Mason Diebold
Staff Writer

With break so close, things are settling down on campus outside of studying for third week exams, looking for rides to and from the airport, procrastination, and packing. The good news is there is so much to look forward to on return to campus in the New Year!

Not only do students get to attempt to keep all of those resolutions for more than just a week or two, Rose has a lot of events to offer as well. On the first day back, January 4, there is a home men’s basketball game against Hanover, something to enjoy before all that homework kicks back in.

That weekend, January 8 and 9, Rose hosts its first ever Hackathon: a 24-hour event in which 100 students, of various backgrounds and skills, will use technology and design to create solutions to a variety of problems, and at the end, all the participants will demonstrate their projects to fellow students, faculty, visitors, and to would be speakers.

If hacking is not a student’s forte, then there is work to be done. At 8:00 a.m. a Wilco Works themed Campus Sunrise Night will take place in the Kahn Room. If one fantasizes their hand at gambling in a low-risk candy-centered environment, this is the event to try for a variety of games and play and candy to collect, as well as a chance to win some raffle prizes!

For those who need some time to adjust to being back at school, and wants to take it easy the first week back, then consider attending Mindfulness Meditation on January 5, the following week on January 12.

January is jam-packed, but there is more than just Fast Fridays and Rod and the Annual Student Ski Trip.

OddRod is an inspirational speaker who fought for his education and well-being despite some of the difficulties surrounding him, and students can see him speak on January 13, at 8:00 pm in the Kahn Room.

The Annual Ski Trip takes place on January 14 on the Perfect North Slopes, and it promises to be the adventure of a lifetime. Even without the necessary coordination, the memories will be worth it. If this sounds like a worthy adventure, do not forget to look for the signups, which go live on January 4.

All of these events, and more can be found on the My Rose-Hulman events page, so remember to check it out and find something to look forward to during the eight-week trek through winter quarter after break.

Page 5: Find out what your New Year’s Resolution should be!
Page 6: “Fake” news and affirmative action
Page 7: Boycotting a bowl game, and more

Joseph Lee
Staff Writer

For a school devoted to science and technology, research is an important part of the learning process, and a skill Rose graduates will want to have with them.

In an email to students, Physics and Optical Engineering professor Dr. Asad Shamskoum pointed out research experience is important for future job, research will continue to be an integral part of their career. That makes the Research Training Institute’s research workshop a valuable learning opportunity for Rose students.

Applications are now open for anyone looking to gain that valuable, marketable skill. RTI is providing a workshop on Saturday, January 21, 2017 for anyone looking to bolster their research skills.

During the workshop, attendees can learn more about research design, scientific methods, research communication, research ethics, data interpretation, and research planning. The workshop is for any major, though will be especially beneficial for the engineering majors and science majors.

In addition to this, the training will provide the development of useful skills that any major may experience in the work field. Furthermore, the completion of card games participates an official certification for the completion of such research training. The workshop will be about eight hours long. Because of the long hours for the workshop, breakfast and lunch will be provided for these in attendance.

Applications are due Mon., January 9, 2017. Even though Rose-Hulman will be on break, keep the workshop in mind and have an application ready upon returning to Rose in the new year.

Freshman, sophomores, and juniors are encouraged to apply. No past research experience is necessary for application, and there is no application fee. If students want to learn more about RTI and the research workshop, they are encouraged to contact Dr. Eva Andrea at andrea@rose-hulman.edu, Dr. Ellis Ingram at ingram@rose-hulman.edu, or Dr. Shamskoum at shamskoum@rose-hulman.edu.

“The Rose Thorn
Meet Tuesdays
0259 5:15 pm

Scientific progress and research go hand-in-hand.

Photo Courtesy of National Institutes of Health

“Regardless of a Rose student’s future job, research will continue to be an integral part of their career.”

Photo Courtesy of oddrod.net

OddRod rose above his circumstances to become an inspiring speaker and poet. He comes to Rose on January 13.

Hello, 2017!

