraph (minor spoilers); obviously the logistics associated with time travel can be a nuisance, and how they’re handled is important to judge a sci-fi story like “Looper.” For one, and this surprised me a lot, the audience gets to follow Joe through the first “time-line;” he kills his target, dis-

cal wounds (e.g. Joe gets shot in the ear, Old Joe’s ear gets a scar) but in “Looper,” Old Joe’s memories from the first loop are getting overwritten now that Joe’s life has veered onto a different path! This of course yields some trippy sequences and gives the screen writers an excuse to show us some of the most important parts of Old Joe’s life, as well as divulge his REAL mission.

Beyond appreciating the aim at logical and exciting time-travel, and ignoring JGL’s absurd Willis-esque facial prosthetics, I thoroughly enjoyed the first 70-80 percent of the film. The soundtrack selections of driving rock or post-metal

and revelations, not to mention well-timed humor. Most admirably however, each character is not a single point along the protagonist-antagonist spectrum; Joe, Old Joe, and even “the Man” and his bumbling henchmen are multidimensional and have moments that rendered me sympathetic.

I honestly wanted to be completely satisfied with “Looper,” but the late twist went in a direction that disappointed me. Avoiding spoilers as much as possible, one of the elements of this futuristic world exists for no reason other than to provide a villain. I feel that to avoid this sort of deus ex machina the film should have been about twenty minutes longer and told more about the world: give us a reason to care about genetic mutations, bikes that levitate, or streets crawling with homeless. These things and more are great ingredients for a science-fiction motion picture, but when you get to the end and begin to realize this is actually not the story about time-travel assassins you paid for, it puts a damper on the whole experience. One proper mechanism for bringing this disparity to the audience’s attention was used by Joss Whedon in “Cabin in the Woods,” which I reviewed a few weeks ago. Trailers for that film did not reveal the real content of the movie, but within minutes of sitting down in the theater everyone was well aware that this would be a strange and creative show. The fun was finding out how along the way! “Looper” on the other hand lulled me into

believing I was watching a fast-paced mystery/noir/action/sci-fi story flaunting a specific and admirable mantra, but I left the theater perturbed. It was similar to how I felt after reading Isaac Asimov’s “Robots of Dawn,” which ends with most of the questions posed in the 400-page novel being answered by the out-of-the-blue fact that one of the robots is telepathic.

In summation, “Looper” was certainly not a bad movie. I’ve illustrated many strong points as well as those that I think could have been done differently. And while his make-up was off-putting and honestly just looked bad, JGL does a fantastic job of emulating the mannerisms and diction of the great Bruce Willis. Writer-director Rian Johnson (“Brothers Bloom,” “Breaking Bad” guest writer) has a good sense of creating a world, populating it with characters, and putting them in scenes together, but as far as story-telling goes he is still finding his feet. The world of the loopers is engaging and visually appealing, but the film pretty jerkily arrives at its destination. If you are okay with that, or are just prepared for it after reading my opinion, you will find “Looper” an enjoyable and exciting sci-fi smash with an indie vibe. If not, you’ll certainly be thrown for a loop.

Rating: 3/5 elephants



“  
Looper is anything  
but predictable

covers it’s himself, retires rich, and spends a 30-year montage having adventures with wealth, weapons, and women. When the mob comes to close his loop (for whatever reason), we witness the aforementioned encounter in which he changes things up and survives, altering the time-line. This leads to another mechanism, which is that changes to Joe appear in Old Joe. These most obviously and traditionally include physi-

cal wounds (e.g. Joe gets shot in the ear, Old Joe’s ear gets a scar) but in “Looper,” Old Joe’s memories from the first loop are getting overwritten now that Joe’s life has veered onto a different path! This of course yields some trippy sequences and gives the screen writers an excuse to show us some of the most important parts of Old Joe’s life, as well as divulge his REAL mission.

Beyond appreciating the aim at logical and exciting time-travel, and ignoring JGL’s absurd Willis-esque facial prosthetics, I thoroughly enjoyed the first 70-80 percent of the film. The soundtrack selections of driving rock or post-metal

# MUSIC THAT IS PAINFUL TO NEARLY ALL FIVE SENSES

## Don’t hope to walk away smiling from music by “Nicki Minaj”

Bethany Martin • staff writer

Before anyone starts to defend Nicki Minaj and her choice to make horrible music and publish it to the public, please listen to her music that, thankfully, has not been played on the radio. As much as she thinks that she is the best, I would like to disagree.

