June 1, 2018

Dear ARRUF member:

The Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) is proud to introduce International Friends at Rice (IFR), a new and revitalized friendship program, and our office would be honored to have you take a part in the experience. The goal is to meet with your international student friend about 3-4 times during the student's first 6 months at Rice.

As you know, our international students are a phenomenal group and they would greatly benefit from your support. Engaging in cross-cultural conversations can help internationals flourish at Rice, both academically and socially, and will have a lasting impact for years to come. One of our recent doctoral students had the following to say about his U.S. Friends at his graduation last May:

"They (U.S. Friends) listen to me, care for me, and support me for both my up and down times when pursuing PhD degree at Rice. It means a lot for me, a typical international student who has chosen to seek further development in U.S. grad schools. The point of contact, the friendship, and the support makes me stronger, and understand people and things around me better, and eventually makes me a better self."

We would love to have you, your family and/or friends in our international friendship group and share in the cross-cultural experience that enriches all of us at Rice:

1. Submit a U.S. Friend Application online
2. Attend a 1-hour IFR Orientation session at OISS
   Tues. 7/24  12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
   Wed. 7/25  5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
   Wed. 8/01  12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
   Thurs. 8/02  5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
   Tues. 9/04  5:15 - 6:30 p.m.
   Wed. 9/05  12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
3. Attend the Meet & Greet Dinner (Tuesday, September 18, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)
4. Meet with your international graduate student 3-4 times during the first 6 months

Questions are always welcome! We look forward to having you become a part of the IFR program and join as a U.S. Friend for our incoming graduate international students.

Kind regards,

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