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STEM by Step for Equality

Another Record-Smashing Freshman Class

LAUREN WISEMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Since the fall of 1995, Rose-Hulman has gradually increased the percentage of women attending the school. After a record-breaking 24 percent of women last year, girls now make up 30 percent of the incoming freshman class.

MarketWatch, a stock tracking website, recognized Rose-Hulman as a university “where female STEM students flourish” alongside Georgetown and Harvard. With an eye on the future, Rose-Hulman has taken steps to create a more welcoming environment for incoming female freshmen. To encourage girls to seek STEM careers and do their part, Rose-Hulman started the “Future Faces of STEM” campaign, which put women

“Young women are increasingly aware of the excellent career opportunities and lifestyles afforded by a STEM education.”

majoring in engineering, mathematics, and science in the spotlight. To continue the discussion of diversity and inclusion, Rose-Hulman hosted Megan Falley and Olivia Gatwood of “Speak Like a Girl,” a Feminist Spoken Word workshop.

Students themselves have also led the way by starting new clubs and organizations. One recent example is Women of Like Fields Passionate About Computing (WOLF PAC), formed by 2016 Rose graduates Samantha Staszak and Melissa Thai. On-campus organizations also came together to begin Diversity Week. With Eli Lilly sponsoring, organizations like The Society of Asian Scientists and Engi-

neers and The Society of Women Engineers crafted a weeklong celebration of the varied backgrounds and cultures at the school.

Rose-Hulman published an article in May about the anticipated freshman class. In it, Jim Goecker, vice president for enrollment and strategic communications, said, “Young women are increasingly aware of the excellent career opportunities and lifestyles afforded by a STEM education.”

MarketWatch’s numbers back this up, reporting those who have a STEM degree can earn up to \$16,000 more than those with typical bachelor’s degrees four years after graduation.

When examining the anticipated majors of the incoming class, 34.6 percent of the incoming girls will be computer science majors—an all-time high for the school. Among the female freshmen, 36 per-

cent have plans on becoming chemical engineers, and an astounding 58 percent are pursuing biomedical engineering. Rose-Hulman also reported a record-smashing 30.6 percent incoming “physics, engineering physics, and optical engineering majors.”

Twenty-one years since its momentous decision, Rose-Hulman continues towards a



Rose grads Melissa Thai and Samantha Staszak.

Photo Courtesy of Rose-Hulman

balance in the student body. Where the administration’s work stops, the students take the helm and continue to steer their university towards equality.

“Students themselves have also led the way [to equality] by starting new clubs and organizations...[and] crafting a weeklong celebration of the varied backgrounds and cultures at the school.”



Page 3: Traditions, a guide to surviving Rose, and a look at the clubs and activities on offer

Page 4: The Flipside has got you covered with a guide to Rose majors, and a warm welcome from the Editor-in-Chief

The Rose Thorn
Meet Tuesdays
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Closed for Renovations

Student Health a Priority in Hulman Memorial Union Expansion

LAUREN WISEMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Just as the city of Terre Haute is repairing and rebuilding its roads, Rose-Hulman is embarking on an ambitious project to update the Hulman Memorial Union. At the end of the 2015-16 year, the school distributed a press release about the lead gift from Rose-Hulman alumnus Mike Mussallam and his wife, Linda, which would go towards renovating the Union, beginning June 1. While construction is underway, Rose-Hulman is also changing food service providers. After a town hall meeting earlier in the year, the university decided to change from Aramark to Bon Appetit. The Mussallems hope these changes will positively impact students’ health beginning this year.

Bon Appetit is known for using the Farm to Fork initiative, buying from local farmers to guarantee fresh food for their clients. Because the Mussallems wanted more sustainable health options for students, Bon Appetit will fit right in with this new plan for the school. Vice President for Student Affairs Erik Hayes commented on the large freezer in Rose’s basement, used by Aramark to store food for later in the week. Bon Appetit’s fresh food policies make the freezer necessary only for ice cream or large shipments of meat.

Where will students eat this new, healthier food? The Vonderschmitt Dining



Anticipated end product of the student union after renovations are completed.

Photo Courtesy of Rose-Hulman

Room, among the rooms in the Union due for renovations. Rose’s dining room once featured single pane windows on three sides. These windows let in the cold during the winter, and as a result, the curtains were drawn. The curtains obstructed the view of the campus. With the renovations, students will be able to see the campus in all its glory year round. However, these changes to the Union could allow students to eat anywhere in the Union. Instead of a single, looping staircase, students can expect a single staircase, which will open up

the whole building. “You might get your food upstairs,” Rose-Hulman President Dr. Jim Conwell explained, “and go downstairs to eat.”