She has talent, there is no denying that, but the way she uses her talent is less than tasteful. Every single song she has ever published has been labeled “explicit”. Profanity can often be used to make a point, but she uses it to sound cool. In the end it is annoying more than anything and ruins many of her songs. She has a beautiful singing voice until she starts singing about sticking genitalia in your face, which instantly turned me against the beauty of it all.

After listening to the greater part of her works, it is safe to say that she has not changed for fame. Her early music was her making weird sounds she claims to be rap music, and her music today is still her making abnormal noises that no normal human being should make. In fact, Disney could probably sue her for her rendition of Mrs. Potts from “Beauty and the Beast” in “Roman Holiday.” After listening to that particular horror, she switches to butchering “Oh Come All Ye Faithful” in the same song.

Watching her videos was a whole other type of



torture, only this time I had to witness the facial expressions whip past in a blur or color and terror. The videos I could whip up the courage to watch were fascinating; it was like studying another species. From phasing into a leopard to having large shiny doll eyes, I will have nightmares for weeks to come.

Rating: 0.5/5 elephants



# Square pegs: how diversity does not fit

Garrett Meyer • staff writer

If all of Rose’s international students transferred to Indiana State tomorrow, Rose would barely hiccup. Sure, our International Student Association might struggle with low membership and our admissions office would grow embarrassingly mute about diversity. But in the classrooms, residence halls, and ARA, the bulk of Rose life would be unaffected if American went from the primary to exclusive persuasion.

This is not because international students make no impact. With eight percent foreign student body, we can all point to a person who makes us thankful that Rose’s international students do not all uproot with a deep-seeded urge to become Sycamores. Rather, Rose’s essence would remain in their absence because the impact international students currently make on the greater community is indistinguishable from that of domestic students.

I am from Missouri, but other than a masochistic allegiance to a football team that does me wrong (darn you, Chiefs!), I have not brought anything from Missouri that someone from Montana could not bring as well. Replace me with similarly charming, handsome Montanan (if one exists), and Rose would not even blink. The same should not be true for a Chinese student, with his wealth of acutely non-Montanan experience, and yet it is. My time here has been benefitted by students who have hailed from other nations, but not because they have hailed from other nations.

It is a sham to think that once a quota has been

reached, our campus merits multicultural status. By itself, the addition of a few foreign students to our ranks hardly helps our education reflect the

We are squandering the asset of diversity at Rose, and blame can be cast in multiple directions.

global leadership Rose intends to inspire. Though I have learned how to analyze the impulses as a rocket lifts up a bundle of walnuts, I have not been

taught how a mechanical engineer operates differently in a collectivist society as opposed to an individualistic one. I know how to do trig substitution integrals like child’s play, but I would not know where to begin overcoming a language barrier within a team. Our students from beyond the purple mountains and fruited plains are primed to enrich the Rose experience in these ways, but as of now, they are merely refit as domestic students whose English might be a little subpar.

We are squandering the asset of diversity at Rose, and blame can be cast in multiple directions. My fellow domestic students and I can accept our fault in failing to explore the perspectives only international students can provide. To counter, international students can be found guilty of ethnic clustering, unintentionally using their comfortable tongue to wall off outsiders. We can excuse our disinterest in other cultures with the intensity of Rose academics or hold our institution accountable for slacking in their “responsibility to teach students the skills they need to excel in their chosen field, including the ability to interact with people of diverse backgrounds and viewpoints,” as described in our Diversity Statement.

Whatever the crux of our problem, I have a hard time believing that the height of diversity at Rose is a long line for a free meal from the International Student Association. If we want this year’s record number of incoming international students to be more than a statistic, we must cooperate as an institute to make diversity work for us, instead of the other way around.

## International House of Pancakes

Casey Langdale • staff writer

If you happen to be in the mood for breakfast at just about any time of day IHOP is the place to go. In fact I would even recommend getting pancakes at lunch or dinner time. It is a life experience that builds character.

But seriously now, the food at IHOP is good at any time of day and the waiting times are reasonable. I ordered the Swedish Crepes with a side of bacon and hash browns during lunch time and had a plate in front of me within ten minutes. The meal was filling and tasted great.