January Promises to be a Jam-Packed Month for Rose

Research Training
Valuable Learning Opportunity Available for Rose Students

Page 5: Find out what your New Year’s Resolution should be!
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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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Scenic Rose
Photo by Marc Schmitt

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ISSUES of The Rose Thorn are published on the second through ninth Mondays of each academic quarter

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.

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The year 2016 was considered quite a significant year for environmental issues. In September 2016, 25 countries agreed that the Ross Sea, a pristine ocean off of Antarctica, should be left as a marine protected area for 10 years, after a deal that was signed in 2011. This agreement was significant because it was the first time that such a large area of ocean had been protected for such a long period of time. Additionally, in May 2016, SpaceX experienced technical difficulties in launching their Falcon 9 rocket, which resulted in the mission being delayed by almost a month. This delay was caused by technical issues, and the rocket eventually launched successfully after the delay.

In terms of energy, the year 2016 was marked by a significant increase in the use of renewable energy sources. The U.S. Energy Information Administration reported that more than half of the electricity generated in the U.S. was produced from renewable sources such as wind and solar, which is a significant increase from previous years. This was a testament to the growth in renewable energy technologies and the increasing demand for clean energy.

In terms of space exploration, the year 2016 was significant for the International Space Station (ISS). NASA announced that the ISS would continue to operate until 2024, and the agency was working on plans to extend its operation until 2028. The ISS was providing a significant amount of data on the effects of spaceflight on human physiology, which is crucial for future space missions.

In terms of natural disasters, 2016 was marked by significant events in Syria. The conflict in Syria continued to rage, and the international community was struggling to find a solution. The conflict had already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, and the situation was only getting worse. The U.S. government declared that it was willing to use military force to degrade and ultimately destroy the Islamic State (IS) in Syria.

The Syrian conflict, which began in 2011, has been one of the most destructive conflicts in recent history. The conflict has caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people, and millions have been displaced. The conflict has also led to significant humanitarian crises, with many people facing starvation and disease.

The conflict has been marked by significant events, including the use of chemical weapons by the government forces. The use of these weapons has been a significant concern, and the international community has been working to find a solution to the conflict.

In conclusion, 2016 was a significant year for environmental, energy, space exploration, and conflict issues. While there were significant achievements and milestones, there were also significant challenges and setbacks. The year was marked by a need for continued efforts to address these issues and find solutions to the problems that faced the world.
In a year where Google searches for "How to move to Canada?" leapt to unprecedented levels, where the public witnessed a battle for power with more collateral damage than the climax of a Superman movie, nothing was more timely, more needed, than Marvel's Luke Cage. Just as politics itself began to deteriorate into a reality TV show, Netflix released an original series that delved unrepentantly into politics. In his cinematic masterpiece, Cheo Coker takes a ten-toes-down approach to tackling issues most of his contemporaries shy away from.

For a show with that much ground to cover, you wouldn't expect the season's one-hour pilot to be as relaxed and comfortable as it was. Luke Cage (Mike Colter) is introduced as a man who, like many of us, just doesn't want to get involved. Standing at 6'3'' and all muscle, Cage is a minimum-wage janitor at a small-town barber shop. One of the clients offhandedly refers to him as a "brother with a broom," the epitome of wasted potential. As the camera sweeps around "Pop's" barbershop, Luke's stiff movements and hesitant involvement with conversation hint at a complex backstory. Is he an ex-soldier? Ex-convict? Both, maybe? The plot keeps us suspended in this way for much of the show's runtime, systematically revealing bits of Cage's history with realistic progression. The protagonist is the polar opposite of one-dimensional—mysterious in the most intriguing way.

Netflix Originals have always been known for their expert use of the surroundings to convey the story, and this was highlighted in Luke Cage. Like Daredevil, this series conveyed a sophisticated plot with only a handful of locations. The small setting (Harlem, New York) gave the story an element of realism that large-scale projects like The Flash or DC Legends of Tomorrow often miss out on. In many ways, this masterful control of scope, coupled with the humorous barbershop banter sprinkled throughout, helped the viewer gloss over some of the less refined aspects of the show. Unclear motives and heavy-handed acting plagued many of the "bad guy" performances. There were times where it felt as if Mahershala Ali's depiction of antagonist Cornell Stokes was one half-chewed apple or foreboding knuckle-crack away from being a mob boss stereotype in a greasy 80s gangster film. Still, Luke Cage was the easiest most realistic, down-to-earth super-hero depiction to date, and offered a refreshing change in the right direction.