While food is a significant part of the college student’s life, socializing can become important as finals draw near. The changes to the Union are expected to create a more social environment for students. “I think what you’ll see is we’ll be able to stay up a little later than eleven,” Hayes explained. More coffee shops and more indoor social space are on the

docket, as well as more windows, fewer walls, and some fireplaces to create a warm ambiance.

All these changes will add up to an additional 5000 square feet. Dr. Conwell explained the architects in charge of this project were tasked with creating a Union fit for a technical school. The renovations are not limited to just the Union, though. Other areas of the campus will be receiving a facelift. Before the lead gift, leaving the Union for Mees, Scharpenberg, and Blumberg meant greeting a wall on the way out. Hayes explained the retaining wall will be removed, revealing a straight shot to Mees.

Upperclassmen remember the infamous Scum Pond. It will become a mere legend after the renovations are complete. The pond area will become a wide open green space, perfect for a quick game of Frisbee, uninhibited kite flying, or enjoying the beautiful weather when May rolls around.

Above all, Dr. Conwell said the Union will “reflect what we do here.” Of course, these renovations won’t be completed overnight, and there will be some adjusting in the meantime. With smoother dining hours and expanded social space, though, Rose-Hulman has the opportunity to create a more positive environment for students. This also means future students, including those joining the campus for the 2016-17, will continue to attend the #1 undergraduate engineering school in the country.

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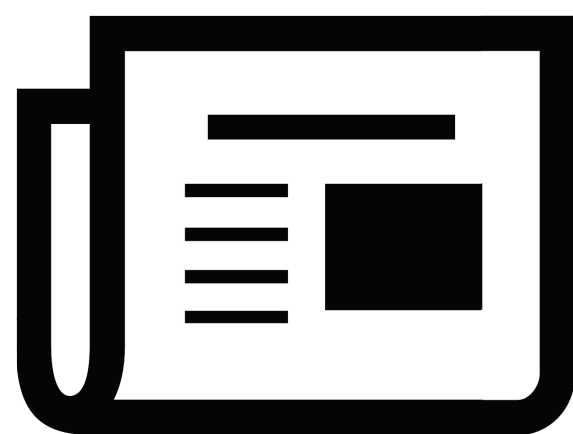
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THE ROSE THORN

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Our Mission Statement:

We are Rose-Hulman's independent student newspaper. We keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.

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WEEKLY MEETINGS occur at 5:15 p.m. on the first through ninth Tuesdays 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. Submission may be made by email to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or in person to Percopo room 031. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

THE RIGHTS to accept submissions or changes made after the deadline, to edit submissions in so far as the original intent of the submission remains unaltered, and to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print are reserved by the editors.

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.

Tradition!

THADDEUS HUGHES
OPINIONS EDITOR

Every place has its quirks. Rose is definitely not an exception. From the dawn of time (or, 1874 at least), Rose has had some strange traditions.

Perhaps the most well-known tradition of all is the annual bonfire that occurs the night before the homecoming football game. Some say they have gone blind from looking directly into the flames (citation needed). You may have made a fire before, but not like this one.

The Freshman class is responsible for creating the bonfire, with a crowning outhouse on top, and then guarding their creation from any upperclassman looking to tear it down. Once darkness falls you'll see some amazing ways to light the flame - from flaming arrows to trebuchets (go ahead, YouTube it... you will be impressed by our students' ingenuity). And then thousands of people gather round and cheer for the outhouse. If the outhouse collapses into the fire, some witch in a lake distributing swords states that our Fightin' Engineers will win.

When you are dominated in a game, you'll have to run a naked lap. 4-stocked in Smash? That's a naked lap. Wrecked in FIFA? Naked lap. 10-0 in foosball? Naked lap. If you're in most halls, running around the building will suffice. If you are in the tri-plets, run around all three. If you're a girl or do not

want to run, cookies are an acceptable substitute.

Everyone's laptops look the same when you just get them. Why not add stickers? Can you still see the black on your laptop? Add more stickers. Can you see the stickers you put on in freshman year? Add more stickers so you don't have to look at them. Worried your laptop will break when you drop it? Stickers form a protective layer in your backpack. Make sure to visit the fall career fair, where companies love to give out free stickers.

Anyone can make a claim. It takes guts to stay accountable to it. If you say you will do something and someone calls Manchester you have to do it (within 24 hours unless specified), or take the punch in the chest. Your call.

If you're in need of something more than a mid-night snack, Chava's is the place to go. Located in downtown Terre Haute, this Mexican burrito joint is more upscale than Taco Bell and closer than Moe's.

till 3. It's always a good time for a study break, right?

Lakings are the act of throwing one of your buddies, that you've gone through hell and back with, into speed lake. These are "against school policy" or something like that. The bond formed with your fellow peers is unbreakable, so why not test it? Lakings are usually performed on the victim's birthday.

