

## Program Summary (15 November 2012)

At 7:00 p.m., President Wade announced that ballots would be circulated and collected after dinner.

At 7:55 p.m., President Wade alerted the membership that the evening's presentation would begin shortly.

At 8:10 p.m., visitors were introduced by the members. All five nominees on the ballot were elected, and President Wade announced this result to the membership.

Wade introduced the evening's speaker **Kathleen Boyd**, who served as Director of Rice's Centennial Celebration. Her career spans the airline and hospitality industries. Ms. Boyd earned her degree at Rice in 1980.

The title of Ms. Boyd's talk was **Rice University's Centennial Celebration - More Than Just a Party**. The membership warmly welcomed Kathleen. This is the 654th meeting of the Houston Philosophical Society.



Ms. Boyd began her talk with a discussion of the goals for the Centennial. The 1962 semi-centennial had generated wonderful memories, and that was the hope for this event. (One attendee was sitting at the head table.) But the original 1912 event was the main inspiration. Kathleen played a clip of John Boles explaining what really happened at the formal opening in 1912. Rice mailed 1400 invitations around the world. The invitations were printed on sheepskin, just as the diplomas have been every year since. That event was truly remarkable for such a small city.

The 2012 Centennial event actually spanned five years, from John Boles' 2008 book on President Lovett, to events involving recognition of Willy's statue, the 2011 UnConvention where the Houston community was invited to tour the campus, a year of Alumni events around the world, and finally to the week of events in October 2012.

One surprising result of the run-up to the Centennial is that every building on campus was signed. (This was thought impossible to achieve by most

employees and visitors. The subcommittee of the Rice Board has long resisted even placing maps of campus.)

The story of the development and production of the quadrangle spectacle resonated with many in the audience. The German group that produced the show plans to distribute high quality DVD's of the show to all who attended.

The enormous "tent" erected in front of Lovett Hall could hold 2,200 individuals. Over four days, it was used by groups ranging from the President's party to the student body Esperanza dance. This 26-foot high temporary building had 200 tons of air conditioning and could withstand winds of 120 mph.

Kathleen reported that Rice is already getting inquiries about how the event was planned. Yet another measure of success.

During a short question-and-answer session, Kathleen recited statistics gathered over the course of the centennial week. The impact was enormous by any measure, and planned events often had twice as many visitors as rsvp'd. But everyone was always accommodated.

The audience warmly thanked Ms. Boyd for her remarkable behind-the-scenes look at Rice Centennial celebration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

David W. Scott  
Recording Secretary