You can never go wrong with pancakes.

The people I was with ordered Chicken and Waffles while the other ordered a piece of Steak. The Steak was cooked exactly it was ordered, and my other friend was more than content with his chicken and waffles.

We all left content and I would recommend to anyone that they should visit the IHOP on the corner of Third Street and Wheeler Avenue. You can go never go wrong with a stack of pancakes.



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# Seeking help can save your life

Rosetta Reatherford • guest writer

The reasons why I got into Rose-Hulman are the same reasons why I almost killed myself six months ago. Growing up, I never had to ask for help. I was always that smart kid; the one you could depend on to teach you anything. My friends were so surprised when I said I wanted to be an engineer. They saw me as a teacher, someone who always taught them and helped them when they needed it. My family always went “Aw, yes, little Rose, yes, she’s so smart.” It felt that if I asked for help, then I wouldn’t be that anymore—that I would somehow fail all those people who wanted me to be smart or needed

me to be the smart one. I was that same way when it came to emotions. I was the one people went to

I couldn’t tell them that, ever since the fifth grade, I wanted to commit suicide.

for help. If I wasn’t strong, then what was I? I never expressed myself fully to those who cared about me. I didn’t want to make them hurt by saying their care

wasn’t enough to carry me through my dark moments. I couldn’t tell them that, ever since the fifth grade, I wanted to commit suicide. They needed me to be strong, so I became stone.

Yet, my defining moment was the moment I broke down and tearfully told my physics teacher, Mr. Barker, that I had no idea what I was doing and that I needed help. He didn’t laugh, he didn’t turn me away, he simply asked me what was wrong and then helped me.

I learned how to ask for help. It sounds so easy when you say it. Yet, it’s so hard to do. You’re supposed to be smart and not

need to ask for help. You’re supposed to be strong and not need to ask for help.

Six months ago, I hit the lowest point of my life. I broke down and tearfully asked my guidance counselor for help. She didn’t laugh, she didn’t turn me away, she simply asked me what was wrong and helped me. I had realized that I wasn’t weak or stupid by asking for help. I just needed help. And, it saved my life.

Counseling services are offered here at Rose-Hulman throughout the week. If you need help, never be afraid to ask for it, whether it is your professor or a medical professional, such as the one we have here on campus. I recommend stopping in if you feel the need to. They will always be there for you.

## The other side of the desk



Thomas Adams • faculty writer

In the middle of this past summer my wife traveled to Washington, DC for a workshop, leaving me alone for a week with nothing in our house but vodka, diet root beer, and a bright purple ukulele I had borrowed from a friend. This volatile mixture resulted in my arranging The Doors’ “Light My Fire” for the little purple instrument. (You can see this performance online at <http://youtu.be/zsT-slFHkUcM>. Be warned, after you’ve watched it you can’t unwatch it!) After I had sufficiently basked in the silliness of this endeavor, I began to realize that my task of arranging a 60s psychedelic rock song for ukulele had much in common with the practice of engineering. No seriously, a lot. Let me enumerate the ways.

It required significant amounts of practice and education. It took thousands of hours of listening to and learning about music, along with continuously learning to play an instrument, before I attained a level of proficiency sufficient to produce good musical arrangements, not to mention being able to play them well enough so that an audience could stand to listen to them. Along the way I have played a million wrong notes while I and those unfortunate enough to be within earshot of me have listened on, the resulting “music” ranging in quality from mediocre to terrible. Compare this to the minimum of four years of post-secondary education most people require before taking their first entry-level engineering position, an education rife with thousands of hours of problem solving and buckets of red ink covering homework, exams, and design reports.

It required me to apply an acquired skill set to a completely new situation. No one ever taught me how to arrange The Doors for solo ukulele, but I had arranged many other songs for solo guitar. I was only able to arrange “Light My Fire” by modifying and adapting that previously acquired skill set. In this case not only did I apply that skill to a new song with its unique melody, chord changes, etc., but also to a new instrument altogether, as I had never really played the ukulele until that week. It’s not unlike using a background in thermal and energy systems to tackle new research projects in areas that fall outside that area of expertise.