If you want convenience store fair, go on a Circle K run. Located at the southeast corner of Rose, this one stop shop has all the makings for all-nighters,



The infamous bonfire.
Photo Courtesy of Rose-Hulman

including 64 oz. soft drinks and snacks. Frequented by the night owls in the Branam Innovation Center (BIC), it is also popular among on campus students who are looking to take a break from studying.

Surviving in the Wild

THADDEUS HUGHES
OPINIONS EDITOR

So you want to know how to make it through Rose, eh? Alright, well let's get to it:

Get to sleep! This is college, and homework is what, 10% of your grade? You could stay up all night trying to finish that homework assignment, but you are going to pay for it one way or another. Either that work you did while dead tired is going to not grade well, or you are going to wake up tomorrow feeling terrible, missing a class or just not ready for the next workload. You have to chill out sometime.

Seriously, take a break. Preferably find something that is actually pleasant and leaves you ready. Play some smash with the bros in the lobby, make some food. Take a walk. Hawthorn park is pretty much never used, and is a nice escape to forget about things for a while.

Ok, but get back to work. "I'll get stuff done," you say as you pull up a YouTube tab, with your statics homework in front of you. Oddly enough, the video tends to be more attention-grabbing, and the mistakes compound. Music's good for multitasking, but having a clear dichotomy between work and play can be beneficial.

Your peers know things. This may be a bit of a shocker for some; it was for me. That guy across the



A view that can be found in Hawthorn park. It isn't anything to write home about, but it exists.

Photo by Dustin Wood

hall who is in the same class as you? There is actually a very good chance now that he can help you out with the homework. You are no longer the only "smart kid". Embrace it to the fullest.

Pick your fights. This goes back to point one.

You will not always be able to get everything done. But pick which things those are. Maybe tonight your mental sanity is worth more than that impossible calculus problem. It helps to plan ahead. I wouldn't be able to put 40+ hours some weeks into RoseGPE if I didn't organize my schedule.

Write things down. You are a human. You are terrible at remembering things. Your computer is good at remembering things, and so is paper. Just as you wouldn't use mental math to do tedious calculations, you shouldn't be using precious mental resources to remember what the homework and projects are for 5 classes.

DO THINGS. I write and push persistently for this, but it's for good reason. While the academics at Rose are great, they are just academics. If you want to thrive, make great things, build relationships, or learn in depth about something, you MUST join a student organization. There is no way around it.

Go to the career fair. Some people say freshmen do not get internships. They are liars- many indeed do get some summer work experience. Regardless, it is worth it to get into the groove of talking with recruiters, and making those first steps forwards. Plus, companies love to give out free stuff.

What to Do?

THADDEUS HUGHES
OPINIONS EDITOR

The options for student organizations at Rose are boundless. It does not make sense to list them all, so we'll go over some loose categories of clubs that exist on campus.

Design competition teams are the epitome of "Work Hard, Play Hard". Do you want to work at basically any company you want to? Do



Members of RoseGPE working on their car at the FSAE Lincoln competition.
Photo by Connie Schneider

you want to get out of school to race cars? Do you want to make your technical knowledge explode? Are you ready to pour in 30+ hours of your life into a project? Alright, then you need to get on one of these teams. The majority of these clubs function out of the Branam Innovation Center (BIC). Notable ones include Rose Grand Prix Engineering (RoseGPE), Human Powered Vehicle Team (HPVT), Underwater Robotics (MATE), and Rose Efficient Vehicle (REV).

There's a lot of technical enthusiast clubs out there if you're looking for something more laid back. These guys really enjoy technical fields and tinkering outside of the classroom, but don't have strict rules to adhere to or competitions that are integral to what they do. Some function out of the BIC. These clubs are ones like MakerLab.

Most majors have a branch of their professional organization on campus, such as ASME for mechanical engineering, IEEE for electrical engineering, and AICE for chemical engineering. The RISE club focuses on getting students involved in entrepreneurship. All of these offer great networking opportunities that can land you an internship or a job. Engineers without borders offers a community service outlet.

Of course, you've probably heard about Fraternities and Sororities here at Rose. They are not for everyone- but you might be mistaken about if they are for you or not. Each one has its own personality, and you should check some of them out, at least. You may find something you didn't expect.

Many organizations on campus just focus on social and recreational activities. These are good for when you just need a break from typical academic life. A lot of Residence Hall Association (RHA) events fall within this category, and there are clubs for niche interests like Humans vs. Zombies, Rock Climbing, and Swing dancing.

We may be engineers, but we can still appreciate the softer things in life. There are many creative outlets on campus. There's a radio station, WMHD "The Monkey", an Improv Club, Drama Club, and a few bands. And, of course, you can write for The Rose Thorn!

