

**Helen Kennedy  
Recreation Director  
Falmouth, Massachusetts**

**When did you first start your affiliation with Rice Baseball?**

I started hosting players from Rice in 2002. They came to play their summer ball for the Falmouth Commodores in the Cape Cod League that year.

**I'm sure when they were there, they didn't play baseball every day or have practices all day long, so what did they do with their spare time?**

As the Recreation Director for the Town of Falmouth, I stay pretty busy in the summer. We have a huge summer camp for the kids and the Rice players staying with me would come on field trips with us. They enjoyed the fishing trips and going to some of the Red Sox games. I think they really enjoyed this and being with the kids also. When they first get here, I take them to show them all the beautiful ocean scenery around Falmouth and Cape Cod. Another thing I like to do is show them the beautiful lighthouse and take their picture in front of it so they can send it home to their parents and they can see what a beautiful place Falmouth is.

**Since you've been doing this for 9 years, who are some of the players that stayed with you?**

The players that have been with me are truly some of the best guys anybody could have. David Aardsma and Austin Davis stayed in 2002, and then Austin came back in 2003. In '04, Adam Hale, '05, Brian Friday, '06, Bobby Bramhall, '08, Diego Seastrunk, '09, Taylor Wall, '10, Taylor came back and Doug Simmons was here and in '11, John Simms.

**Are there any players that stick out in your mind a little more than others?**

No, they were all very good kids and I enjoyed having them and becoming part of their extended families and showing them what we have to offer. When they leave my home at the end of the season, I tell them they have a home on Cape Cod for life. Hosting the Texas boys has been very rewarding for me and I love them all. David Aardsma asked me to introduce him into the Cape Cod Hall of Fame last year, 2010, which was an incredible experience and honor for me.

**You mentioned "extended families", would you care to elaborate on that.**

Meeting the families of some of the players has a comical side to it, especially when we talk; we all get a kick out of each other's accent. The Texans saying "y'all" and them teasing me about funny sayings like "wicked hard". One time when I was in Houston, the Davis's and Aardsma's took me to the rodeo, which I loved; we don't have anything like that in Massachusetts.

**Do you have any closing statements?**

I have become a diehard Rice fan because of these boys and their parents. I follow the team every season.

Interview by: James W. Hajovsky for the Rice Update  
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