I did a large amount of research and analysis. I listened to The Doors’ original version of “Light My Fire” dozens of times in the arranging process. Af-

ter analyzing the melody and the chord changes, I compared my analysis to several different transcriptions of the song. When I noted differences I sometimes concluded that my analysis needed to be changed. In other instances I concluded that my analysis was correct and the transcription was in error. Either way, as with engineering practice, I had to hunt down relevant information on my own, as well as assess its value and accuracy, all without any answers in the back of the book to guide me.

I was engaged in a design problem with numerous imposed constraints. Though both guitar and ukulele are stringed fretted instruments, the guitar is much larger and has six strings compared to the ukulele’s four, and the instruments are tuned differently as well. What’s more, the unique tuning of the ukulele really offers only three strings-worth of range. Recreating the entire song—the melody, chords, rhythm, and bass parts—on a tiny instrument with such a limited range represents a tremendous constrained optimization problem. I dealt with these constraints by sometimes playing just a couple of notes that suggest an entire five or six note chord to the ear. At others I let the bass line drop out and then come back in later in a way that the listener hopefully doesn’t miss it. As does an engineer working on a design project with monetary, time, and resource limitations, I did the most with what I had, aspiring to deliver a product that both meets the specs and satisfies the client.

Taking part in the process was itself a learning experience. As I was just starting this arrangement I distinctly remember finally settling on an inversion of an F# minor 7 chord and then, upon playing it, recognizing the fingering as being virtually identical to a D major 9. I then remembered the epiphany I had years ago when I realized that the viscosity relation for a Newtonian fluid, Fourier’s law of conduction, and Fick’s mass diffusion equation were of exactly the same form. “Something like different inversions of the same musical chord,” I thought. And, that made me remember something I had read by famed anthropologist and cyberneticist Gregory Bateson in which he suggested that perhaps we could best learn about the world by making the idea of relationship primary and thinking about the related things themselves as secondary rather than first identifying things and then thinking about how they are related to each other. And then... ..well, you can clearly see that I got distracted at that point. Suffice to say that I made many more connections between things that otherwise seem unconnected before returning to playing the uke.

Now arranging The Doors for solo ukulele doesn’t pay nearly as well as engineering (unless you’re Jake Shimabukuro, that is) and you may also argue that a host of other dissimilarities make the comparison superficial. But, whether you believe the analogy to be strong or not doesn’t matter nearly as much as having entertained the analogy at all. Only when we recognize that the boundaries delineating human endeavors are fluid do we realize that we can also redraw them. This is the only way in which innovation ever takes place. I am forever grateful to a little purple ukulele and several Vootbeer cocktails for reminding me of this profound truth.

## A CALL FOR ATTENTION



It’s hard to wrench ourselves from social networking. *priyo.com*

Thomas Dykes • staff writer

I sit in the back row of my computational science class, where we are permitted to have our laptops open during class. At any given time, at least five people in my fifteen person class will not be paying attention. They will be on Facebook, checking e-mail, browsing the web, or doing something else to distract themselves.

On occasion I too will find myself browsing; while the professor is discussing infinity norms and methods of computational integration, I will find my fingers typing out ‘facebook.com’ of their own will, as if someone else was controlling them. The educational value that I and other students are receiving from this class is clearly lessened by these distractions.

This is not to say that I am blaming myself or the other students for our misdeeds; in fact, I think that our inability to concentrate is a problem largely out of our control. Our generation grew up on the Internet; we have been browsing Facebook and ESPN for years prior to our laptop usage for educational purposes. The habits we built as teenagers are hardwired and extremely difficult to break, and even those with iron wills will sometimes find themselves on Facebook almost against their will.

The solution is not punishing students for being tempted, but rather removing the temptations altogether. Blocking students from Facebook, ESPN, Reddit, and other popular timewasters during school hours (8 to 5 pm) would greatly reduce student distraction during class. It would not prevent those who have no interest in the course from ignoring the professor, nor would it force students to learn. But it would help those who have trouble concentrating in class (read: most of Rose) from drifting off completely, and it would reduce the length of those mid-class Internet trips by taking away the distractions that would last a half an hour, leaving students with a two minute e-mail search and the task of finding something more entertaining than the course.

This analysis relies on the idea that most distracted students would like to pay attention but, through sleep deprivation and the endless grind of work, have found their attention spans reduced to nothing.

If their favorite distractions are taken, those students will refocus their attention back to the professor rather than look for new ones. In the end, hopefully, these students will end up learning more than they would have otherwise.

