Geneva & Aix-en-Provence
Celebrating CERN & ITER
September 9 - 18, 2016
Dear Rice Alumni, Friends, and Parents:

With the recent scientific breakthroughs surrounding the discovery of the so-called “God particle”, the futuristic large hadron collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland and other cutting-edge research centers in the south of France are changing the face of science. Inspired by Rice University’s longtime dedication to world-class scientific research, the Traveling Owls program has created a one-of-a-kind study tour to the region led by Carolyn Nichol, Director of Rice’s Office of STEM Engagement, who will explain the scientific research we’ll be seeing and lecture on the history of great European scientific innovators, while tying our experiences to ongoing work back home at Rice. Begin in Geneva, Switzerland, famous for its quiet elegance and international flair. In addition to a full day discovering the intricacies of CERN, other scientific highlights also await, including a visit to the United Nations commission on climate change, private entrée into the laboratories of the University of Geneva’s renowned Physics School, and a special look at Swiss watchmaking. Entering the verdant hills of Southern France, stop at the enormous Synchrotron in Grenoble, perhaps the world’s finest center for the study of x-ray radiation and its many uses. Then, outside Aix-en-Provence, spend a full day as VIP guests at the sparkling new facilities of ITER, a large-scale scientific research center focused on the viability of fusion as an energy source. The tour’s science focus is complemented by cultural experiences throughout our journey through these beautiful cities, including visits to contemporary wineries, art museums, and bountiful morning markets.

Kind Regards,

Dan Stypa, M.S.
Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs
Rice University

Travel with Dr. Carolyn Nichol

Dr. Carolyn Nichol is a Faculty Fellow in Chemistry and the Director of the Rice Office of STEM Engagement (R-STEM). R-STEM provides teacher professional development to elementary and secondary teachers in science and math content and pedagogy, while also providing STEM outreach to the Houston Community. R-STEM programs include the Rice Excellence in Secondary Science Teaching and the Rice Elementary Model Science Lab. Dr. Nichol’s research interests are in science education and science policy. She received her B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, her doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Texas (UT) at Austin, and served as a postdoctoral fellow in the College of Pharmacy at UT Austin. Prior to joining Rice University, she worked at Boehringer Ingelheim on innovative drug delivery systems and she was an Assistant Professor in Diagnostic Radiology at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she conducted research on nonviral gene therapy systems. At Rice University she has developed and taught courses in The Department of Bioengineering including Numerical Methods, Pharmaceutical Engineering, Systems Physiology, Biomaterials and Advances in BioNanotechnology.
Fri. 9/9/16: Departures from United States

• Depart the United States on independent overnight flights to Geneva, Switzerland.

Sat. 9/10/16: Arrival in Geneva, Switzerland

Hotel Warwick, Geneva (D)

• Arrive in Geneva in the early afternoon and transfer independently from the Geneva International Airport (GVA) to Hotel Warwick.

• Take time to settle-in and rest at the hotel.

• Gather with fellow travelers this afternoon for a two-hour guided introductory walking tour of the historic Old Town. Admire the city’s Saint Peter’s Cathedral, an architectural hybrid constructed over centuries in Romanesque, Gothic, and Greco-Roman style. Walk by the Hotel de Ville or Town Hall, seat of the city’s government; the Arsenal, arcaded structure dating from 1634; and the Reformation Wall, dedicated to the leaders of the reformation.

• Enjoy a festive welcome dinner of Swiss specialties in celebration of the exciting journey ahead.

Sun. 9/11/16: Watchmaking & Martin Bodmer Foundation

Hotel Warwick, Geneva (B, L)

• After breakfast, meet with the Dr. Carolyn Nichol for a lecture at the hotel.

• Take a brief guided walking tour through the historical streets of Geneva and learn about the development of time-measurement that took place in the city. Continue with a visit of the Patek Philippe Museum’s fascinating collection of Genevese, Swiss and European watches and enamel miniatures dating from the 16th to 20th century to understand the historical significance of the art of watchmaking and enameling.

• After lunch at a local restaurant in the center of Geneva, continue to the Martin Bodmer Foundation Library and Museum. Designed by Swiss architect Mario Botta, the Bodmer Foundation is one of the most important private libraries in the world. Take a guided tour of the Foundation’s collections which includes over 160,000 documents in 80 languages, several hundreds of western and oriental manuscripts, ancient cuneiform tablets, as well as an original copy of the Gutenberg Bible and Dante’s Divine Comedy.

