

Fondren Fellows Project

Any questions can be directed to fondrenfellows@rice.edu



Name

Lauren Kapcha

Project Title

Milestones in Science: 50years of Natural Sciences at Rice

Project Description:

The School of Natural Sciences is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025. Students will conduct research on a milestone scientific achievement in the School and create a digital exhibit and popular science article that will be used in print and digital campaigns during a year-long celebration of scientific discovery.

Project Summary:

The School of Natural Sciences is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025. We will celebrate this event throughout the year, including a yearlong media campaign highlighting great discoveries of the School. In 2025, we will use a multifaceted approach to spotlight one significant milestone achievement each month, spanning the diverse spectrum of accomplishments that define Natural Sciences' rich history.

Fellows will use the University Archives and historical records to provide context and insight into the selected achievements. They will write popular science articles on milestone achievements in the School of Natural Sciences and identify and scan related images to visually showcase the significance and impact of each milestone. If appropriate, the fellow may interview key alumni and/or faculty figures involved in the highlighted achievement to collect personal anecdotes and perspectives. This project will allow fellows to explore a historical, scientific achievement and its importance to science and society.

The School will use our social media platforms, newsletters and websites to highlight one milestone achievement each month, supplementing reflections on the showcased milestone achievement with stories of current faculty and students whose research or experiences build on these historical achievements.

Fellows' work will be promoted and featured at events throughout the year, culminating in a formal celebration during Homecoming and Alumni weekend, providing the opportunity for the students' work to reach a wide audience of Natural Sciences alumni and friends as well as the broader Rice community.

How many fellows are you requesting?

I am requesting 3 fellows.

Outline the key tasks that the Fondren Fellow(s) would work on.

- Conduct research using the University Archives
- Outline, draft and revise popular science articles on milestone scientific achievements
- Interviews and audio transcription, if appropriate
- Scan and digitize relevant images
- Create a digital exhibit to be featured on the Natural Sciences website

Qualifications for applicants:

Students from all majors are encouraged to apply.

What would students learn through their participation in this project?

Students will strengthen their research, writing and public science communication skills and build knowledge of natural sciences and history.