

Given to new students at Rice Temple Baptist Church , By Busheng Li, Aug. 19, 2002

## **Survival in Houston     ---RCSSC Special Session**

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### **Outline**

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## **RCSSC Introduction**

### ***1. Purpose***

RCSSC is a non-political, non-religious students and scholars organization. The officially registered name is called "Rice Chinese Students & Scholars Club". The purpose of RCSSC is to promote the communications among Chinese students and scholars at Rice University.

### ***2. Infrastructure***

#### ***2.1 Members and Committee***

Basically, all Chinese students and scholars at Rice University can join the club. The membership can also be extended to other students who are interested in China under certain circumstances. In convention, there is no membership fee requirement. The activity fee comes mainly from Chinese General Consulate at Houston, fee associated with each individual activities, donation from members, club movie fund and sponsorship from local business.

Every year a new president is elected. The president is responsible for constructing a new committee.

#### ***2.2 Web Site and Mail List***

RCSSC has a website located at: <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~rcssc/> Please check our website often for news and activities.

RCSSC also has a mail list named: [RCSC@listserv.rice.edu](mailto:RCSC@listserv.rice.edu).

Sending email to the above email address will let every member on the list receive a copy of your mail. To subscribe to the mail list, send an email to: [listserv@listserv.rice.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.rice.edu) with **no subject**, with one line message as the following:

**SUBSCRIBE RCSC YourFirstname YourLastname**

If you have any problems, please send an email to: [lbs@rice.edu](mailto:lbs@rice.edu) for manual operation.

### ***2.3 Relationship with Other Local Chinese Communities***

In Houston, there are about 50+ local Chinese Communities. RCSSC usually has several joint events with these communities every year such as dancing party, picnic etc.

### ***2.4 Activities***

#### *New Students Pickup*

Thanks to those who volunteered. Keep in mind that it is not mandatory that they offer help. We hope new students this year will help future new students.

Keep a good relationship with other students in your department or students you will meet often. They could be a good source for advice and help. However, donot "overuse" them.

#### *Celebration Parties*

Generally we will have several parties, like Mid-Autumn party, Spring Festival party, Spring picnic, etc.

#### *Election*

By the end of April or the beginning of May, a new president will be elected. For the rules of the election, please refer to our website.

#### *Suggestions*

If you have good ideas about these activities, please tell us and we will help you to implement them.

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### **Other Important Issues**

#### ***1. Checking & Saving Accounts***

Most Rice students use either Chase or Wells Fargo, Chase is preferred since there are some ATMs on campus (Library, Student Center).

#### ***2. Texas ID.***

On your orientation schedule, it has been arranged on Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 12:30 PM - 04:30 PM. Many places require Texas ID or Driver License when you write a check or pay by credit card.

#### ***3. Social Security Number***

On you orientation schedule, it has been arranged on Friday, Aug. 23, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Bring necessary documents with you.

#### **4. Network Accounts**

You can apply for a network account from any machine having internet access. The application server is at: <http://apply.rice.edu>

These machines can be accessed in the library or the Mudd building. Generally, you only need to apply for two accounts, one for the OWLNET (Rice Undergraduate computer network), the other for the RUF (Rice Graduate computer network). For department accounts, ask the secretary in your department.

#### **5. Credit Cards**

When a semester begins, some credit card companies will come to the Student Center and take your applications. You can go there and fill application forms at their tables. When applying, you can count the tuition as part of your annual income although you don't actually get them.

Also, you may apply for credit cards on-line through these websites:

American Express: <http://www.americanexpress.com/>

Citibank: <http://www.citibank.com/>

MBNA: <http://www.mbna.com/>

AT&T Universal Card: <http://www.att.com/ucs/>

Discover Card: <http://www.discovercards.com/>

Getting a social security number may enhance your possibility of getting a credit card.

#### **6. Insurance**

This year Rice plan B is a good choice for personal insurance. You can also buy other plans from outside insurance company. Our association as a webpage comparing some of these plans, please refer to

[http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~rcssc/insurance/2002\\_insurance.htm](http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~rcssc/insurance/2002_insurance.htm)

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#### **Disclaimer**

This documentation is only meant to provide some helpful information to new students. It should only serve as advice. Neither the author nor the RCSSC should be held responsible for any consequences caused by taking these advices.

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