• Return to the hotel for an independent afternoon and evening.
Mon. 9/12/16: CERN
Hotel Warwick, Geneva (B, L)

- Embark on a full-day visit to CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research and the world’s largest particle physics laboratory. Here, scientists unite to study the building blocks of matter and the forces that hold them together. CERN exists primarily to provide them with the necessary tools: accelerators, which accelerate particles to almost the speed of light, and detectors to make the particles visible. Our tour will allow us behind the scenes access, including ample time to talk to laboratory scientists. Lunch will be provided during our visit.

- Return to the hotel and enjoy time at leisure to further explore Geneva on your own.

Tue. 9/13/16: United Nations & University of Geneva
Hotel Warwick, Geneva (B, L)

- Take a behind-the-scenes guided tour of the United Nations building, the former home of the League of Nations and the second most important UN building after the New York Headquarters.

- Enjoy a delectable gourmet lunch at the Vieux Bois restaurant of the Hotel School of Geneva, located close to the United Nations in the beautiful park of Ariana.

- Head to the University of Geneva for a special visit to the laboratories of the Physics School of Observatory.

- The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure.

Wed. 9/14/16: Grenoble’s ESRF & Aix-en-Provence
Grand Hotel Roi René Aix-en-Provence (B, L)

- Depart from Geneva by private motor coach and drive an hour and a half southeast to the town of Grenoble at the foot of the French Alps.

- Stop at the ESRF (European Synchrotron Radiation Facility) in Grenoble for a guided tour to the experimental hall and beam lines where the scientists of this center work. ESRF is the most powerful synchrotron radiation source in Europe. Several thousand researchers travel to the center every year to conduct experiments in this first-class scientific environment.

- After lunch at the ESRF cafeteria, continue driving for another three hours south to Aix-en-Provence.

- Upon arrival in Aix-en-Provence, check-in at the deluxe five-star Hotel Roi René and enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.
Thu. 9/15/16: Aix-en-Provence & Impressionism

Grand Hotel Roi René Aix-en-Provence (B, R, D)

- After breakfast, meet with Dr. Carolyn Nichol for a lecture at the hotel.

- Embark on an introductory walking tour of Old Aix-en-Provence, the first Roman city built in Gaul in 122 B.C. Walk through the narrow winding streets of town discovering on your way charming squares adorned by trickling fountains, such as Place d’Albertas, and the town’s remarkable heritage with more than 140 aristocratic mansions dating from the 17th and 18th century. Visit the Saint Savior Cathedral, famous for its 6th century baptistery and triptych of the Burning Bush painted by Nicolas Froment for the King Rene. The tour will finish in the bustling Place Richelm with the local produce market.

- Enjoy free time to stroll through the local market, taste local specialties such as tapenade, olives or Calissons, and have an independent lunch.

- This afternoon, meet a local impressionist painter who takes us to a landscape that inspired Cézanne around the Ste Victoire Mountain, guides us in the discovery of Cézanne’s life as an artist, and welcomes us to her country house for a private visit of her studio and reception.

- This evening, enjoy a Provençal dinner at a local restaurant near the hotel.

Fri. 9/16/16: ITER

Grand Hotel Roi René Aix-en-Provence (B, L)

- Embark on a full day visit to ITER. ITER is a large-scale scientific experiment intended to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source. Its construction began in 2010 using the financial and scientific resources of several partnering countries: China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States. The visit will include a presentation of the project followed by a guided tour of the ITER platform where the scientific facilities are under construction.

- Enjoy a light lunch at the ITER site.

- Time-permitting, also visit the nearby CEA (Cadrache Center) which is one of the most important technological research and development centers for energy in Europe with activities that focus on nuclear fission, nuclear fusion, new energy technologies, and research in the field of vegetal biology.

- Return to the hotel for an independent afternoon and evening.
Sat. 9/17/16: Aix-en-Provence - Château la Coste

Grand Hotel Roi René Aix-en-Provence (B, D)

- After breakfast, meet with Dr. Carolyn Nichol for a lecture at the hotel.

- Enjoy the remainder of the morning and lunch at your leisure.

- This afternoon, drive to the nearby Château la Coste in Le Puy Sainte Reparade to enjoy wine, food, art and architecture in the beautiful surroundings of the French countryside.

- Tour the Jean Nouvel designed Chai with an introduction to wine making and taste the wines produced on the property.

