

A Conversation with Lee Hsia
Interviewer for Rice University Applicants

In addition to being the pastor at First Baptist Houston Downtown, Lee also serves his alma matter, Rice University, as an interviewer for incoming freshmen. He had some great information about what Rice is looking for in their freshmen class. "We do not prefer students that are religious to those who are not, or those of a particular religion. We do, however, look for students that are strong in their own personal identity. If a student has a strong faith identity and understands how that impacts his or her life and community that is an added value to a student's candidacy" says Lee of how admission choices are made at Rice. iLead is all about empowering a student to embrace their own identity while learning to engage and excel amongst a diverse group of peers.



WHAT? iLead is a powerful leadership program with a unique interfaith approach

WHO? Entering high school sophomores, juniors & seniors who want a dynamic college prep experience

WHEN? **Deadline to Apply is June 30, 2015**

WHERE? Apply online TODAY - www.imgh.org/ilead

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Lee and other interviewers pay special attention to the ways that students make a positive difference in their community. He finds the student led service project in the iLead program to be very valuable. "We especially look for students that want to work with others and help the community at large. We value community service at Rice and the iLead service project is a great addition to an applicant's portfolio because he or she really takes a leadership role in the process. The student is responsible during the course of the project, and that shows initiative and effort." The iLead class of 2015 engaged with their communities at school and places of worship to provide household goods for newly arrived refugees, raising over \$7,000 in furnishings and household essentials.

Overall, Lee had high praise for iLead - a unique program that offers students a multicultural, interfaith experience at a young age. He noted, "College is a place where students will be immersed in different cultures and experiences. It is great if high school students have the opportunity to participate in a program like iLead, where

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iLead is a program of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston.*

they are able to critically examine who they are and how they can be a leader before they leave for college." Additionally, Lee said that Rice is looking for students who take an interest in programs like iLead that encourage students "to become involved in the community-at-large to have a community-wide impact." Finally, Lee commended iLead for integrating faith and business principles as this is usually a topic that is not addressed until the undergraduate or graduate level for students. "I believe iLead will improve the attractiveness of a student's portfolio when applying to Rice University." –Lee Hsia. Apply to iLead today and become the type of leader Universities want!

Lee Hsia's Biography

Lee Hsia was born in Shanghai, China, and immigrated to Houston, Texas, at the age of seven. Lee graduated from Rice University with a B.A. in Management, received the highly coveted Dean Hugh Scott Cameron Award for Distinguished Service, and has served as the Vice President of the Alumni Board of Directors. Currently he is still actively involved in his alma mater serving on the Admissions Advisory Board.

Lee began his career in management consulting with Computer Sciences Corporation. During the Internet boom, he became Global Director of Sales and Chief Operations Officer (COO) for Cool Jobs, Inc. During his almost 10 years in business, Lee was featured in various media including ABC News, Money, Houston Chronicle, and The Wall Street Journal.

After climbing the fast-track corporate ladder, Lee answered God's call to full-time Christian ministry and joined Evangelism Explosion International. In 2008, Lee joined the staff of Houston's First Baptist Church as Minister of New Initiatives, a role created for him, leading change in the church to engage the postmodern culture. As a part of the expansion fostered by Lee, the church launched a second location in the center of Downtown Houston, where he currently leads the diverse congregation as its pastor.