LIFE AFTER RICE: HIGHER EDUCATION CAREER PATHS

Sponsored by the Association of Rice Alumni and presented in partnership with the Center for Career Development

HEATHER JOHNSTON FESSLER ’90

Heather Johnston Fessler, Jones ’90, is director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the University of California, Irvine. She helps faculty secure research support by finding funding opportunities and then editing and submitting proposals to foundations and nonprofit associations. Previously she spent 12 years at Stanford University in its Office of Development and the Stanford Alumni Association’s Travel/Study Program, where she planned and marketed educational trips for alumni and traveled to over 30 countries. Heather earned her bachelor’s with a double major in English and French from Rice University, and afterward studied at the Sorbonne in Paris with support from the Clyde Ferguson Bull Traveling Fellowship. At Rice, she was a member of Jones College, worked in the Office of Alumni Relations, waitressed at Cohen House, and was a Writing Consultant at the Center for Scholarship & Information. She lives in Orange County, California, with her husband John ’90 (Jones). They have two children at Rice (in Jones obviously).

RAVEN JONES, MLS ’08

As director of the Urban Experience Program (EUP) at the University of Houston (UH), Raven Jones enhances the quality of education for students within the UEP program, which strives to create academic opportunities for participants in the program in concert with the mission of UH, the programs and services of the division, and through community support. She is an avid researcher, program developer and trainer, and her research concentrates on the cultural resources within urban communities that can be utilized to improve the resiliency and psychological development of underrepresented students. Through the program, she is able to prevent minor obstacles from becoming major setbacks to a student’s degree achievement. Raven earned her Bachelor of Arts in English rhetoric and technical communications from Texas A&M University, Master of Liberal Studies in humanities and social science from Rice University, and Doctor of Education in education supervision and administration from the University of Houston.
LIFE AFTER RICE: HIGHER EDUCATION CAREER PATHS

Sponsored by the Association of Rice Alumni and presented in partnership with the Center for Career Development

BRANDON MACK ’06

Brandon Mack is an associate director of admission and coordinator of transfer admission at Rice University. He has been with the Office of Admission since 2009 and works specifically on international recruitment in Africa, domestic recruitment strategies and building counselor relationships. He has worked on minority recruitment initiatives, community-based organization partnerships and community outreach efforts to educate students on highly selective college admissions. He is also responsible for overseeing and managing the transfer admission process and serving as a liaison to the Rice School of Architecture. In addition to his day job, Brandon is a community activist and sociologist and serves as lead organizer with Black Lives Matter Houston, Screening Committee and education and advocacy chair of the Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus. He is also a member of the mayor’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Board.

MICHAEL MAHER ’75, MA ’79, Ph.D. ’80

Michael D. Maher, Ph.D., is the senior program advisor for the Center for Energy Studies at Rice University’s Baker Institute. He serves as a liaison with the Energy Forum and potential members; assists with the development of major research initiatives; coordinates meetings with foreign and U.S. government officials; focuses on U.S. energy policy and global natural gas markets; and conducts external communications about research in the Center for Energy Studies. He joined the institute in the summer of 2013 after a career at ExxonMobil of more than 30 years. His volunteer activities include serving on the alumni advisory board for Rice University’s Center for Career Development, the dean’s advisory board for Rice’s School of Social Sciences and the board of directors of the Association of Rice Alumni. Maher volunteers as a mentor for Rice students and recent alumni, offering guidance as they plan a career, write resumes and prepare for job interviews. Maher received a bachelor’s degree and Ph.D. in economics from Rice University.