- Enjoy time at leisure to walk through the estate’s grounds to view an assortment of unique architectural installations by famous artists from all over the world such as Richard Serra, Louise Bourgeois, Sean Scully, Andy Goldsworthy, Alexander Calder and Frank Gehry.

- Return to Aix-en-Provence for independent time to do last-minute shopping, further explore the town, pack or relax.

- Gather for a convivial farewell dinner at a nearby local restaurant to celebrate the end of a fascinating cultural and scientific journey through Switzerland and France.

Sun. 9/18/16: Departure for U.S.A.

(B)

- After breakfast, take a group transfer to the Marseille Provence Airport (MRS) for independent flights returning to the United States.

* Itinerary is subject to change pending availability and to take advantage of unexpected opportunities

REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS SPACE IS LIMITED!

For questions or more information, contact our tour operator:
International Seminar Design, Inc.
Tel: 202-244-1448 | email: info@isditravel.com
TRIP INFORMATION

Tour Dates:
September 9 - 18, 2016

Activity Level:
Easy to moderate; standing and walking for up to two hours at a time.

Main Tour Price:
Land only package: $4,995
Single supplement: $1,095

*Tour price is per person based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 15 paying participants. Land prices are calculated as of February 2015 and are subject to change.

Deposit & Final Payment:
A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant will be required to guarantee participation in tour program. This may be paid by check or by Visa or MasterCard. Each deposit is fully refundable in the case that the tour is cancelled due to low registrations. Final balance must be paid by check to ISDI. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on June 1, 2016. Registrations will be accepted beyond June 1, 2016 on a space-available basis.

Air Arrangements:
International and U.S. domestic airfare are not included in the package cost. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements, into Geneva, Switzerland and out of Marseille, France.

Terms & Conditions
International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services relating to this tour. ISDI, Association of Rice Alumni, and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity, which may be caused by a defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of the tour. ISDI and Association of Rice Alumni reserve the right to cancel this tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, participants will be advised of additional surcharge before departure date.

Cancellations and Refunds:
All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and are subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before June 1, 2016: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between June 2 and July 26, 2016: 50 percent of tour cost per person. Cancellations received on or after July 27, 2016: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not accepted. The tour cost is non-transferable. If ISDI and Association of Rice Alumni cancel the tour, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments. A package of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended.

Travel Insurance
ISDI and Association of Rice Alumni strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent by ISDI upon tour registration. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

Main Tour Price Inclusions:
Eight (8) nights’ accommodations, as outlined in the itinerary; breakfast daily, 5 lunches, 3 dinners, 1 reception two glasses of wine or beer per person with welcome and farewell dinners; land transportation by private motorcoach per itinerary; entrance fees to sites per itinerary; services of an ISDI Tour Director and leadership Dr. Carolyn Nichol; expert local English speaking guides; gratuities to local guides and drivers; bottled water for daily excursions on private motorcoach; taxes, services and porterage fees.

Main Tour Prices Exclude:
Airfare from and to U.S.; airline taxes, and fuel surcharges; passport fees; airline luggage fees; airport porterage; airport transfers in U.S.A. and Europe; excursions, activities, or meals during traveler’s free time; personal items, personal services, taxis, travel extensions, personal insurance for health, baggage and tour cancellation; gratuities for chambermaids tours.
Geneva & Aix-en-Provence

Celebrating CERN & ITER

September 9 - 18, 2016

Enclosed is my credit card info or check made payable to International Seminar Design, Inc. in the amount of $1,000 per person

PARTICIPANT 1 FULL NAME

PARTICIPANT 2 FULL NAME

RICE UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION

RICE UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION

ADDRESS (Billing if using credit card for payment)

CITY

STATE

ZIP

DAYTIME TELEPHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

# OF PERSONS / AMOUNT ENCLOSED / PAYMENT METHOD: □ CHECK □ VISA □ MASTERCARD

☐ Double Occupancy; I will share a room with ________________________

☐ Single Supplement

☐ I would like a roommate but will pay the Single Supplement if one cannot be found.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN:
The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless the Association of Rice Alumni and International Seminar Design, Inc (ISDI) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

________________________________________
SIGNATURE PARTICIPANT 1 / DATE

________________________________________
SIGNATURE PARTICIPANT 2 / DATE

Complete and return registration form by mail or fax to:
Rice Alumni Traveling Owls
MS-520, P.O. Box 1892 | Houston, TX 77252-1892
Tel: (713) 348-509 | fax: (713) 348-5210