# MIDNIGHT MADNESS

**Matt Dierksmeier • sports editor**

Students settled into the familiar seats of Hulbert Arena on Sunday night to support the Rose-Hulman men's and women's basketball teams as they near the start of their 2012-2013 seasons. The event featured prize giveaways, free food, and a plethora of entertaining events, including a coordinated paper airplane toss. The men's and women's teams though took center stage as the players from each squad were introduced to the crowd and then cheered on as they showed off all the hard work they put in during the off-season.

Winning the HCAC championship last season and

earning an automatic bid to the Division III Tournament, the Rose-Hulman men's basketball team returns four of its starters. In a preseason poll by d3hoops.com released this week, the Fightin' Engineers were ranked No. 30 among all Division III teams, first among all Indiana schools.

The women's team also returns four starters that helped propel them to their first victory in the HCAC Tournament last year.

The first home game for the men's team will be Nov. 28 as they take on Fontbonne University. The Rose-Hulman women's basketball team will begin their home schedule versus HCAC opponent Defiance College on Dec. 1.



*Students gathered in Hulbert Arena to take in a variety of activities to help ring in the beginning of basketball season.*

**Rose-Hulman Athletics**

# Women's tennis caps another successful season

**Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor**

The Rose-Hulman women's tennis team finished up their season this past weekend with a 5 - 3 loss to Franklin College in the title match of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament.

The loss came after another successful season for the Lady Engineers, who finished 7 - 1 in HCAC play and 10 - 2 overall in the regular season. They earned the No. 2 seed in the postseason tournament, giving them a first-round bye.

Powering over Transylvania University 5 - 1, the Lady Engineers advanced to Sunday's title match against Franklin, the regular season conference champions.

Sunday's match was a tight one, but the Lady Engineers could not outplay the Frank-

lin Grizzlies, as the regular season champions became the HCAC Tournament champions. Franklin will advance to the NCAA Division III Tournament, while Rose-Hulman finished their fall season.

The fall season concluded for the Engineers with a 11 - 3 record. Junior Paige Cook led the Engineers with two points - one singles win and a doubles win alongside sophomore Koharuko Fujita - and junior Marie Stettler added the third win in her singles matchup.

For their efforts, five Lady Engineers were honored by the HCAC. Cook, Stettler, and senior Melissa Montgomery were given first-team honors, as voted on by the league coaches.

With a year remaining in their collegiate career, Cook and Stettler have made their

marks on the record books. Cook stands third all-time in winning percentage with a 25 - 7 singles record. Stettler has compiled 35 singles wins, the third-most in school history.

Montgomery ranks fourth in Rose-Hulman history with 34 career singles victories, and with 39 doubles wins, she snags the third spot in the record books.

Freshman Lauren Miller and sophomore Kylie McCollum earned honorable mention all-conference honors. McCollum currently holds the school record in winning percentage with a 21 - 5 singles record.

The Engineers will finish up their 2012 - 2013 season when their spring season concludes. The spring set of matches begins in March with a home matchup against DePauw University.

# Fifth straight win for Rose-Hulman volleyball

**Matt Dierksmeier • sports editor**

The Rose-Hulman women's volleyball squad traveled to Franklin College to take on the Grizzlies this past Friday. This would be the fourth consecutive road match against an HCAC opponent for the Engineers.

Franklin came out strong, prevailing in the opening set. The night though would go quickly south for the Grizzlies as the Engineers took the next three sets, winning the match by a final score of 19 - 25, 25 - 19, 25

- 14, 25 - 23.

Freshman Sarah Jensen recorded a season-high 21 kills in the match while also adding 17 assists as well. Junior Kate Dangel tallied 22 digs and junior Kira Boswell led in assists with 26.

Last week also included a competitive matchup against the College of Mount St. Joseph on Thursday. The squads would take each of the three sets played to extra points, . Winning by a score of 28 - 26, 29 - 27, 26 - 24, the Engineers gave Mount

St. Joseph their first conference loss of the season.

Senior Anna Lewer contributed 13 kills along with 11 digs in the victory. Junior Casey Levitt recorded 10 kills and eight digs.

Rose-Hulman now stands 16 - 7 overall and 5 - 1 in HCAC play. They currently trail Transylvania University who are 6 - 0 and are right behind Mount St. Joseph at 6 - 1. The Engineers will travel this Saturday to take on Bluffton University. They will then play at Defiance College Sunday afternoon.