Coker had a slew of topical issues to cover with his Marvel masterpiece, and at times that diversity did seem to stretch the plot. However, these were all details in a much larger narrative. 2016 exposed several systemic problems that have gone unnoticed for too long. No matter your opinion of Black Lives Matter, racial profiling, or the criminal justice system, viewers must agree: Luke Cage is sharply current, and alarmingly relatable. And of course, what better perspective to view police brutality, mass incarceration, and the drug war from than through the eyes of an innocent, but bulletproof, African-American man? coeff photo courtesy of thrillist.com

Marc Schmitt
In-Chief

Season one of Westworld is over and it ended in typical Westworld fashion of dropping fashion, connecting and revealing that the story is just a simulation. The fans were left wondering what in the world happened. The good HBO body count we’ve all grown to expect.

The good old HBO body count we’ve all grown to expect.

Photo courtesy of collider.com

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Why do new year's resolutions suck?

The idea of the entire world changing a new leaf at the same time has always been preposterous. Having an ambition and pursuing that ambition with a group of friends is a great idea as support is always helpful when trying to pursue a change in your life for although, when on a scale this large it does have a multitude of problems. When you want to make a change in your life the only way that it will actually happen is if you yourself have the drive to make that change personally by dedicating time to that area of one's life. If you try to make that change on someone else's initiative or in this case the initiative of the whole world, I doubt you will have as much success.
"Affirmative action takes the American dream of self-achieved success and punches gaping holes through its fabric."

Education is not as deeply rooted of a virtue as it is for Asian-American families for example, or even White families. As they finish high school, college is off of a logical next step as it is for other communities, and the statistic reflect that. If you want more African-Americans in college, do not lower the bar, motivate and inspire them to apply in the first place.

So why do I, a half-Cuban woman who had the privilege of a private K-12 education, get the same benefits as an African-American woman who lived her teen years on food stamps? Sure, finding makeup in my shade is kind of hard sometimes, but is that worth preferential treatment in the job market?

Though it seems contrived, it is the reality of the situation. By checking off the "Black" and "First-generation American" boxes, schools and employers form a picture of me that while not entirely inaccurate, leaves plenty of room for discriminating assumptions.

Instead of achieving its goal, affirmative action takes the American dream of self-achieved success and punches gaping holes through its fabric, the same textile that turned 13 bustling colonies into the world superpower the USA is today. Perhaps that is its goal.

Affirmative action is often referred to as "Positive Discrimination". In fact, that is what they call it in the UK. But what makes discrimination positive? Who decides what groups can be propped up, leaving others to fend for themselves? Is that not just discrimination, but in the other direction? This must be the famous "white guilt" I keep hearing about.

Putting the details of choosing which groups deserve a boost aside, what place do identity markers like race, gender, and ethnicity have in competitive markets like education and employment? A qualified employee who will do the tasks assigned well and in a timely manner is indisputably more valuable than an employee who would have been knocked off in the last few rounds of interviews, but upper management had a quota to fill.

No one like being the pity vote, so I will earn my keep, thank you very much.

As many have said before, the war on so-called "fake news" is not one for actual truth, but nothing more than a thinly-veiled way of discrediting others' viewpoints. If the interest was in purging the truth, wouldn't the push be to research and learn more? Why is the push to completely boycott news outlets? That does not sound like a search for truth, it just sounds like censorship.

So continue reading that Occupy Democrats article. Just maybe be able to listen to your ear for a while.
The University of Kentucky versus the University of North Carolina was the second most in history while North Carolina has won 5 and is tied for the third most titles in history. So whenever these two teams cross paths, the tension is maintained to their regular schedule while the other ten players would get a fair hearing in Vegas. Kentucky was ranked 6th in the country while North Carolina was ranked 7th. The game went to the wire as literally one shot could have changed the outcome of this game at almost any time in the game. Kentucky took a 103-101 win over North Carolina from the help of Malik Monk in his 47 point game. Kentucky was trailing by two with less than thirty second to go until Malik Monk carried Kentucky as he has scored over twenty points in a majority of their games and he has broken the record for Kentucky for points in a game. With the win over North Carolina, the big game on the Kentucky schedule appear to be a rivalry game between the University of Louisville and the University of Kansas.