# MEN'S SOCCER TIED ATOP CONFERENCE STANDINGS

**Matt Dierksmeier • sports editor**

On Saturday, the Rose-Hulman men's soccer team saw themselves matched up against HCAC rival Transylvania University with the conference lead on the line. Coming into the match, both squads were undefeated in HCAC action at 4 - 0 - 0.

Early on, the Engineers were able to find gaps in the Transylvania defense, capitalizing in the 9th minute with a score from junior William Senat. Transylvania though would regroup after halftime, scoring two quick back-to-back goals in the 57th and 61st minutes.

Rose-Hulman junior Drew Belk then tied the game in the 74th minute on a double assist from Senat and junior Marshall Ishmael. In the overtime periods, neither squad were able to find the back of the net, as the game would end in a 2 - 2 draw.

Belk earned the HCAC Men's Soccer Player of the Week honor for his game tying goal Saturday and also for his three-goal performance against the College of Mount St. Joseph earlier in the week.

The Fightin' Engineers were then back in action on Wednesday evening versus Franklin College. The Rose-

Hulman defense played admirably with sophomore goalkeeper Drew Miller picking up his fifth shutout of the season. Scoring both goals for the Engineers in the match was junior William Senat, recording his seventh and eighth scores of the season.

With three matches remaining in the regular season, Rose-Hulman is currently tied for first in the conference standings with Transylvania, each at 5 - 0 - 1.

The next match for the Fightin' Engineers will be this Saturday as they travel to Hanover College.

## Wacky prof quotes

“We won’t mention the wine and whiskey...that would be too embarrassing.”  
—Dr. McNerney. On Saturday nights that would be worth remembering.

“Cancer, yay! Or... bad, depending on how you look at it.”  
—Dr. Brandt. Further proof that scientists and engineers have no souls.

“If you ask me, they should’ve burned this place down 20 years ago.”  
—Dr. Grimaldi. You can’t just go around saying stuff like that! you’ll end up being a suspect...

“Some of you are shaking your head yes, some of you just want to put your head down and go to sleep.”  
—Dr. Morris. At least you’re honest about the level of interest.

**Rose professors say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at [thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu) for a chance to win a 25\$ Visa gift card!**

# The Lost Leg Chronicles

## Zombies attack! Part 3

Man Daginot • handicapable hero

“That was not a very smart thing to say.” The director said deliberately as he slid the debriefing papers across the table. “You now have a physical advantage which we have the opportunity of taking advantage of as a result of the positive side effects of your surgery.”

“This better be worth my effort.” I responded shortly.

Soon enough, I was on a plane... yet again. This time however, I was heading for Ames, Iowa. Apparently the Zombies avoided this city... or town... or whatever altogether because nobody lived there to begin with, and there was nothing of importance in Ames, or Iowa in general.

Anyway, I met my contact, and he showed me to my brand new camouflage Humvee, which was fully equipped with mounted .50 Cals and rifles in the back. I could get used to this. He gave me a map of the exact location of the primary water main which delivers water to the majority of the city. I started driving from Ames to Chicago... which I have to say was the most boring drive man has ever invented. I’m also quite sure the zombie infestation didn’t really have much of an impact with the quality of excitement on this here road.

I made my first contact with the atrocious race of the undead right after I entered Illinois. They were running... or rather hobbling quickly, towards my Humvee. I’m not really sure how well this

camouflage was working... Anyway, there was no way a few bloody zombies were going to break through the double paned bulletproof glass of my Anti-Zombiemobile.

I was getting myself pumped by watching “The Avengers” for the third time as the city slowly came into view. I could really use a powered exoskeleton right about now... this is actually an applicable situation in which that would be necessary.

As I started weaving my way through the streets of Chicago, my presence was becoming more known. More and more of the zombies started shuffling out of buildings and toward my vehicle.

I found the location of the water main and I drove up to the roof of a nearby parking garage. I exited my vehicle, taking as many weapons as I could carry. I dragged my way over to the edge of the garage looking over to the water control center and shot my grapple across through a broken window.

After locking myself in, I zipped across the wide gap of the road and planted myself on the eighth floor. I sorted out my equipment and headed quickly towards the fourth basement which was where the pipes ran through. I leapt down the stairwell and reached the main floor without incident.

Once I reached the first floor, I had to trek across to the opposite side of the building to reach the staircase which descended to the several basements below.

What a horrible design for avoiding zombies. They clearly neglected the possi-

bility of zombies being in the way of reaching the basement floors in order to administer the vaccine that could potentially save the human race. Apparently the engineers and architects of this building didn’t care about our survival.

Anyway, I busted through that door like a bull at a rodeo and sprinted across the length of the first floor in broad daylight. I was stopped at the entrance of the door by a burly looking beast of what I guess used

Anyway, I busted through that door like a bull at a rodeo...

to be a person.

He... It towered over me and grabbed at me with a quick swipe of its hand. I quickly evaded its feeble attempt with an agile side step, jumped up and delivered a crippling right hook to the zombie’s temple. I was surprised to see the zombie stumble and fall out of the way giving out a pterodactyl-like screech... Truthfully, I’ve never heard a pterodactyl screech, but that’s exactly how I would imagine it.

I looked at my hands and was disappointed to see my brand new Kevlar gloves tainted with its blood. I quickly stepped

through the basement door and locked it behind me as I glimpsed more and more zombies flooding through the main entrance.

I got to the fourth basement and stepped out onto the floor ran over to the main water line, twisted the cap and poured in the eight vials of clear magical liquid. I shut the lid and sprinted back up the single staircase leading back up to the floor.

I knew for a fact it would be a miracle to get out of this alive. I remember thinking go big or go home as I crashed into the first floor lobby. They were everywhere. I whipped out two Desert Eagles and began shooting right and left. It wasn’t enough. I went through my pistols, Uzis, and shotgun in a matter of minutes.

I was caught in the middle of the lobby. They continued climbing through my windows, trying to snatch me up. I didn’t have any kids or wife to hide, so I was good. I pulled out the leg of a chair I had stuffed in my jacket, the last weapon I had left. I swung it around my head and spun as I clubbed a zombie in the temple. He fell, knocking over two others.

I turned around, whipped the chair leg across my chest and broke another zombie’s jaw with a crushing blow. No matter how fast I moved, they continued to close in around me as I danced to and fro, thrashing through the air with the chair leg. The got through my defenses and one cheeky looking fellow got ahold of my leg and sunk his teeth into my calf, infecting me instantly.

# Campus discovery

## Student discovers Logan Library has second floor, books

Brawn Brosky • very muscular

On the center of the Rose-Hulman campus is a well-known building called the Logan Library. After the recent renovations to the library, it is, without doubt, a centerpiece of the campus.

Historically, the Logan Library has two main functions. During the day, it serves as a roomy, cushy building that’s great for off campus students to hang out, talk, and play computer games. During nearly every day, the library is constantly filled with these “campus vagrants.”

In the evenings, the Logan Library is a bustling hub of student social life. Between the comfy chairs and unlimited supply of caffeine nearby, it’s the ideal location to engage

in computer games, late night naps, and boisterous conversations. Furthermore, the private glass-cased lounges are the perfect place for groups to get together and endlessly procrastinate. There’s nary a time when the Logan Library isn’t filled with students of all kind.

Recently, Burden Vagrance, a senior on his second victory lap, rushed into the library with a coffee-induced grade 2 bladder emergency. When he frantically opened the door, however, he did not find the relief he sought; he found a staircase going up.

“I didn’t know there was even a second floor to this place,” said Burden in an interview. What’s even more incredible than the discovery of the second floor is what was

found on it. “There were these racks of ...things... all over the place. I’ve never seen anything like it. They were made of paper, and they had some sort of hieroglyph on the inside.”

Preliminary research shows that what Burden found is what used to be known as a ‘book.’ The second floor of the library turned out to be filled with these “books,” which are best described as archaic memory sticks. “Our initial calculations show that these books carry information of some sort,” some nerd explained.

With the advent of this discovery, administration has relegated near limitless resources to understand what these books mean and where they come from.

# Flipside wants you!

Has anyone\* every told you you’re funny, or laughed at your joke? Then you’d be perfect for the Flipside!

We’re always looking people who can write satire or funny stories, draw comics, or make bad jokes. Not only is it a ton of fun, but you’ll meet a ton of great people, and you’ll get to contribute to the only page of the paper anyone reads!

Email [thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu) if you’re interested.

Think about it!



\* Mom’s excluded