Basketball is a game of hot streaks and our team is on a three game winning streak which puts us at a 4-3 overall record while going 3-1 in the conference. Rose-Hulman currently sits tied for second place in the conference with Mt. St. Joseph and Anderson would be in first place. It has been a great start to the season so don't be surprised to keep hearing of more wins from our team.

Malik Monk carries Kentucky

Blake Powell
Sports Editor

The University of Kentucky versus the University of North Carolina was one of the biggest games this week and potentially of the whole season. Kentucky and North Carolina have gone way back as they both have historically been dominant teams that love to compete for the National Championship. Kentucky has appeared in 17 Final Four games as North Carolina has been in 19 Final Four games. Both teams have dominated National titles with both teams putting them at second most in history while North Carolina has won 5 and is tied for the third most titles in history. So whenever these two teams cross paths, the tension raises and emotions rise as both teams prepare to play. These two teams faced off this previous Saturday in a 5:45 pm game in Las Vegas. Kentucky was ranked 6th in the country while North Carolina was ranked 7th. The game went to the wire as literally one shot could have changed the outcome of this game at almost any time in the game. Kentucky took a 103-101 win over North Carolina from the help of Malik Monk in his 47 point game. Kentucky was trailing by two with less than thirty second to go until Malik Monk took a driving shot that worked out in his favor to give Kentucky three points and the lead by one. North Carolina had very little time left so they tried to call a play, and was desperate for any type of score but the players can agree that all men and women should be treated with the utmost of respect at all times.

Standout Performers

Malik Monk carries Kentucky

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Welcome back to the Flipside! It’s me again, Lauren Santichen, bringing you another wonderful issue and a Break Countdown Update: 2 more days until break! I’m planning to leave around noon after my last class. Still need to get presents for everyone… :/ Anyway, if you have any comments or questions, feel free to send an email To: Thorn Flipside. I’m always looking for some new material, especially comic ideas and wacky prof quotes. I have completely run out! It’s an atrocity! -LLS

Top 10 New Year’s Resolutions
1. Figure out where your classes are
2. Remember to write <insert year> on homework
3. Stop making jokes about homicide
4. Stop committing homicide
5. Make everyone else gain 10 lbs. (I’m definitely losing weight)
6. Free Nova-Scotia
7. 1080p
8. Make “that’s what he said” jokes a thing
9. Start a cult
10. Sleep more than one hour in four days
11. Take a shower (one’ll do)
12. Disconnect coffee IV drip
13. Build a bomb shelter
14. Stick to 10 resolutions

Fact of the Week
The Aurora Ice Hotel in Alaska was made entirely of ice. Ice walls, ceiling, beds, bar, barstools, even martini glasses were made of ice. It was closed by the fire marshal for not having smoke detectors.

WACKY PROF QUOTES
“And you’re going to write in English in documents –Word documents.”
-Dr. Laxer

“You mean I can’t write in Spanish using Libre Office? Darn…”

“You don’t log on to Facebook to interact with the database, you log onto Facebook to stalk other people.”

“I just wanted to know where they were on July 7th, 2003 and what they were doing and who they were with…”

“And then Cary will take a bottle of wine to the list and assign teams over the weekend…”

“I’m getting a weird sense of déjà vu.”

“The NSA weren’t the first people to listen in on phone calls. Switchboard operators did it long before them.”

“They did it before it was cool… so you’re saying switchboard operators were hipsters?”

Did your prof say something hilarious or just great out of context? We want to hear about it! Send your quotes with who said it to thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu.

Pair Programming
I had the absolute worst dream last night!

I dreamed that I was working on that project due Friday, but all the code was in fruit! I was programming with oranges and grapes! I couldn’t understand it!

Yeah, I’ve heard that’s why they implemented that pear programming thing.

UGH~!